



Junior Fives fixture against Rydal Penrhos

Tuesday 1 March 2016

On Wednesday 24th February, our U14 and U15 Fives teams travelled to Colwyn Bay to play Rydal Penrhos.

There was a very good win for Ed Stapleton (I) and Dan Humes (I) against a strong Rydal pair; won 3-0 (12-9, 12-4, 15-13). Toby Cope (Ch) and Archie Mobbs (O) showed real determination to grind out their victory having lost the first set; won 2-1 (6-12, 14-13, 14-13). Both pairs grew in confidence as their matches progressed and will have learned a lot from the fixture in preparation for the Nationals in a few weeks' time.

The U14 pairs also played well, with Tom Castling (Rb) and Marcus van Wyk (Rb) also winning 2-1 (7-12, 12-6, 12-5), but Punn Vajrabhaya (SH) and Arthur Garrett (Ch) lost 2-1 (12-6, 8-12, 9-12).

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RSSBC: Runcorn Spring Eights Head

Tuesday 1 March 2016

Two squad eights raced in excellent conditions at Runcorn Spring Eights Head.

After a torrid winter of flooding, both crews executed their races well. The J16 VIII won their event in unprecedented fashion, tying with King's Chester over the 6000m course (only 0.004s separated the crews on the stopwatches).

The Novice VIII comprised of crew members from three separate year groups came 5th in their category, in a competitive field mostly comprised of university crews.

Many thanks to Mr Lapage for being 'boatman' for the day and towing the trailer.

RMW



Go-Karting

Tuesday 1 March 2016





'Turner's Truth' - Art Society lecture given by BBC art historian Andrew Graham Dixon

Wednesday 2 March 2016

Andrew Graham Dixon demonstrated just why he has become one of the most respected art critics and presenters of arts programmes in the English-speaking world, as he held his capacity audience in the Maidment Building to rapt attention last week with his lecture on 'Turner's Truth'. Leo Sartain (SH UVI) reports.



Andrew Graham Dixon is a leading art critic and presenter of arts television. His shows range from the *Landmark* series for the BBC to individual documentaries on art and artists. He has written for both *The Independent* and more recently *The Sunday Telegraph*. If you want to get an expert's view on the art world, he is the man to go to. I was lucky enough to have a brief chat with Mr Graham Dixon before the talk started, which ranged from Shrewsbury Town to discussing the best places in Italy to learn Italian, and it was clear to see this was a hugely intelligent man.

The talk, not lecture (as it was such a personal, undogmatic, yet scholarly approach) was entitled 'Turner's Truth'. Before the talk, all I really knew about Turner is that he worked closely with Constable and was fascinated by light. What Mr Graham Dixon managed to do was explain why he painted the way he did, and how he influenced the art movements that followed, in a manner that kept me and I think all those present, captivated from the outset.

Mr Graham Dixon began his talk not with Turner but Constable, a lifelong rival and fellow landscape artist. This led to a discussion of the peculiarly British preoccupation with 'domestic' subjects in art: 'my wife, my house, my dog', a convention that Turner eventually broke from and which set him in art historical stone. This of course placed him relatively low down the hierarchy of genres until, as the 19th century progressed, landscape began to gain wider acceptance as a genre. Looking back to the art that was popular then, Turner's new vortices of light and natural elements did look very out of place and caused consternation among the critics. Despite this, however, his popularity increased further after John Ruskin pronounced Turner to be superior to all previous landscape painters, in his book *Modern Painters 1843*.



Snow Storm - Steam-boat off a Harbour's Mouth (part of the Turner Collection at Tate Britain)

Mr Graham Dixon delivered this broad spectrum of information as if having a jovial conversation; the information just flowed out of him with ease, with the odd thoughtful pause and sip of water. After going through Turner's life and discussing the characteristics and influences of his works, Mr Graham Dixon showed us how Turner's work was revered in France by Delacroix and later by the Impressionists, who admired his masterly depiction of the fleeting effects of light in an ever-changing scene (a storm, a sunset, a fire) and the beautiful attention paid to colour and light. These characteristics greatly influenced Impressionism and, if it hadn't been for Turner, much of the art we know today would not be as it is. I must applaud Mr Graham Dixon for his delivery, for at this point I was still fully awake and intensely engaged; a remarkable feat in itself.

It then came to question time, during which there were some honestly thought-provoking questions asked by students and parents alike. Mr Graham Dixon managed to answer them and in turn educate us by stealth even further, as it simply felt as if it was a private conversation between the two of us, despite the 180-plus audience! If I were to be asked about Turner now, it can say with absolute certainty that Turner was, as Ruskin maintained, the first Modern Painter, and that his works have an impact that still resonates today. I could tell them the truth about Turner too.

Leo Sartain (SH UVI)



Fencing: Six more Salopians qualify for the British Youth Championship Finals

Wednesday 2 March 2016

Following Shrewsbury School's success in the West Midlands British Youth Championship Sabre and Epée Qualifiers in January, a further six Salopians have now won through to the National Championship Foil Finals.

Held at Trinity School, Redditch, the Regional Foil Qualifiers event attracted fencers from schools and colleges throughout the West Midlands.

Under 16 Boys' Foil

1st - Marco Lo

Under 18 Boys' Foil

3rd - Matthias Owen-Sinclair

Under 16 Girls' Foil

3rd - Angel Chan

3rd - Suky Ou Yang

Under 18 Girls' Foil

3rd - Lisa Stolyarova

3rd - Kimberley Xia



RSSH: Midlands League at Worksop College

Thursday 3 March 2016

Following impressive starts to the campaign at both Welbeck and Rugby, the Hunt entered the third Midlands League fixture at Worksop College full of confidence. Although the fixture fell on the same weekend as the South-East Schools Cross-Country Championships, we were still able to field a strong squad, highlighting the strength in depth of the RSSH.

On a dry, crisp and still afternoon in Nottinghamshire, the Colts set the day's racing off with two laps of a 1.5-mile course through fields and woodland. Despite less than ideal preparation with a 10-minute delay at the start line following our warm-up, all four counters came home in the top 15 - Charlie Ockleston (7th), Niklas Amthor (10th), Mark Pangin (12th) and Sam Bayliss (13th). Tom Hughes and Milo Herbert also put in great performances for the team, crossing the finish line in 21st and 25th place respectively.



Colts squad

The seniors were then faced with three laps of the course (4.5 miles). In a tough field, the first three runners home for Shrewsbury were Henry Newbould (4th), Naveen Garikapati (10th) and Bertie Watts (17th) with very strong performances. Our final three counters were Louie Stewart (34th), Rory Marsden (39th) and Josh Wong (42th), who all put in solid performances for the team against a field of very strong runners.

All 21 runners should be very proud of their achievements and the contribution they have made to the overall team standings. We go into the final Midlands League fixture at Bromsgrove in three weeks' time knowing that a solid performance by our Juniors will ensure that the Colts title is retained, and that a strong performance by our Seniors could put us in contention for a team placing.

Lauren Walker



Senior squad



Netball v Bedstone

Thursday 3 March 2016

The 2nd VII, 15B and 14B netball teams travelled to Bedstone on Saturday 27th February to play Bedstone's 1st VII, 15As and 14As respectively.

The juniors had the slightly better results, with the U14s and U15s dominating from the beginning. Both teams played well to be comfortably up at half time, when we moved a few key positions to even things up. The final score for the U14s was 19-0 and the U15s finished 30-6. A great team performance all round.

The Senior team played some good netball but took a while to get going. The 1st quarter was fairly even, but we had a terrible 2nd quarter and Bedstone pulled away to make it 5-14 at half time. A fantastic second half performance by the whole team brought the score back to 13-18 after the 3rd quarter and 18-23 at the end. Despite the loss, the team played well.

Salopian Club Sports Committee Meeting

Thursday 3 March 2016

There was a fantastic turnout for the Annual Salopian Club Sports Committee Meeting, which took place on Tuesday 23rd February, at the offices of Stephenson Harwood.

Eleven different sports were represented around the table and the level of enthusiasm and commitment was really encouraging.

There have also been some great achievements this year – notably the Saracens reaching the semi-finals of the Cricketer Cup for the third time in four years, the OS Fives Club reaching the final of the Barber Cup, the OS Football Club progressing through to the semi-final of the Arthur Dunn Cup and the Sabrina Club missing out on qualification for Henley by just 1 second.

Apart from the competitive achievements, other clubs have done extremely well to develop busy fixture and event lists and to see an increase in participation at all levels. OS Squash has gone from a standing start to a full fixture list, the Golfing Society had a total of sixteen competitions and meetings, the OS Hunt members have put in solid performances and the Yacht Club competed in the Arrow Trophy.

OS ladies competed against the School at both Hockey and Netball, winning both, and are hoping to get further fixtures together for the coming year and OS Rugby looks close to being able to get a team together, perhaps for some Sevens matches.

We were also very pleased to have two OS basketball players attend looking to start up an OS Basketball Club, which the Committee was keen to support.

All in all, OS Sport is looking very healthy indeed and we are extremely grateful to all those who give up their time to help with the organisation and to those who turn out to play.

Teams are always keen to hear from new members and players, so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.



Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Rob Hillman (Saracens), Paul Nichols (Saracens), Elle Gurden (Girls Sport), Richard McGarry (Football), Richard Boys-Stones (Treasurer), David Umpleby (Golf), Rex Worth (Fives), Ed Taylor (Rugby), Sam Kandi (Basketball), Bryan Yick (Basketball), Nicko Field (Football), Lewis Brown (Rugby), Peter Birch (Chairman and Hunt), Nick Jenkins (SC Director), Ben Stirk (Squash), Charles Manby (Yachting), Miles Preston (Sabrina).

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OSFC Win in the Quarter Finals of the Arthur Dunn Cup

Thursday 3 March 2016

Congratulations to the OSFC on beating Old Harrovians (2-1) in their quarter-final of the Arthur Dunn Cup.

They will now play Old Alleynians in the semi-final, on 2nd April, at Dulwich College Playing Fields. A win there would see them through to the final to face Old Reptonians or Old Tonbridgians, who will also play their semi-final on 2nd April.

It would be a great achievement to see this historic trophy return to the Salopian fold and, as ever, your support would be very welcome.

Three podium places for RSSH at the South East Schools' Championships, Harrow

Thursday 3 March 2016



Perfect cross-country conditions greeted us on our arrival in Harrow on Sunday, with cool, light winds and a bright and largely cloudless sky. The South East Schools' Champs is not an event we have competed in before (as a school not known, if we're honest, for its proximity to that region), but we were delighted to be able to attend this year and hope to make it the first of many. We knew the calibre of competition would be high, but with our excellent form this season we felt confident of being able to put down a marker here and we were lucky that a very short injury list allowed us to put out three teams (one Junior, one Inter and one Senior) at or very near full strength.



The Junior team set off

The Juniors' (Third Form) race was the first to get underway, consisting of one 2.2-mile lap around the edge of the school's playing fields (though with the challenge three-quarters of the way through of a steep climb – Harrow-on-the-Hill being, we discovered, well-named). Our team of seven boys knew that six of them would count for the team total and so every position would matter – even for he who finished seventh in the team, because by beating others he'd add to competitor schools' points tally.

Tom Jackson (R) flew off the start line in typically confident fashion (ah, the exuberance of youth!) and led for the first half of the race, at which point the runners disappeared from view. Others in the team more conservatively settled for places in the middle of the pack and gradually attempted to work their way up the field.



Tom Jackson off to a flying start

It was only in the last 300m that the runners came back into view, at which point it was clear that Tom had slipped back in the second half of the race. Indeed, first place was taken by an impressive margin by Leo Brewer of Brighton College. Tom was able to find it within him to regain some of that sprint he'd used off the start line, however, and successfully took on Patrick Kyle of U.C.S. for 5th place – a fantastic achievement and testament to Tom's terrific form at the moment.

Not much further back, a glut of RSSH vests streamed into view, each runner fighting for position right to the end, led by Sam Watts (Ch) who finished 18th, ahead of Jonnie Snell (Ch) and Louis Nares (Rb) in 21st and 22nd respectively. Sam Western (S) finished in 31st, while Artur Sarsenov (SH), our last counter, crossed the line in 61st. Rider Hartley (Ch), in his biggest race for the Hunt to date, came through in 64th, which given that he'd expressed concerns about coming last before the race, was a tremendous result – the field was 83 runners in total, so he can feel pretty chuffed! A team total of 158 left us unsure of our position in relation to other schools but confident that we'd been competitive.

Next up were the Inters (Fourth and Fifth Form), over a course slightly longer, at 3.5 miles long, which included that b***ted hill not once, but twice. At the halfway stage, Harry Remnant (Ch) had secured a position of 8th but looked capable of stepping up a gear from there. Cameron Anwyl (S) looked to be running the race of his life as our next counter in the mid-teens. A relatively new addition to the Hunt, he's shown what a talent he's got in a very short space of time and will be a key player for us in seasons to come.



Cameron Anwyl at the halfway point

Monty Hardcastle (I) would normally be expected to be near Harry, but he'd tweaked a calf muscle early in the race and was struggling manfully about 15 places back, alongside Seb Ingram (S), Charlie Johns (I) and Ben Henderson (S), who was looking strong in a battle with a lad from Norwich School. By the time they hove back into view for the home straight, Harry had managed to reel in some of the competition around him and had forged his way up to an astonishing 5th, particularly impressive given that he is a year young in this age category. Cameron was not far back in 13th, utterly exhausted but battling through to the end. The rest of our 'counters' came through very close to each other, having packed in well and helped each other over the course of the race. Seb Ingram showed his recent return to form with 22nd place, with Monty struggling through in 24th – a very brave run considering his injury. Charlie Johns was next through in 28th, closely followed by Ben Henderson who had one of his best races of the season, coming 30th. Toby Pegge (coming down with glandular fever as it turned out, though we didn't know this at the time) was disappointed not to count, coming 37th. Again, it was difficult to know where we'd placed in relation to other teams, but with all our counters in the top 30 places we knew we were right up there.



Tension is palpable as the Seniors line up on the start-line

The final race of the afternoon was the Seniors, in which we knew our stiffest competition would come from Sedbergh (pushing the 'South East' element of these championships even further than us!), who had beaten us twice this year already; once at the Shrewsbury Relays and once at Coventry. St Albans, too, would be difficult to beat.

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) showed what good form he's been finding in recent weeks by starting out very strongly at the head of the leading pack and settling quickly into a good rhythm.

For this age group the course was a demanding 4.4 miles, i.e. twice around the Juniors' course. Behind Freddie, Will Hayward (R) and Oscar Dickins (R) had established themselves just inside the top ten, with Charlie Tait-Harris (S) not far behind them. Scott Hatton (S), Charles Wade (PH) and Charlie Rogers (Rb) all set off solidly in the front half of the pack and began to fight for positions.

At the halfway stage, Freddie found himself in second position about 20m behind the front runner, Joe Bird of Sedbergh. These two had forged a large gap ahead of 3rd position, another Sedbergh runner. Will looked to have enjoyed the hills section first time round and looked strong in 8th place, with Oscar not far behind that in 9th, but with plenty of company behind him aiming for a top-ten spot. Charlie Tait-Harris looked to have rediscovered his form (after a niggling injury these past few weeks) as part of this chasing pack.

Charlie Rogers and Charles Wade may have been helping each other by running their race side-by-side throughout (or were they engaged in lengthy academic discourse?) and despite encouragement from their coach for one of them to make a break for it halfway through, they resolutely stayed together.



The formidable Rogers/Wade pairing

At the finishing straight, Joe Bird had established a commanding lead over Freddie, who nevertheless ran tremendously well to secure 2nd place in an extremely competitive field. Both Will and Oscar had managed to hold down their 8th and 9th positions respectively, while Charlie Tait-Harris managed a very strong sprint finish to claim 14th – a very encouraging run from him.

Scott was not too far back in 30th place, just ahead of the redoubtable Rogers/Wade pair in 34th/35th.



Freddie Huxley-Fielding on the home straight

As the results were announced over an excellent tea, we were delighted to find that the Juniors had placed 2nd, as had the Inters, while Seniors had achieved 3rd. This meant that everyone who raced came away with either a silver or bronze medal, which was excellent.

The Perse School showed that they've got some real potential coming through their ranks with a convincing win in the Juniors, while Harrow proved significant improvement in their XC with a win in the Inters. St Albans and Sedbergh had both managed to place their counters very highly indeed in the Seniors and took gold and silver respectively there. Overall though, we were well pleased with our team performance and we're looking forward to having a crack at gold this time next year! Well done to all who raced.

IPH



More success for Shrewsbury Fives pairs in the Ladies' Open

Friday 4 March 2016

Nineteen girls and one staff member represented our largest ever entry in this event and indicates the rising interest in Girls' Fives at Shrewsbury.

Master in Charge of Girls' Fives, Andy Barnard reports:

Despite the great success of our three highest ranking pairs, I would like to start by praising the efforts of pairs 4 to 10. Sasha Lo, Tara Swords, Morgan Butler, Eily Kerr, Laura Elliott, Artemis Cooper, Libby Hedges, Abi Watkinson, Sophie Cormack and Claire Richards all played with great spirit and improving technique and stayed the course on a bitterly cold day.

Sophie, Claire, Libby and Abi all qualified out of the group to fall at the last 16 stage, whilst all the other novices played hard through the afternoon plates and finished their work with a number of victories.

The more experienced pairs worked away against the best ladies and girls in the country and came away with some outstanding success.

In the Main Event, Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware and Emma Graham & Katie Oswald just missed out on qualifying for the National Finals but quickly got stuck into the Plate Finals. After five more rounds of matches, three pairs were tied with four victories and one loss each. After considerable consultation, the three pairs were divided by points difference, enabling Breese and Ware to be announced as winners, whilst Graham & Oswald were placed third and just missed out on the Runners-Up spot.

In the Festival competition, a new pairing of Issy Wong & Phoebe Wasdell replicated the work of Tilly Reynolds & Sophia Breese in 2015 and were crowned winners at 6.00pm, when they were 10-0 up in the final and their opponents conceded due to injury. The staying power of Wasdell, after a tough two days at the National U19 Lacrosse Finals, and the tremendous cutting of Wong meant that they outplayed every opponent with ease. Intriguingly, their success and form now catapults them into the frame for the National U15 title along with Breese & Ware and Graham & Oswald. The next three weeks will prove to be interesting as they compete for the Shrewsbury School Intra Tournament on the 13th March and the National U15s on 20th March. Finally, the pupil/staff pairing of Amelie Davies (Third Form) & Miss Gwenan Davies proved to be outstanding as they battled through a mammoth Festival Plate tournament and eventually won the Final at 5.45pm. The 'two Davies' complemented each other and showed great fitness as they undertook about 12 matches throughout the day. Amelie's development, together with the other Third Formers (Lara Ockleston, Laura Elliott, Artemis Cooper and Issy Wong) was very encouraging. The addition of a few more serious Third Form players would greatly benefit this year group as they seek to build on their encouraging start.

TOURNAMENT PLATE WINNERS (Gold)

Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware



TOURNAMENT PLATE (Bronze)

Emma Graham & Katie Oswald

FESTIVAL WINNERS

Phoebe Wasdell & Issy Wong

FESTIVAL PLATE WINNERS

Miss Gwenan Davies & Amelie Davies

TOURNAMENT Entry

Pair 1 S.Breese & L.Ware

Pair 2 E.Graham & K.Oswald

FESTIVAL Entry

Pair 3 I. Wong & P. Wasdell

Pair 4 S. Cormack & C. Richards

Pair 5 L. Hedges & A. Watkinson

Pair 6 A. Davies & G. Davies

Pair 7 E. Windle & L. Ockleston

Pair 8 L. Elliott & A. Cooper

Pair 9 M. Butler & E. Kerr

Pair 10 T. Swords & S. Lo

Meanwhile the junior boys' Fives players competed against Rydal Penrhos School: [Junior Fives fixture against Rydal Penrhos](#)



Sam Mitchell (Rb UVI) directs the Radbrook and Port Hill House Play 'Twelve Angry Men'

Friday 4 March 2016

A review by Shrewsbury's Head of Drama Helen Brown.



Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose is a 20th century classic; since it was first produced in 1957 it has been a staple of the repertoire. Its ongoing popularity is due to the fact that it raises universal questions about the extent to which we are all prey to our prejudices and assumptions. The play is set in a courtroom on a hot summer's day: the twelve men of the title are the jurors in an apparently open-and-shut murder case. However, as the play progresses, it becomes clear that nothing is quite as it seems, and even the most seemingly straightforward facts are open to question.



The day boys' production, directed by Sam Mitchell with consummate professionalism, captured the play's building tension. One of the challenges of directing a very wordy and potentially static play is filling the stage with dynamic movement, and it is great credit to the ensemble that they managed to keep the piece visually interesting, whilst focusing on telling the story.



Luke Lloyd-Jones, Dan Iles, Antoine Legeais, Ben King

Particular credit should go to Dan Iles and Ben King, who were unafraid to own the stage as they gave vent to their character's – frequently repugnant – views. This is truly an ensemble piece, and each of the jurors deserve praise for the way that they established a clearly defined character, from Antoine Legeais as the European immigrant to Alec Barnes as a kind but lonely old man. The production was, however, held together by Luke Lloyd-Jones as the honourable juror eight, whose fundamental decency and refusal to give in to prejudice ultimately saves the defendant's life.

Congratulations to all involved.
HRB



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 4 March 2016

This week, the U15 Rugby team.



This week I thought I would ‘tackle’ an article on the Shrewsbury School under 15 Rugby team. They are unbeaten since they arrived at the School last year as a prolific try-scoring under-14 team and they have just won the Adams' Grammar Sevens Tournament.

If they had a sponsor I am sure it would be ‘Seven Up’, but as a team of highly trained athletes they choose not to pollute their bodies with sugar. As captain Arron Lewis told me, “PSHE is really well taught here and I would like to thank Miss Peak and her team for educating me in how much sugar there is in some fizzy drinks”. Miss Peak told me that she wondered if the excellence of the under-15 rugby team was down to her informative and stimulating PSHE lessons. I told her that coaches Chris Cook and Mark Cartwright might have to take some credit too, at which she looked rather crestfallen. So I handed her a can of coke, gave her a sickly smile and she cheered up at once!

I caught up with the squad as they were training prior to their next major fixture, which is the County Cup final as well as another sevens tournament. It happened to be on the same day as the radio (that I listen to) reported that some doctors and other notables had suggested that rugby at schools should not involve tackling.



It seems strange that they want to ban something that it is quite easy to avoid doing. I certainly never tackled anyone when I played rugby at school. I was a leading exponent of touch rugby. Indeed, I think that my efforts to feign an attempted tackle may have impressed my drama teacher but did not convince my rugby coach, who selected me as touch judge (touch rugby at its best). This was actually fine with me, as I got to go to all the away matches and enjoy the culinary delights of match teas without having to put my beautifully honed body at risk in what I consider to be a somewhat perilous pastime. Occasionally my coach would think he was doing me a favour and try and bring me on for a few minutes towards the end of a match, but I usually managed to dissuade him.

If there is anyone reading this who has to play rugby as opposed to wanting to play, here are a few survival tips.

- 1) Try and get muddy early on as your coach and teammates will shout at you less if it looks as if you have tried a bit.
- 2) Hover at the edge of the scrum looking as if you are keen to get to the next piece of action. When play breaks down and everyone starts running, slip over ensuring you are last to the next piece of action and repeat as necessary.
- 3) If you are faced by someone running at you, let them past and then dive after them when it is certain you will not actually reach them.
- 4) On no account ever touch the ball. If someone passes it to you, get rid of it as fast as possible.
- 5) If all else fails, feign injury after about 10 minutes and limp off rubbing a calf, thigh or any part of your anatomy where a muscular strain could have occurred and proof is difficult to ascertain.
- 6) Become indispensable as a touch judge.
- 7) Don't play rugby: Shrewsbury is more enlightened than many schools, as rugby is not compulsory here and so only those who enjoy the physicality of the sport play it.

I think this conclusively proves that there is no need to ban contact in rugby as contact can always be avoided.



Certainly the under-15s all enjoy tackling and were shocked to hear that there were calls to ban it. “I am shocked,” said Frank Morris. Frank observed that a number of his teammates miss out on contact because the opposition can’t catch them. Indeed Ian Lam told me that he avoids contact where possible by screaming at the opposition when he has the ball. “They tend to get out of the way,” he told me.





Luca Cassidy uses a 'windmill' dummy to avoid contact. "Once I am whirling my arms, the opposition seem to run off in a different direction," he claimed. Tom Plaut has a distraction technique. He wears his lucky yellow hat to scare the opposition before the game and then he unleashes his natural red hair on them. "I think the colourful combination confuses them," Tom proudly stated. It would seem that most opponents of this sharp outfit avoid contact, as one can see by the number of tries the team have scored (see the [website article](#)).

The squad are very proud of their achievements - and rightly so. I asked Joe Scott if he was in anyway disappointed with his performance in the recent Sevens tournament. "I was disappointed that there was no bench to sit on; I had to sit on the ground."

Jacob Jefferis is not disappointed in any way. "I might be disappointed if we lost, but we don't and so I am not disappointed in any way!" Captain and top try-scorer in the recent Sevens winning team Arron Lewis was delighted with their victories over some two-term rugby schools. It occurred to me as I congratulated him on his tries that rugby is unique in calling its scores 'tries'. 'Nice try' in any other sport is the sort of thing one says to people to try and improve the mood of a despondent teammate or pupil when they have just failed to score again. In Rugby it means five points and a pat on the back (at least while contact is still allowed!).

Voluntary rugby is in rude health at Shrewsbury. Certainly the under-15s are enjoying scoring tries and successfully trying to avoid contact when they have the ball. From where I stand it looks fabulous - and I am still well in touch!

GJFB

Finals of the RSC Chemistry Schools' Quiz Competition

Friday 4 March 2016

Having won the last of the regional qualifying rounds in February, Shrewsbury's crack team of Fourth and Fifth Form chemists travelled to Birmingham University on 1st March for the Final of the RSC Chemistry Schools' Quiz Competition.



L-R: Otto Rothwell-Hurley, Henry Mayhew, Boris Kwok, Adam Pattenden

Nearly 50 schools from across the Midlands region had entered the competition; just eight made it through to the final.

After twelve rounds of stiff questioning, Fifth Formers Boris Kwok (Ch) and Henry Mayhew (Ch) and Fourth Formers Adam Pattenden (S) and Otto Rothwell-Hurley (Ch) finished just outside the top three teams. They performed extremely well in a closely-fought battle, but unfortunately this proved to be a 'bridge too far'. The defending champions, Camp Hill Boys' School, Birmingham, retained the trophy.

ADB

Birmingham Town Hall Concert

Friday 4 March 2016

“As an example of corporate music-making, this concert must surely rank as the finest ever put on by the School.” A glowing review of last Sunday’s concert by Martin Knox, who has been attending Shrewsbury School concerts for 45 years.



It was 30 years ago this month that the rapidly expanding Shrewsbury School Music Department undertook its most ambitious project to date, a performance of Elgar’s *Dream of Gerontius* in Birmingham Town Hall. School choirs joined forces with the recently founded Community Choir, but, notably, it was felt necessary to engage an outside orchestra to provide the accompaniment.

In the intervening years, John Moore has not only followed his trail-blazing predecessor in taking his musicians around the country and beyond; he has gone further, developing the standard of orchestral playing to the point where last Sunday’s Verdi Requiem was almost entirely a home-grown affair. A few members of the teaching staff strengthened the orchestra and, as is usual, the vocal soloists were from the professional ranks.

From the first few bars of the opening item, it was apparent that the instrumentalists would be equal to the task. Maria McKenzie directed her Wind Orchestra in a spine-tingling account of the Grand March from *Aida*, the lower brass blending with admirable precision in a prelude to the glorious celebration.



Even without voices, the tune of the *Va Pensiero* chorus from *Nabucco* is a winner, as it proved to be in the full orchestra's performance of the overture. The crisp string playing in the faster sections was appreciated and the woodwind did justice to Italy's second national anthem, stirringly followed by a golden-toned trumpet. If Verdi had written nothing else, his reputation would still have flourished.

As it is, he composed a great deal else in a long career, almost all of it for the operatic stage. Originally, the Requiem was going to be a joint venture with fellow composers as a tribute to Rossini. When that fell through and he took on the whole text, it is not surprising that the work is dramatic in tone. At times, one could sense that the soloists were acting parts, as when the baritone lingered with sinister relish on the word "*mors*". Shades of Sparafucile plotting murder with Rigoletto. The quartet gave added lustre to the occasion, their voices filling the elegant hall.



And so to the choir, made up of the Shrewsbury School Community Choir, the School's Chapel Choir and young choristers from Shrewsbury High Prep and Birchfield Schools. Their first entry was appropriately reverent in tone, which rendered the power unleashed in the *Dies Irae* all the more shocking. Even with the brass and percussion sections going flat out, the choir summoned up a volume that was the personification of wrath, shattering in effect, yet never coarse in tone. Throughout the work, they proved capable of inspiring awe, be it fierce and threatening or quietly spiritual, and the orchestra, living up to early promise, provided worthy accompaniment. Over the years, there have been many outstanding individual performances, but as an example of corporate music-making, this week's concert must surely rank as the finest ever put on by the School. Singers and players alike responded to every nuance of John Moore's direction in a manner that was a joy to behold. Much work must have gone into the preparation; much talent lies behind the achievement. As a mere bystander, one felt proud just to have been there. The participants deserve a medal.

MWK



The news 100 years ago: 4th - 10th March 1916

Friday 4 March 2016

This week we remember:

Captain Alfred Henry Parsons, 2nd Bn. 9th Gurkha Rifles.

School House, left in 1900. B.A., Keble College, Oxford.

Present with his Regiment at Festubert and Givenchy Wood. He was severely wounded in January 1916 but returned to his duty. He then was killed in action in Mesopotamia on 8th March 1916, aged 33.

Remembered on Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 51.

Fencing: Elite Epée bronze medal for James Hinwood

Tuesday 8 March 2016

Congratulations to James Hinwood, who won a bronze medal in the Elite Epée Junior Series Under-16 event held at Moulton College in Northampton on 20th February.

The event attracted 30 épéists from across the UK.

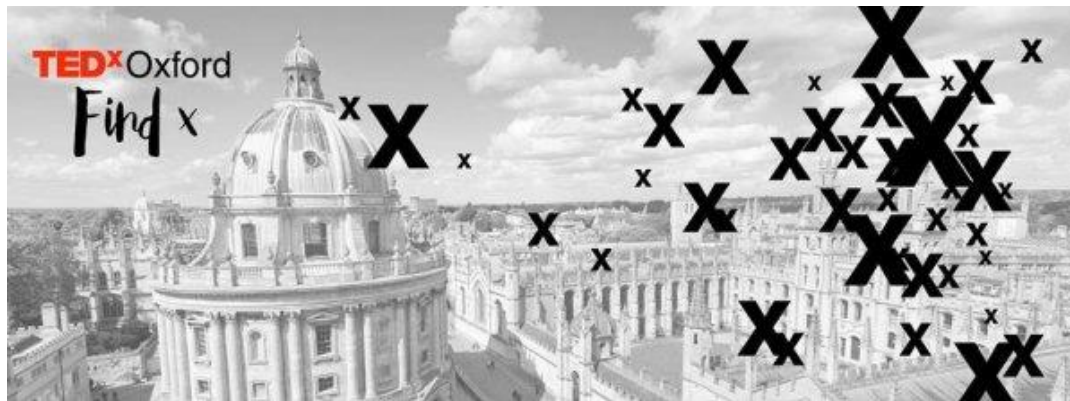
James sets off for Poland next Tuesday to compete as part of the England squad in the Challenge Wratlavia U15 Men's Epée.



TEDx Oxford

Wednesday 9 March 2016

Many thanks to Jesse Mattinson (Rb LVI) for his account of a fascinating and inspiring day at the TEDx conference in Oxford.



Too early on Sunday, a group of 13 intellectuals made their way to the largest TEDx conference in Britain - TEDx Oxford.

TEDx is the self-organised offshoot of TED, a global organisation that runs conferences every year, hosting experts in every field imaginable and given no more than 18 minutes to enlighten their audience on a topic.

The talks took place in the colossal New Theatre, and over the course of the day we were treated to 12 talks.

The conference started with Sangu Delle, an African entrepreneur who was named in 2014 one of Forbes magazine's '30 Most Promising Young Entrepreneurs In Africa'. He stressed the importance of gender equality in business, and how giving female entrepreneurs the opportunity to flourish would increase Africa's economic success exponentially.

Next was Jennifer Cassidy, an Irish diplomat who, amongst other international positions, had served as a political attaché to Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She advocated a feminist foreign policy, arguing that a state needs to consider how other nations treat women, when engaging in international relations.



Alyea Pierce, Sangu Delle, Ewan Morrison

Then we heard Alyea Pierce, an accomplished poet who recited a touching, self-made poem about her uncle's struggle with cancer. She was followed by Jonny Geller, an experienced literary agent who gave us an insight into what makes a best-seller - even going as far as mixing *Winnie the Pooh* with *Fifty Shades of Grey* in order to make an award-winning novel!

Next up was Dr Neil Ashton, an ex-F1 engineer who detailed the various uses of turbulence in real life. He said that the cause of many a nerve-jangling flight was also used to propel a golf ball further.

After this we had the pleasure of listening to former-SAS soldier turned motivational speaker Floyd Woodrow, who explained the importance of having a literal plan of action in your life, including a 'north star' to aim for. No doubt we all felt inspired, but also determined to focus on ourselves and not what others think of us.

Then we had Dr Nezam Afdhal, or 'Ned'. Dr Nezam was the Chief of Hepatology and Director of the Liver Centre at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston. He pioneered the search for the cure of Hepatitis C, but stressed the need to reduce the costs for the cure itself.



Jonny Geller, Theodore Zeldin, Jennifer Cassidy

Meredith Weston, an Oxford student reading psychology and a recovered anorexic, spoke next. She criticised the lack of research into body dysmorphia and urged us to consider how every one of us is affected by advertising, and the pressure it puts onto us to constantly measure your body with others, simply to conform to societal stereotypes.

We then listened to Ewan Morrison, an acclaimed author who challenged the constant search for utopia throughout history, believing that a true utopia is unattainable. He was followed by James Humberstone, a music teacher and composer, specialising in music technology and even treating us to a live creation of dubstep!

Then Lauren Book, an internationally respected child advocate, recounted her chilling abuse as a child and convinced us of the need for institutionalised recognition by teachers in schools for signs of child abuse.

She was followed by Theodore Zeldin CBE, dubbed 'The Most Popular Englishman in France', who spoke about relationships. As with any well-respected professor, his talk was more of an insight into his great mind rather than a specific, well-rehearsed monologue. He even took the liberty of sitting down in an arm chair as soon as he walked on stage - the sign of a true genius!

By the end of the day, this tired bunch were thoroughly intellectually stimulated. It truly was an enlightening day, and we strongly recommend visiting the award-winning TED website <https://www.ted.com/> to see some of these excellent talks for yourselves.

Jesse Mattinson (Rb LVI)

Success in the Chemistry Olympiad 2016

Wednesday 9 March 2016

Shrewsbury School students win four gold, four silver and seven bronze medals in the first round of the 2016 Chemistry Olympiad.



Gold Medal winners (L-R): Ed Chapman, Tom Dodd, Joshua Himsworth, William Bedson

Thirteen students from the Lower Sixth and four students from the Upper Sixth took part in Round 1 of the International Chemistry Olympiad in February. The results were outstanding.

This competition is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young chemists in the country and is open to all post-16 students in the UK. There are three rounds to the competition, at the end of which the UK team is selected to train for, and compete in, the International Chemistry Olympiad. Further information is available on www.rsc.org/Education/events-and-competitions/Olympiad/.

The paper itself is based on the core of the chemistry A-level specifications, so that students taking any of the different exam board A levels can compete fairly. The exam lasts two hours and is composed of a series of structured questions designed to stretch able students by making them apply the principles they have learnt to new and often more complex situations than they would meet in their A level course. Thus in order to score marks, it is essential to have a very sound base of knowledge and understanding, but also to have the ability to think and reason - often 'outside the box' - at a high level.

The students who entered the Olympiad had worked at this with a weekly session throughout the year.

Gold Medals were awarded to:

William Bedson (Rb LVI), Edward Chapman (Rb LVI), Tom Dodd (Rb UVI), Joshua Himsworth (Ch LVI)

Silver Medals were awarded to:

Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield (Rb LVI), Joshua Bray (Rb LVI), Ben Jones (Rb LVI), Andrew Kim (S LVI)

Bronze Medals were awarded to:

Tom Cheung (SH UVI), Jake Elliott (Rb LVI), Mathew Hedges (Rb LVI), Horsun Liu (Rt LVI), Lucy Price (EDH LVI), Eric Tang (SH UVI), Arthur Yu (SH LVI)

ADB



The sound of ancient Greek and Latin

Thursday 10 March 2016

Vox antiqua nunc auditur. - Students studying Latin and ancient Greek were this week given an insight into how the works of Homer, Ovid, Sophocles and Virgil actually sounded.



Eminent Classicist David Raeburn of New College Oxford addressed the Classical Society on how poets from Rome and ancient Greece used metre and pitch to make their words 'sing'.

David used examples from the set texts currently being studied by boys and girls for GCSE and A level, so they could better appreciate the performance element of the words on paper.

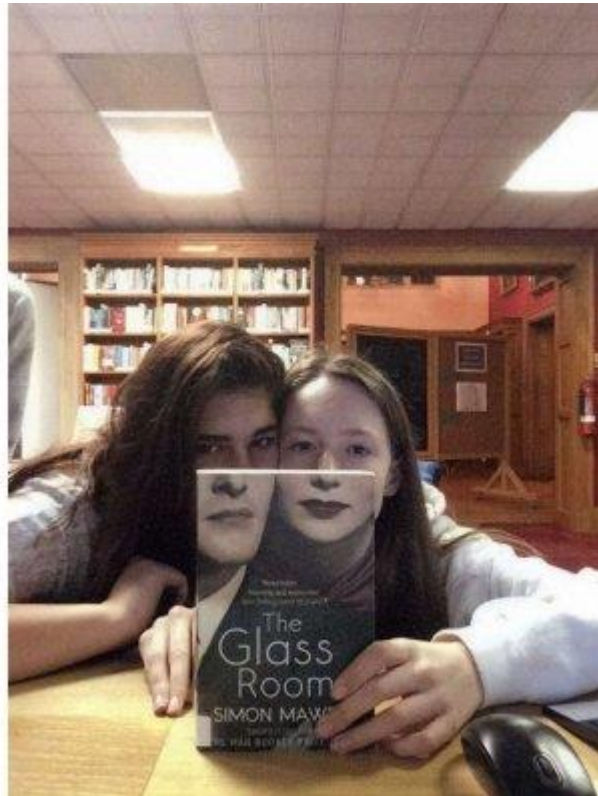
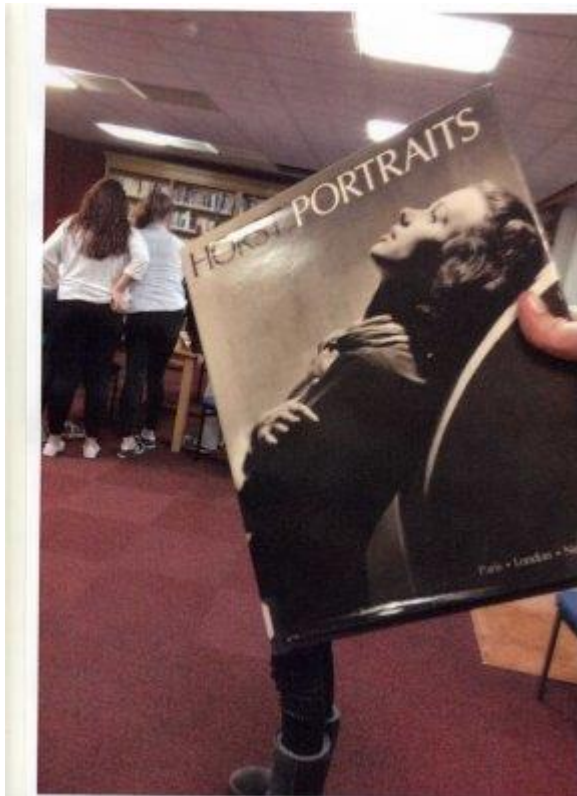
Celebrating World Book Day

Thursday 10 March 2016

Free books, a 'Bookface' selfie competition, an online quiz and Shakespeare workshops delivered by an actor from the RSC - Head Librarian Jo Elliott and her team organised an excellent series of events to mark this year's World Book Day.

Thursday 3rd March was World Book Day. Shrewsbury School enthusiastically took part in this worldwide celebration of books and reading. Whilst many of our students are already enthusiastic readers, we really wanted to reach those who haven't yet caught the reading bug. With this in mind we gave all Lower School pupils their own free copy of *Spot the Difference* by Juno Dawson – a very popular teen author, who wrote this short, easy-read especially for World Book Day. Free gift-wrapped books chosen by library staff were also distributed on tables at lunchtime in the hope that the promise of a free gift would entice readers and non-readers alike to try a great book.

We also ran two competitions. Our Bookface photography competition challenged students to become a literary character. They were asked to take a literary “selfie” – where a part of their body merged into the cover of a book. Students had a lot of fun with this – as the winning entries show.



Daisy McMullen and Chloe Edwards; Lucinda Lovick



George O'Brien

Our wonderful group of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers created a challenging online book quiz, which focused on children's and teen fiction. So far 60 people have taken the quiz, which has generated a lot of animated discussion. Isolde Watt and Alys Howells are clearly keen readers; they are the only two so far to get all twenty questions correct.



Simon Bubb as Benedick in the Globe Theatre's 2014 touring production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'



Upper Sixth English Literature students celebrated the day with the actor Simon Bubb, who delivered workshops entitled “From page to stage: an insider’s secret” on *King Lear* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Simon used his experience as an actor at the RSC, National Theatre and The Globe to encourage students to consider the plays as performances focusing on the sound and rhythm of Shakespeare’s language. Feedback from these workshops has been really positive. Students bounced out of the sessions (which considering it was three hours long was rather surprising) and reported that the sessions were really useful – “loads better than I expected”!

For library staff – and our lovely group of regular library users – every day is like World Book Day. We always look for opportunities to talk to students about reading and embrace every opportunity to invite external speakers into school to celebrate their love of books. World Book Day, with its media coverage and high profile, is a chance for us to celebrate that work and – hopefully – for its message to reach even more students.

Jo Elliott, Head Librarian

Equestrian: Lily Freeman-Attwood jumps to victory at the Solihull Show

Thursday 10 March 2016

Congratulations to Lily Freeman-Attwood (EDH III), who won the National 1.30m Open class at the Solihull Show on Wednesday 9th March, riding Banana D'Ive Z.

This weekend she will be competing again, aiming to qualify her pony Konzales van Orchids for the Charles Stanley JA Winter Final – the highest level at which U16s can jump.

At the end of April, Lily will be riding both Banana D'Ive Z and Topspin III in the Children on Horses European selection trials.



Lily riding Banana D'Ive Z and Konzales van Orchids



Young artists from The Elms find inspiration at the Shrewsbury School Art Scholars' Exhibition

Thursday 10 March 2016

On Tuesday 8th March, Shrewsbury School Art Department welcomed 11 pupils and their teacher, Bev Stokes, from The Elms Prep School to view the current Art Scholars' exhibition.

The pupils' excitement and interest in art was apparent as soon as they entered the gallery. They were quick to begin investigating the work and quietly discussed each piece. George Hill (PH UVI) was present in the side gallery, adding some final touches to his painting which they patiently observed from afar.

They were formally introduced to the exhibition, who was involved, and they were also given a brief introduction to the Art programme at Shrewsbury. Many were also keen to pick up an exhibition guide to give them further information about each work.

They were thrilled to meet Conrad Morson (UVI), an old Elm School pupil whose positive reputation in the Art Department at The Elms still remains. Conrad took some time to speak to the group about his work in the exhibition, as well as to take some questions from the very interested group.

The children were also offered the chance to investigate the rest of the studio spaces in the department, hopefully inspired by the other art by Shrewsbury school pupils that was currently in progress.

They left with a sketchbook and pencil, hopefully soon to be filled with creative inspiration and drawings to continue their passion for art.

The Art Scholars' Exhibition runs until 18th March.

Amanda Barrow



A spirited revival of Shrewsbury School Polo

Thursday 10 March 2016

Somewhat against sombre expectations, the inexperienced Novice teams from Shrewsbury performed remarkably well at the Schools and Universities Polo Association (SUPA) Senior School Arena Polo Tournament at Rugby Polo Club on 6th March.



Scott Walker, Fred Blanchard Butter, Ned Moreau, Tristan Lywood, Milo Herbert and Esther McLaughlin at prize-giving

The A Team (Scott Walker (M V), Fred Blanchard-Butter (M V) and Ned Moreau (Rt IV)) convincingly beat teams from Rugby and Stowe before succumbing to Langley Polo Club (near Norwich) in the final. They secured second place out of six.

Similarly, the Shrewsbury B team (Esther McLaughlin (EDH LVI), school captain), Tristan Lywood (Rt LVI) and Milo Herbert (R IV)) won their first and third chukkas, defeating teams from Wellington and Stowe but also falling to Langley in the second. Thus they took the third place in the same class.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Will Blanchard-Butter (M V) and Henry Bradshaw (Rt III) worked with a talented polo-playing Amazon hireling in a set of Combined Team chukkas: despite improving team play these wound up in fourth place out of four, giving way to other Combo teams from Marlborough and Pangbourne. Man of the match was Ned Moreau.

It was an excellent day. Glynn Henderson, our regular coach, grinned throughout and was impressed at the intense rate of improvement his Salopians had demonstrated. It looks as though Shrewsbury Polo may have a real future again.

JAS



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 10 March 2016

This week, debating.

As you can imagine if you read last week's offering, I was looking forward to standing on the touch line and watching some rugby on Wednesday. Sadly it rained so heavily that even the swimming pool flooded. (*That's an exaggeration. - Ed*) My assignment had been to focus on the netballers, but they had been cancelled too and they refused to play water polo. Just when I was thinking I was going to have another week off, I was 'delighted' to be approached by Ed Plaut (S LVI) and James Whitaker (Rt LVI). They reminded me that I had promised to talk to them about their progress in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition.

Memories started flooding back, as I was in that very competition when I was at school – or was it a Public Speaking Cup? I can't remember, but I didn't get very far. I think I remember waiting for the cup to speak first, which resulted in an embarrassing silence and disqualification. (*Another lie. - Ed*) Nevertheless, I was feeling slightly smug as at least debating is something I know a little about and I imagined the lads had come to seek advice from an ex-President of the Durham Union. Sadly that was not the case, as they knew someone who had seen me in action!

What Ed and James did want to impart was that they had won the Midlands round of the competition, beating Repton, Solihull and various schools from Birmingham (mostly called King Edward's they thought). They were looking forward to the finals this weekend. Head of History Mr Harry Mackridge is taking them down to Oxford and will be in their corner with a towel and a sponge should things get violent.





In the first round, the loquacious duo had to support the motion that women's sports should get equal screening on TV. James told me that the second motion was 'This House would legalise vigilante justice in crime-ridden areas'. This time they were on the opposition and argued that this might encourage anarchy among other things. They explained that they had been with three other schools against four other schools. Each person has a maximum of five minutes in which to speak. As well as trying to outwit the opposition, you also have to undermine those speaking on your own side of the debate, the crafty couple told me.

No one is told the motion until 15 minutes before the competition begins, making it difficult to prepare. I asked the precocious pair how they did manage to prepare. They told me that they seek arguments at all times. This makes them irritating and unpopular with both teachers and peers, but it is a sacrifice worth making. Ed felt his best training moments generally came in Miss Milanova's lessons when suggesting it would be good to leave the EU. James paid tribute to Rory Fergusson, who had given him a good hour discussing whether the architecture in Paris is Imperialist and neo-Classist or whether it is genuinely characterful and beautiful. James took the line that it is Imperialist and enjoyed a 'healthy debate'. Both champions of oratory held Mr Bird in high esteem. They had both enjoyed discussing whether Jesus was a miracle-worker or a phoney and whether Mr Bird's haircut was acceptable, fashionable or in need of a dramatic alteration. James also paid tribute to Ridgemount Matron Mrs Elms, who had been debating whether Mr Hughes' dog Odi was smelly or not. For the sake of both parties, I will not tell you who took which side.



James and Ed told me that they have also been training in other ways. Ed feels that physical stamina might be important and so he has been weight-training and playing rugby sevens. He argued that alacrity on the rugby pitch might also lead to alacrity on his feet in the chamber.

James has been running to the library to foster ideas. Both boys have been singing lustily in Chapel to exercise vocal chords and watching the argument sketch from Monty Python.

They were about to tell me of more secret routines when they realised that they had to go and judge a junior debate each. The House competition has reached the quarter final stage and there was eager anticipation in both Radbrook and Mary Sidney when I went down to see them in action. It is good to see that discussion and open debate is in rude health at Shrewsbury.



Ed judging the Mary Sidney v Radbrook Junior House debate



James judging the Radbrook v Churchill debate

I wish James and Ed good luck in their quest to be crowned the most irritating students in the UK!

GJFB



A tribute to 'Schutz' in The Spectator

Friday 11 March 2016

Aidan Hartley's tribute to Michael Schützer-Weissmann (Staff 1988-2016), "the greatest teacher I ever had", is published in this month's edition of The Spectator.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/a-tribute-to-shutz-the-schoolmaster-who-made-me/>



Football: U14 A XI win through to County Cup semi-final

Friday 11 March 2016

Congratulations to the U14 team that beat Charlton School 2-1 in the County Cup quarter final on Thursday 3rd March.

Goals were scored by Luke Bourne-Arton (Rt) and Miles Lorente Shyllon (PH).

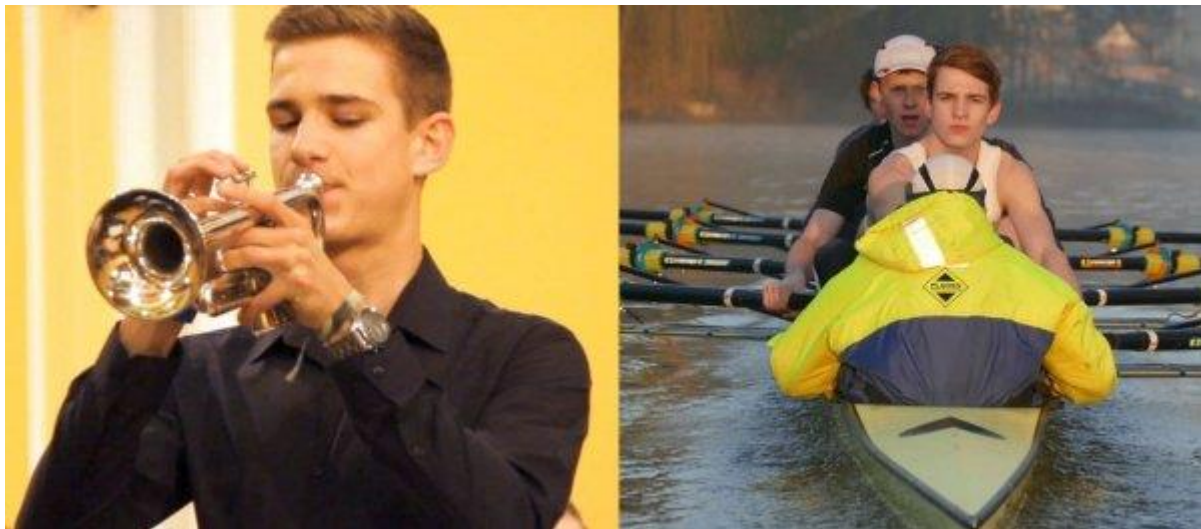
Henry Thomas gains coveted place at Royal College of Music

Friday 11 March 2016

Over the Christmas Holidays Henry Thomas (Ch UVI), who is currently a member of the CBSO Youth Orchestra, was delighted, and not a little relieved, to hear that he had gained a coveted place to study trumpet at the Royal College of Music from next September.

What makes this achievement all the more remarkable is that Henry combines his extraordinarily busy musical life, within and without the walls of Shrewsbury School, with an equally demanding life as a leading rower in the RSSBC Top Squad. He is currently stroking the 1st VIII and looking forward to a hectic round of regattas in the Summer, culminating with a renewed bid for the Princess Elizabeth Cup, last won by Shrewsbury in 2007.

The secret to this happy marriage of music and sport? "Consistency in routine," says Henry laconically.



RTH

School House in thrilling final of the Inter-House Basketball Competition

Sunday 13 March 2016



Squad (L-R). Back row: Wentao He (LVI), Matt Rowe (LVI), Kwaku Antwi (LVI), Vardan Hambarzumyan (LVI), Michael Cheung (LVI). Front row: Eccles Cheong (LVI), Sergey Vartanov (V), Aaron Zhao (UVI), Punu Vajrabhaya (III) and James Wong (LVI)

School House won their first three games of the competition with ease, booking themselves a place in the final against the reigning champions Ridgemount.

There was nothing to choose between the two sides in a very exciting game that saw both teams exchange the lead on several occasions. Going into the dying seconds, School House were 19-17 down and needed a basket to draw the scores level and take the game into extra time.

In a tense final play, Captain Aaron Zhao appeared, to all the spectators watching from the balcony, to have scored the crucial basket, but for some reason the points were not given and the last few seconds ticked off the clock... It was not to be our year, but the boys played some excellent basketball and it was great to see the positive School House spirit on display on and off the court; the boys showed great sportsmanship in congratulating the opposition, despite the disappointing and controversial nature of their defeat.

The standout players of the tournament were Eccles Cheong (LVI) for his superb defensive work and counter-attacking, Wentao He (LVI) for his clinical finishing, and Aaron for his excellent leadership. However, the entire squad made a valuable contribution and all deserve congratulations on their performances.



The final, with this shot from Wentao adding more points to the board for School House

RSSBC: North of England Head

Monday 14 March 2016

Excellent results from all crews at the North of England Head on Saturday 12th March.



1st VIII

The 1st VIII produced a strong performance to come 2nd overall at the North of England Head behind the winners Agecroft Rowing Club. The crew were the fastest junior crew of the day.



2nd VIII

The 2nd VIII were the quickest crew in the second division and won the J18 category with a 1.6-second margin over King's Chester.



3rd VIII

The King's Chester's J16s got the better of a two-second margin over the 3rd VIII who came 2nd in Novice Eights.



1st quad

The girls' 1st and 2nd quads came in 2nd and 3rd respectively in the wJ18 Quad event.

Full results can be seen at <http://royalchesterrowingclub.co.uk/#/north-of-england-head/4577328166>

RSSBC: West Midlands Junior Championships

Tuesday 15 March 2016

A combination of 18 J14, J15 and J16 crews raced at the West Midlands Junior Championships, held in Worcester on Sunday 13th March. They had a fantastic day out in great conditions and secured a significant haul of silverware for their efforts. All three age groups recorded wins, with the most impressive performance coming from the J15 squad.



J14 octuple

J14s

The event proved promising for the J14 squad, as both the J14 and WJ14 Coxed Quads came away with bronze medals. These would not have been achieved without a whole-squad effort pushing each other on to train and race faster.



Both the boys' and girls' octuples rowed well and posted good times, despite a few challenges. The J14 boys beat the RGS Worcester J15 octuple by 15 seconds and the WJ14 octuple narrowly lost to Ross RC by 4 seconds after suffering a seat malfunction. All these experiences are to be learnt from at J14 level to increase confidence and boat speed at big events.



WJ Octuple

The J14s left in high spirits and are eager to get back on the water and take on other schools at the National Sculling Head on Friday.

J15s

The J15 squad raced in the J15 quads and J16 fours events. The tone for the day was set with an impressive 28-second win in the J16 coxed four event (rowing a year group up) by Elliot Crossley, Petr Rostokin, Josh Evans, Chad Usher and coxed by Ben Holehouse. This was followed with a second gold medal in the J15 coxed quads' event for Adam Pattenden, Ed Hart, Jack Lockett, Ali Davies and coxed by Boss Lertthundorn, winning by 7 seconds. Considering they were racing in a boat they rarely train in against more specialist scullers, this was a great achievement.



J15 boys' squad

In Division 2, Adam Pattenden went out on his own in the J15 singles event and came home with a silver medal, losing out by only 0.3 seconds!

In Division 3 we sent out two evenly matched coxed fours in a grudge match to see who would take home the gold medal. The winning crew was Elliot Crossley, Ed Hart, Petr Rostokin, Pran Poshyanonda and coxed by Boss Lertthundorn in a time of 8:08, which was only 4 seconds slower than the winning J18 coxed four two school years above them!



WJ15 Quad

The J15 girls got in on the action in Division 3 as well, showing great strength and technique to take the bronze medal in the J15 girls' quad event, 11 seconds behind the winners.



Ben Holehouse and Ali Davies

The highlight of the day though was the J15 boys' double of Ben Holehouse and Ali Davies, who came home with the fourth gold medal of the day for the Fourth Form in a highly competitive event, winning by 0.8 seconds over a Worcester Rowing Club double who specialise in sculling far more than we do.

Overall, it was a very positive day the Fourth Form with 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 3 boats qualified for the Inter-Regional Regatta in April.

J16s

The J16 squad raced in two eights and both crews produced strong rows. The A crew won the event, beating both J18 VIIIs that were racing; the B crew (in only their second outing in that combination) were only 30 seconds behind.



J16A VIII



Netball: U15 County Tournament

Tuesday 15 March 2016

The U15 netball team rounded off their strong season with an excellent performance at the County Tournament, where they finished in second place.



The Shrewsbury team finished their opening game against Abraham Darby Academy with a 7-1 victory, a confident start when facing opposition who dwarfed our defence. Lizzie Ware, Katie Oswald and Amelia Maunder held a strong defensive formation, making important tips to put the ball out, limiting any shots on goal and picking up on any rebounds. They proved to be a force to be reckoned with throughout the whole tournament.

The girls went into their second game against Thomas Telford School with an immediate interception by Daisy McMullen from the centre pass. A special mention to Katie (WD), who kept their strongest player out of the game completely with some feisty man-on-man marking! Turning the play in our favour, and after some strong shooting and circle movement by Captain Sophia Breese and Abi Watkinson, we won 7-3.



Facing a tough opposition in Shrewsbury High School, the score remained close throughout. We kept tight to their opposition, limiting options, and Jetty Russell and Phoebe Wasdell kept the SHS attack in check, creating turnover ball, but we struggled to transfer this into goals. SHS stayed one centre pass ahead and won the game 3-2.

After 40 minutes rest we faced Tournament Champions Newport Girls' High, we played a good game but they were always one step ahead and won 10-3.

Going into our final match against Ludlow, we were fighting for second place. The girls played a fantastic game, showing some key pre-tournament training movement down court, really opening up the full width and utilising space. Ella Windle gave a strong performance, using dynamic movements to get in front of her player to get some important balls. We won this 8-4, putting us in second place in the Trophy.

Overall, a great afternoon of netball and a fantastic end to the season. Many thanks to the parents who made the journey to cheer on the team.



Golf news

Tuesday 15 March 2016

The School's golf team have had an excellent term, as Master in Charge Mark Schofield reports.



The School golf team, under the captaincy of James Walker (Rt UVI), reached the regional semi-final of the HMC Foursomes annual golf competition. Foursomes is a great format and playing alternate golf shots as part of a pair demonstrates teamwork, strategy and the ability to perform under pressure. Shrewsbury was narrowly beaten by a fine Worksop College team at Little Aston Golf Club earlier this month.

We form part of the challenging 'Northern' region and this is the furthest our golf team has progressed in recent years. Loretto's golf academy are in the same region and continue to be firm favourites for the regional and national titles annually. We will continue to work hard and gain the experience necessary to compete at an even higher golfing level.

In the ISGA Matchplay competition, we were pipped to the regional plate title by local rivals Oswestry School, just before Easter, at Oswestry Golf Club. The teams were well matched, with Ben Oswald (S LVI), James Walker (Rt UVI) and Jonty Robinson (Rt UVI) playing off handicaps 5, 8 and 9 making for a low scoring Singles contest. The team was clearly disappointed after securing this title last year.



Ben Oswald, our best golfer, has been selected for the 'Swifts Tour' over Easter. As one of the best eight Independent School golfers, he will be part of an eight-man British team that will compete on some of the best golf courses on the East coast of America. Apart from the dozen or so golf matches, Ben will travel about 2,500 miles along the Eastern seaboard. As you may discern, a 'Swift's Tour' member requires exceptional stamina.



Ben plays off a handicap of 5 at Little Aston and Enville Golf Clubs and has been a stalwart of the School golf team since arriving in the Third Form. He is also very interested in attending an American university so this is a great opportunity that he will, I am sure, grasp with both hands. We wish him well.

Finally, the Old Salopian Golf Society will be playing at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake over Easter, on Friday 1st April. An enthusiastic and friendly group, the OSGS members are very keen to welcome current students and their family members to their golf days, in what is always an enjoyable day.

The OSGS Hon Secretary, Tim Lewis, would be delighted to hear from those interested in playing (timjlewis2014@gmail.com).

Rory McIlroy made the winning of the 2014 British Open look straightforward at Hoylake and although some have said the same about the Master in Charge of Golf's performances on the same golf course over the last three years, I think we can all agree that it is a good test of golf.

MS



Holehouse and Davies win rowing gold

Wednesday 16 March 2016



The J15 squad travelled to Worcester on Sunday 13th March to take part in the Junior Inter-regional trials, aiming to secure places at the annual Inter-Regional regatta that takes place in Nottingham in April.

The highlight of the day was the J15 boys' double of Ben Holehouse and Ali Davies who came home with the fourth gold medal of the day for the Fourth Form in a highly competitive event, winning by 0.8 seconds over local favourites, Worcester Rowing Club.

OS Squash vs the School

Wednesday 16 March 2016

The OS Squash Club has managed to gather great momentum over the course of the last year, going from virtually a standing start to a full calendar of matches.

On Saturday 12th March they came back to the School to play against the current pupils and staff and everyone involved enjoyed a great match and a great occasion.



The results are as follows:

Boys and staff

MJH	3-0
Tom Edwards	0-3
Tiger	0-3
Mr Salvey	3-1
Fred Pook	1-3
Anthony Koch De G	2-3
Stefan Hart	3-2
Charlie Lennox	3-2

OS & Staff

Jonny Williams
Rupert Parry
Rob Cross
George Carver
Nick Davies
George Bates
DMW
Headmaster

So 4 matches apiece and honours even, although the OS have pointed out that they won all the matches they played vs the boys!



OSFC Veterans XI vs The School on Saturday 27 February 2016

Wednesday 16 March 2016



In a match played in an excellent spirit, the OS Veterans XI held their own against the School and emerged with a 1-1 draw. In the first half the School had been clearly lulled into a sense of false security after one of the Vets pulled up with cramp in the warm-up; the School squandered a number of clear chances and by half time the Vets had taken an early lead through a Rob Cooke goal. A period of pressure in the second half saw the School equalise but the Vets, showing remarkable fitness, held on for a well deserved draw.



Maths teamwork success

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Congratulations to our Senior Maths Challenge team and our Fourth Form 'Maths Feast' team, who have been busy competing this term.

Last month, Chloe Chen (MSH UVI), Tom Dodd (Rb UVI), David Gao (I LVI) and Evelyn Xiong (G LVI) come 50th in the National Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge, out of an initial pool of around 1,150 teams. The final was held in the Royal Horticultural Halls in London.

More recently, a Fourth Form team comprising Suky OuYang (MSH), Ella Windle (G), Archie Mobbs (O) and Lucas Arkwright (O) come second in a round of the Further Mathematics Support Programme's 'Maths Feast'. This competition is designed to test not only mathematical knowledge and initiative, but also communication skills and teamwork.



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 17 March 2016

This week, netball.

There was some discussion as to which sport should be Team of the Week in the last slot of the term. A posse of rowing coaches surrounded me by the plate of biscuits in the Common Room where I had been casually loitering (merely to warn others of the affects of too much sugar). Over the constant rustling of their coaching kit as they huddled together, I could just make out that they felt the performance of the under 15 crews was worthy of scrutiny in this column this week. Rowing coaches are a force to be reckoned with and I promised I would do my best for them - until they were unexpectedly brushed aside by the formidable Anna Jones.

Let me explain. Mild-mannered Anna is one of my Upper Sixth tutees and she came to see me to discuss her report (I am a very dutiful tutor). We began to review the term and her many accomplishments. The conversation then turned to sport. Anna is a proud member of Miss Woo's second netball team. and she explained to me that they had been very successful this season. (She was happy to claim some of the credit as the goal shooter.) I asked Anna why she played up front and she told me it was because she is tall and scary. "I am tall and scary," Anna said. She explained that part of success is down to her 'game face'. "My game face is very important, as I use it to stare out the opposition and unsettle them." Anna then suggested I report on the under-15 netball team who have had a good week, having just finished runners-up in their recent county tournament (as reported on the [Netball News pages](#) of this website). She turned her gaze on me at this point, unsettling me to the point where I had to say yes to netball and no to rowing!



Both the under-14 and under-15 netball teams were playing away fixtures at Shrewsbury High School this week. Coincidentally I noticed that Sky Sports have been building up this weekend's football matches as 'Derby Sunday' since Manchester United are playing Manchester City and Sunderland are playing Newcastle (hopefully to see which one will be replaced in the Premiership by Brighton). I had not seen the Shrewsbury School v Shrewsbury High School netball matches billed on Sky, but then I am seldom allowed to watch Sky Sport at home, especially if it clashes with 'Dora the Explorer' or 'Jake and the Neverland Pirates' and so I probably missed the advert. Certainly upon arriving at the High School Stadium, you could tell it was Derby Day. The



atmosphere was electric and the Shrewsbury crowd had to be segregated from the home fans, who were all looking mean, moody, magnificent and cold.

I thought at first that Miss Peak was entering into the carnival spirit, as she kept blowing her whistle, but then I realised she was refereeing.



Miss Peak is one of the Shrewsbury coaches along with Kim 'I know my' Onions. Both have played netball at a very high level (Miss Peak comes from the Lake District). Kim 'it's nearly spring' Onions played for Shrewsbury, Herriot Watt University and Watford in the Premier League (netball) and has a deep knowledge of the game. Her team clearly hold her in high regard as they would not want to be fried or roasted by her! Not that Kim is like that; she would never make her charges cry!



Sophia Breese about to score another great goal

I asked Kim how she thought the team were playing. She told me that they had performed in a very mature way at the weekend and played extremely well. Although finishing just above them, they had lost to the High School 3-2 in the tournament and so they were out for revenge. Kim felt today's game was a bit scrappy, but then it was a derby. In one of the breaks between quarters (netball is divided into quarters a bit like half-time oranges), I listened in to Kim's words of wisdom. She told her team to use two hands when catching the ball, which sounded like good advice. She did not want any loopy passes (that would be madness) and urged them to go for straight balls, so no bending it like Beckham. The girls were spellbound by Miss Onions' words and I could tell they were determined to act on her advice and not get in a pickle. The fact that they did so is probably why they ended up winning 17-15.

You may be surprised to hear that I don't watch that much netball but I was genuinely impressed by the speed and agility of our team. Daisy McMullen seemed to have extendable arms when catching the ball and Abi Watkinson and Sophia Breese hardly missed a shot when it came to scoring goals. Goalkeeper Lizzie Ware lulled her opponent into a false sense of security by chatting to her when there was a break in play and then putting on her game face when the ball came her way at the back.



Phoebe Wasdell was frenetic on the court but also a great voluble supporter when she was on the side-lines, as was Jetty Russell. Amelie Maunder was everywhere and no one could get the ball off her or past her. Katie Oswald, inspired by the crowd, had the game of her life and Ella Wendell, who has only recently started playing the game, looked like a seasoned professional. This was girl power with a dash of Onions and wow were they good!



After their victory, I asked the team what they thought they had done well in order to win the first of the major derbies this week. Katie Oswald thought there had been ‘ferocious woman to woman marking’ Ella thought they had ‘fought well for the rebounds’ and Daisy was pleased with their ‘agility when gaining interceptions’. Lizzie thought at times it had been ‘half football’ but they all agreed they had ‘bossed it’! As Miss Onions said, to triumph you have to include the ‘umph’ as well as try!

I was very impressed by this tight knit group of skilful netballers. They will, I am sure, win their next tournament if I know my Onions!

GJFB



Fives: The Easter Egg Open

Thursday 17 March 2016

Congratulations to all the girls who took part in the 'Easter Egg Open' on Sunday 13th March.

Particularly congratulations to Amelia Binns, who had never played before!

It was a great tournament and all girls played it in an excellent spirit. They looked well prepared for the forthcoming National Schools' Championships and we wish you all the best.

Results

Main Semi-Final

Breese & Oswald beat Hedges & Watkinson 15-5

Plate Final

Taujanskaite & Windle beat Ockleston & Elliott 12-10

Plate Semi-Finals

Ockleston & Elliott beat Plumtre & Cooper 12-5

Taujanskaite & Windle beat Cormack & Richards 12-3

Plate Quarter-Finals

Ockleston & Elliott beat Cormack & Richards 12-9

Taujanskaite & Windle beat Jackman & Leatherbarrow 12-10

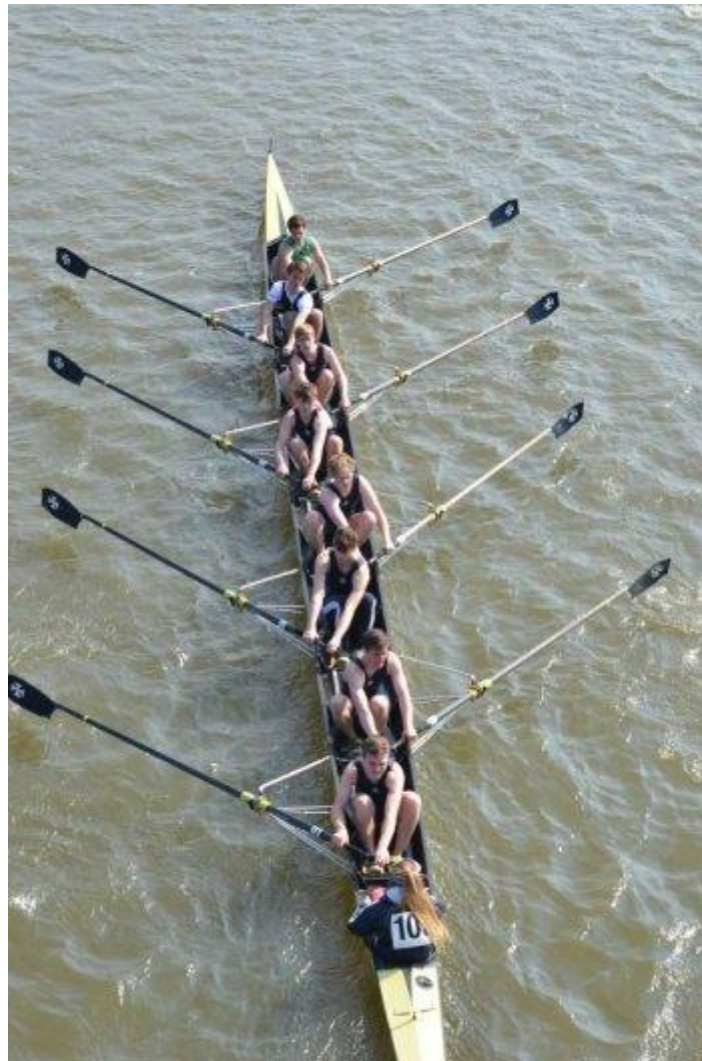
Bird & Kerr beat Holbrook & Binns 12-2



RSSBC: Schools' Head of the River

Thursday 17 March 2016

The following report on the Schools' Head of the River Race, which took place on Thursday 17th March, also includes links to reports on two other rowing fixtures that took place last weekend: the North of England Head and the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta Trials. There is also a link to a video made by Harry Marshall (SH LVI) of the Boat Club in training during the winter on Lake Vyrnwy and the River Severn.



3rd VIII

The Boat Club took eight crews to race the 4¼ mile stretch of the Thames from Chiswick Bridge to Putney Embankment on Thursday 17th March. They joined 378 crews from across the UK as well as a few international entries from the US, Hungary and Italy.

The 1st VIII and 2nd VIII were disappointed to come in 9th in their respective categories. The 3rd VIII produced a very strong row to secure an excellent 2nd in their event.

The Senior Girls had two crews racing in the Junior Women's Quad; the 1st crew came in 8th and the 2nd boat came in 15th, although they were the fastest 2nd boat in the event.



J15A VIII

The J16A crew came 4th and the J16B crew finished 6th in their category. The J15As had a solid row, coming in 5th in tight competition and only narrowly missing out on a medal by two seconds.

The full results can be found at <http://www.shorr.org.uk/>

Shrewsbury School band featured on Radio Shropshire

Thursday 17 March 2016

'Face Value', a song written and performed by the band 'The Slow City' a.k.a. Alex Bennett (Rb UVI), Joe Dodd (Rb V) and Luke Lloyd-Jones (Rb UVI) was recently aired on Radio Shropshire and has now been released on Spotify.

It is one of two songs recorded by the band during the Christmas holidays and was recently selected by BBC Shropshire's Sam Fleet and Adam Crowther to be broadcast across the county on their Saturday evening 'BBC Introducing in Shropshire' show.



Described by the Radio Shropshire presenters as “amazingly talented”, The Slow City formed as a band last year after getting together to perform at last summer’s end of term Pop Concert. Having discovered that they shared the same musical tastes, Alex Bennett (keyboard and vocals), Joe Dodd (drums and bass) and Luke Lloyd-Jones (guitar) have been working together on songs ever since.

Their Housemaster, Richard Case, is enthusiastic in his praise: “Their musicianship, creativity and teamwork are exceptional and I’m looking forward to hearing more of their work. What is particularly exciting is that this project is entirely the result of the boys' own initiative and is a good example of the synergy that happens when you get talented, creative individuals together.”

The writing is done collaboratively, with ideas often being messaged through to each other via text and Facebook late into the evenings as they squeeze their song-writing around their many other school commitments. They meet in the Music School every week or so to rehearse together.

They are enjoying experimenting with a range of different sounds and styles. “We don’t want to conform to a specific genre,” they explain. “We want each song to sound different.” Their rapidly growing group of fans can look forward to five more songs being recorded in the next few months and a Facebook page due to be launched soon.

‘Face Value’ can be heard on BBC iPlayer via the following link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/p03jqgt8> (Scroll forward to 52 minutes).



Bentley Elocution Competition 2016

Friday 18 March 2016

The Bentley Elocution Prizes are awarded in memory of Thomas Bentley, who served the School for over 50 years and is commemorated by a window on the south side of the School Chapel. Noted for his enthusiasm for reading and his fine voice, Bentley introduced 'Penny Readings' in 1867, which may be regarded as the origin of the Bentley Elocution Competition. It remains a major event in the School's annual calendar.

Thursday 10th March saw the final of the annual Bentley Elocution competition. The finalists, having been selected from their respective year groups, stood up before an audience of Third Form pupils to recite their chosen lines of poetry. We welcomed Richard Field back to Shrewsbury to adjudicate, confident that after decades of involvement with this event as a teacher of English, Housemaster of Ridgemount, not to mention Registrar, he would be well placed to make the final judgements. As ever, his task was not an easy one; with strong performances in all sections, the decisions made were far from straightforward!

Seven brave Third Formers got proceedings off to an impressive start: Mary Lees, Vaughan Wilcox, Jonathan Snell, Oscar Clarke-Williams, Olivia Moir, Rider Hartley and Stephanie Worthington. Some immaculate and engaging performances characterised a strong entry this year, but in the end the winner was Mary Lees with her faultless performance of Calpurnia's lines from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Jonathan Snell's Ulysses was a very close second with another honourable mention for Stephanie Worthington, who chose Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII.

The Fourth Form performances were extremely strong this year and it was here that our adjudicator really struggled to make a decision! And who could blame him? Last year's winner, Otto Rothwell-Hurley, gave a captivating account of Ted Hughes' *Hawk Roosting*, whilst Libby Hedges treated us to the contemporary, highly charged *Pray for Paris* by Topaz Winters. However, in a very tightly contested battle the winner was Abi Watkinson, whose performance of Kate Mackay's *Pretty* was simply unforgettable; Abi commanded the stage and held the attention of every single member of the audience with her exemplary performance of this interesting and challenging piece.



Sebastian Hervas-Jones, Abi Watkinson, Mary Lees

The Senior group consisted of 11 Fifth and Sixth Formers, many of whom had been battling with coursework deadlines and revision for exams yet still found time to learn and recite the verse of their choice. Despite some lapses in memory, there were strong performances from a range of sources. Our judge praised Caspian Cowan-Taylor for his recitation of Robert Kiely's *Just Twenty-One*, as well as Fergus David for the clear and movingly understated delivery of Heaney's classic: *Mid Term Break*. But the Senior Prize was justly delivered to newcomer Sebastian Hervas-Jones. Sebastian shared his own poem, *At Bladon*, which was entertaining, touching, humorous and thoughtful in equal measure; such a personal, lively and 'neat' composition was not only a very worthy winner of the prize, but delightfully refreshing in tone and content.

It was appropriate that, as proceedings drew to a close, Richard Field invited us to remember our late colleague, mentor and friend: Michael Schützer-Weissmann. Mike was a keen supporter of the Bentley and we all have many recollections of his involvement with the competition. The quality of the performances in 2016 was a fitting tribute to his memory. As Mr Sheppe, who organised the event so successfully this year, pointed out in his own tribute to Schutz in the programme – the candle flame of enthusiasm for literature, good fellowship and civilisation is, thankfully, being kept alight by Salopians today.

Our thanks go to Mr Sheppe, Mr Field and to all the worthy competitors for a wonderful evening.

Mrs Leslie



School House wins the Swimming Competition for a third consecutive year

Friday 18 March 2016

As the main inter-house sporting contest of the Lent Term, the swimming is always an eagerly awaited and highly competitive event. In recent history, School House has dominated the competition and, true to form, we won again by a considerable margin.



Winners of their heats: Captain Nat Chumbala (VI) at the front, who won the Individual Medley; at the back (L-R): Eric Ma (UVI) won Freestyle, Vardan Hambarձւմյան (LVI) won Breaststroke and Kwaku Antwi (LVI) won Butterfly.

In several excellent individual and team displays of swimming, the boys did themselves and the house proud; we had a winner in every stroke! Whilst this made it three in a row for School House in the Senior category, for Captain Nat Chumbala (UVI), it was five out five because he also led us to victory in the Junior category when he was in the younger years. This is a



remarkable achievement and the most recent success was no more than he or the rest of the team deserved. Congratulations to all involved:

EVENT	NAMES	
	5 th Form	6 th Form
Individual Medley (4 x 25m – fly, back, breast, crawl)	Mill Luangamornlert	Nat Chumbala
Backstroke (25m)	Gus Lloyd	James Wong
Breaststroke (25m)	Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill	Vardan Hambardzumyan
Butterfly (25m)	Mill Luangamornlert	Kwaku Antwi
Freestyle (25m)	Elias Harrison	Eric Ma
Medley Relay (4 x 25m)		
Backstroke	Gus Lloyd	Josh Wong
Breaststroke	Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill	Vardan Hambardzumyan
Butterfly	Mill Luangamornlert	Kwaku Antwi
Front Crawl	Tom Shiels	Nat Chumbala
Cannon freestyle relay (4 x 25m) (2 x 5 th form and 2 x 6 th form)		
	1. Elias Harrison	
	2. Ian Lau	
		3. James Wong
		4. Eric Ma



Bentley Elocution Competition

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Mrs Leslie

James Whitaker and Ed Plaut reach the finals of the Oxford Schools' Debating Competition

Friday 18 March 2016

Many thanks to Ed Plaut (S LVI) for his entertaining account of the experience, and for writing separately a few days later about the rest of his exceptionally busy week: [A Week in the Life Of...](#)

Over the last weekend, James Whitaker (Rt LVI), Mr Mackridge and I journeyed down to Oxford for the national finals round of the Oxford Schools' Debating Competition. Having qualified from the Midlands round held in Birmingham in January, we were excited to head to what many consider to be the holy grail of academic debating, the Oxford Union. The Union has played host to historic figures from Churchill and Reagan (my particular favourites) to James' idols Hitchens and Dawkins, as well as former Deputy Prime Minister and Old Salopian Michael Heseltine (who was also President of the Union during his time at Oxford, and after whom the political society at school is named). As the first Salopian team in memory to reach this prestigious final round, we left comfy Shropshire with a sense of anticipation and excitement as we were to go head to head with some of the best debaters from the UK and abroad the very next day.

We arrived at the Union early on the Saturday morning, having gone via Jesus College to meet with Erike Bjorge, a junior fellow of Constitutional Law who is an acquaintance of James', who gave us a brief (and unexpected) debating warm-up over breakfast. Upon arrival at Union, we (by that I mean mainly I) dissolved into fangirl-esque hysteria over the historic settings we found ourselves in, sitting inches from the despatch box from which so many world leaders have debated and argued, relaxing in the innermost rooms of the Union (where it is rumoured more political plots are hatched than in Parliament) and examining the various statues and portraits that adorn its halls.





Our first debate centred on the motion “This house would pay compensation to those found innocent after trial”, where we faced three other teams and we stood as the Closing Government in proposition of the motion. (The debate is divided into four parts which each carry two speakers, Opening Government, Opening Opposition, Closing Government and Closing Opposition.) The key as Closing Government is for one speaker to provide what is known as an extension argument, in order that not only are the arguments of both opposition teams dealt with but that the other team on your side is shown to be inadequate. James made the extension speech, and I provided what is known as the Whip’s speech, which summarises the key points in the debate thus far and proves why our side has won the motion as it stands. During all this, the aim is also to interweave rebuttal to previous points, so it turns into an extremely packed five minutes.

This debate was very closely examined by all sides, with the main issues surrounding the impact of litigation on the innocent, especially in term of the loss of reputation and time, as well as what the nature of our legal system should be. Following an extremely tight debate, we were just edged out by a BWS team who ended up making the final (although we felt we had the measure of them), and ended up placing third.

The second debate motion was “This house would make oil and gas companies cover the costs of climate change policy”, and we were allocated the Opening Opposition side of the debate. As Opening Opposition our main job was to put forth the main arguments against the motion, which mainly centred on the lack of alternatives to oil and gas, the developmental power of oil and gas to bring cheap development to the poorest in society, as well as the issue of the tax not collecting enough money to cover the costs of climate change policy as Laffer curve taxation comes into effect, citing the failed carbon tax of the Australian Rudd government. During this debate we became engaged in a heated defence of our position against a rather sassy pair of girls from Wolverhampton Girls’ High School, which we thought we had tipped but was later adjudged on a technicality to have swung against us. This debate was again very close, and we felt rather aggrieved as we were forced to settle for third by a solid Winchester team, but just ahead of a strong St Paul’s team.

“This house believes that teachers should tell children that they can achieve anything they want purely on the basis of hard work, without regard for innate talent” – this slightly quirky motion ended up being the third motion of the day for us, which was slightly off the beaten track as it seemed rather one-dimensional at first. We were also faced with the hard task of being the Opening Government speakers, which meant that one of us had to start the debate without any opportunity for real attack as we had no idea what the opposing side was to say. We definitely felt that we had put in a good effort in a debate that was often hard work in terms of teasing out detailed arguments, but once again it didn’t show in a win. Instead, we placed third in yet another close debate that we felt we had edged, which was starting to become the story of the day for us.



Determined to end on a strong note, our final debate before the semi-finals was on the motion that “in post-conflict areas, this house would ban those who have used violence for political ends in the past from seeking to run for office”, in which we stood as Closing Opposition. We both prefer to be in the closing end of the debate as the greater opportunity for rebuttal tends to suit our styles better, and the topic matter of the motion was a good one given our historical and political interests. James was to give the extension argument in this debate, with myself giving the Whip's speech again, and having prepared a number of well thought out arguments in our 15 minutes prep time before the debate, we felt confident. The debate centred around the ideals of democracy, liberty and reconciliation, and it had slightly stagnated before James unveiled the trump card of the debate in his speech, which was the point that the motion was self-defeating – in denying violent parties the means to gain power peacefully (democracy), they will just become more violent. This point, as well as our strong defence of a wide, truly liberal democracy, meant that we won this debate by a sizeable margin.

At this point, it was most probable that we had failed to qualify for the semi-finals given the superior records of some of our rivals, which was disappointing considering that we had faced



many of the teams that eventually “broke” to the semi-finals and felt that we had definitely put up a more than adequate performance against them, only to be let down by some perhaps questionable decisions. That being said, debating is always going to be a highly subjective pursuit, and anyone who enters debating looking for competition that isn't going to be controversial is misinformed about its nature!

Considering it was the first time a Salopian side had ever gone to the National round, we left equally disappointed and proud of our performance, which was promising given that we both plan on going further next year when we are in Upper Sixth. Over the day we had claimed some sizeable scalps of traditionally strong sides such as St Paul's and London Oratory, as well finishing higher than our Midlands counterparts Repton and Solihull. We left with a respectable 40th place as a pair nationally, which is no mean feat that considering roughly 15,000 teams enter into the competition. However, the individual rankings showed the true strength of our performances which was slightly underestimated in the rankings we received as a pair, in that James placed 30th nationally, with me ranking one point behind at 32nd. We felt extremely proud of those placings, and hopefully next year we will go a step or two further and reach the final stage.

Having spent many afternoons this term judging the School Junior Debating Competition, I'm sure that if it's not us, one day soon a Shrewsbury pair will lift the trophy!

School Firsts

Friday 18 March 2016

Awarded to pupils during the final School Assembly of the Lent Term.

Each term a committee of Sixth Form pupils meets to award the School's highest form of 'colours' – a 'School First'. The committee members take their work seriously, for two main reasons: firstly, this is a good example of pupil power – while teachers may make nominations, it is only those ten or so Upper Sixth pupils sitting on the committee who have the power to vote; secondly, to retain the value of the 'School First', precious few are handed out.

Nowadays School Firsts have been split into two types: sporting and non-sporting. Below is a list of those pupils who were given the coveted award for their exceptional contributions to School life in non-sporting activities.

For their exceptional contributions to the musical life of the School:

Finn McCormack (Rb UVI), Ben Sansom (PH UVI) and Ken Lai (S UVI)

For their leadership skills and outstanding contributions to the CCF:

Suzy Watts (UVI MSH), Henry Bambridge (S UVI) and Guy Cabral (Ch UVI)

For her outstanding contributions to Debating:

Lilly Drinkwater (MSH UVI)

For representing the UK in the International Young Physicists' Tournament and their general contributions to science at the School:

Tom Dodd (Rb UVI) and Sherry Xu (EDH UVI)

Rosslyn Park National Schools U14s Rugby Sevens

Monday 21 March 2016

Pictured after a tough U14 debut for Shrewsbury at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Rugby Sevens, but still smiling are (L-R): Alexander Wu (S), Alexander Powell (I), Mr Jason Robinson, England Rugby World Cup winner 2003, Nathan Mielczarek (Rb), Oliver Shutts (PH), Frank Mansell (PH).



School House is transformed into Fawlty Towers for the House Play

Monday 21 March 2016

The Lent Term finished with plenty of laughs and some very convincing acting as the boys gave John Cleese a run for his money in their reproduction of the classic "Hotel Inspectors" episode.



(L-R): Peter Stanley (LVI) as Mr Hutchinson, Freddie Lawson (III) as Sybil Fawlty, Vardan Hambardzumyan (LVI) as Manuel, Harry Marshall (LVI) as Major, Leo Sartain (UVI) as Basil Fawlty, Jacob Jefferis (IV) as Hotel Inspector 1, Lucas Jones-Polanco (IV) as Hotel Inspector 2, Tom Kirk (LVI) as Mr Walt and Louis Street (III) as Polly



Sybil gossiping on the phone, much to Basil's irritation

Basil is at his obsequious best when he decides that one of the guests, Mr. Hutchinson, is a hotel inspector. Why else would the man be asking for the rental of a television and a myriad of other out of the ordinary services?

Basil is fawning all over him while he is at his rudest with the remaining guests, including Mr. Walt who has his own reasons for staying at Fawlty Towers.

Things go from bad to worse when Basil decides that he may have made a mistake...

The great thing about this production was that it was entirely conceived and organised by the boys, under the supervision of Director Leo Sartain (Head of House). As Housemaster, the extent of my involvement was to buy the props and provide some gentle encouragement to the cast to learn their lines!

The product was not only hilarious for all the right reasons, it also contained some genuinely brilliant acting. Special mention must go to the two Third Formers: Freddie Lawson was superb in his role as a withering and abrasive Sybil Fawlty, while Louis' portrayal of the dizzy blond waitress Polly, was worryingly convincing!



Basil, Mr Hutchinson and Polly disputing the meal that has been served

It was clear that the boys were having just as much fun on the stage as those who were giggling in the audience. A lot of time and effort was put into the play by all in the cast; it was great to see the full age-range represented and it was the perfect light-hearted way to round off another successful term. Well done to all involved and special thanks to Leo for running the show. In recognition of this and all his other contributions to School House over the years, he was awarded his House Scarf.



On the left, Julian Chesshire (UVI) was also a crucial support behind the scenes, providing guidance on staging, make-up and, in this photo, taking the cast through their warm-up before the performance. For Julian's huge contribution to School House music and drama over his time here, he was also awarded his House Scarf this term.



The climax of the play in which Basil, aided and abetted by Manuel, loses his temper and assaults Mr Hutchinson with some pudding! Meanwhile, the hotel inspectors look on...



J15s win gold at the National Junior Sculling Head

Monday 21 March 2016

The end of a busy week for the Boat Club saw seven crews racing at the National Junior Sculling Head held at Dorney Lake on Friday 18th March - and a National Championship title for the J15 boys' octuple.



The winning J15A octuple

For four crews from the Third Form it was their first taste of a national competition at the fantastic multi-lane 2012 Olympic venue. The cool calm conditions made for some excellent racing.

The pick of the results was a tremendous win for the J15 boys' octuple. All of the boys had raced the day before at the Schools' Head in eights and narrowly missed out on a medal, so it was an impressive effort to turn their hand to sculling and win their event overall by a healthy margin of six seconds.

The J15 girls' octuple also produced an encouraging performance by coming 5th in their event.

The J14 boys and girls competed in a very large field, with the girls' octuple coming 6th out of 25 crews and the girls' quad 40th out of 50 crews. The J14 boys' A octuple had an excellent row, coming in 4th out of 60 crews and the J14 B octuple coming home 53rd.

The girls' 1st quad raced for the second time in two days, coming in 14th out of 30 crews.

A Letter to the OS Community from the Director of Admissions, Martin Cropper

Tuesday 22 March 2016

Martin Cropper has written to the Salopian community as he takes up his new post as the Director of Admissions at Shrewsbury School.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write to the Old Salopian community from the Shrewsbury School Admissions Department.

The process of admission to Shrewsbury School has changed very much over the years. Recent Old Salopians will have memories of the Admissions Department or Registry and colourful encounters with Richard Field or Robin Case, whilst those entering the school longer ago will have experienced an admissions process centred entirely on the Headmaster's Office.

The present era sees Shrewsbury in a very competitive recruiting environment, and we welcome over 200 new pupils each year. This is principally at Third Form and Lower Sixth levels, although we do accept a few pupils into the Fourth Form each year. The intake is fully co-educational at all levels, and September 2016 will see us with over 200 girls in a school of approximately 770 pupils.

I took over as Director of Admissions at the start of this term, after 12 years as Academic Deputy Head at the school and 6 years as Head of Mathematics before that. The Admissions team also comprises Giles Bell and Matthew Clark, and between the three of us we have completed nearly 70 years teaching at Shrewsbury! Many Old Salopians will know Giles in his former capacity as Housemaster of School House, while Matthew is also a familiar figure in Old Salopian circles through his football and tennis, not to mention Classics, politics, and much beyond.

Shrewsbury is a great school, and fundamental to that greatness is its rich sense of history and heritage.

With this in mind, I am keen to nurture the strongest possible links with the Old Salopian community, and very much look forward to meeting those Old Salopians who already have children or grandchildren registered for future entrance to the school. I would also be delighted to hear from Old Salopians who may be at an early stage of considering Shrewsbury for their children or grandchildren, and to welcome them to the School for a family visit. Such a visit would normally include a meeting with the Headmaster along with a tour of the School given by two of our current pupils and meetings with two housemasters/housemistresses. There would also be the opportunity to discuss the School's scholarship and bursary provision.

There is every sign that the school will be full for September 2016, but we are very much open for business from 2017 onwards. Looking further into the future, we are always delighted to hear from families who are planning a long way ahead, and we even have four children registered for entry in 2028. One such girl, currently seven months old, will be following in the steps of her father who is an Old Salopian, and the family links with Shrewsbury go back as far as her Great Great Grandfather who was in Chances in the 1890s. It would be wonderful to hear of any potential entrants with even earlier links to the School, perhaps going back to the days before the move up the hill to Kingsland.

Floreat Salopia!

Martin Cropper

Senior Master and Director of Admissions

Fives: Shrewsbury win the U15 Ladies' Nationals in an all-Salopian final

Tuesday 22 March 2016

Hundreds of Fives players have gathered at Shrewsbury School this week for the National Schools' Fives Championships. The major success of the week so far for Shrewsbury School has been in the U15s girls' tournament, where our three top pairs (Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware, Katie Oswald & Emma Graham, Phoebe Wasdell & Issy Wong) all reached the semi-finals.



L-R: Katie Oswald, Sophia Breese, Lizzie Ware, Emma Graham

In Issy's and Phoebe's case, their quarter-final against Highgate 1 was a fantastic match, drawing the largest crowd of the tournament yet as Shrewsbury went ahead but lost the first game, held their nerve in a close second and then started really to accelerate. Phoebe showed great control on the top step while some of Issy's returns would be impressive from a player with four years' experience: it is difficult to believe she is in her first year of playing!

In the semis, Emma and Katie won a close match against a strong Ipswich pair (having lost the first game) and Sophia and Lizzie had the experience to get past Phoebe and Issy in the all-



Salopian match. This left a final between two pairs who have in the past had very close matches, not all of which have gone the same way. Initially it looked to be going to form; Lizzie and Sophia won the first and second games. Katie and Emma are not easily beaten though: they fought back and won the third and had a lead in the fourth, indeed had game points that might have taken the match to a deciding 5th game. Sophia and Lizzie held their nerve and won the fourth, so Shrewsbury retain this trophy.



Much credit must go to Andy Barnard who has done a lot of work (and covered a lot of motorway miles) with these girls, getting them prepared for the big tournaments. Three pairs in semi-finals is a tremendous effort for which he must take the plaudits, along with Gwen Davies who has been a great source of energy and enthusiasm and an example to the girls on court.



SKPC

Northern Schools' Cross-Country Championships and Inter-House Steeplechases

Friday 25 March 2016

It was a Rigg's 1, 2, 3 at the Northern Schools' Cross-Country Championships in Trafford on the last weekend of term where Freddie Huxley-Fielding took the individual title, followed home by Will Hayward and Huntsman Oscar Dickins.



This followed on from an outstanding display at the Inter-House Steeplechases, where Rigg's took the team title for the third year in a row alongside the 'B' team trophy (also for the third year in a row) and Head of House Oscar Dickins won the trophy for the fastest lap of the day. It was an emotional day for their Housemaster!

