



Chemistry Olympiad success

Wednesday 1 May 2019

Shrewsbury Sixth Form chemists amassed a total of six gold, seven silver and six bronze medals in the first round of the 2019 RSC Chemistry Olympiad.



Gold medal winners Tony Wan, Peter Yang, Adam Pattenden, Veronica Munday, Jenny Xu (Chris Wong is not pictured)

This year, 24 of our students took part in Round 1 of the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, sitting a paper that was exceptionally challenging. The percentage of certificates they earned between them was significantly higher than the national average. Notably, Lower Sixth Former Peter Yang scored 46/80, which was the highest of our participants and placed him in the top 5% nationally, while Upper Sixth Former Adam Pattenden earned his second Gold certificate – a rare achievement.

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 Round 1 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. With credit generally available just for the answers (not for any of the usually lengthy working out), it is essential to have a very sound base of knowledge and understanding, meticulousness, and the ability to think and reason - often "outside the box" - at a high level.

Gold Medals were awarded to:

Veronica Munday (EDH U6)

Adam Pattenden (S U6)

Tony Wan (I U6)

Chris Wong (SH U6)

Jenny Xu (MSH U6)

Peter Yang (SH L6)

Silver Medals were awarded to:

Bilal Anwar (Rb L6)

Reuben Denison (SH U6)

Connor Hickey (Ch L6)

Runjie Liao (MSH L6)

Mohan Sun (SH L6)

Susanna Wu (EDH U6)

Jake Williams (Rb U6)

Bronze Medals were awarded to:

Jack Ai (Rt L6)

Hannah Cheng (EDH L6)

George Lawrence (O L6)

Jetty Russell (G U6)

Anthony Siu (I L6)

Jing Wu (MSH L6)

Mr Wray



Shrewsbury School equestrian team represent Shropshire in National Championships

Thursday 2 May 2019

Tom Allen, Flo Bury, Albert Horne and Maddy Baly travelled to Bury Farm Equestrian Village last Friday to represent Shropshire in the NSEA National Championships.

Maddy Baly reports:

We had to set off early in the morning and it was a long day, but it was a great experience. We had a really good start, finishing the outdoor round of the 90-95cm class in a position to win, with Tom and Maddy going clear and Flo only picking up 4 faults. In the indoor round Maddy went clear again but we unfortunately gained a few more faults, placing us 12th out of 26 teams overall which we were happy with.



Maddy and Miss Polly



Tom and Indo Million

The 1m-1.05m class consisted of a tricky course with some huge jumps up to 1.10m. Tom had two great rounds and only finished with 4 faults overall, and everyone else did very well to knock



only a few poles each in both rounds, given that the jumps were so big and horses were getting tired later in the day.

We finished 9th out of 16 teams, which was a success.



Flo and Longwater Chancer



Albert and Windy Lad

Albert competed individually in the 1.10m-1.15m class and did very well in such a high class.

It was a fantastic effort from everyone and the horses were brilliant on such a hot day. Thank you to Miss Williams and Mrs Horne (Mother of Albert), who was Team Manager for the event, for organising a really fun day.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Shrewsbury School Sixth Former published in The Guardian

Thursday 2 May 2019

A powerful opinion piece, written by Lower Sixth Former Charlie (Charlotte) Hancock in response to media harassment of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Greta Thunberg, was published in The Guardian on 25th April.

Please follow the link to read it:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/25/greta-thunberg-autism-spectrum-critics?CMP=share_btn_fb



Issy selected for England Women's Cricket Academy tour to India

Thursday 2 May 2019

Congratulations to Issy Wong on being selected as one of 15 members of the England Women's Academy (EWA) for their training camp in India, which took place from 6th to 26th April.



In addition to her School cricket commitments, Issy has also just been selected for the Warwickshire CCC Senior Women's team, the Bears, where she will be playing alongside her Shrewsbury School Cricket Coach, Gwenan Davies. She also plays women's club cricket for Berkswell and boys' and men's cricket for Knowle & Dorridge.

Speaking before Issy set off for India, the Women's & Girls' Performance Manager at Warwickshire CCC, Laura MacLeod, said: "It's great to see Issy win this place with the England Women's Academy in India. She is a very exciting prospect and is already bowling with pace that could trouble batters at the highest level of the game. Bowling in the subcontinent presents a great challenge to any seam bowler, but we're confident that Issy can learn a huge amount from this experience and develop the necessary skills to take her further in the game."

Gwenan Davies is equally warm in her tribute to Issy: "We are very excited as cricket staff at Shrewsbury School to see where Issy's cricket takes her in the next couple of years. It will be a pleasure to take the field with her this coming Sunday (5th May) against Sussex, and I can't wait to see her thrive at the top level of the Women's County game."



Shrewsbury School Golf Team finish 6th in ISGA National Finals

Friday 3 May 2019

It has been a busy and successful week for the Shrewsbury School Golf Team of captain Ted Williams (U6 R) playing off a handicap of 7, Sam Austen (L6 SH) off 2 and Rory McDonald-O'Brien (4 PH) off 1.



The ISGA National Final was played over the 27th -29th April at Prince's and Royal St George's Golf Clubs, in Sandwich, Kent. Twenty regional winning schools took part, including many of the best young golfers in the country. Against a good number of golf academy schools, we wanted to aim high and achieve a top ten finish - even if it was our first National Final.

We travelled to Prince's on the Saturday morning via a practice round at Rye Golf Club, where we were shown great hospitality by brothers Tim and Richard Austen. Richard had flown over specially to watch his son play in the final. Then onward to our digs at Prince's and a couple of games of competitive snooker before bedtime and dreams of course records and holes in one!

Storm Hannah was still very evident at tee-off time on the Sunday, so it was a high-scoring day for many on the Shore and Himalayas course at Prince's. Mr and Mrs Williams wrapped up well to follow Ted's progress and Mr Austen, with his four-week-old 'bionic' hip, followed Sam. Rory scored 5 over par and Ted a couple further back, with Sam struggling a little - even after scoring

an eagle into the wind! The best score by anyone on the day was 1 under par, which gives a sense of just how difficult it was.

In the evening we had a prizegiving dinner at Prince's Club House, where the boys received their Regional Winners trophy.



After more competitive snooker, we awoke to a lovely summer's day for the final round at Royal St George's - home to Darren Clarke's 2011 Open Championship win.

Serious game faces were in evidence on the driving range on the Monday morning, and any faint whispers of 'going low' were quickly hushed by those who knew the course's energy-sapping reputation. Rory shot level par, Sam was 3 over and Ted was disappointed not to have his best game on such an iconic golf course. Loretto edged out last year's winners Rossall, aided by the best round of the day of 3 under par. We were delighted to finish 6th out of the 20 participating schools: top of the non-golf academy schools and ahead of a good few golf academy schools to boot!

Rory received a gold medal for his top ten individual score, Sam got a silver and Ted a bronze. I was tremendously proud of the team's performance and thoroughly enjoyed their company over the three days. They were determined individually and there was great team camaraderie throughout. They would love to do it again next year and at St Andrews, the home of golf!



BREAKING NEWS...

Friday 3rd May Shropshire Schools Championship at Arscott Golf Club... Ted Williams wins the U19 prize with a net 68 score; Sam Austen is second, with a net 71; and Will Austen is third, with a net 75 score. We wait to hear about the team prize... Success breeds success!

Mr Schofield
Teacher in Charge of Golf



Rifle team selections

Monday 6 May 2019

Congratulations to Arthur and George Brammwell, who have been selected for the Rifle Association UK U17 Cadet team and the County of Lancaster Rifle Association team respectively.



Fifth Former Arthur will compete with the U17 UK cadet team in the Channel Islands this summer.

Both George (L6) and Arthur are key members of the Shrewsbury School Shooting Club and have been major contributors to its recent revival and success, including competing in the premier national inter-school long-bore shooting competition, the Ashburton Shield, held over four days at Bisley Common in July.



Shrewsbury School Shooting Team at the Ashburton Shield, July 2018

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Foundation AGM

Tuesday 7 May 2019

The Foundation is holding its AGM on 9th May at 4pm at Lexington and Partners, 50 Berkeley Street, London W1J 8FLA.

If anyone would like to attend please could they contact Joanne Hutchinson at jhutchinson@shrewsbury.org.uk or 01743 280889.



Salopian Drivers' Club holds its first meeting

Wednesday 8 May 2019

Following the inauguration of the Salopian Drivers' Club (the SDC) at the Old Salopian weekend last October, we had our first meeting on Sunday 28th April at Bicester Heritage.



Some 35 members and spouses/partners and other family members gathered at 10.30am at Pendine Classic Cars, owned by James Mitchell (G 1993-98), to receive a warm welcome and coffee and biscuits. James gave us a talk about his business and the history of Bicester Heritage originally as a First World War and then Second World War aerodrome and now in its present incarnation as a fast-growing centre for classic cars. It is well worth visiting if you happen to be in that part of the world sometime.



After seeing James, we were given tours of two other businesses: one, Kingsbury Racing Shop Limited, where the owner, Ewen Getley, talked about the specialist restoration work they do on W.O. Bentleys; and the other, Robert Glover Ltd, where David Cox, son of Michael Cox (DB 1961-66), talked to us about the vintage cars they specialise in selling.

Everyone also had time to look at the numerous other businesses housed in the original buildings, which have been listed with a view to preserving the whole site.

At about 12.30pm, we drove to the nearby Manor Weston Hotel at Weston-on-the-Green, where we enjoyed a good traditional lunch together seated at one long table in a panelled dining hall reserved just for us, before setting off for home at about 4pm.



Our next gathering will be at Shrewsbury over the weekend of the Old Salopian weekend (21st and 22nd September). We will be holding our first AGM on the Saturday at 2.30pm and on the Sunday we will be driving over to Powis Castle, where some will participate in the Vaynor Rally and others enjoy a tour of the Castle.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend and that those who own classic cars and motor bikes will bring them to the weekend, where they will be displayed on Central from 11.45 am on the Saturday.

We now have 65 members, but I suspect there are still quite a lot of Old Salopians and parents of current pupils who may want to join the Club. If you would like to do so or know someone who you think might like to do so, please email me on miles.preston@milespreston.co.uk and I will process your application.

Miles Preston

Chairman, Salopian Drivers' Club



National Schools' Fives Championships 2019

Thursday 9 May 2019

"For every reason I can think of, this was the best Nationals I can remember" - report by Teacher in Charge of Fives, Seb Cooley.

The 2019 Nationals were hosted this year by Shrewsbury in the last week of the Lent Term. This made for a much more relaxed week for the Shrewsbury staff and for far fewer lessons missed by the students. This was very welcome from our point of view; rumours that a local minibus company and a hotel of a well-known chain in Slough went into administration have not been confirmed.

The entry into the tournament was nonetheless strong and overall the week ran as smoothly and as well as any I can remember; several teachers-in-charge from other schools have been in touch to commend the way the week was run. This was doubtless helped by some glorious conditions (in both 2013 and 2016 we have hosted in snow) which meant everyone was happy around the courts between games and spectating was comfortable.

The **U15s** kicked off proceedings on 24th March, with 11 Salopian pairs entered, seven of these qualifying from their pool. Credit is due to Harry Cooke who with Henry McGowan ran fourth seeds St Olave's very close in the first game, narrowly missing out on a place in quarter-finals. Another week playing together might have done it. As it was we had two pairs in quarters, where Nick Argyle & Jago Ainslie drew the top seeds, Harrow. They didn't have the firepower to win that encounter.

Rory McDonald-O'Brien & Digby Taylor-West reached the final and played Harrow in a repeat of last year's beginners final with, sadly for us, the same result, though this year Harrow won 3-0, not 3-1. The Harrow pair have selected this as their main sport for the first two terms and we know that if we are to catch up with them next year, our boys will have to commit fully during the Lent Term.

The **U16s** were up next and here we knew that, having committed their Fourth Form Lent Term to football and got onto the fives courts around their football commitments this year too, Finn Sansom, Guy Gowar and Ted Davis would need to get as much court time as possible during the tournament and some close matches early on to fire them into action.

APM had put a lot of thought and juggling into finding the most effective pairings. At the last 16 stage we had two pairs left in the competition. The second pair had got past Harrow 2 to get to this stage, but came up against a strong first seed in Eton and didn't score a point. Our first pair had had a tussle (12-8, 12-8) against Highgate 3 and drew Harrow 1 (7th seeds) in the last 16. It was just the match we needed but it took just too long to get into it: we lost 13-12 in the third.



U14 Beginners

It is always difficult to predict how the **U14 Beginner** tournament will go: all players are on such a steep trajectory that their response to the competitive fives during the tournament is what makes the difference in the later stages. We have three strong pairs in this year group; the pairings had been shuffling in the fortnight before to find the best combination. All three of these pairs reached quarter-finals, but some tough draws and strong opposition meant that only one (Alex Clark & George Hughes) went through to semis: something for this group to work on in future years.

Alex and George were looking strong: they got through semis despite not playing their best fives: George's cut, devastating when it works well, was inconsistent and Alex was trying to emulate it without much success. Nonetheless, during rallies in the semi-final against Eton 2 they were manoeuvring the play competently onto their terms (promisingly these terms being the corner of the court around the buttress) and winning it here. This premise they retained in the final against a strong Eton 1. With the Open final in the nextdoor court, they did well to retain concentration. Again, they won the match in and around the buttress to claim the tournament victory.

In the **Ladies'** competition we had strong pairs: our first and second pairs were a shuffling of last year's finalists, with Sophia Breese this year playing with Emma Graham in pair 1 and Katie Oswald with Lizzie Ware in pair 2. Our third pair of Issy Wong (L6) and Fourth Former Izzy Morris knew they were dangerous, both having exceptionally strong cuts. Indeed such is our dominance at the senior ladies' level that (perhaps helped by the home championships) we had eight pars in the last 16.

Sadly only our top three pairs named above pressed through into the quarters, but they each won their quarter, setting up a Shrewsbury 1 vs Shrewsbury 3 semi-final. This became a five-set epic finishing around 7:30 in the evening, with the younger girls eventually winning out in the decider, having lost a 2-0 lead.

Katie and Lizzie went through their semi-final more comfortably, setting up another all-Shrewsbury final, this year pair 2 against pair 3. The final, too, was a long battle. Issy and Izzy won the first game 14-13; Katie and Lizzie drew level; the youngsters roared away in the third, winning 12-3, but the Upper Sixth Formers showed fight and stamina (and possibly the previous evening's sets were causing some fatigue). The match levelled at 2-2 and it was Katie and Lizzie who held their nerve and consistency in the 5th to take the title. Katie has thus won back-to-back Open titles and the future looks promising with the other two finalists both still with us next year.



L-R: Sophia Breese, Izzy Morris, Katie Oswald, Lizzie Ware, Issy Wong, Emma Graham

The defeated semi-finalists in the Ladies', Emma and Sophia, were free to concentrate on the **Mixed** competition, which started alongside the Ladies' final. They were playing with the top two boys, Dan Humes and Will Sissons respectively. Of our nine pairs in the last 16, these two pulled through to semis.

The boys had had their own four-hour five-setter the previous day (more on which below), and Will in particular looked mentally drained from that battle. Nonetheless these pairs reached semi-finals: both came through against tough opposition from Highgate, thus setting up a repeat of last year's final. This was the last match of the entire week and now, playing against friends, the



pressure came off Will and Dan who were able to relax a little and play more freely. This, combined with astonishing retrieving from both girls, turned the match into a real exhibition of first-class mixed fives; some of the shots being hit by all four players would have stood out positively in an adult mixed final. Sophia and Will came through winners in the end, though of course this match too went to a deciding game!

The **Boys' Open** competition had been billed as a good, open tournament all season, with most of 2018 semi-finalists having been Upper Sixth Formers. Will Sissons and Dan Humes were always our stand-out pair in the year, Will having come to us from Rydal as a Sixth Form entrant and Dan having always been well ahead of others in the year. Much depended on Dan's fitness though: he had been struggling with back problems through the Sixth Form and had missed much of the last season with a stress fracture. After his return to sport he had still struggled with muscular pain: though it didn't hamper his athleticism, it was a worry. Through the term it had become clear that games on consecutive days caused him discomfort; the two weeks before the Championships were given over entirely to physio work, stretching and core strength and it needed huge discipline from Dan to make sure he was fit for potentially difficult quarters, semis and, hopefully, final. The pair had done enough in the season to be seeded 2nd, though their games against 3rd seeds St Olave's had been close and had often swung in the Olavians' favour.

In the rest of the Open competition we had a further 14 pairs, composed of U16 pairs gaining invaluable experience, Lower Sixth entrants new to the game and Upper Sixth Formers who have come back to the game having realised they've missed it while out running with the Hunt or playing football. These played alongside our usual top six pairs. We even had the return to the game of Peter Clark, off for the season with his own stress fracture, back on court for the first time in the Nationals week. It was deemed most sensible to play him in a lower pair with an entrant rather than put him in a more pressurised second pair where competitive instincts might override caution with regards to his back.

Three of these pairs made it through to the last 16, our second pair missing out on quarter-finals by the narrowest of margins, losing 3-2 to seeded Highgate 2 at 7:30 on Tuesday evening. Arthur Garrett will look forward to resuming his partnership with Peter Clark next year: while they had flashes of brilliance, the unsettled nature of his partnership with Joe Kynaston meant that they were not consistent enough to dismantle a strong opponent.

Will and Dan, meanwhile, cruised through their last-16 match against Highgate 3, allowing Dan to recover and do his stretches in advance of Wednesday morning's quarter. In this they played Eton 3, a competent pair and potential banana-skin, but an assured performance sent the Shrewsbury pair through 12-7, 12-0, 12-6, again without too much strain on bodies.

The semi-final was to be a key match against St Olave's who, as mentioned, had sometimes been on top through the season. Will and Dan put in a strong performance on Thursday morning and, though they held with the game, the Olavians were always under pressure and chasing. Again, Shrewsbury won 3-0 and were starting to look like they were peaking at the right time.

After their semi-finals, the four finalists came together to agree a start time for the final of 9:30 on Friday morning. As is the nature of fives, this was negotiated and agreed entirely by the players themselves. What followed through that afternoon and evening was one of the strongest endorsements of Schoolboy sport I have experienced.

Eton coach, George Thomason (an Old Salopian and himself a former winner of this tournament), had unfortunately been in hospital for much of the week and had a chance of being discharged around midday on Friday. He got in touch with the Eton pair and their staff, who



asked whether the final might be delayed so that he could watch. The immediate response from Will, as he tried to get in touch with Dan through the aftermath of the Ingram's House play, was "I assume Dan will agree with me to play at 2pm - I'm sure the Eton boys would do the same if we had a coach wanting to watch". And so it was: the final was moved to 2:30pm, which also allowed our Upper Sixth to organise an army of home supporters, since it didn't clash with the School Assembly.

The final began to form, with both pairs scoring from the start and the first game remaining close until Shrewsbury conceded a number of points in quick succession – one of their trademarks through the term and something we had worked to correct. They didn't recover and lost the game 9-12, then went behind 2-8 in the second. At this stage things didn't look too positive, but rarely does a pair win this tournament without a bit of a fight, and Will and Dan were determined.

Roared on by a large home crowd, they found their returns of cut and put together some runs of points of their own, pulling back into the game to level 10-10. The final stages seemed critical and unsurprisingly, perhaps, the game reached sudden death at 12-12. It was Shrewsbury who clinched the game, perhaps crucially, as a 2-0 lead would have presented an enormous challenge.

Buoyed by this and some more outstanding returning of the cut, Shrewsbury raced to win the third 12-6. By this time the coach was live tweeting the scores, primarily to give himself something to do that didn't involve biting his nails or indeed gnawing his fingers down to the knuckle. It seemed Shrewsbury should have the momentum into the 4th, but Eton threw everything at the game which, again, went to 10-10 and this time was set to 15. Eton raced to 14 in one hand, but Shrewsbury saved game points and pulled back to 11, 12 and 13. Just as it appeared Shrewsbury might pull through, Eton found the winner they needed and levelled the match at 2-2. It was to be decided by a fifth game.

By now they were on their third ball of the match and all four players were regularly returning cut from under the front wall: unusual, but such was the level of retrieving that few cuts – and indeed few shots into the buttress – went unreturned. Will and Dan were putting into practice – as they had been throughout the match – much of the work they had done through the season on taking the pace off their approach shots into the buttress, thereby setting up more attacking chances at the front of court. Dan's astonishing athleticism and Will's apparently effortless movement around the court (he has been described as appearing weightless in strength and conditioning sessions by other students) kept them in points that Eton might justifiably have thought they had earned.

The fifth game, to script, also reached 10-10 after long rallies and unbelievable retrieving all round. It, too, was set to 15. This time Shrewsbury worked their way to match points and, though Eton saved one, Will and Dan converted the second to close out 15-12 and the match. It had taken four hours.



Coaches learn a lot about their players in these competitive moments and matches. And sometimes the players about their coach! But what stood out for me and for many spectators was the atmosphere on court. The four players dealt with refereeing their game to the highest of standards and showed throughout it a mutual respect that transcended even the quality of their play. Dan, in particular, had shown this in the semi-final too, insisting a let be played although the Olavian coach had overruled his pair to let them know a shot was in, since the players should decide the matter on court. The ability of the players to call objectively on their shots when there is so much at stake and they are so invested in the result marks this game apart from all their other sporting endeavours, and it gives certainly this coach an even greater pride in the players and the result that it was won so emphatically in the right spirit.

I must thank the Shrewsbury School events staff and coaches who put in so much time and care into making sure that everything was ready for hosting the tournament and helping make the week such a resounding success: it really was, for every reason I can think of, the best Nationals I can remember.

Mr Cooley
Teacher in Charge of Fives

Wallingford Regatta 2019

Thursday 9 May 2019

On Sunday 5th May four Shrewsbury crews travelled to Dorney Lake to compete at the Wallingford Regatta.

The first crew to race were the 1st VIII in the Challenge Eights event. They came second in their heat and progressed into the Final along with a very strong field that included two of the top three crews from the Schools' Head.



1st VIII

In the Final the 1st VIII made a blistering start and led the field impressively over the first three-quarters of the race. In the closing stages they were overtaken and had to settle for 4th place but they have many positives to take from their experience.



2nd VIII

The 2nd VIII took on a tough challenge in the 1st VIII's event. They held their own in a very competitive race, coming in 4th and only one second off 2nd but failed to qualify for the Final.

The Senior girls raced two quads in the Women's Challenge Quads event. The 1st boat made a poor start in their heat but showed great composure to recover well and secure a place in the Final. The 2nd boat by contrast made a blistering start to lead the field over the first thousand metres but was overhauled in the closing stages to finish 4th and narrowly miss out on a place in the Final.



1st Quad



2nd Quad

In the Final the 1st boat produced their best row of the season so far to secure an impressive 3rd place against strong opposition.

*Athol Hundermark
Director of Rowing*

Shropshire Schools Golf Champions

Thursday 9 May 2019

Shrewsbury School's Golf Team continue their impressive run of success...



At the end of a week that began with the Shrewsbury golf team coming 6th in the ISGA National Final, they played in the Shropshire Schools' Golf Championship at Arcscott Golf Club on Friday 3rd May.

Ted Williams (R U6) won the U19 trophy, Sam Austen (SH L6) came second and Will Austen (SH L6) came third.

In the absence of Rory McDonald-O'Brien (PH 4), who was playing in another tournament (The Fairhaven Trophy), Daniel Schofield's (PH 5) contribution helped pip Thomas Telford School to the overall team prize and the Shropshire Schools' Golf Championship Shield.

Ted Williams and Rory McDonald-O'Brien have been selected to play for the Midlands Schools Championships on Friday 31st May in Nottingham.

Fourth Former Isabel selected for U19 England Lacrosse team trials

Thursday 9 May 2019

Congratulations to Isabel Morris, who has been selected to trial for the U19 England Lacrosse team this summer.



Isabel has played lacrosse for several years, starting at her prep school, Packwood Haugh, in year 3. She is a strong, tenacious and swift-footed player who has recently been training and playing for North England Lacrosse.

During the recent England tournament, Isabel was spotted and selected to trial for the U19 England Lacrosse team this July.



Isabel with the North England Lacrosse team

Isabel plays the position of Centre and truly loves spending her time on the lacrosse pitch, scoring goals and keeping the opposition at bay!

She is also a formidable Fives player, reaching the semi-final of the National Schools' Championships in March with her partner Issy Wong - see [National Schools' Fives Championships 2019](#)

Mrs Pritchard
Housemistress, Mary Sidney Hall

Packwood Haugh to join Shrewsbury School family of schools

Friday 10 May 2019

We are delighted to announce that Packwood Haugh Preparatory School will be joining the Shrewsbury School family of schools from September 2019.

All around the country, and indeed in the local area, schools are grouping together for mutual benefit. After an extensive process of evaluation and assessment, the Governors of both Shrewsbury and Packwood have agreed that Packwood will join the Shrewsbury School family, which includes three international schools, Shrewsbury Hong Kong, Shrewsbury Bangkok (Riverside) and Shrewsbury Bangkok (City Campus).

Packwood and Shrewsbury share a similar ethos and values set and are deeply committed to providing an outstanding, all-round boarding and day education for girls and boys. Indeed, in recent educational quality and compliance inspections, conducted by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, both Shrewsbury and Packwood received excellent reports.



Leo Winkley, Headmaster of Shrewsbury School, and Rob Fox, Headmaster of Packwood Haugh

“I am thrilled to welcome Packwood Haugh pupils, parents, staff, and alumni to the Shrewsbury School family. For well over a century, Packwood families have made the choice to pursue their children’s senior school education at Shrewsbury School. With almost 100 former Packwood pupils in the current Shrewsbury School community, we are delighted to formalise our relationship in this way. As two schools with a strong values and ethos match, the benefits of this mutual partnership will be significant for us all, as we offer girls and boys a fully immersive all-



round boarding and day education which is forward-thinking and set on the secure foundations of tradition and history.”

Leo Winkley, Headmaster of Shrewsbury School

Please see the questions and answers document for further information on this exciting development: [Packwood Haugh to join Shrewsbury School family of schools - Questions and Answers.](#)



Shrewsbury Regatta, Sunday 12th May - Men's Open 4+

Monday 13 May 2019

Again Sabrina put forward a four made up from those available to row on Sunday morning. It was quickly named the 'Brit' Four, with thoughts of racing the same four at Henley in the Britannia Cup, all going well!



Stroke James Stuart, 3 Pete Gadsden, 2 Tom Fitton, Bow Rob Morgan. The crew were straight into a final again, facing a composite crew from Stourport and Bewdley RC, so expectations were for another close race.

Again Sabrina drew the Quarry side, but because the river had dropped significantly overnight, the advantage was not so great. The two crews lined up with a length advantage to the opposition. However, after a good start and powerful first 250m, Sabrina had the advantage and piled the pressure on past the Boat House to go into the final 100m with a good advantage and take the race easily.

In summary, a good weekend all round for Sabrina, before the focus returns to the eight and racing over longer distances at Met, Marlow and, if all goes well, on to Henley.



Shrewsbury Regatta, Saturday 11th May 2019 - Men's Open 4+

Monday 13 May 2019

After Sabrina's victory in the Open Fours' event at Shrewsbury Regatta last year, the hope was that the Club could retain the event's top prize for another year.



Adding excitement to the mix, two scratch fours were this year entered from the Club's regular eight. With the crews entered on either side of the draw, there was every hope for an all-Sabrina final. But first, both crews had to get through their respective heats.

Sabrina B – consisting of Matt Walker, Club Treasurer Phil Wood, Pete Gadsden, Allister Hagger and cox, George Whitehead – were off first, with an early morning race against Bewdley RC.

With the course cut from the usual 1200m to 600m due to high water following days of heavy rain, it was going to be a sprint.

Lining up on the Quarry station, the crew came forward for the start of what was not only their first race but also their first outing together as a four.

And then they were off. Rating in the mid-40s, Sabrina B drew ahead quickly, despite having the disadvantage from the staggered start.



But Bewdley weren't finished, refusing to give clear water as both crews battled under the Toll Bridge. The crews were almost bow to bow as they came alongside the cheering onlookers at RSSBC, with Bewdley pushing hard for the line.

But Sabrina stepped up the rate and power in the final quarter of the race, capitalising on what was now their advantage on the Quarry station to take the win by a length.

With one Sabrina four safely into the final, it was the A crew's turn to get through their first round and ensure victory for the Club for another year.

Sabrina A contained the other half of the current VIII – James Stuart at Stroke, 3 James Russell, 2 James Kynaston (sub), Bow Rob Morgan – who drew Northwich RC in the semi-final.

Again Sabrina drew the Quarry side and despite rolling up to the start line having not practised a start, quickly made up the length stagger and by the Toll Bridge were a length up. The crew then had the luxury of being able to take the rate down and cruise into the finish line with a couple of lengths clear water to spare.

With Club honours secure, it was now a battle for pride as the two crews lined up for the all-Sabrina final.

It would be nice to say it was a hard-fought battle. But despite having the disadvantage of the stagger, Sabrina A, on the Quarry station, executed a fine race, leading from the first few strokes, and only increasing their lead as Sabrina B battled stream and the outside of the bend.

Conclusion: a well-deserved victory for Sabrina A by two lengths and, of course, the pleasure of ribbing Sabrina B for the rest of the season!

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Shrewsbury v Repton: The Cricketer's Schools Match of the Week

Monday 13 May 2019

Shrewsbury's 1st XI match versus Repton, which Shrewsbury won by nine wickets, has been featured as 'The Cricketer' magazine's 'Schools Match of the Week'.

Please follow the link to read the article, which was published on Friday 10th

May: https://www.thecricketer.com/Topics/grass_roots/schools_match_of_the_week_shrewsbury_school_v_repton_school.html





Junior School Essay Prize 2019

Monday 13 May 2019

On Friday 10th May, over 30 Third and Fourth Form pupils volunteered to undertake the highly regarded annual Junior School Essay Prize.



The challenge: to write for one hour on an unseen title from a choice of questions covering all aspects of the Shrewsbury curriculum.

For a flavour of the scope and range of the questions, please have a look at the paper: [Junior School Essay Prize 2019](#)

The scripts have now been sent, without name or House annotation, for adjudication by Dr David Gee. The prizewinner will be announced shortly after Exeat and will receive their prize on Speech Day.

Well done to everyone who took part! All the pupils should be commended for engaging in the spirit of academic curiosity and extension of the courses they have studied.

Mr Mackridge

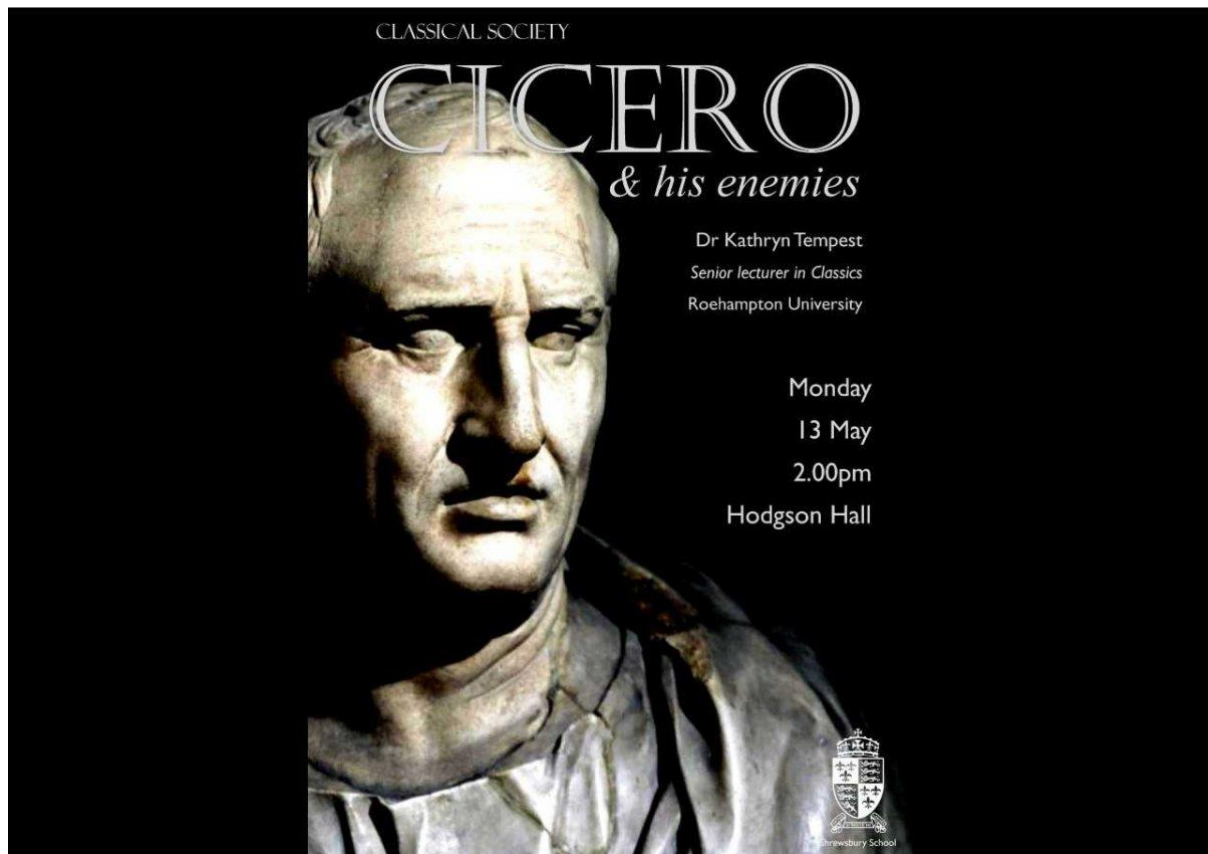




Classical Society lecture: 'Cicero and his Enemies'

Tuesday 14 May 2019

Sixth Form Classicists enjoyed a fascinating and entertaining talk given by Dr Kathryn Tempest, Senior Lecturer in Classics at Roehampton University, author and broadcaster.



The 1st century BC in Rome was the age of change. It was the age of the Dictator Julius Caesar, of his Master of Horse Mark Antony, and his nemesis, the great republican politician Marcus Tullius Cicero. The 70s through to the 40s and beyond was an era which saw such political turbulence, such heights of oratory, and such lows of bloody violence that it is arguably the most engaging of periods in Roman history to study.

Pupils taking A level Latin and/or Classical Civilisation (who are studying Cicero for their exams) were fortunate on Monday to hear Dr Kathryn Tempest from the University of Roehampton in London talk about the methods Cicero employed to verbally attack his political enemies. Dr Tempest's research focuses on Cicero, Roman Oratory and Roman Republican history, and she has written a number of academic books, as well as appearing on the Netflix series 'Roman Empire'!



In our modern age in which we are culturally sensitive - some would say hypersensitive - to causing offence, and in which whoever controls the language controls the argument, Cicero's wholesale use of invective which aimed below-the-belt sucker punches at his opponents' dress sense, facial appearance, sexual tastes and even their excessive love of cosmetics and toiletries might seem shocking in the extreme; Dr Tempest told the audience that nothing was off limits; make your opponent a laughing stock, and you had him on the ropes.

Cicero's wit, bile and acidic tongue bought him enemies, and would eventually cost him his life; after his assassination, his head and hands were nailed on the Speaker's Platform in the Roman Forum; a mute but eloquent message from Mark Antony to all who considered speaking out against him.

Many thanks to Dr Tempest for travelling up from Surrey to deliver such a punchy, passionate and thought-provoking talk.

Paul Fitzgerald
Head of Classics

Fifth Former Lucy selected for U19 England Lacrosse team trials

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Congratulations to Lucy Lees (EDH), who has been selected to trial for the U19 England Lacrosse team this summer.

“Lucy is a fantastic defender and has represented the County in lacrosse, performing extremely well at the County Tournament,” said Shrewsbury School’s Head of Girls’ Games, Nicola Bradburne.

“She played a key part in the success of the Shrewsbury 1st XII in the National Championships this year, which caught the eye of the England Lacrosse selectors.”





RSSBC: Bedford, Notts City and Shrewsbury Regattas

Thursday 16 May 2019

The weekend of the 11th/12th May was one the busiest weekends for the Boat Club, with crews competing at three different regattas around the country in their final preparations for the National Schools' Regatta.



1st VIII

The Boys' 1st, 2nd, J15A and Girls' J15A VIIIs travelled to the Bedford Regatta in search of strong competition to fine-tune their race plans.

The event was held in ideal conditions and with plenty of racing for the crews. The Boys' 1st VIII and 2nd VIII repeated their remarkable feat from last year in both reaching the final of the top Open Eights event, where the 1st VIII took the honours. Both crews also reached the final of their respective events, 1st & 2nd VIIIs, where they both put down an impressive marker of winning in quick times.



2nd VIII



The J15 Boys' and Girls' VIII's both came unstuck against the eventual winners in their rounds of racing. The crews then broke up into fours and quads, with the J15 Boys' Four and the J15 Girls' Quad both making the final from a strong field of crews.

The Boys' Four narrowly lost out to St Paul's in the final. After four rounds of racing in the knockout format regatta, the Girls' Quad came up against Kingston Grammar School in the final and produced a fantastic row to win by one-and-a-half lengths.



GJ15A VIII



GJ15A Quad



J15 Coxed Four

The Senior Girls' 1st and 2nd Quads and the J16 Eight travelled to Nottingham for the Notts City Regatta to get some racing on a multi-lane course. The J16 Eight had some tough competition in the final of the J16 event. The crew showed a good turn of speed in the second half of the race to secure third place.

The Girls' 1st Quad raced in two doubles in the morning and had a close race with each other in the heat to come in first and second. In the final they came in third and fourth. In the Quads racing both crews put out strong performances to win their respective events.



1st Quad

The rest of the Boat Club stayed in Shrewsbury to compete in the Shrewsbury Regatta. There were encouraging performances from many of the crews, but particular congratulations go to the winners of the following events:

- Girls' 2nd VIII in Women's Eights



- Boys' 3rd VIII in J18 Eights and J17 Coxed Fours
- Archie McKirdy in J18 singles
- Orlando Williams in J16 singles
- Louis Nares and George Bramwell in Open Pairs
- Senior Girls in the WJ17 Quads



Girls' 2nd VIII



Senior Boys' Squad



Senior Girls' Squad

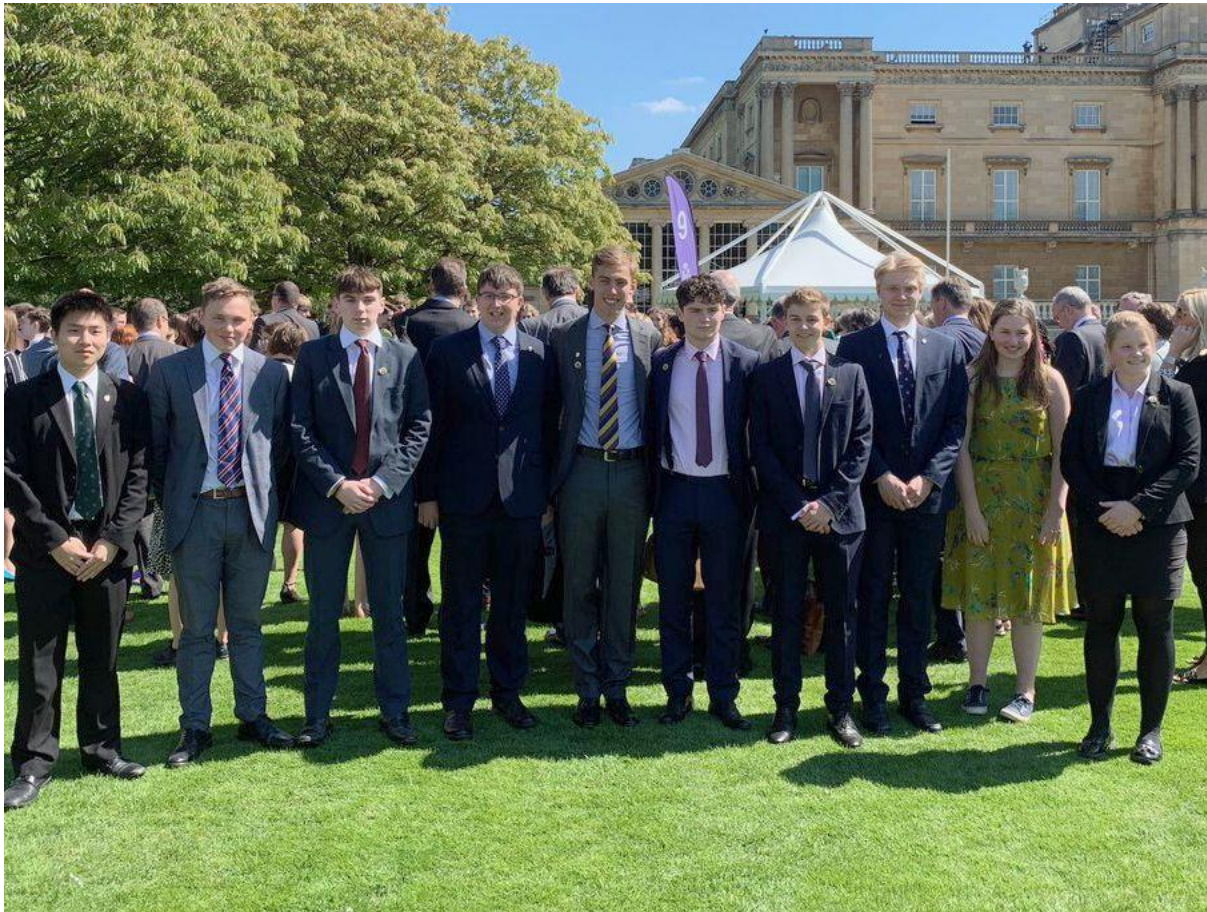
*Mr Hundermark
Director of Rowing*



Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Winners

Friday 17 May 2019

Ten Salopians enjoyed a splendid occasion at Buckingham Palace on Monday when they were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.



Successful completion of the Award at this level represents a serious level of commitment and achievement.

Congratulations to the following (*pictured left to right*):

Dragon Noppawat (S U6)

Chad Usher (S U6)

Alisdair Webb (PH U6)

Thomas Brennan (I 2013-18)

Charles Shaw (S 2016-18)

James Argyle (SH 2013-18)

Marcus Cope (Rt U6)

Henry Ludlam (R U6)

Lexi Bothamley-Dakin (G U6)

Emma Graham (MSH U6)

OS Footballers celebrate mixed fortune

Monday 20 May 2019

Once again the Warrington Hotel provided the venue for the OS Football Club end of season dinner on 10th May for Salopian footballers and an intrepid band of OS Ladies.



In true Salopian fashion, the Director found himself assigned the guest speaker role at 45 minutes notice, coming off the subs' bench in place of dinner regular, Matthew Clark. But it gave him a welcome opportunity to cast aspersions on the organisational skills of some of his House magisterial charges, one of whom had wisely decided to absent himself.

Under the expert eye of the OSFC secretary, James Tucker, the mixed triumphs and disasters of the season were recounted by 1st XI captain, Oliver Heywood (S 01-06), 2nd XI captains, Will Taylor (O 05-10) and Al Hutchinson (PH 04-09), and a fitting tribute was paid to the outgoing President, Simon Goodman (R 78-83) who hands over to Richard McGarry (Ch 01-06) after many years of stalwart service.



Biology Challenge 2019

Monday 20 May 2019

Congratulations to the 59 Third and Fourth Formers who entered this year's Royal Society of Biology's 'Biology Challenge' and between them achieved very impressive results.

A total of 47,183 pupils in Years 9 and 10 from 527 schools worldwide participated in the online competition, which aims to stimulate young people's curiosity for the natural world and encourage them to take an interest in biology outside school.

The Shrewsbury biologists' results are published below:

Award	% of all candidates internationally winning this award	Number of awards won by Salopians	% of Salopian entrants (total 59) winning this award
Gold	5.1	9	15.3
Silver	9.4	13	22.0
Bronze	15.6	21	35.5
Highly Commended	16.5	10	16.9
Commended	15.8	3	5.0

Special congratulations to our Gold medallists:

Ellie Letts
 Sam Crossley
 Tobias Libberos
 Dylan Tyack
 Mew Hansiriphan
 Jamie Davis
 Aman Chetan
 Tim Antelo
 Emelie Childers

Dr Morgan

Success for CCF cadets

Monday 20 May 2019

Fourth Form CCF cadets Issie Urquhart and Eve Llewellyn and Sixth Formers James Weir and Chad Usber have all achieved notable success in recent weeks. Congratulations to them all.



Issie Urquhart and Eve Llewellyn have both been awarded coveted places on a six-week CCF exchange to Canada this summer. They will spend most of the holidays in Canada doing expedition work and honing their leadership and outdoor skills as guests of the Royal Canadian Army.



James Weir is one of our keenest CCF Royal Marine cadets (and also took part in the Royal Canadian Army exchange last summer). He was awarded Best Cadet on his Cadet Leadership

Course in Barry Buddon in Scotland during the Easter holidays. This involved an intensive week of military and adventurous activities and James represented the School very well.

Chad Usher has been selected to attend officer training with the British Army having successfully passed a three-day Army Officer Selection Board event. This is an unusual achievement for an 18-year-old, as most entrants to Sandhurst are graduates and not school leavers.

Chad has had a very full career at school: he has led the CCF Army competition teams to various competition wins, been President of the Beekeeping Society, has organised meetings for Christian Forum and been Secretary General of this year's Shrewsbury Model United Nations Conference. And if he is not busy enough, he has also been a praeposter and volunteer swarm collector for the local Beekeeping Association.



Chad Usher with Jasmine Lo and the swarm of bees they caught this week

For his all-round contribution to the extra-curricular life of the School, Chad will be awarded the Societies and Activities Leadership Prize on Speech Day.

Lt Col Nick David
Director of Activities

Severn Hill's 75th Anniversary

Wednesday 22 May 2019

Happy Birthday to Severn Hill!



On Sunday 19th May, four former Housemasters of Severn Hill (Paul Vicars, Stephen Holroyd, David Gee and, most remarkably, Alan Laurie in his 99th year) joined the current Housemaster, Dan Nicholas, and a gathering of 140 in celebrating the 75th year of the formation of Severn Hill from its antecedent Houses.

We were also delighted to welcome Liz Raven, widow of Richard Raven (Housemaster 1968-81), and Catherine Trimby, daughter of Patrick Childs (Housemaster 1946-60).

A welcome from Dan Nicholas preceded an informal lunch on the Severn Hill lawn and a cutting of the celebratory cake, appropriately iced in maroon and French Grey, after which a number of past members relived memories in tours of the House and booked their places for the 100th anniversary!





Announcing the winners of the Biology Photographic Competition 2019...

Thursday 23 May 2019

The judges of this year's Biology Photographic Competition had an even more difficult task than ever before to choose the winners from among the stunning images submitted in all three categories.

Biology Photographic Competition 2019 – Junior Category

	
Winner – Daniel Grinnall – O – 3 rd Form	Runner-Up – Nick Argyle – SH – 4 th Form
	
Commended – Henry Lawson – O – 4 th Form	Commended – Tobias Libreros – I – 4 th Form

Biology Photographic Competition 2019 – Senior Category

	
Winner – Phoenix Lester – R – U6th	Runner-Up – Mia Keliher – EDH – U6th
	
Commended – Eve Hartley – G – U6th	Commended – Jude Huffer – Rb – L6th



Biology Photographic Competition 2019 – Staff Category



Winner – Robert Gwilliam



Runner-Up – Gail Murray



Commended – Stewart Harrison



Commended – Raymond Vardill

County Schools Junior Girls Combined Events Champion

Thursday 23 May 2019

Congratulations to Kitty S-P (M 3), who won the Shropshire Schools AA Junior Girls Combined Events title this week after a hard-fought and exciting competition.



Competing in five separate disciplines, Kitty got off to an excellent start with a win in the first event, hurdles.

She managed to maintain her lead throughout, with personal bests in the shot put and long jump, a season's best in the high jump, and a tremendous personal best in the final 800m race.

She will now go on to compete in the Regional Finals on 24th June.

Upper Sixth Sports Awards

Thursday 23 May 2019

The winners of the top senior Sports Awards have been announced. They will be presented with their trophies on Speech Day.

Included below are tributes to each of the winners from their coaches.

Tony Barker Award for All-Round Sporting Excellence: Dan Humes

Dan has been an exceptional 1st XI footballer throughout the last three years. He was a key player in both his Lower and Upper Sixth years and was a major contributor in the 1st XI's run to the ISFA Boodles Quarter-Finals and County Cup Final this season. He scored a couple of key goals during both these cup runs and he can be proud of his time as a 1st XI Shrewsbury footballer.

In cricket, he is the most aggressive stroke player we have had at Shrewsbury since Edward Pollock (2010-12, now playing for Warwickshire CCC). He has scored a weight of runs equivalent to our very best batters over the past two decades and has taken to captaining the 1st XI this year with growing maturity and assurance.

In December, given the possibility of a National title, Dan committed to make fitness his priority in the Lent Term. The realisation over a weekend of London fixtures against Highgate and Eton that his back would struggle with consecutive days of high-intensity matches led to a change of approach. No-one is ever happy to be told to compete and train less in order to improve: it is testament to his commitment and development as a sportsman, and to his focus on the goal, that he took this seriously.

In the National Fives Championships in March, all of the work done through the season came together. What was not perhaps apparent in the National Open Final to those who don't know the sport well, was the grace and ease with which the players made often difficult decisions on the refereeing of the game. Dan, as he had been in the semi-final, was a paragon of this, calling objectively and earning the respect from his opposition that he also showed for them.

He stands shoulder to shoulder with the very best Old Salopian sportsmen and fives players.



Dan Humes and Will Sissons



Sportsman of the Year: Will Sissons

In cricket, Will led the wicket-takers last year and has developed into the 1st XI's 'anchor-man' in all formats of the game. He is a sublime fielder with time to spare and very much gives of his best on every occasion.

He has been both an outstanding fives player and an upstanding captain of fives this year. When he has not been playing on court, he has still been at the courts, supporting or learning, and he played frequently through the Michaelmas Term alongside his football.

He is an outstanding athlete who, as observed by some of the others in Strength and Conditioning sessions, appears to have properties of weightlessness. As a sportsman he excels by thought and the ability to listen. He has consistently managed his full commitment to sport alongside an equal dedication to his academic progress.

David Spencer Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport: Ben Holehouse

Ben arrived at the School as a Third Former having recently faced significant surgery and long rehabilitation to his left leg after a motor cross accident. This never once got in the way of him pushing and testing himself to the limit at the Boathouse. He trained with great determination and, despite being one of the smallest boys in the year group, always forced himself into the A boat with pure tenacity.

Not one to take the easy route, Ben managed to break his right ankle in the December of his Lower Sixth year. For most this would have seen them reduce their training load; for Ben it was a reason to double it. Whatever the rest of the squad were doing on the ergo, he would do on one leg with the other on a skateboard or on an arm crank. His sheer drive and determination are a continued inspiration for all at the Boat Club.

Ben was an obvious choice for the Captain of Boats and has been a leader in all that he has done. Despite all his set-backs, he is a pivotal member of a very strong 1st VIII racing at the National Schools' Regatta this weekend.



Ben Holehouse



Sportswoman of the Year: Emma Graham

Emma is a most dedicated and supreme athlete. She is brave and bright in equal measure, disciplined in her approach, intensively competitive, and yet always fair and honest in her decision-making. She is a fantastic sportswoman and a great role model for any Salopian. Her sense of humour and modesty make her what we want all our girls to be: resilient, confident and grounded.

She is an outstanding hockey player of tremendous skill and has been an integral part of Shrewsbury's hockey since starting in the Third Form, captaining the A team year after year. She has been a superb captain of the 1st XI this season, leading by example and regularly putting in extra time after training. She is never satisfied with anything but the best and pushes herself and her team to strive for excellence every session, whether it be training or a fixture.



Emma Graham

Elle Gurden Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport: Katie Oswald

Katie has represented school A teams throughout her five years at Shrewsbury, culminating in her playing 1st team hockey, 1st pair Fives and captaining the 1st VII netball team. She is always keen to further her skills and performance, putting in extra hours on the training pitch and giving 100% to every task she undertakes.

As netball captain she has led her team to a very successful season and is an outstanding role model for both her peers and younger players. On the Fives court, Katie always came to the fore when faced with a challenge. Never wishing to let her partner down, her skill levels,



determination and intensity have soared whenever she has faced a strong opponent. As with her Fives peers she has the capability and fitness to play to a very high standard over a long period of time. Self-deprecating and incredibly funny, she coped well with the pressure of close matches and often prevailed.

Katie approaches all sporting activities with a positive, competitive and determined attitude and has been a wonderful asset to sport at Shrewsbury and a great Salopian.



Katie Oswald

Congratulations to all the Sports Awards winners and to the following sportsmen and women who were nominated:

Sportswoman of the Year:

Kitty Taylor, Phoebe Wasdell, Abby Adebisi

The Elle Gurden Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport:

Lizzie Ware, Sophia Dixon, Tessa Scott-Bell, Sophia Breese, Jetty Russell

David Spencer Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport:

Harry Remnant, Alex Loumidis, Tom Plaut, Charlie Ockleston, Frank Morris, James Hinwood

Sportsman of the Year:

Dan Humes, Xavie Clarke, Dom Sullivan, Toby Pegge

Celebrations with The Shewsy

Thursday 23 May 2019

We look forward to three joint events next month with our friends at the Shewsy, our youth club in Liverpool, and share in their pride at having two former Club members celebrated in the news this week.

During Outdoor Week there will be three whole-day visits to Liverpool for the Third Formers. They will spend the morning getting to know the great city and the afternoon helping with the 5-11-year-olds at Junior Club, in their Nature Garden, music rooms and football cage. Then a fish and chip supper and home.

On Sunday 9th June, 25 Senior Club members are coming to school for an Activities Day hosted by our Fourth Form. Activities lined up include art, bubble football and canoeing.

Saturday 15th June is the annual visit of St Peter's Church, which is adjacent to the Club. The Grove will be hosting this year, with tea, cakes, a tour of the School, a swim and a game of rounders on the lawn.



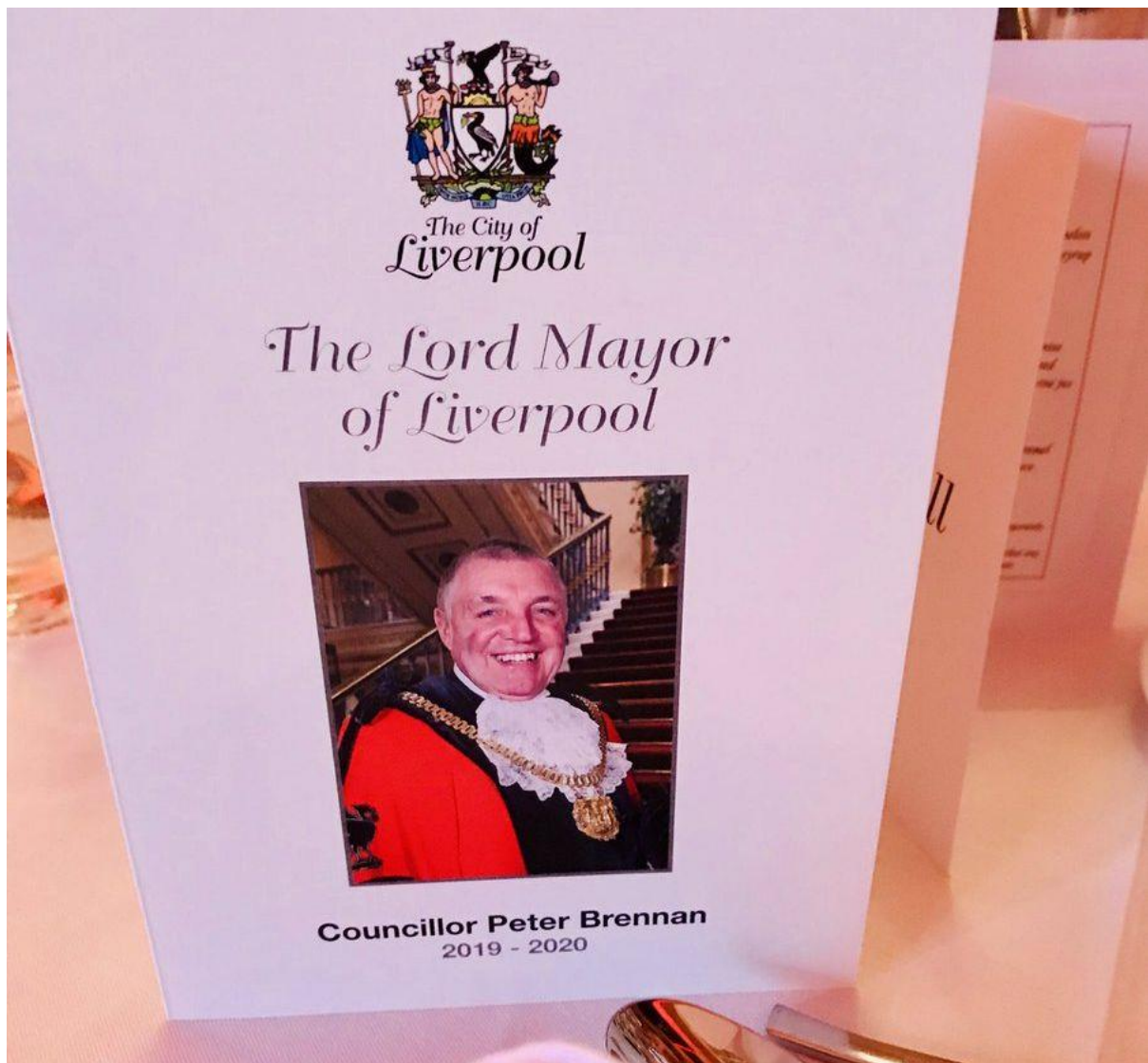
(Photo courtesy of The Independent)

Meanwhile, interviews with former Shewsy Club member Toni Duggan, who plays for Barcelona and the England Women's Football Team, were featured on the BBC website and in The Telegraph this week, ahead of the Women's Football World Cup in June:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/05/17/toni-duggan-says-barcelona-ready-challenge-lyon-champions-league/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/football/48349814>

And on 22nd May, former Club member Peter Brennan was sworn in as Lord Mayor of Liverpool.



Both Toni and Peter were Club members between the ages of five and 18 and then volunteered as helpers at the Club. Peter became a youth worker and ran the Club in the 1990s.



GCSE Physics Olympiad 2019

Friday 24 May 2019

The Physics Department are delighted to report that five Fifth Form Salopians made the impressive achievement of obtaining GCSE Olympiad Gold medals this year.



Billy Watkinson, Milton Tai and Joe Pattenden receive their award for their achievement of obtaining gold medals in the GCSE Physics Olympiad

Euan Parr led this talented group by scoring a remarkable 43/50 in his assessment, where typically any score over 40 is regarded as a truly outstanding achievement. Also receiving gold awards were Billy Watkinson (S), Milton Tai (SH), Joe Pattenden (O) and Timothy Ng (R).

In addition there were four silver awards and six bronze awards, to round off an impressive haul. Huge congratulations to everyone who took part and demonstrated such skill.

Dr Barrett



A Dance to the Music of Time

Friday 24 May 2019

The Dance Showcase on 15th May was a joy to behold - as Dr Helen Brown, Director of Drama, describes...



Dance has been one of the fastest growing activities at Shrewsbury over the last few years, thanks in large part to the work of our resident choreographer, Sian Archer. The annual showcase gives students the opportunity to share their love for dance with the wider school community.

This year's event saw many enthusiastic newcomers taking to the stage, many of whom had not experienced dance until arriving at Shrewsbury. One of the highlights of the evening, for me, was seeing the Wednesday afternoon dance group explode onto the stage with a high-octane jive routine, set to Benny Goodman's 'Sing Sing'. Their enjoyment and excitement was palpable, and an utter delight to watch.

The theme for the evening was 'A Dance to the Music of Time', and the dances had each been inspired by a particular period of popular music, beginning with a beautiful ballet solo by Georgina Cooper (G). George Gershwin has inspired choreographers from Wheeldon to Balanchine; his mix of the upbeat and the lyrical allows dancers to explore the whole spectrum of emotion, and Georgina's dance showed off both the poise and elegance of her attitudes as well as the dexterity of her footwork.



We were then transported to the 1960s, by Saffron Milner's (M) impassioned contemporary routine, set to John Lennon's 'Imagine'. Consulting the programme in the foyer, a lady remarked that "It's Saffron with the amazing voice" – but her performance showed that she is able to communicate emotion with her feet as well as her F sharp belt.

Kate Woodman (M) brought us bang up to date with a dazzling tap piece, known to the audience as the 'Cup Song' from Pitch Perfect. Kate's irrepressible charm and energy shone through a challenging and beautifully delivered routine.



The programme was brought to a close by Anya Tonks (MSH) – who appeared to be in every number and whose stamina is an impressive testament to the RSSBC's fitness programme! She



performed her EPQ piece, which she had choreographed herself in response to Rupi Kaur's poem, 'Selfish'.



Having been fortunate enough to see Anya perform this piece for her EPQ assessment last term, it was fascinating to see how she had developed and refined her ideas over time, and her performance had real emotional depth and complexity.

Thanks and congratulations to all the students who took part:

Grace Anderson
Lily Apsley
Georgina Cooper
James Kenyon
Saffron Milner
Zoe Mynt-Maung



Issy Urqhart
Carrie Zhou
Anya Tonks
Kate W

And thank you to Dr Richard Case for his beautiful photos of the dress rehearsal. A selection can be viewed below. (Click on the large image to open the gallery and scroll through.)

Dr Helen Brown
Director of Drama





Scottish Islands Peaks Race

Friday 24 May 2019

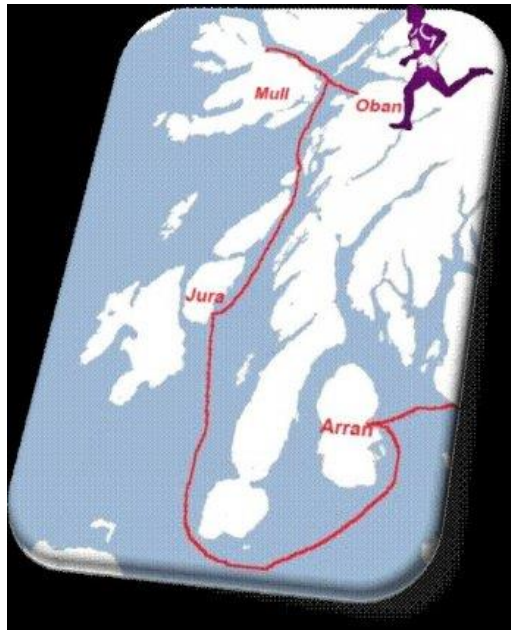
A thrilling debut for the Hunt in an epic two-day race across fells and water - and a gripping account of their adventures by Mr Griffiths.

'Runners!' went the cry. Lamblash, on the Isle of Arran at first light on a Sunday morning is a fairly inauspicious little hamlet. Yet it would soon welcome the remainder of the 40 boats that had silently crept in to the bay having sailed through the night round the Mull of Kintyre.

Now the sailors waited anxiously for their runners to return from the 19-mile round trip up Goat Fell; the sails were impatiently waiting to fill, the dinghies, ready to transport the runners out, were bobbing in anticipation.



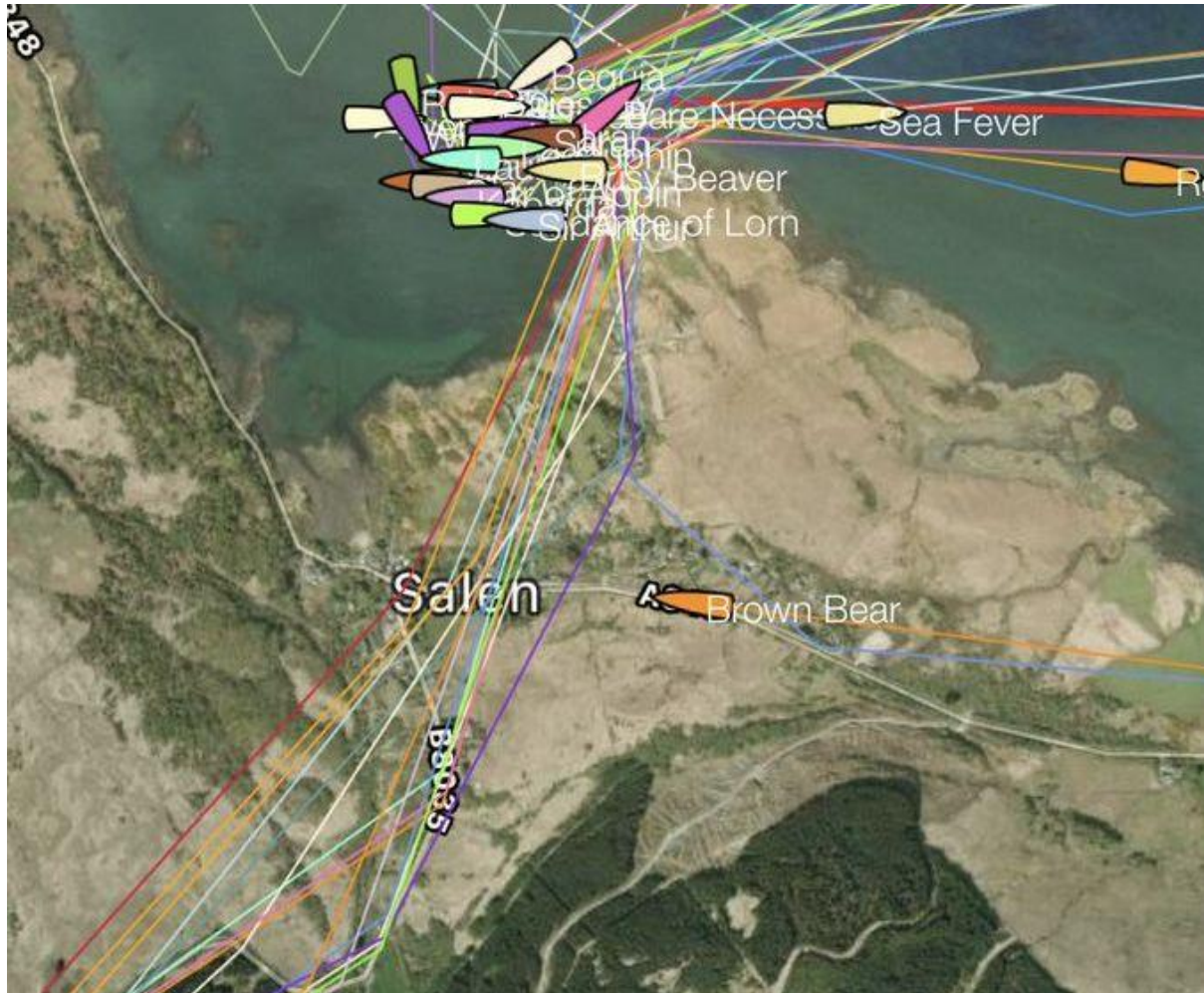
And there they are, the stumbling figures of Tom Jackson, Sam Western and Simon Adney (OS) shuffle, for that is all they can manage, the last few hundred metres in a stunning 3hrs 47mins. I hand them their lifejackets which they fumble on, collapsing in the dinghy only to writhe in an agony of cramp and exhaustive disinterest. A frantic row out to Brown Bear followed by a shaky scramble aboard ensure we have a crucial 17-minute lead over our nearest rivals, Fettes College on La Giraffe. There was now just the small matter of a 15-mile sail across the Firth of Clyde to Troon and the finish. Surely nothing could stop us winning the Youth Section now...?



First held in 1983, the Scottish Islands Peak Race is a somewhat original adventure race for teams of sailors and fell runners. Since 1992 there has been a hotly contested Youth Section that has attracted mainly Scottish schools, but also ones from England and even Aiglon College from Switzerland. The race is non-stop and starts in Oban with a short 4-mile hill run. You then sail to Mull, run 18 miles over Ben Talaidh, sail to Jura, run 14 miles over some of the Paps, sail to Arran, run 19 miles up and down Goat Fell (often in the dark!), and then sail to Troon.

Youth teams consist of six pupils who run in pairs with an adult, each pair doing one island with the fastest pair running the Oban section. Each team carries a tracker for safety; this also provides an addictive way of following their position on a mobile if you download the free app!

Indeed, it was wonderful to feel the support of the school community via the tracker; some must have even woken in the night to check it as I received a message at 3am on Sunday asking why we were not moving!



The most difficult task is finding someone who wants to offer their yacht to a team of ten unwashed souls! The famous explorer, Bill Tilman, used to advertise in the Times for crew by stating 'No pay, no prospects, not much pleasure' and it was in a similar vein that I appealed to my Ingram's parents in the summer of 2017. Yet low and behold, who should come forward but Hugh Clay, round-the-world yachtsman, Arctic sailor and veteran of the Australian and British versions of what is affectionally known as 'Peaks Racing'. He very generously offered to skipper his Pocock 45 with David Russell, another man with vast experience of the sea.

A year of 'due diligence' ensued before we committed to taking Shrewsbury's famous Hunt running club north to create another chapter in its illustrious history. Having been kindly driven the nine hours to Oban on Thursday afternoon in the speed-restricted (62mph!) minibus by parent Shaun Western (who would then take it to Troon), we spent the morning at the Race Briefing, got vaguely familiar with Brown Bear and then brought her round to the start line.



The famous 'Huntsman's Cry' of 'All hounds who wish to run, run hard, run well and may the devil take the hindmost' was on our breaths at midday on Friday 17 May. The evocative sound of the bagpipes filled the air as Tom and Sam charged en masse around the undulating course in Oban. Forty boats vied for pole position near the pier, the holiday sunshine belying an atmosphere of pent-up energy and competitive spirit, ready for the Le Mans-style start. Two by two the runners sprinted down the road and leapt in to their rubber dinghies, rowed to the eager yacht (doing their best not to be hit and drowned) before heading up the Sound of Mull.



There were only light airs, but the magic carpet of the flooding tide soon swept us up to Salen, where at 5.50pm, Paddy Barlow, James Weir and Simon Adney were rowed ashore to face the first of three rigorous five-minute kit checks. With no marshals on the route, the rucksacks had to be emptied: waterproof bottoms and top, thermals, hat, gloves, emergency shelter, map, compass and emergency rations were all accounted for; no costly return to the yacht was necessary.

For the waiting crew there was little rest to be had; Brown Bear had to be anchored, sails stowed and supper cooked. The sailors then rested while the remaining four boys played cards in the sun, no doubt contemplating their own upcoming running leg with increasing anxiety.



Despite setting off behind Fettes A and Windermere, it was clear to see from the tracker app that Shrewsbury's runners had overtaken them, but as this was only updated every half an hour, I rowed ashore early to await them.



Led by the indomitable Paddy, all three piled aboard after their hugely pleasing 3hrs 37mins, including Ben Talaidh, while the rest of the crew fumbled with the spinnaker. Windermere School soon ghosted past us in the fading light, their 35ft monohull making the most of the



almost non-existent breeze. Soon the oars were put to use up in the bow, but at 45ft and 14 tonnes, it was almost possible to hear Brown Bear laugh at our feeble efforts.



As darkness descended we reached the Firth of Lorne just as the tide started to flood against us at Duart Castle, but the breeze remained from the north-west, enabling us to nudge south. At this point, Hugh and David, a veritable Davies and Carruthers of the 21st century, made the inspired choice to sail wide and west of Fladda and its powerful tidal gate, before ducking in through the potentially treacherous Corryvreckan at slack water.

By first light the rain had really set in, but the tracker confirmed that we had moved up in to third place overall and first in the Youth Class; a stunning piece of sailing. But now the lighter boats behind soon caught back up to us as we all took advantage of the ebbing tide to eventually arrive in Craighouse at 9am on Saturday.

Jura was the island home of George Orwell when he wrote *1984*, so it seemed appropriate that the oppressive presence of Fettes A on La Giraffe and Windermere on Kittiwake, eventually hunted down Max Green, Sam Watts and myself on our 14-mile wilderness run over some of the famous Paps. An awe-inspiring landscape of Mordor-like proportions gave us a misty embrace, the ephemeral tracts enticing one onwards through a landscape of heather, bogs, fleas and ticks. Even the hundreds of deer questioned our presence in this untamed wasteland, nonchalantly looking up as we came within touching distance.

Off the final Pap, all three youth teams charged down the scree and boulders, through leg-cutting bracken, before a 'Death March' back along the road to the dinghies. The wind rose, the



sails filled, copious amounts of pasta were hungrily devoured and midnight became the new estimated time of arrival for the final run; the stage was set for an unheard-of finale on Arran.

But sailing can be a fickle business, and just as we were congratulating ourselves on going around 'the Mull' with no seasickness and keeping the Youth Teams just behind us, the wind, like four of our six runners, seemed to clamber into its bunk.

A long slumber ensued; that is apart from James Weir and Max Green who, in a Herculean effort, took it in turns to row Brown Bear forward, close in to the shore, taking every short-cut possible. At long last a slight breeze edged us past Holy Isle and at 5.10am we rowed ashore, a minute behind our rivals, and watched heart in mouth as our team set off one last time.



Rowing back to Brown Bear, I found the entire crew asleep, seemingly dead to the world. The tranquil, sleepy delights of Lamlash were soon extinguished as the first four adult yachts got ready to receive their runners. Like whippets on a leash, the moment the painter from the dinghy was thrown up, the oars of the yachts dug in as they looked for any small advantage on the final leg.

It was very quickly our turn; as we crept out of the bay, our tacks seemed to mock us as we made little headway east. Sam Watts on the binoculars spotted Fettes shougle (as the Scots say) along the road and in what seemed like only seconds, La Giraffe was behind us. It was now decision time for Hugh and David, but they stuck to the rhumb line, leaving the others to risk going north or south to find better wind.



At no point could we relax; after 48 hours on the boat, the now suffocating smell of ten muddy and sweaty males exuding from the cabin become ever more invasive as we wished Troon harbour closer. But at just after 1pm on Sunday, the exhausted crew of Brown Bear could finally celebrate. All that remained was a dinghy paddle to the nearest pier and a triumphant run up to the Harbourmaster's office and the finish.

Warm smiles from the wonderfully supportive and superbly organised Race Committee greeted us and a bottle of champagne was thrust in to our hands. Shrewsbury School on Brown Bear, at the first time of asking, had become Youth Champions of the Scottish Islands Peaks Race!



RSSH are Scottish Islands Peaks Race Youth Champions 2019

Friday 24 May 2019

Six members of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt (the cross-country team) claimed a new and impressive victory for their club and for Shrewsbury School on their debut in the Scottish Islands Peaks Race.



After a mammoth 48-hour adventure sailing round the south-west coast of Scotland and making landfall to run across the islands of Mull, Arran and Jura, they finished as winners of the Youth Section.

An entertaining account of the team's adventures by Mr Griffiths can be read here: [Scottish Islands Peaks Race 2019](#).



Championship Silver Medal for Senior Girls' Quad

Tuesday 28 May 2019

In a thrilling final between the top crews in the country, the Senior Girls' 1st Quad won silver in the Sherriff Cup for Championship Quadruple Sculls at the National Schools' Regatta.



Their achievement represents a major milestone for girls' rowing at Shrewsbury and opens a new chapter in the annals of the Royal Shrewsbury School Boat Club, as the girls now join the boys in reaching the podium at the highest national level.

"Words can not describe how proud I am of these four," tweeted their coach, Mr Reynolds. "What a way to celebrate ten years of co-education at Shrewsbury School. A special mention to the rest of the squad who have been instrumental in this crew's success."

A full report on the National Schools' Regatta 2019 can be viewed via the following link: [National Schools' Regatta 2019](#).

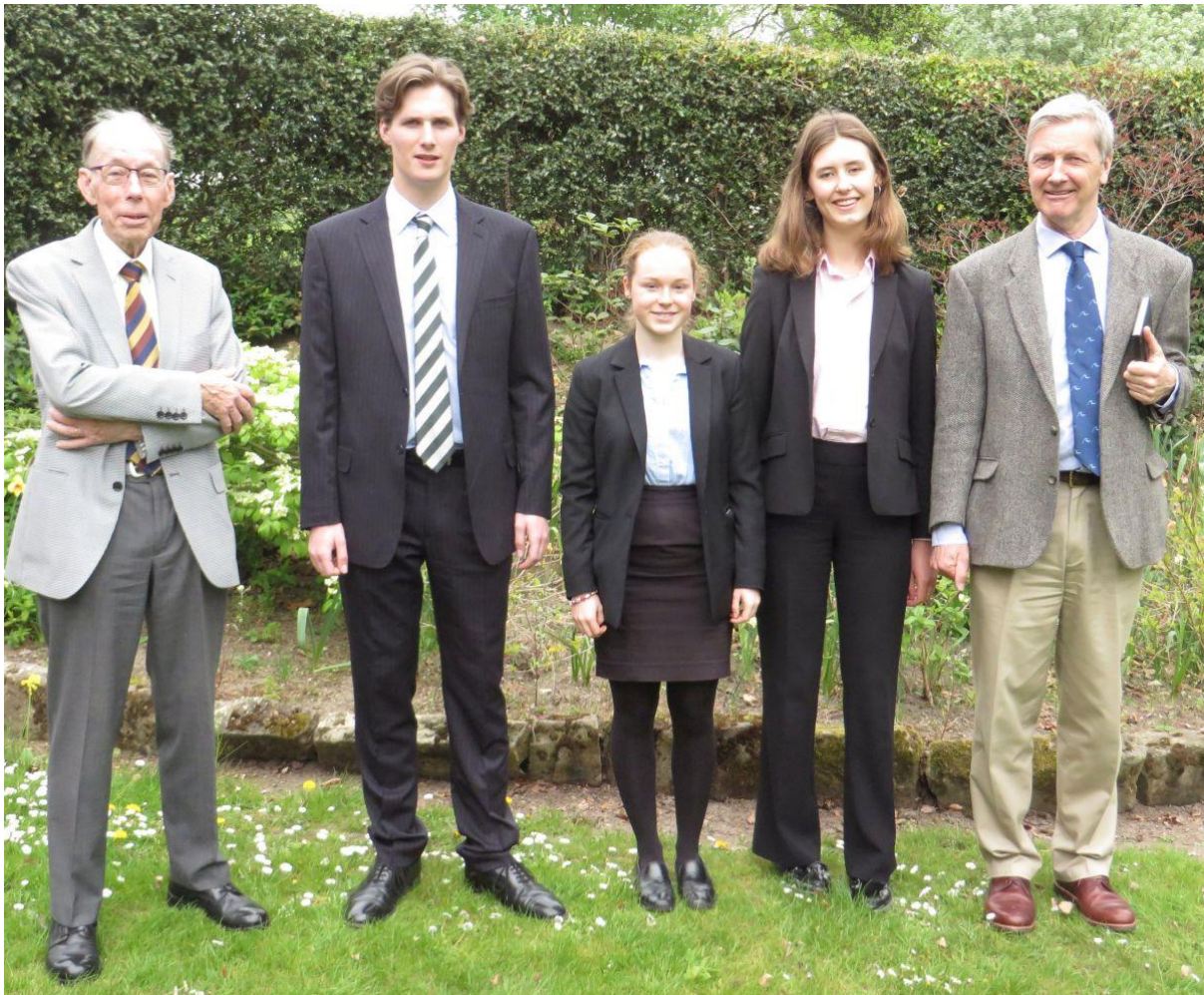




Richard Hillary Essay Competition

Friday 31 May 2019

*Fittingly Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons (DB 50-55), one of the architects of the Richard Hillary Essay Medal Competition in memory of RAF fighter pilot and author of *The Last Enemy*, Richard Hillary (Ch 1931-37), visited the School to meet this year's winner, Anna Cowan (MSH), and the two runners-up, Lara Gabbittas (EDH) and Alexander Sparkees (I).*



The essay prize on a single word topic (this year 'challenge') was judged by Graham Hoyland, adventurer, mountaineer and author of *Last Hours on Everest* about the fatal ascent of George Mallory and Sandy Irvine (WHM 16-21).