

July 2009

Dear parent,

Yet again we basked in warm sunshine on Speech Day, and it was so good to see so many of you here for what has become a special two-day event in the Salopian fasti.

NEWS

Richard Hudson has produced another excellent edition of The Salopian, packed with coverage of the past six months and offering delightful reflections on life at Shrewsbury. It should be with you shortly.

In addition, as you may already be aware, our Sixth Form scientists and astronomers are currently on very competitive form, with Shrewsbury physicists representing the UK in an international competition in China this month.

Musicians and dramatists remain as busy as ever – with a revision of ‘The Bubble’ playing at the Edinburgh Fringe between the 17th and 22nd of August.

Too late for inclusion in The Salopian was news of Shrewsbury’s historic winning of the Silk Trophy in the final week of term.

This is a highly prestigious 1st XI cricket tournament between Shrewsbury, Eton, an overseas touring side and, on this occasion, Elizabeth College, Guernsey.

Shrewsbury having despatched Melbourne Grammar School and Elizabeth College on the first two days of the tournament, the scene was set for a very big match against Eton.

Shrewsbury batted first and suffered the loss of early wickets, until the Captain, Joe Leach, consolidated Shrewsbury’s position, leading to a score of 217 for 8 – with Joe finishing on 116 not out.

In response, Eton started strongly, only to be confounded by the quality of Shrewsbury’s bowling and fielding, and being dismissed for 116.

This was a huge win for the 1st XI, rounding off a superlative season. It is the second time Shrewsbury has won the Silk Trophy in the past four years.

There have been many other sporting successes this term, not least the winning of gold, silver and bronze medals at the National Schools Regatta, as reported in The Salopian...

HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION

Since this event is one of the highlights of the school year and incredibly popular with parents, let me remind you of the arrangements for applying for tickets, the demand for which always outstrips the number of seats available in the Alington Hall.

A limited number of tickets will be allocated, via Houses, to those whose sons or daughters are performing in a part song (as distinct from the whole-House unison song).

Thereafter, ticketing priority is given to parents of boys in the Third Form and parents of boys or girls in the Upper Sixth. All tickets are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, and the deadline for requests is 19th September.

Looking at a detail, I am afraid I have to tell you that, for Health and Safety and Fire Regulation reasons, we are not permitted to allow young (or older!) children to sit on their parents’ knees.

As usual, the entire show will be relayed into the Ashton Theatre on a big screen.

COMMON ROOM

Farewell

Alan Hayes retires after thirty-five years teaching mathematics at Shrewsbury, during which time he has also offered a hugely-valued contribution, particularly in sport and the outdoors programme. His wife, Janet, also retires, having led the nursing team in the Sanatorium for the past twenty years.

Mark and Amber Lascelles now leave us, after seventeen years in Mark's case and ten in Amber's, to go to The King's School, Canterbury, where Mark has been appointed Deputy Headmaster. We are only too aware of the remarkable work of both Mark and Amber at Shrewsbury, be it in the geography faculty, in school sport at the very highest level or in The Grove.

Ben Evans, at Shrewsbury for just five years, as Head of Chemistry, Assistant Housemaster, sports coach, wine expert... now moves on to his richly-deserved appointment as Director of Studies at Oundle.

Ian White, who has taught biology for three years here and offered invaluable support on the wider school scene, now departs to be closer to his family in the south.

Nick Henderson, Harvard Fellow (of three years ago) and superb top squad rowing coach, moves to join his brother and father in an education enterprise in India.

Paul Hamm, Harvard Fellow (of two years ago), polymath, fine teacher across five academic disciplines, rowing coach and superb all-rounder, now leaves to pursue his teaching career in America.

Max Chalifin, this year's Harvard Fellow, returns to America after making a fine offering at Shrewsbury; and Soizic Toumazet, our excellent Bordeaux Fellow, returns to France to pursue her career in Law.

Welcome

Mr Steve Biggins, as master i/c football.

Currently Head of Boys Games and teacher of mathematics at The Old Hall School, Wellington

Mr Biggins is a former professional footballer, who played for Derby County, Oxford United and Shrewsbury Town.

Mr James Brydon (Oxford MA), to teach French.

Currently teaching French to Oxford undergraduate classes, Mr Brydon has special interests in drama, music, badminton, volleyball, squash and tennis.

Mr Paul Greetham (Wolverhampton BA), as Director of Sport.

Currently Housemaster and Head of Boys' PE/Games at Bromsgrove School, Mr Greetham brings interests in music, drama, stage management and, of course, all major sports.

Mr Richard Johnson (Bristol BSc), to teach chemistry.

Having previously taught at Cheltenham College, Mr Johnson is currently teaching in Ghana.

His interests include cycling, climbing, athletics, rowing and tennis.

Mr Jeremy Lucas (Manchester LLB, and OU), to teach mathematics.

Currently teaching at Trinity School, Croydon and previously at Dean Close School, Mr Lucas' earlier career was in accountancy, before he joined the British Army.

Rugby, hockey, cricket, squash, sub-aqua, sailing, drama, CCF and music are all keen interests.

Mr Jason Stanley (Exeter BSc), to teach geography.

Currently completing his PGCE at Oxford, Mr Stanley is a qualified Territorial Army Training Officer and is an enthusiastic supporter of the CCF, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, rowing, running and cycling.

Dr Mike Wade (Cambridge MA, Durham PhD), to teach mathematics.

Dr Wade previously taught at Sherborne School, and worked as a software engineer for some years. Outdoor activities (hiking, backpacking, scrambling), photography and hockey are particular interests.

Mr Nick Wakeling (Oxford BA), to teach English.

Mr Wakeling is currently pursuing an MA at Bath. Creative writing, drama, cookery, cricket, rugby and football are his enthusiasms.

As usual, we will also welcome our Harvard Fellow and Bordeaux Fellow.

Internal Changes

Andy Briggs, currently chemist, i/c CCF Marines and sports coach, to be Head of Chemistry.

Will Hughes, currently Director of Sport and Head of PE, to be Housemaster of Ridgemount.

Martin Humphreys, to retire as Housemaster of Ridgemount (after 11 years) and become Head of Communications.

Nick Jenkins to retire as Housemaster of Oldham's (after 14 years). He will continue teaching classics and offer assistance to the Registrar and to the organisation of House sport.

Marcus Johnson, currently mathematics teacher, Assistant Housemaster of Ingram's and rugby coach, to be Housemaster of Oldham's.

Kristina Leslie, to be Head of English.

Dan Nicholas, currently history teacher, Assistant Housemaster of Rigg's and sports coach to become Housemaster of The Grove.

Dympna Nightingale, currently music teacher and Head of Lower School Careers, to take over from Louis Dunn by assisting Chris Conway as Common Room representative at Shrewsbury House.

Nicola Thomson to be Head of Lower School PE.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

For your information, here are the dates of meetings scheduled for 2009/10:

UPPER SIXTH

Sunday 31st January 2010 (End of Coach Weekend) 7.00 p.m. Kingsland Hall

LOWER SIXTH

Saturday 13th February 2010 (Beginning of Exeat)
Headmaster and Head of Careers to address parents 10.00 a.m. Ashton Theatre
Parents and pupils with teachers 11.00 a.m. Kingsland Hall

FIFTH FORM

Sunday 14th March 2010 (End of Coach Weekend) 7.00 p.m. Kingsland Hall

FOURTH FORM

Sunday 18th April 2010 (Beginning of Term) 7.00 p.m. Kingsland Hall

THIRD FORM

Monday 3rd May 2010 (End of Coach Weekend) 7.00 p.m. Kingsland Hall

LEARNING SUPPORT

Parents should already be in possession of a copy of the school's Learning Support policy document. (If not, then do please contact my office for a copy.) Please be aware that the following paragraph was added to the policy with effect from September 2008:

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXAMINATIONS: In some cases, the assessment of a specific educational need may result in the school requesting the appropriate "access arrangements" from the examination boards. These can include the provision of extra time in examinations, or the entitlement to use a word processor during examinations. Such applications cannot be processed after the official deadline for entries for public examinations, and the school operates the same deadline for internal school examinations.

SWINE 'FLU

We were very fortunate to reach the end of term without incident.

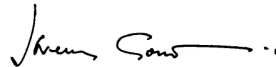
As you will be aware, we had put arrangements in place to cope with an episode, but were able to continue with business as usual.

Of course, we will need to see how things are at the start of next term and I must, yet again, ask you to be sure that **any boys or girls who display 'flu-like symptoms should not return to school in September until they have been given professional medical clearance to do so.**

We shall continue to assume that you will regularly check our webpage message for the latest position from the school's point of view. Even though the webpage may remain static for so long as there is no change in the situation, I assure you it will change if we need to alert you to any development.

Keeping fingers crossed for all those results in August, this comes with my warmest good wishes to all Salopian families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Sans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.