

Welcome Back Salopians

Tuesday 21 April 2020

Headmaster, Leo Winkley brings Shrewsbury School back to pupils.

Here is the longer video version of our Headmaster touring the school and virtually welcoming back our pupils - stay peeled for the 'almost' incident...

Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Wednesday 22 April 2020

A Summer Term week 1 Bulletin from the Futures Department, full of useful information, reminders, resources and weblinks for Fifth and Sixth Formers and their parents.

Please follow the link to download it as a pdf: [Futures Bulletin Edition 12, Summer Term 2020.](#)

RAF Inter-Flight Competition

Friday 24 April 2020

The RAF inter-flight competition, the Battle of Britain Trophy, was fought for last Field Day, Thursday 12th March.

The Section has been training for this as three flights of 8 cadets for most of the year. The winning flight was 'Tristar', led by Corporal Yip (L6, Rt), and the individual best flight commander award was won by Corporal Hozzova (L6, G).



Above: RAF Cosford low-ropes course.

Much luckier with the weather than last year, the (fairly substantial) flurry of snow at 08:00 had cleared by the time the cadets presented themselves for inspection and the drill competition at 09:00 and the rest of the day was clear and mild. The cadets acquitted themselves exceptionally well in the drill, with Sgt Sach-Brian, the School's liaison and training NCO from the RAF (formerly a regular), commenting on their improvement over the last twelve months. Flt Lt Wray, Officer Commanding the Section, was also hugely impressed with the turnout of all individuals, with cadets Chan and Sussums-Lewis having perhaps the best uniform presentation of any cadets in the last five years.

Other elements of the competition in the morning were Aircraft Recognition, in which the teams had to identify fifty aircraft from a rolling sequence of briefly displayed images, and the Gun Run. The flights were timed over a two-lap course with three obstacles, the first lap without the gun and the second lap with. Before each obstacle they had to disassemble the field gun and reassemble it before continuing. Teamwork and urgency were the order of the day, with all individuals needing a clear idea of their small role in the safe dismantling and construction of the apparatus.



Above: Two flights reassembling the field gun after an obstacle.

In the afternoon, the Section moved to RAF Cosford, where the low ropes course used for training regular service personnel was the site of the leadership assessment, alongside the First Aid element of the competition. Cadets had to respond to casualties with breaks, bleeds, burns, shock and irregular breathing, scoring points through their handling of the situation and interaction with casualties as well as the treatment given.



Above: Attending to 'casualties' in the First Aid scenario.

The teams' scores from the six challenges, as well as individual scores for the flight leader in the drill and leadership task, contributed to an overall score.



Above: The teamwork and leadership challenge.

Unfortunately, school closure has meant that a photograph of the winning flight has yet to be taken with the (rather impressive) trophy – it will be engraved ready for next time! In addition, a new flight was selected on the basis of performance in the Battle of Britain Trophy to represent the School at an external military skills competition after the Easter holiday, which will no longer go ahead. Nevertheless, many congratulations to all who took part for the effort, perseverance and good spirit shown on the day.

Flt Lt Wray

Letters from Shrewsbury No. 7: Dear Candidate

Friday 24 April 2020

The latest in the Headmaster's series of 'Letters from Shrewsbury'. A letter to 'Dear Candidate' - thoughts on preparing for interviews...

Please follow the link to enjoy reading it:

<https://leowinkley.wordpress.com/2020/04/16/dearcandidate-interviews-and-how-to-survive-them/>

Links to the Headmaster's earlier 'Letters from Shrewsbury' are published below:

[No. 6: 'Dear So'](#) (29 March 2020)

[No. 5: 'Dear School As We Disperse'](#) (25 March 2020)

[No. 4: 'Dear Mothering Sunday'](#) (22 March 2020)

[No. 3 'Dear Detectorist'](#) (15 March 2020)

[No. 2: 'Dear Gerald'](#) (2 February 2020)

[No. 1: 'Dear 2020'](#) (9 January 2020)

Success in the Chemistry Olympiad 2020

Friday 24 April 2020

Twenty-eight Sixth Form students took part in Round 1 of the International Chemistry Olympiad. This year there were 16 students from Lower Sixth and 12 from the Upper Sixth. The results were outstanding, with five gold, nine silver and eleven bronze medals being awarded.

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 at <https://edu.rsc.org/enrichment/uk-chemistry-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 far 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.

Gold:

Mohan Sun
Nick Liu
Peter Yang
Runjie Liao
Tetsuyoshi Yamada

Silver:

Angela Wang
Anthony Siu
Connor Hickey
Eudora Xiao
George Lawrence
Ivan Ye
Oliver Thomassen
Victoria Xie
Jing Wu

Bronze:

Ed Hou
Hiroaki Shu
Ivan Leong
Ivan Gershkovich
Jasper Yip
Kawthar Al Noaimi
Marta De Jesus
Max Cheung
Molly Fox
Timothy Ng
Winston Luk

Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Thursday 30 April 2020

A Summer Term week 2 Bulletin from the Futures Department, full of useful information, reminders, resources and weblinks for Fifth and Sixth Formers and their parents.

Please follow the link to download it as a pdf: [Futures Bulletin Edition Week 2, Summer Term 2020.](#)

Upper Sixth Form Summer Term 2020

Thursday 30 April 2020

Information for the Upper Sixth Form on Shrewsbury U and the Level 2 Qualification for Young Leaders.

Upper Sixth Form Options

An introduction from **Maurice Walters, Deputy Head Academic.**

[Follow this link to view the Upper Sixth Form Options Brochure.](#)

Students have until 12pm BST on Monday 4th May to select their choices for both courses; they will be sent a link to do so via email and on the intranet.

My Journey Home

Thursday 30 April 2020

A first-hand account from a Third Form pupil traveling home to China in March.

At least I am safe now. It's just a matter of not going outside. I can deal with that. It does not matter, compared to what I have been through for a whole month.

On March 20th, I got a plane ticket to fly home to China. I was fully equipped with masks, gloves, and goggles. My parents told me not to eat or drink anything on the plane and that masks and gloves should be changed frequently which made me even more nervous and anxious. I did not want to catch it, but it was going to be so hard for me not to eat for 12 hours.

When I got to the ticket collection place, I realised that the ticket had been changed to UK-Dubai – China Beijing. This messed up all my plans. This made the journey even more dangerous because being in transit and having hundreds of people walking past you are not a great thing in this special period.

When I arrived in Dubai, I was hungry, hungry enough to break my fear of the virus and I finally had some food in the airport. I hoped it was fine anyways, just an overreaction.

I got onto the next plane, the last one, to Beijing. The environment became much more silent and serious: everyone was doing the same self-protecting as me. This made me feel comfortable and I went to sleep. When I woke up, there was a form on my table. I filled in what I felt and when I got to the airport I was sent to check if I had anything wrong with my body, same as everyone else. I personally thought it was not a good idea to get everyone in a packed place because it just makes the virus spread faster, but I had to deal with it.

After the health check everyone was sent to a hospital to check blood, CT, and nucleic acid in our bodies. These are the three elements of testing for corona virus. Although I do not like blood tests, what I most hated was the time taken for me to get the test done. There were 103 people in front of me which was not pleasant, and it was already 0:30 so I had to sleep in the hospital somehow.

There was no bed, so I had to sit on a chair to sleep. I did not want anyone else to sit on my seat so every time I went to the toilet, I put my stuff on my seat so that everyone would know I would be back. Time went on until the next day, at about 9pm. I had my tests done and I was sent to the airport to wait to fly home.

The boring 14 days of quarantine started but it was not just that. On the fourth day, I was told that there was a guy on my plane who had got Covid-19 and I had been sitting near him, so I had to move from my hotel to another place. At first, I accepted it because I knew I did not want the virus, but when I got to the place, I collapsed. The bed was messy, the floor was covered with paper mats. The toilet and bathroom were connected together: whenever I showered, I could smell a very unpleasant smell which really got me down.

The 14 days finished, and I'm finally home. This journey taught me a lot. I learned how to cope with difficult things. I realised that no place is safe enough to stay in for 14 days except for our own home, and I recognised the importance of family. The virus can change our lifestyles, and our feelings towards this chaotic world, but what the virus can't change is the fact that we always have something to lift us up, and that is our family.

Leo (III, SH)