

Letters from Shrewsbury No. 10: Dear Myrtle and Maud

Tuesday 2 June 2020

The latest in the Headmaster's series of 'Letters from Shrewsbury'. A letter to 'Dear Myrtle and Maud'

Please follow the link to enjoy reading it:

[No. 10: 'Dear Myrtle and Maud'](#) (2 June 2020)

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

[No. 9: 'Dear Video-Conferencing App beginning with Z'](#) (11 May 2020)

[No. 8: 'Dear Cricket'](#) (26 April 2020)

[No. 7: 'Dear Candidate'](#) (24 April 2020)

[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)

An update from The Shewsy

Thursday 4 June 2020

Updates on recent activities at The Shewsy by Mrs Drew and John Dumbell, Team Leader at The Shewsy.

Kenny O'Connell, The Shewsy's music specialist youth worker, has been working on a song about the history of the Shewsy and has produced some fantastic footage to accompany it. It features former Shewsy School gapper, Emma Gardner and current member, Ava Mansfield on backing vocals, writes John Hutchison, the Chair of the

Board. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MafFP3vM1UM>

Are you thinking about a Gap Year? How about spending 3 months working (all expenses paid) at The Shewsy? At a time to suit you, gaining experience with young people, in a very welcoming community. Apply, or ask questions, by emailing ljd@shrewsbury.org.uk.

John Dumbell, Team Leader at The Shewsy, has kept in touch with Club members all through the lockdown, and they have put together The Shewsy Playlist - to brighten your day. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu5EZMtZUbCh3kk2APWJFr1zqNSNuqOLh>

Here is an update by John Dumbell, from earlier in the Summer Term:

There will always be a need for youth work! Bold statement yes but given the unfortunate circumstances of the past few months this statement has become more of a reality.

Once the government announced lockdown the staff team were quick to think of possible ways to remain engaged with our young people.

The longer we remain closed the more concerned I am becoming for the wellbeing of some of our members. Only yesterday I was on a bike ride with an ex member who has managed to get his life back on track after 10 years of addiction and he asked me if we still have a weekend at Shewsy School. After a lengthy discussion about his time at the club he told me the only time he would get a proper meal was when he was at the Shewsy and in fact the only time he would get 3 meals a day was the weekend visit to the school where, in his words, "We were treated like royalty John, always made to feel welcome, it was as if we were paying pupils." This immediately made me think of a number of current members who in the current climate could well be in the same boat. The sooner we are able to get the young people back in, the better.

I am contacting as many families as possible in the coming days by phone to see if there is any way the club can help.

The main source of contact has undoubtedly been through social media. This has proven a very popular and effective way of remaining in touch with current members as well as reaching out to ex members too.

The Instagram page has remained a very popular source of contact; Charlie, Tom and I hosted an Instagram live session which allowed young people to ask any questions and allowed us to give an update on what's happening whilst club is closed. Thomas has recorded a post recalling his best memory since he has been at the club and I have created a post in which staff faces are photoshopped on to club photos in a "Where's Wally?" type game. This can be found on the main Instagram page if you would like to give it a try!!

Each week we have posted Henry Corbett's 'Thought for the week' on Twitter and Facebook, this has proven a hit with ex members in particular as we have received plenty of positive feedback from it.

In terms of the young people and current members. Each day we will post on our story which will remain online for 24 hours. These posts have included quizzes for the young people to take part in, some brainteasers/riddles and a whole host of photos from past and present. Each post on the story has averaged over 500 views in a 24-hour period many of them acting as a conversation starter between the staff and young people.

Youth worker Charlie Hughes delivered our first live youth work Q and A and totalled over 100 views with an average of 45 young people engaged throughout the whole session.

Thomas produced a short video of himself reading children's classic 'The Owl and The Pussycat' aimed at our junior club members.

We have hosted 2 Zoom sessions for the young people, one with our Causeway group allowing 20 of them to remain in contact with their friends from Dublin. The other was a quiz in which 3 staff (John Tom and Ryan) and 8 young people. This was a lot of fun and more have been arranged with topical discussions also suggested for future Zooms.

Ryan Fitzpatrick has set up a Shewsy 'Desert Island Disks' playlist on YouTube in which staff and young people had to choose 2 songs they would like to be stuck with on a desert island.

Kenny O'Connell has been working on a song about the history of the Shewsy and has produced some fantastic footage to accompany it. The song is available to view on YouTube and features former Shewsy School gapper Emma Gardner and current member Ava Mansfield on backing vocals.

In Easter week, we created an online Easter bonnet parade with a prize for the winning entry.

The young people are chomping at the bit to get back in the club and are in constant contact with the staff who are also really keen to get back to it.

We will continue to work as a team albeit remotely to provide the best possible support for our young people and their families during this difficult period and pray that none of our loved ones are affected by this terrible virus.

Donations to the Shewsy are always welcome

- <http://www.shrewsburyhouse.org.uk/donate/>

Take care.

John Dumbell, Team Leader

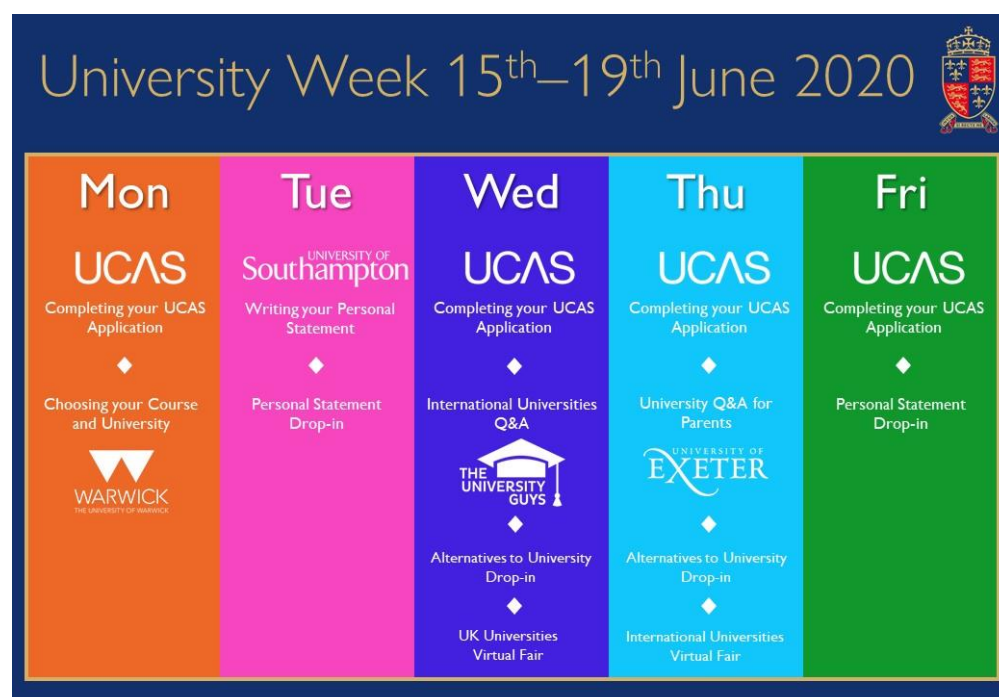
Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Thursday 4 June 2020

Futures and Higher Education Bulletin Edition 17 Summer Term 2020 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 17, Summer Term 2020.](#)

Please see below information regarding University Week 15-19 June:



The poster is titled "University Week 15th–19th June 2020" in a gold serif font at the top. To the right of the title is the University of Exeter crest. Below the title is a grid of five colored vertical panels, each representing a day of the week. Each panel contains a list of activities and logos of participating universities. The panels are: Monday (orange), Tuesday (pink), Wednesday (purple), Thursday (light blue), and Friday (green). Each panel is separated by a small white diamond. The activities listed are: Monday (Completing your UCAS Application, Choosing your Course and University, Warwick logo), Tuesday (Writing your Personal Statement, Personal Statement Drop-in, University of Southampton logo), Wednesday (Completing your UCAS Application, International Universities Q&A, Alternatives to University Drop-in, UK Universities Virtual Fair, The University Guys logo), Thursday (Completing your UCAS Application, University Q&A for Parents, Alternatives to University Drop-in, International Universities Virtual Fair, University of Exeter logo), and Friday (Completing your UCAS Application, Personal Statement Drop-in).

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
UCAS Completing your UCAS Application	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON Writing your Personal Statement	UCAS Completing your UCAS Application	UCAS Completing your UCAS Application	UCAS Completing your UCAS Application
◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Choosing your Course and University	Personal Statement Drop-in	International Universities Q&A	University Q&A for Parents	Personal Statement Drop-in
WARWICK THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK		THE UNIVERSITY GUYS	UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	
		◆	◆	
		Alternatives to University Drop-in	Alternatives to University Drop-in	
		◆	◆	
		UK Universities Virtual Fair	International Universities Virtual Fair	

Summer Term Co-Curricular Update - 5 June 2020

Friday 5 June 2020

An update from Peter Middleton, Deputy Head Co-Curricular.

Salopian Inspiration: Resilience

The Discomfort Zone

“We want your children to fail.” So began a talk to parents back in October 2017 at the start of Shrewsbury’s whole-school [Failure Week](#). It was a deliberately provocative statement, but one designed to stress the importance of failure as a key learning experience. As CS Lewis put it, failures become the “fingerposts on the road to achievement”. Stepping out of your comfort zone, embracing challenge and trying new things were central to the experiences we sought to deliver during the course of that week, and staff and pupils alike were firmly forced into what we termed their ‘discomfort zones’.

I have been reminded in these past weeks and months of just how important the trait of resilience has been where we have all, of course, been forced out of our comfort zones as we adapt to new experiences and new challenges. Resilience has never been more important and Salopians have certainly demonstrated it in bucketloads during this past term.

Staying in the Seat

Perhaps more than most, the Boat Club have shown remarkable resilience through this year. With near-record flooding levels to contend with in the early part of the Lent term and the subsequent cancellation of major events such as the National Schools’ Regatta and Henley, you’d have forgiven the rowers for being downbeat and demotivated. No such thing. They’ve been as energised and committed as ever engaging with a hugely impressive programme in remote. Particularly worthy of commendation are the five Salopians- James C, Sophia U, Dan G, Tim M and George B- who have completed the ‘Conquer the Severn Challenge’ covering the row/run/cycle 354km in under three weeks- a monumental effort! I trust that, as John Dryden once put it, “Sweet is pleasure after pain”.

Taking Centre Stage

Similar resilience has been seen by those in the cast of the new Shrewsbury musical *Gatsby* which was due to have its global premiere during Salopian Week. Where other schools have abandoned ship with their productions, Dr Brown and Mr Moore have continued to rehearse in remote and cast members have continued to dedicate themselves to rehearsal. We hope to be able to showcase some of their work in the forthcoming Speech Day live broadcast, details for which will follow in the coming weeks.

Amongst their number, Fourth Former Kate W has been successful in her bid to gain a place in the [National Youth Theatre of Great Britain \(NYT\)](#) which is an outstanding achievement and one that is thoroughly well deserved. With alumni including Sir Derek Jacobi, Dame Helen Mirren and Colin Firth, Kate follows in the footsteps of some true acting greats, and we look forward to following her progress with great interest.

If at first you don’t succeed...

As any actor will tell you, a life on stage brings both highs and lows, triumphs and setbacks. The willingness to take risks and put yourself in the firing line is essential, so too picking yourself up following disappointment.

Much of what our pupils have been undertaking through the virtual co-curriculum has been focused on encouraging this spirit of resilience and a willingness to take risks. We’ve seen pupils

in our Individual Projects group all picking up new skills, for example learning the ukulele, dress-making, Italian and much more besides. Similarly, large numbers have signed up to our various Cooking at Home classes (and the mouth-wateringly good [**Great Shrewsbury Bakeoff**](#) group) where they have been tasked with trying new things and learning new skills no doubt with varying degrees of success!

Whether in the Calligraphy group, Gardening at Home, Creative Arts, the Magic Masterclass, Dragon's Den or any of the other 60 activities, Salopians have recognised that in challenge there comes opportunity, and that, increasingly, their resilience becomes both a strength and a shield.

A Time to Reflect

I will leave you with the words of Sixth Former Mollie M in a section from her reflections as part of the 'Corona Diaries' group, words which have particular power and resonance at this time:

“We find consolation in nature. While the modern-day world around us grinds to a halt, the natural world continues as normal, arguably thriving more than ever. To find some light in the negativity of the ‘unprecedented’ present day, I believe that we are enormously fortunate that the lockdown commenced at the beginning of Spring. Watching nature come to life again after an arduous winter, has provided hope that after this incredibly difficult time, we will be able to rejuvenate in the same way.”

Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Thursday 11 June 2020

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Summer Term Pastoral Update - 12 June 2020

Thursday 11 June 2020

An update from Anna Peak, Deputy Head Pastoral.

Over the past 4 weeks I have been teaching the Leadership Module as part of the Upper Sixth ILM course. Elements of leadership can be taught, but so much of the style an individual will bring to the role comes from their character, their personality. During a debate last week in a zoom breakout room a group of Upper Sixth started questioning whether you can teach 'personality'. The pupils were very clear. You can teach it, and that this is what Shrewsbury does. I don't know if it is the current pandemic situation shifting perspectives, or the fact that they are so near the end of their time at school and fast appreciating what they have been a part of, but the quality of the debate in that virtual room, the way the pupils articulated themselves and described how personalities are forged here was really something very special.

Without realising it they were talking about what educators call character education. Not taught explicitly, this social and emotional learning is what happens all day every day, in boarding houses, tutor groups, peer to peer, during co-curricular experiences, school trips, even during sanctions. To paraphrase Einstein, it is what 'remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school'. It is the teaching of a set of values that sit at the heart of a community and an individual.

I have been very fortunate to work in some excellent schools around the world, all of which have provided pupils with the opportunity to develop a strength of character. However, I have never experienced the overwhelming power of a whole person education like I do at Shrewsbury. One might argue that it feels this way because I have the viewpoint of Deputy Head, an easier vantage to witness this playout than that of the junior member of a Geography department that I was 20 years ago. Perhaps you might also say that times have changed, the type of young person I am working alongside now is a different breed from that at the turn of the millennium. Sure I'm biased, but I know I have never worked in a school that prioritises the whole person education like Shrewsbury does. Takes an acute interest in nurturing the individual, of developing them as fully as they will let us.

Back to the zoom break out room. What sorts of personality traits do the departing Upper Sixth think we craft in a Salopian? Their answer: we encourage them to take advantage of all opportunities, to develop wisdom, follow their passions, to learn all they can from who they can. Teamwork and kindness were also at the centre of what they feel we inspire. House life and the sports field were cited as the places where opportunities to experience these traits are best exemplified. They felt Shrewsbury teaches respect and understanding, that the world is full of different people, with different ideas and they all deserved to be listened to. They all agreed that integrity was essential, but more easily cultivated the older you got, that not everyone gets everything right all the time, but at its heart a Salopian is a gentle and caring soul. Finally, and my personal favourite from their list, that we encourage the growth of a certain impish spirit.

Rather like an entertainment show where the audience volunteer has unwittingly played into the hands of the magician, this group had pretty much described the strength of character page that was to be published only a few days later by the school in the new Ethos and Educational Philosophy document. I wonder if like UK Magic Circle Legend Paul Daniels if they knew this 'they'd like this... not a lot, but they'd like it!'

We know this pandemic has not affected everyone the same. COVID-19 is not a leveller in society. The experiences of our community through the past 12 weeks have been wide and varied. However, through their experiences at Shrewsbury School I do believe that Salopians own a strength of character and resolve to help them react appropriately, and with passion, and that they have played this card strongly in their defence during this difficult time. For those returning I look forward to hearing their stories and helping them to understand how these past months have shaped them. To our leaving Upper Sixth I say, 'look out world', these strong, independent and remarkable young people are coming, and they are unstoppable.

University Week 15th – 19th June

Thursday 11 June 2020

An update on University Week 15th – 19th June

Next week, the Lower Sixth will follow a programme that will help them prepare for applying to university. As well as being guided through completing the vast majority of their UCAS application, they will have a talk from an admission officer at the University of Warwick on how to research and select their five choices of course and university. In addition, there will be the chance to hear from an admissions expert from the University of Southampton on writing an excellent Personal Statement, which will give them food for thought as they work with their tutors over the week on producing a first draft.

University Week 15 th –19 th June 2020 				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
11.45am Completing your UCAS Application (Group A) Potential Oxbridge Scientists Session Personal Statement Planning (Groups B,C,D) === 2.00pm All L6: Choosing your Course and University with 	11.45am All L6 - Writing your Personal Statement with  === 2.00pm Personal Statement Drop-in Q&A with TPP	11.15am Completing your UCAS Application (Group B) Personal Statement Writing (Groups A,C,D) === 2.00pm International Universities Q&A with  Alternatives to University Drop-in === 12.00pm-6.00pm UK Universities Virtual Fair*	11.15am Completing your UCAS Application (Group C) Personal Statement Writing (Groups B,D) === 2.00pm University Q&A for Parents with  Alternatives to University Drop-in Potential Oxbridge non-Scientists === 4.30pm-7.00pm International Universities Virtual Fair*	11.45am Completing your UCAS Application (Group D) === 2.00pm Personal Statement Drop-in Q&A with TPP

In a period of uncertainty for universities, International Universities expert David Hawkins will provide an update for both students and parents, followed by a Q&A session on Wednesday at 2pm. This will be followed on Thursday at 2pm by Karl Devincenzi, Student Recruitment Manager at the University of Exeter, who will do the same for UK universities. Though aimed at parents of the L6, all are welcome and further details are available from Karen Scimia at futures@shrewsbury.org.uk.

With onsite Open Days cancelled, there will be the opportunity to speak to over 100 university representatives at two virtual fairs – these are free external events, which need to be booked.

The UK universities fair will take place from 12pm to 6pm on Wednesday 17th June – you can sign up [here](#).

The international universities fair will take place from 4.30pm to 7pm on Thursday 18th June – you can sign up [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR: ONLINE!

JUNE 18TH 2020, 4.30PM

Students and parents at your school are invited to join a FREE virtual university fair, from the comfort of your home, on the afternoon of 18th June.

Confirmed institutions include: U Chicago, NYU, McGill, Trinity College Dublin, Bocconi University, Leiden University, Ecole hoteliere de Lausanne, Carleton College, Brandeis University, IE University, UBC and more.

Each attendee will be able to attend up to four different sessions



Reserve your place
www.theuniversityguys.com/june2020fair

www.theuniversityguys.com

New Shrewsbury School Director of Music

Thursday 11 June 2020

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Stephen Williams to succeed John Moore as Director of Music at Shrewsbury School from September 2020.

Stephen is currently Director of Music at Bryanston School and was previously Director of Music at Uppingham School for 11 years. He has a national reputation and exceptional links in the music world. With a strong background in choral music, Stephen has led diverse and thriving music programmes in two leading co-educational boarding schools and is looking forward to taking on the baton in sustaining and building on Shrewsbury's national- and indeed international- reputation for excellence in music.



Stephen writes, "It is an honour and a privilege to have been appointed as the new Director of Music at Shrewsbury School. John has done an exceptional job during his tenure of 31 years in the role; that he leaves a great legacy is quite the understatement. It is a great honour and privilege to be tasked with leading the department in this next chapter in Shrewsbury's musical life and I look forward to working with the pupils, staff and the wider community as we explore both Shrewsbury's traditions and new ways of fashioning music education."

Music-making is a huge part of what we do at Shrewsbury and it is widely regarded as one of the jewels in the Salopian treasure chest. We are excited to have appointed a worthy successor to John and are greatly looking forward to Stephen's arrival to Shropshire as he seeks to continue and develop our varied and thriving programme.

Shrewsbury U and Leadership - A Pupil Perspective

Thursday 11 June 2020

An update on Shrewsbury U and the ILM Leadership course from pupil Ben C (Rt, UVI)

Over the past four weeks, Upper Sixth Formers have been getting to grips with the ILM Young Leaders Award, a varied programme which includes topics such as mentoring, equality and diversity, teamwork and self-leadership. For the self-leadership aspect, all of the students have to set themselves a personal challenge to complete in a relative short amount of time. These have been quite varied, ranging from beating 10km personal best times, hitting 180 in darts, learning the Greek Alphabet, reading new literature, or indeed, simply keeping up to date with the coursework aspect of the course. All hold value if they present a genuine challenge, and Upper Sixth Former Ben C (Rt) came up with one of the more unique ones, when he informed his tutor that he was going to build his own chicken coop, from scratch, and buy five chickens to help provide eggs for his local community where he lives in Kenya. Ben was asked to write a short account of this and share some thoughts about the course.

After finding out that A levels were not going to take place for the first time ever I, along with the rest of the Upper Sixth, were slightly confused but also intrigued about the future, what exactly were the School going to organise for the remainder of our time at the School? I think it's fair to say the leavers of this year haven't been disappointed by the array of activities available to us. The Shrewsbury U initiative was the perfect way to get us used to the tempo of University life and what has certainly stood out for me is the ILM course that tutors have put together. This was aimed at making us better mentors, leaders and gaining a better understanding of how life working in the society we live in today will be like. The weekly talks from some incredible people has widened our view on the different aspects of leadership, be it within yourself or in a group or organisation. On behalf of my peers I would like to thank all the speakers.

The self-leadership module was for me the most interesting. My favourite part of this module was definitely the task we had to set ourselves and then complete. I chose to have a shot at raising chickens, much to the surprise of my family and Mr Wain! Significant research was put into the best layers, best breeders and what are the best conditions for chickens to live in. I also had to build a safe house for them to live and install a fence that would protect them from the leopard and mongoose we have in our Forrest. The project took about a day and a half with a little bit of help from the local carpenter and my family, we were able to get the task completed. The self-leadership skills that I learnt in the module did definitely help, resilience and self-discipline were key to getting the project done.



Thank you to all of the Upper Sixth who have engaged in the ILM programme. Ben's story is one of many that could have been selected to demonstrate the tremendous work so many of this cohort have completed in very testing conditions. Fingers crossed that fence is leopard-proof.....

New Shrewsbury School Director of Sport

Thursday 11 June 2020

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Andrew Pembleton as Director of Sport at Shrewsbury School from September 2020 following current incumbent Andrew Murfin's promotion to the role of Deputy Head Co-Curricular at Bryanston School.

Andrew Pembleton is currently Assistant Director of Sport at Millfield School, where he was also Acting Director of Sport for a year. Andrew was previously Head of PE at Marlborough College for six years; he has also been a boarding Housemaster at Wanganui School in New Zealand and before that he taught PE at Bromsgrove School. Andrew has a hockey, tennis and rugby union background but most significantly he is an experienced sports educationalist with a clear philosophy that matches Shrewsbury's values and ethos. Andrew is married to Tammy- a Primary School teacher- and they have two young boys, Jacob and Ruben.



Andrew writes, "I am incredibly excited and honoured to be joining Shrewsbury School in September 2020 and taking up the role of Director of Sport. In doing so I hope to carry on the good work that has led to Shrewsbury's enviable reputation in this area. Shrewsbury's sporting ethos- and indeed its whole person approach- is one that chimes with my own values, and I look forward to working with colleagues to ensure that the sporting experience for all pupils is truly exceptional."

With a wide-ranging programme and a proud history and heritage, sport continues to play an important role in a Salopian education, and we remain firmly committed to ensuring it is an area where our pupils can continue to thrive and develop. With his strong background in sport and leadership and an educational philosophy that is pupil-centred, Andrew is well-equipped to lead Shrewsbury School sport forward into an exciting new era, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming Andrew and his family to the Shrewsbury community.

Cricket Update - Fielding a Unique Programme

Friday 12 June 2020

An update on Cricket at Shrewsbury School during the Summer Term 2020 illustrating how our young players, in true Salopian style, have been embracing the challenge head on.

A unique programme for all our young cricketers, with a wide variety of content covering a range of developmental areas, has been provided to pupils during Summer Term 2020. Pupils across all age groups and ability levels have accessed all resources via our weekly diary, and interacting regularly via video conferencing, phone calls and emails.

Live Q and A sessions

We have hosted unique live Q and A session every week, each featuring an Old Salopian who has progressed to the professional game. James Taylor joined us for an incredible 90-minute session, taking in the highs and lows of his inspiring story.

Other guests have included Joe Leach, Ed Barnard, George Garrett and Ruaidhri Smith, each giving priceless advice to our young players.



Joe, formerly of Moser's Hall, is still thankful for the grounding he gained here, saying of his time at Shrewsbury "I have thought on many, many occasions, that Shrewsbury School, as an experience, without you even realising, sets you up really well for professional sport.". Questions in each session ranged from enquiries about the finer points of captaincy, through to requests for advice on dealing with pressure in the crucial moments.

James, who went on to represent England at Test and ODI level, still holds Shrewsbury close to his heart, describing his five years here as "honestly the best time of my life".



Mr Barnard, Teacher in Charge of Cricket, comments:

“When OS with first class and international cricket experience allow us, and our pupils, into their homes, their hearts and their mindsets, we all grow from the experience and glow in the warmth that they continue to show for the School in the past, present and future. It was our privilege to have them be part of our remote programme this summer.”

Technical skill work

Players have been provided with themed skill sessions each week, with several levels of progression built in, enabling pupils to test themselves while attempting batting, bowling and fielding drills in their own environments.



Online interactive Flipgrid pages have also been created for the players to participate in challenges and receive tailored, individual feedback from our team of full-time coaching staff.



Tactical Challenges

Budding captains have tackled several hypothetical scenarios, including, among others, leading the side through the last few overs of a T20 semi-final, and selecting a squad and outlining tactical plans for an end of season tournament.



You are the captain

Shrewsbury are defending 144 so in a T20 semi-final at Malvern. The hosts are 120-4 with 3 overs remaining.

Brief – win the game by restricting them to 143 or fewer.

State of play

Weather: Bright sunshine, light wind blowing straight down the ground towards the pavilion

Physical conditioning

In addition to the School's excellent strength and conditioning provision, our partners at Lancashire CCC have given us access to their "at home" cricket conditioning programme, covering speed work, stamina building sessions, and upper and lower body strength exercises that can all be completed without gym access.

In addition to the key features above, pupils have also enjoyed:

- Replays of Shrewsbury School matches from previous years



- Access to our online dashboard, containing indexed Shrewsbury School player highlights from the past three seasons
- Login details for Glamorgan CCC's remote offering, including drills, masterclasses, and tips from their professional coaching staff
- An online umpiring course from the ECB
- A guide to cricket groundsmanship and pitch preparation

Mr Barnard, Teacher in Charge of Cricket, added:

"Our remote programme led by Adam Shantry, Gwenan Davies and Will Hughes has allowed our cricketers, of all ability, to stay in touch with the game throughout the summer term. We were never going to replace the 'real thing' but we have tried our best to keep the boys and girls' skills, fitness and knowledge progressing. I think the staff have done a great job."





Upper Sixth Sports Awards

Sunday 14 June 2020

Congratulations to all Upper Sixth Sports Award 2020 winners!

Our Upper Sixth Sports Awards are the highest sporting accolade awarded at Shrewsbury, recognising the best of the best who through their participation have represented Salopian Sport at the top level – both in performance levels but also in embodying Salopian values.

Congratulations to all those nominated - and especially to the Award recipients.

Tony Barker Award (All-Round Sporting Excellence)

Arthur Garrett

Tony Barker Award (All-Round Sporting Excellence). Arthur has richly deserved this award as throughout his time at Shrewsbury he has been heavily committed to, and performed at the top level in, a number of sports – most notably Cricket, Fives and Football. In Fives he has been in one of the top pairs throughout the year groups; his cricket speaks for itself but, as 1st XI captain, you are a leader of highly-talented young men; moreover, alongside this, his dedication to football whereby as a A/B team footballer throughout the year groups he's progressed to represent the 1st XI in ISFA & Hudl League matches at senior level to highlight his progress and commitment in a range of sports.

Sportsman of the Year (Excellence in Sport - male)

Peter Clark

Sportsman of the Year (Excellence in Sport - male). Peter joined from Prestfelde with lots of technical talent but, at that time, not all the physical attributes of a top sportsman! He has well and truly flourished at Shrewsbury and has been a super role model in embracing the dedicated athlete scheme to develop as an all-round elite sportsman. He has led by example on the pitch with superb bowling, but also becoming a fine opening batsman and leader – it's clear to see why Worcester rate him so highly as a member of their academy. Peter has also been committed to Fives – winning a national title in his time at school, as well as representing Radbrook in a variety of sports. It's a shame the current situation hasn't enabled Peter to put the icing on the cake with another crack at national events in Fives and Cricket, but he has proven to be a top, top Salopian sportsman.

Sportswoman of the Year (Excellence in Sport - female)

Issy Wong

Sportswoman of the Year (Excellence in Sport - female). Words cannot express the impact Issy has had on Shrewsbury Sport and could have won any of the awards! Her cricket speaks for itself but representing England and being the first girl to take a wicket in the boys' 1st XI has broken glass ceilings. In addition to this, she has always been committed to your Fives – winning a national title in the mix – as well as representing the U14B (boys') football team as goalkeeper (as well as girls' hockey!). Very few have the ability to have the impact she has had but when you add in Issy's determination and commitment, she will have a lasting legacy at Shrewsbury. It is, of course, a great shame that she wasn't able to put the cherry on the cake with a run in national events in Cricket and Fives, but this doesn't spoil the impact she has had.

David Spencer Memorial Award (Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport)**Louis Nares**

David Spencer Memorial Award (for Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport). Louis has shown superb commitment to RSSBC throughout his 5 years at Shrewsbury! Winning VSW in all of his five years at Shrewsbury as well as, many peoples' personal highlight, making it into the 1st VIII as a 5th former in a crew that went onto the national semi-final. His ergo performances rank him as one of the strongest rowers Shrewsbury has produced so it's a great shame that the GB trials were cancelled as he would have made his mark on the national scene. It is also a great shame that he wasn't able to have a final go at NSR and HRR with this year's crew but this doesn't distract from his commitment and performances over the course of his time at Shrewsbury.

Elle Gurden Award (Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport)**Olivia Moir**

Elle Gurden Award (for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport): Olivia has played a large role in driving up the standard of the girls rowing at Shrewsbury through her aspirations and determination. She has raised the bar which, in turn, has driven all those in RSSBC to improve alongside her and strive for success. She was a key member of the girls' 1st Quad that were runners up at NSR and also made it to HRR – it is great shame we weren't able to go one better this year due to the lockdown. She was also on course for a GB place prior to the lockdown but, despite this, what she has achieved alongside her wider school role (as Head Girl) is truly impressive.

Sporting Sixth Form Entrant (Top Sixth Form Entrant Sportsman/woman)**Owen Jones**

Owen has been immense for the 1st XI football throughout his time at Shrewsbury – proving defensive stability and grit but also enabling our 'total football' style due to his ability on the ball. These attributes were rightly spotted by ISFA where his national representation was a just reward for his commitment.

Letters from Shrewsbury No. 11: Dear Upper Sixth Leaver

Tuesday 16 June 2020

The latest in the Headmaster's series of 'Letters from Shrewsbury'. A letter to 'Dear Upper Sixth Leaver'

Please follow the link to enjoy reading it:

[No. 11: 'Dear Upper Sixth Leaver'](#) (16 June 2020)

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

[No. 10: 'Dear Myrtle and Maud'](#) (2 June 2020)

[No. 9: 'Dear Video-Conferencing App beginning with Z'](#) (11 May 2020)

[No. 8: 'Dear Cricket'](#) (26 April 2020)

[No. 7: 'Dear Candidate'](#) (24 April 2020)

[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)

Summer Term Academic Update - 19 June 2020

Thursday 18 June 2020

An update from Maurice Walters, Deputy Head Academic.

The latter part of the Summer Term is usually an Academic Deputy's nightmare. Lessons are routinely truncated for cricket fixtures, field trips, athletics meets and Top Schools sessions are railroaded by a veritable suite of concerts, house barbeques and dramatic productions. How extraordinary it is, then, that as we stand on the cusp of the final fortnight of this exceptional period in the school's history, I find myself constantly yearning for these very moments of disruption.

It was the Athenian general Nicias who famously uttered the aphorism 'a city is men not walls'. We are so fortunate, at Shrewsbury, to be so closely bound to our beautiful location, nestled within the hills of Shropshire, close up against the Severn shore – but if this Summer Term has taught us anything, it is that 'Shrewsbury School' can and does exist in a very different form entirely.

The pupils have been nothing short of remarkable during the course of the last eight weeks. Adapting with enthusiasm, kindness and humility to a new model of learning, pushing themselves to maintain strong academic progress despite all the odds and taking advantage of all the innovations and structures that we have pushed forward during the last three months. Beyond this, however, they have not only developed new and extraordinary skills of independence in learning, they have also rallied around each other – finding ways of supporting and encouraging their peers in this moment of fragmentation. Our Third and Fifth Forms, now fully embarked on their GCSE and A Level experiences have shown the increased level of maturity and industry that these courses demand – thriving in the options they have chosen and developing that more self-motivated approach to study that is required at this level. Again, in doing so, collaboration and teamwork have played a vital role.

Particularly uplifting in this regard, has been the approach of the Fourth Form which combined a Business-centred appraisal of the Covid-19 pandemic with a programme that encouraged them to explore the natural world in their own contexts. The videos and presentations produced during those few days not only showcased the optimism and creativity of the pupils, but also offered further proof of the resilience and power of those bonds of friendship, even when stretched across continents and through time-zones.

This week, of course, the Lower Sixth have been taking their first tentative steps in exploring what life may hold for them when they reach the end of their journey through the school and, again, have distinguished themselves in asking prudent questions, taking advantage of expert advice and making that crucial link between the effort being invested in academic work now and the potential access to future pathways. The Upper Sixth are now reaching the end of the ILM and Shrewsbury U programmes and have risen to the challenges of both with typical aplomb. Such has been their energy and industry on both tracks that we feel very confident indeed that the Salopians entering Higher Education in the Academic Year 2020-21 will do so enthused, engaged and fully equipped to make the very most of that experience.

We look now, of course, towards the end of term and towards Speech Day and this will be an important moment of closure. It is right then to salute not only the remarkable creativity and fortitude of the Shrewsbury School teachers in delivering a remarkable programme of remote learning often in the most complex of circumstances, but also and especially the pupils who,

having been robbed of all the usual treats and excitements of a Salopian Summer have rallied around each other, have pushed themselves to achieve and have declared unequivocally that irrespective of location, Shrewsbury School is still very much Shrewsbury School.

Joining the National Youth Theatre - A Personal Account

Thursday 18 June 2020

Congratulations to Fourth Former Kate W, who has won a place in the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (NYT) this summer. Here she describes her journey.



“The National Youth Theatre is the reason why I’m an actor. It completely changed my life” - Matt Smith.
Finding out I had got a place with NYT was so significant for me... I knew how tough the competition was and though I had really hoped I would get a place, I was increasingly nervous as 6th May – results day – approached. It had felt a long wait!

NYT auditions all over the country in about 100 venues over several months; my own process started early this year when I first discussed it with Doc Brown, who was really encouraging and supportive as always. She helped me choose my monologue and helped me with coaching leading up to the audition, which for me was a Saturday in March in Manchester...the last weekend before lockdown!

There were about 40 of us at the audition aged between 14 to 25 and it consisted of a three-hour morning workshop with ensemble work, (such as having to anticipate and all fall to the floor at the same time-without talking!) devising, and different group activities, followed by individual interviews in the afternoon where we also performed our monologues with feed-back and direction. It was quite an intense day, but enjoyable; all my work with Doc Brown had helped me to feel confident and everyone was extremely friendly.

Before coming to Shrewsbury School, I had performed in some plays, but most of my experiences had been with musical theatre so the emphasis on drama, at school, was new to me, and it opened up lots of opportunities. I have really enjoyed being involved in the last two junior plays directed by Miss May and the emphasis on ensemble work has been very valuable – NYT

stress how they are looking to put together a company, so that ability to work together and in unison is extremely important.

My performance in the school play *Under Milk Wood*, in particular, provided me with the chance to take on many different roles within one performance and the way we used the stage was an exciting challenge. I also got to work with Doc Brown on 'Jesus Christ Superstar' which was absolutely brilliant, I loved every minute of that, and then *A Matter of Life and Death* - again, the level of detail and direction was something I hadn't experienced before and rehearsals were always fun and something to look forward to. I have also really enjoyed, through all the productions at Shrewsbury, how to view things through a director's eye, and coming up with interesting concepts to enhance the play.



I thought I would always be the musical theatre girl, but the more I did drama at Shrewsbury, the more I felt I was moving in that direction.

Drama GCSE with Miss May has developed my understanding of characterization and physical theatre which has been vital to help make me a better all- round performer. The opportunity to also participate in group and private dance lessons with Miss Archer has given me a great foundation for the wide use of physical theatre in NYT. Doc Brown has also helped and encouraged me while preparing for my RADA Shakespeare awards, and at that point I felt I was in a place where I was confident enough to give NYT a try.

The final turning point was being cast as Catherine in *A View From A Bridge* – it was the first time I had played a more mature role and I loved working with that set of people and realizing that as a group of students we could put on something really special.

NYT felt like the next step, and I'm so proud to be joining a group that has Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Derek Jacobi, Colin Firth, Matt Lucas and Catherine Tate amongst so many other amazing ex-students. So now for me I will have an intake course in the summer, via zoom due to circumstances, and I have already been involved in zoom talks with TV and film casting directors, a writer for television, and a director working within the RSC.

In the future, I hope I will be able to attend their residential courses and begin auditioning for NYT productions giving me the opportunity to work with influential creatives within the business.

Thank you, Shrewsbury, for the constant support and encouragement from all members of staff, and my Housemistress who is always so positive and reassuring.

Making Sense of Biology

Thursday 18 June 2020

A digital update from scientific YouTuber Mr Exham.

Once you get over the initial embarrassment of seeing yourself online, being an education YouTuber is a thoroughly rewarding experience. I can be going about my daily life as a teacher and get a notification of a comment on one of my videos like the one below.



How do you not have more subscribers!
You're actually the best, I love the way you break everything down into such simple concepts so that it is easy to understand, something my teacher at school never does! I have my biology GCSE in like 2 weeks and a bit, and I just want to say thank you so much as I have been watching your videos from the start of my GCSE course in year 10 and you have been such a huge help with making notes and becoming a grade 9 student in biology.

VB-03 • 49 minutes ago



I just finished my IB HL biology exam yesterday. I have (no joke) watched almost all of your videos because you explain everything SO well! I actually quoted word for word some of the things you mentioned in your videos on Paper 2 of my exam because you made everyone so easy to remember! Thank you so much for making your videos, they helped sooo much. I'm recommending you to all future seniors in my school!



It's a thrill to be able to impact students all over the world as well as the ones directly in front of me in the classroom, or more recently of course, on Zoom. One simple video can be seen by so many students for years to come. I have received thankful emails from homeschooling parents, fellow Biology teachers, students with long term absences due to illness and each time it gives me the incentive to keep making more videos. I uploaded my first video back in 2013 and now have almost 150 videos on the channel covering the entire of IGCSE Biology and good proportion of A level.

Understandably when lockdown started and schools closed, I saw a huge spike in my channel as teachers set my videos to be watched as part of their remote learning tasks. I have had over 300,000 views in this time, more than double what I had in the same period last year.

During lockdown my videos have been watched by people in over 130 different countries around the world and my subscriber count has shot up to over 13,000 people and 1.2 Million total views.

My most popular videos during lockdown are:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBJp3CCqrxg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFE1DfAlipo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaPiKZqQ4lk>

Over the last year in my role as Head of Digital Learning, I have made a lot of videos to help train teaching staff in the latest technology applications for education. These had been shared just amongst my colleagues internally but given my positive experience of putting my Biology content in the public domain I have now launched a second YouTube channel, **Mr Exham's EdTech** to help provide free training resources for teachers during this remote period and beyond. It has been great to hear that a few of our feeder prep schools have been using these videos to help with teacher training.

As more and more teachers have now started to create their own video resources and become comfortable in front of the camera, I would expect a real increase in high quality educational content on the platform.

—— Making Sense Of Biology ——

Mr Exham.com



www.youtube.com/mrexham



Darwin Science Competition 2020

Friday 19 June 2020

An update from Mr Wray on this year's Darwin Science Competition

The annual Darwin Science Competition ran in remote this term, with on-site plans scuppered by national school closure. It was incredible to see entries from much further afield in the UK than we would normally see join us in person for this competition; 21 teams ultimately entered, making a highly competitive field. The quality of answers across the board was very high and the breadth of knowledge demonstrated impressive.

Head of Science Outreach, David Wray presented the trophy and winning team's book prize via a video (see below) to all participants earlier this term.

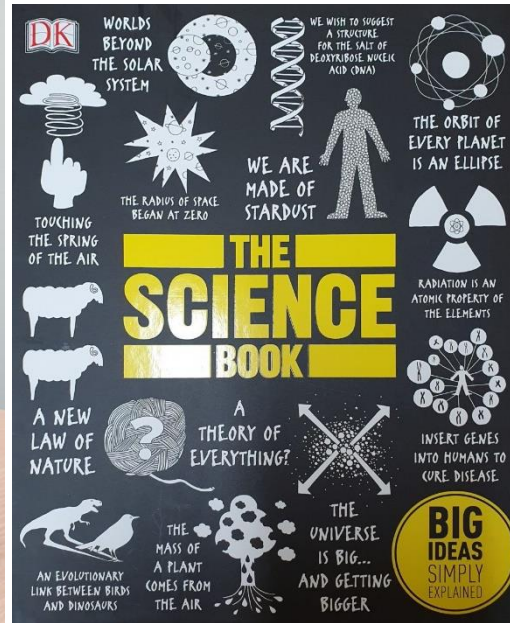
In Third place, we had a tie: Cothill House's "Woodpecker" Team made up of Morgan, Johnny, Tom and Sandy; and Prestfelde School's team of Issie, Marrie, Blaise and Ryan.

Second place was earned by the Packwood Haugh team of Johnnie, Ruifu, Gethin and Poppy - a very good effort indeed!

Finally, scoring 85 points out of a possible 104, first place in the Darwin Competition 2020 was awarded to one of two teams from Cargilfield School - well done to Venetia, Clemmie, Matthew and Seb (pictured below).



In due course, Cargilfield will receive their trophy and a copy of The Science Book for each member of the team.



Thank you to all the teachers who have made this competition possible by running video call quiz sessions with teams up and down the country.

I've got uni on my mind...

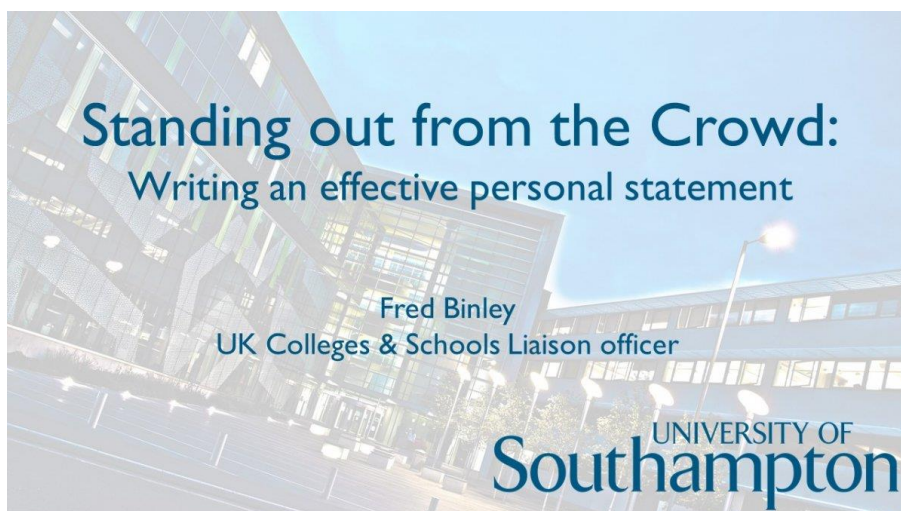
Friday 19 June 2020

An article from Mr Percival following University Week.

June has seen a change not just in the weather in Severn Stream, as the university winds have turned in the direction of the next cohort. As mentioned in previous newsletters, this week has seen the Lower Sixth embark on a week with dedicated time to help them think more deeply and in more detail about their next steps in as informed a way as possible. Each is at their own stage of that particular journey and so the purpose of the 20 or so sessions has been to encourage them to explore their options with greater focus.



Though the best part of my job is unquestionably the chance to discuss Salopians' future plans with them, it is important for them to hear from as wide a range of people as possible. The webinars from Warwick on picking course and university and Southampton on crafting a personal statement that stands out were both well-attended and well-received; the sheer number of questions kept the admissions tutors long after their presentations had ended.



Central to supporting our pupils are the Sixth Form tutors, whose individual and personal guidance has been invaluable, both in narrowing down focus and helping to create the first semblance of a personal statement. These conversations will continue into next term, where

further sessions will continue to help in decision making; hopefully firm foundations have been laid.

Fully appreciating that university is only one option for life after school, Mr Wain has offered specific guidance and information on the alternatives over the course of the week. This has been backed up by the daily Careers talks, which have provided illuminating insights into the various paths Salopians can take.

With a great deal of press coverage of how universities are reacting to current events, the Q&A sessions with university admissions officers specifically for parents seemed to be rather successful; as such, we intend to plan further events for the Autumn. Some overview notes covering the main points covered in the discussions can be found on the Parent Portal, as can recordings of the webinars.

Mr Percival

Pupil Excellence in Business 'Dragons' Den' Competition 2020

Friday 19 June 2020

An update from Mrs Pritchard on the Business Department's Summer Term Pupil Competition.


Prior to the lockdown the Business Department were excited to organise the first Lower Sixth Business Competition for the Summer Term in the style of the BBC2 programme *Dragons' Den*. However, such is life, a global crisis loomed, and a Hodgson Hall day event was not to be. Instead Mrs Pritchard organised a weekly Zoom activity for pupils in all years, cumulating with a grand finale this Tuesday.




With thanks to our judges Max McClure from Hays Recruitment (also a Radbrook Old Salopian), Jessica Barac (Revolicious), Alison Velacott (Highlight PR) and Adam Pritchard (Pomegreat) for their enthusiasm, support and insightful questions.

Candela (4th form, Mosers Hall) and Alice C (4th form, The Grove) put forward a strong presentation for her Suter product, a new 'all round' support for athletes with pulled muscles, this prize won Best Effort alongside Adrian L's (U6th, Ingrams) Cushi chair, the chair built for all day comfort and support especially during the Covid crisis.

The Cushi®



- The Cushi® Ambition
 - Soft knitted back
 - Breathable cushioned
 - Height adjustable arm
 - Ergonomic design
 - Synchro-tilt mechanism
 - Durable aluminium base
 - Contact lining
 - Foldable for easy storage
 - Supportive headrest
 - Available in Black, Grey, blue and Rose red.
 - Available in three different sizes



Steven B (5th form, Ingrams), Lem M (5th form, Ingrams) and Yuhi N (4th form Ingrams) won Best Service Prize for their 'Point Zero Catering' product – dinner parties with different themes held in your own home, tailored towards the High End market with premium prices and according quality.



Theo P (5th form Radbrook) and James M (5th form, Severn Hill) won Best Product Award for their Multo V – multifunctional pen. A cunning solution to the weighted down blazer pocket this product was a five in one stationery cure aimed at a student's budget and fitting many student needs.

The Best Overall idea prize which also had the best presentation was won by Seb (L6th, Ingrams) and Winston (L6th, Ingrams) for their well-researched 'Twistie' ice-cream vending machine idea. Perfect for 24hour ice cream needs and a suitable investment for all ice cream providers, especially for countries with a warmer climate. The two Dragons who work in the Food and Drink industry were highly impressed because nothing like this has ever been seen in the British Isles and recent research results suggest the British no longer just eat ice creams in the summer!

All students worked exceptionally hard, showed strong insight, and presented their ideas passionately. This was demonstrated in their strong responses to questions, the detail provided in their promotions and their stamina throughout a two-hour Zoom judging competition at the end of a busy day full of lessons.

A thoroughly rewarding activity. Well done to all involved!

Junior House Debating Final - Summer Term 2020

Friday 19 June 2020

Mr Mackridge reports on a hotly contested final adjudicated by Jonah Surkes.

Not a competition to be stopped by this Summer Term in remote, the prestigious Junior House Debating final took place in remote on Thursday 18th June.



The Grove (proposition) faced off against Severn Hill (opposition) over the compelling motion "This house believes the age of globalisation has done more harm than good."

The opening round of impassioned speeches were delivered by Sapna Chudasama and Ryan Mupesa and duly set the bar high for a top-quality debate in front of a sizable (remote) audience.



Daisy Scott and Sam Unsworth extended the cases for both proposition and opposition before Eva Hall and Felix Kershaw wrapped up the opening rounds of verbal sparring. Superb summaries were delivered by Sapna and Sam before our the final, nerve-wracking, call was made by our esteemed, independent judge.



We were delighted to welcome Jonah Surkes, President of the internationally renowned Cambridge Union in 2018, to adjudicate the result and he was kind enough to provide detailed, extensive feedback to each participant. Having hosted the likes of Bernie Sanders and Piers Morgan at the Cambridge Union, Jonah was complimentary about the standard of debating on show in this hotly contested final!

Following feedback, Jonah duly announced this year's **Junior House Debating victors - The Grove!**

Many congratulations to The Grove team and well done to Severn Hill for their impressive showing throughout the competition.

It was great to witness both teams so well engaged in the art of Debating in remote and a great reminder of the competitiveness and energy associated with the Shrewsbury house competitions.

Orientation for new students and parents in Hong Kong on 11th July 2020

Wednesday 24 June 2020

FSSHK will host an Orientation session in Hong Kong for the new students and parents to get acquainted with one other as well as with the existing Salopian families.

This year, we are delighted that Mr. Martin Cropper, Senior Master and Director of Admissions, will join our gathering via zoom to answer any question you may have. A few existing students will also share their school lives and experiences studying at Shrewsbury School.

Details are as follows:

Date : 11th July 2020 (Saturday)

Time : 2:40pm – 5:00pm (registration starts at 2:15pm)

Venue : The Chinese Banks' Association Ltd.,

5/F South China building,

1-3 Wyndham Street, Hong Kong

(Light refreshments will be served)

Fees: HK\$200 per person

Membership Fee for joining FSSHK: HK\$700 per family

Invitations have already been sent to new parents by emails. RSVP by 30th June 2020.

We welcome all existing Salopian families and Old Salopians to help out with the event. For enquiries, please feel free to contact Ms Betty Ip (mobile 90369499), Ms Loretta Fong (mobile 97880004), Ms Stella Fung (mobile 92211365) or Ms Brenda Lau (mobile 96336711).

We look forward to seeing you there.

FSSHK Executive Committee