

Inaugural SDC Yorkshire Tour

Tuesday 1 June 2021

We had a most enjoyable day which all of us want to repeat next year

On Sunday 30th May, the Hamiltons, the Morrells and the Vanhoonackers set off for the first SDC Yorkshire Tour with an MG B Roadster, a Mercedes SL320 and an Audi e-tron. Starting at the Old Tile Factory on the South Bank of the Humber, we started with a small feast of bacon sandwiches and muffins kindly prepared by Annalie. Everybody was handed a road map (see attached) and we left separately so each car would not just follow the first one but work out the instructions on their own. We all took a wrong turn at some point or another (even the organisers...) but got quickly back on track and arrived at the planned stops within minutes of each other. We crossed the glorious Humber Bridge, drove via Beverley where the free roaming cows in the Westwood brought several of us to a standstill, along the Yorkshire Wolds all the way to beautiful Sledmere where we stopped for an aperitif at the Triton Inn. We then continued our tour via Fridaythorpe and Givendale (with spectacular views) to finish at Darwin Escapes near Pocklington, for a mid-afternoon lunch in a basking sun on the terrace overlooking the East-Yorkshire countryside. All cars ran well and apart from the many burnt faces, necks and arms, we had a most enjoyable day which all of us want to repeat next year.

As ever.

Michel, Annalie and Sebastian (Ingrams)

London Summer Party 2021

Wednesday 2 June 2021

Thursday 24th June

Covid rules allowing, the Salopian Club London Summer Party will take place from 6.00pm on Thursday 24th June, to coincide with the Saracens v Shepherd's Bush Cricket Club match, at the SBCC ground at 38 Bromyard Avenue, London W3 7BP. A free bar (beer and wine) will operate until 8.30pm and there will be burgers available on repayment. Cricket, drinks, Salopians and summer (!) – what more could one ask for? RSVP, if attending, to oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk. All OS, spouses and partners are most welcome.

Great Britain U25 Rifle Team

Thursday 3 June 2021

Hattie Brammwell (EDH 16-18), coached when at school and currently by Tom Rylands (Ch 73-77), has been appointed Vice-Captain of the Great Britain U25 Rifle team

Here's what Harriet had to say: "It's an absolute privilege to be made Vice-Captain of the GBU25 Rifle Team to South Africa. I'm really excited to be working alongside Charlie and Tom, and I'm looking forward to seeing the new talent that is rising through the ranks.

SDC SW Tour - Sunday 6th June

Tuesday 8 June 2021

Three counties in three hours!

After a glorious sunny week it was mildly irritating that heavy rain bearing clouds hung over the entrance to Sherborne Castle for the 10.15am start of the SDC South West tour. However it didn't prevent the 11 entrants and their 6 cars all arriving in excellent time for us to set off through mellow yellow stoned walls of Sherborne's streets and out onto swooping B roads through Dorset's superb countryside and on up to Somerset's historic small towns of Castle Cary and Bruton(now the trendiest place in the county!). Onwards towards Frome(birthplace of Jenson Button)our perfectly sized convoy progressed with Nigel Edwards(the organiser with his navigator Shine) leading in his leaf green Austin Healey Frogeye followed by the superb red Jaguar XK150 drophead of David and Penny Kempton,the gorgeous British Racing Green Healey 3000 of Bill and Sue Dornan, the rare BMW 635 CSi manual of Doug Thring, the substitute Saab(for their 1934 Alvis Speed 20)of Jonty and Rose Hollinshead and the regal and stunning 1933 Rolls Royce 20/25 Sedan of Miles and Jane Preston bringing up the rear! We then headed south through Maiden Bradley and Kingston Deverill and up across spectacular Mere Down, Wiltshire scenery at its best, and to our lunch stop in Mere. Fully replete we headed to one of The National Trust's greatest gardens at Stourhead where we walked off the lunch amongst the stunning rhododendrons and magnificent trees. And to cap it all Miles had arranged for his friends whose family had owned Stourhead to give us a splendid tea and tour of their garden, outdoor small scale steam train and storage facility for their quality classic cars and clients' cars. What an ending! What a happy way to meet up and at the same time exercise our classics! And the rain kept away!

Rain doesn't dampen spirits of Third Form Rowers

Tuesday 8 June 2021

On Saturday, May 8th, the third form rowers had their second opportunity to get out in small boats at Bomere Pool.



The persistent rain did little to dampen spirits and the sessions have seen the newest recruits to the Boat Club making significant progress in their first month of rowing.



The added bonus of doughnuts and hot chocolate helped everyone warm up when they came in out of the rain or in some cases, out of the lake.



Dementia Exhibition at Saatchi Gallery

Wednesday 9 June 2021

Posted on behalf of Kit Oates (PH '00-'05)

I teamed up with charity Dementia Friends and the Saatchi Gallery to create a series of images to enhance awareness and celebrate those living with dementia. The images are on display 4th June - 3rd october in the Saatchi Learning Gallery, alongside a fantastic retrospective of the photographer JR, of who I am a big fan and recommend you go see. www.kitoates.com

Amazing efforts from pupils for Junior School Essay Prize

Wednesday 9 June 2021

The winner of this year's Junior School Essay Prize has been announced as Luke W (SH, IV).

Head of Academic Enrichment, Harry Mackridge, said: "The 2021 Junior Essay Prize witnessed a slightly changed format to reflect the unusual circumstances of the year! Pupils were provided a range of questions covering core syllabus and super-curricular concepts and challenged to respond in no more than 500 words.

"The prize was open to all Third and Fourth Form pupils with an encouraging turnout reflecting significant academic engagement in the school community. Enjoy Luke's winning entry."



One day humans will have to leave earth in order to survive. What physical barriers will need to be overcome to make this a success?

"There is a hesitant acceptance that the human race has left an irreparable footprint on this planet and its delicate ecosystem. The population is exponentially expanding, and recently, rapid industrialisation, pollution, and deforestation to name a few have been asphyxiating the finely balanced climate. Physicists have been mulling over a resolution, and colonising another planet has become a tenable consideration.

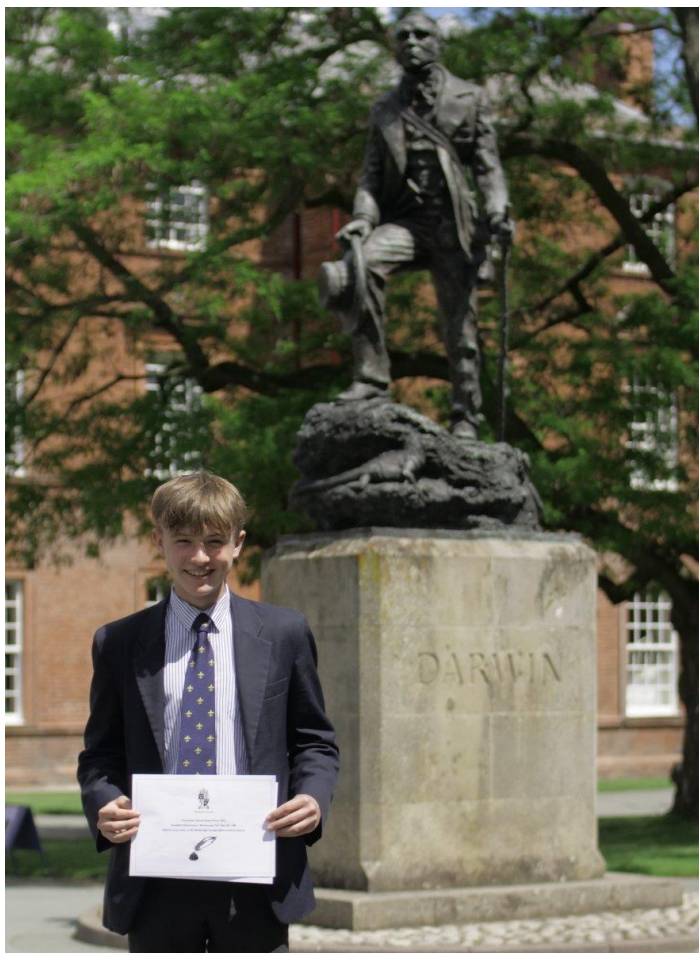
Deciding on a suitable planet would be the first confrontation; we could either select a rocky planet which lies within the solar system, or pinpoint an earth-like exoplanet. The latter inevitably involves a formidable distance, with the nearest star being over four light years away, but if analysis is correct, it could harbour water, and guarantee a pivotally manageable framework for the continuity of humanity. Travelling to a more proximal planet provides a more plausible distance, but would introduce a problematic environment.

Considering the barriers for Mars to begin with, although the gravity may be not too dissimilar, the terrain is arid, the weather is unpredictable, and the atmosphere composition is fatal to humans. Installing pressurised buildings would promise regular ventilation, but transporting parts would be cumbersome, and reaching escape velocity from Earth would prove onerous. Liquid water must also be created through chemical reactions, either purified for drinking or redistributed to vegetation. To conserve the scarcity of water, a synthetic water cycle would have to be established.

As for the obstacle of power and nourishment, a transparent roof could exploit the sun's oppressive heat, to aid the growth of renewable sustenance. Our star could also be used to generate solar power; the cumulative force of a dust storm could additionally be trapped through a network of robust turbines either exposed directly above ground, or manipulating the gusts to a more protected alignment of turbines underground.

If instead physicists decided to locate a world that twins earth, light years dissociate humanity from this pedestalsed proposal. Modern day rocket propulsion would take thousands of years to even cover one light year, concluding that chemical fuel is insufficient. There are two alternatives: either the power source is ground-based, or situated onboard. The craft could use nuclear propulsion, preferably fusion, which yields profoundly more, but has not been tamed yet. Contrarily, ground-based lasers could precisely point at a reflective sail on the vessel, spurring it through the vacuum of space, but the accuracy and potency is yet to be surmounted.

In conclusion, not only is radical advancement required in the preparation, and in the adaption following colonisation, but a discernment must be made. Do we naively wander through the vacuum of space, to acquaint ourselves with a distant sibling of earth, or do we engineer our neighbour? Mother nature is knocking on death's door, and we are holding tightly onto her hand. Mountainous advancements loom above humanity, but incessant progress will unshackle us, and humanity may live on."



Arthur Dunn Final 29th May 2021

Wednesday 9 June 2021

Salopians went into the final brimming with confidence.

Coming off the back of a magnificent semi-final victory (3-2) vs Kings College Wimbledon, Salopians went into the final brimming with confidence. A real club day out with a coach full of fans departing Clapham Junction. Special thanks to the Old Salopian Club for generously funding the coach.

May bank holiday weekend pulled out all the stops with the weather setting up a fantastic day out for all involved. Captain Ollie Brown selected a very strong side consisting of three university students (Toby Pegge, Dan Humes and George Pearce).

The match started in possibly the worst possible way 10 minutes in. Salopians tried playing out from the back, with a pass intercepted and capitalised on by the front three of Forest. 1-0 down. A first half to forget as Forest put two more past the stunned Salopian outfit. 3-0 HT.

A Rafa Benítez inspired team talk kicked the team into gear. The team had more energy, better decision making and were so much braver on the ball. Momentum is a funny thing in football and somehow, two penalties later (both converted by Raul Alexis) we were back in it with 25 minutes left! 3-2!

With newly invigorated confidence it would have to take something special to stop the Salopians from coming back and that's what sadly happened. A wonderful strike from outside the box all but confirmed victory with 10 minutes to play. 4-2. A valiant effort and one that sets up the club for next season where we hope to be promoted back into the top division. The team exceeded expectations this year in the cup and the team although disappointed, can take great pride in their achievements.



First foray onto the stage for Third Form in *The Crucible*

Thursday 10 June 2021

The Crucible, first performed in 1953, is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century.

The play is both a scrupulously researched historical exploration of the Salem witch trials and a powerful allegory of the anti-communist movement of the McCarthy era. Its author, Arthur Miller, like many other writers and actors, was investigated for 'un-American activities' and experienced first-hand the hysteria and paranoia surrounding the perceived threat of 'reds under the bed'. The play draws chilling parallels between Miller's own situation and that of the early American settlers.



It tells the story of Abigail Williams, a vindictive small-town girl who seduces a flawed but honourable farmer, John Proctor. When his wife Elizabeth discovers the affair, Abigail launches a vengeful plan to usurp her by having her condemned as a witch. As the village is swept by rumours of witchcraft, more and more people turn on their neighbours. Miller was always clear that the witchcraft at the centre of the play was invented and imagined, saying that, 'the tragedy of *The Crucible* is the everlasting conflict between people so fanatically wedded to this orthodoxy that they could not cope with the evidence of their senses.'



This was a challenging play for the Third Form in their first foray onto the stage of the Barnes theatre, but a challenge that they carried off with aplomb. Meadow P (MSH) was compelling as Abigail, capturing both her petulance and her vulnerability. The object of her unrequited affections was played with brooding intensity by Daniel O (Rt), whilst Clara G (G) gave a mature and nuanced performance as the wronged wife, Elizabeth. William H (Rb) was splendidly dislikeable as the petty and tyrannical Reverend Parris, and Loic D-B (Ch) brought both gravitas and rare flashes of humour to the role of Danforth, the pompous governor of the province who finds himself tasked with investigating the allegations of witchcraft.



Abigail's cronies can often merge into an ill-defined mass of screaming girls, but Maddi L (G), Clemmy S (G), Nyah W (M) and Maggie C (M) created distinct personalities for the children who find themselves in a heady position of power. Isla B (M), in particular, was superb as Mary Warren, the one girl who attempts – albeit ineffectively – to stand up for the truth. The scene in the courtroom, where she confronts Abigail about her lies only to fall prey to them herself, was extremely powerful.



Particular thanks must go to Luke W (SH, IV), who stood in at the last minute to take on the role of Francis Nurse from Oliver C (R); his unflappable calm and good humour were a huge asset to the cast. We wish Oliver the very best for his recovery.



Dr Helen Brown

Director of Drama

Latest edition of Fire Engine showcases pupils' 'inspiring' poetry

Thursday 10 June 2021

Members of the Creative Writing Society have published the latest edition of Fire Engine, a wonderful anthology of poems entitled 'Submerge'.

This year's edition has been the brainchild of Eustacia F (M, LVI), who has been a stalwart of the creative writing group since the Fourth Form.

Eustacia said: "This year we received a great many inspiring pieces from all year groups on subjects ranging from natural discord to mental chaos. It has been a pleasure reading and editing the works, and thanks to everyone who have contributed. I hope sincerely that the readers would enjoy the finished product."



Creative Writing Group - Georgina C (G, LVI) Poppy S (MSH, LVI) Charlotte H (M, LVI) and Eustacia F (M, LVI)

Director of Creative Writing, James Fraser-Andrews said: "Eustacia is fast becoming an assured writer whose talents have been acknowledged in prestigious national competitions such as the BBC Young Writers. I have been very impressed by the way that she and the group have worked in a genuine co-curricular way by responding to a variety of activities that have included exploring the Shropshire countryside, Ludlow castle, the experience of two lockdowns and renewed intellectual and expressive energies in the return to school.

"Since coming back the group have embarked on meaningful creative conversations with the wonderful work by Salopian artists, iconic classical music, and, as ever, responded creatively to other writers' work, from the medieval period to contemporary film.

"Coming after the astonishing quality of last year's pandemic poetry collection focusing on the natural beauty and mutability of the school site (which is about to go into an unprecedented second print-run such is its popularity: copies therefore still available), this new sixth volume testifies to the power of creativity that allows us to embrace, reflect upon and live through such moments as we have found ourselves in.

"While the turbulence of uncontrollable events may whip up a storm on the surface, in the new anthology we can enjoy the spectacular and intricate coral reefs of imagination that can lurk iridescent below. As Matthew Arnold's fabulous miniature poem has it:

*Below the surface-stream, shallow and light,
Of what we say we feel – below the stream,
As light, of what we think we feel – there flows
With noiseless current strong, obscure and deep,
The central stream of what we feel indeed.”*

Free copies of Submerge are available from the library.



Saracens v School XI

Wednesday 16 June 2021

On Friday 28th May a young Saracens side returned to play the School XI.

Arthur Garrett (Ch 2015-2020), Saracens captain on the day, writes:

The School side won the toss and batted solidly for 242 for 7 on an all-round good cricket pitch, with JJ Fielding batting especially well. In hindsight the Saracens team should have chased down the high score; however, a combination of good bowling and some interesting batting cost us the win and we were all out for 211. Regardless, it was great to be back on site and see so many familiar faces.

Winners announced for this year's Shrewsbury School Academy Awards

Thursday 17 June 2021

The winners of the inaugural Shrewsbury School Academy Awards were announced last week in a glamorous award ceremony.

Hosted by Deputy Head of Co-Curricular Peter Middleton, the award ceremony recognised our pupils' hard work during the One Day Film Festival weekend in Lent Term, where they were able to act, edit and produce some impressive short films.



From Western-inspired films to Tarantino-esque crime capers, there certainly was something for everyone to enjoy.



A dozen Shrewsbury School staff were appointed as members of the academy to judge the films on show and pick their winners, as well as to help announce the champions, which were:

- Best Actor - Anson P (O, IV)
- Best Actress - Alice L (MSH, IV)
- Best Supporting - Actor Brad K (R, IV)
- Best Supporting Actress - Emma D (G, III)
- Best Staff Cameo - Maureen Donahue (G)
- Best Set Design - Ingram's
- Best Costume Design - Severn Hill
- Best Cinematography - Mico X (EDH, IV)
- Best Film Editing - Marco C (O, LVI)

- Best Visual Effects - Napat S (MSH, IV)
- Best Makeup & Hairstyling - Mary Sidney Hall
- Best Screenplay - Oldham's Hall
- Best Picture - Oldham's Hall

Deputy Head of Co-Curricular, Peter Middleton, said “The pupils were brilliant during the One Day Film School weekend and produced films that impressed the judges for their creativity, imagination and flair. The inaugural Awards Night presentation was great fun and provided a bit of glitz and glamour as we revealed the winners in the 13 categories. Well done to all the winners and likewise all who took part!”



Pupils impress judges in tourism Enterprise Challenge

Thursday 17 June 2021

This week saw the finale of the Fifth Form Enterprise Challenge.

Organised by Head of Futures, Chris Wain, our Fifth Form groups presented ideas on how to increase tourism across towns in Shropshire. Among the judging panel were members from ShrewsburyBID, Marches LEP and the School's own Director of Marketing and Communications, Glyn Ferriday, alongside the High Sherriff of Shropshire, Tony Morris-Eyton.



Sapna C (G, V), a member of the winning team, has reflected on the competition:

“Early this week we took part in an enterprise challenge that was set by the High sheriff of Shropshire. Each team was allocated a town within the county and the overall task was to present to a panel of judges our ideas on how to increase tourism in that particular town.

“My team was allocated the idyllic town of Oswestry and we had to attempt to show the judges how we would go about increasing tourism there. We first had to research the area and try to find a selling point. We decided to target city dwellers and tried to advertise Oswestry as this hidden gem. We also focused on the fact that it was a convenient stopover for those traveling to Wales. On the next day we had to design a poster and leaflet, write a blog, create a social media campaign and film an advert as well as coming up with a five-minute presentation. All the groups were then pitted against each other in the semi-finals where we had to show our ideas to the allocated judges. The winners of the semi- finals, (Oswestry, Craven Arms and Market Drayton), then when through to the finals to show their presentations to all the judges, where we as Oswestry won.

“I found this experience to be rather constructive and beneficial as it required us to work in small groups and it enabled us to improve our entrepreneurial skills as we had to carry out a lot of research and pinpoint the best-selling points of the town. Furthermore, this challenge also improved our time management skills as we were only given a certain amount of time to complete each task. This taught us how to be concise and how to clearly get our points across. Moreover, it was also very useful in enhancing our public speaking skills and we were able to learn how to best present an idea. It is something that I would definitely enjoy doing again in the future as it was an amusing way to develop new skills.”

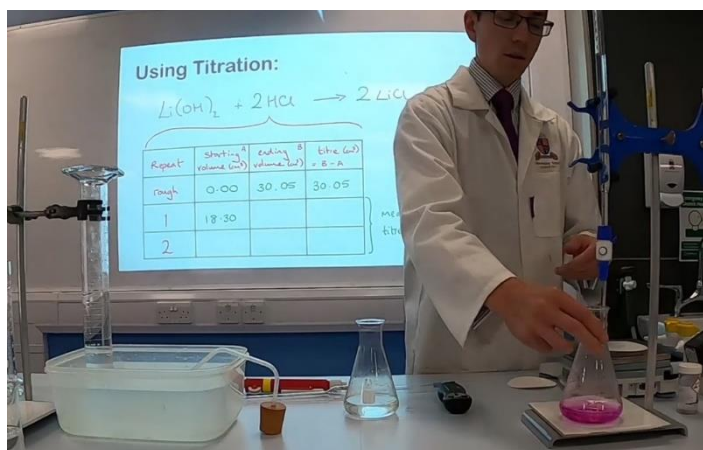
STEM Potential – One Year In!

Thursday 17 June 2021

Saturday 12th June marked the final session of the inaugural academic year for Shrewsbury School STEM Potential, with sessions on scientific research into mosquito-borne diseases and the technology and biochemistry behind vaccines discussed.

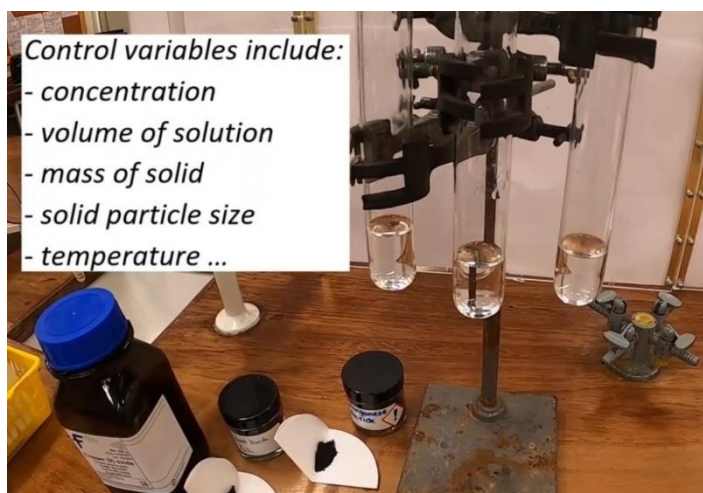
Working with state schools across Shropshire, the aims of the programme include widening access to top universities in the STEM subjects and raising aspiration amongst talented young people to pursue qualifications and careers in technical fields, through a bespoke programme of science and maths masterclasses and workshops.

Working with Oundle School and Imperial College London to inspire a new generation of scientists and mathematicians, this year has seen the first Year 10 cohort complete a course in remote. STEM Potential sessions have and will continue to extend the opportunities these students may experience during their formative GCSE years, as well as offering advice in areas such as careers and university applications thereafter.



Building upon the excellent teaching at their respective schools, STEM Potential facilitates students from different areas and backgrounds meeting and working together and enables them to access additional coordinated support from experts in a wide range of fields at Shrewsbury School, Oundle and Imperial. The range of the offering in remote this year has been remarkably broad, with teachers from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy and Maths all contributing either GCSE, extension or research-based content for students to engage with on Saturdays throughout the year.

With 'covid gains' in mind, working in remote has also enabled the Shrewsbury cohort to join Imperial-led sessions, including a home-made theremin tutorial, with practical physics and chemistry material posted to individuals' houses beforehand. There have also been evening tutoring sessions online with the Imperial College London STEM ambassadors – invaluable opportunities to have questions answered, not just about GCSEs but also about university life and course, with current 2nd and 3rd Year undergraduates at Imperial.



While September should see the in-person programme resume, this remote-working and close-knit collaboration between the three centres is set to continue in order to keep raising the bar within the programme. Applications are already being received for joining STEM Potential in Year 10 next year (deadline 28th June), while our current group will continue in Year 11. Eligible students attend state schools in the local region and in particular this programme has facilitated deepening partnership with the Marches Academy Trust, while new schools are also coming on board next year.

You can find out more about applying here:

<https://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/stempotential>

Mr Peter Middleton, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular), appointed Headmaster of Oswestry School from January 2022

Thursday 17 June 2021

Staffing News

Leo Winkley, Headmaster, Shrewsbury School comments:

“We are all delighted at the tremendous news that Mr Peter Middleton has been appointed Headmaster of Oswestry School from January 2022.”

“Since joining Shrewsbury in 2008, Peter has been Housemaster of Rigg’s Hall and Master in Charge of The Hunt, before becoming Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) in September 2016. Peter has led with great loyalty, energy and creativity. It is an excellent thing for Shrewsbury to be producing leaders who do a brilliant job and move on to promoted roles.”

“Peter will make an outstanding Head and I thank him for his wonderful service to Shrewsbury School.”

Peter Middleton, Deputy Head Co-Curricular added:

“For the past 13 years, Shrewsbury School has been far more than just a place of work for me; it has been a home and a family.”

“I count it a great privilege to have worked alongside such brilliant and committed colleagues, to have taught, coached and tutored such wonderful pupils and likewise to have had the chance to get to know so many parents, Old Salopians, and Governors. I shall greatly miss being part of such a special community.”

“I will, of course, not be far away, and I’m delighted that we shall remain close neighbours when I join Oswestry School in January, a move that we are very excited about. For now, I am very much looking forward to the term ahead and having the opportunity to say farewell properly before we go.”

Salopian Drivers' Club

Friday 18 June 2021

Shropshire Inaugural Tour

Saturday 12th June heralded the third SDC Regional Tour, which followed last month's Yorkshire/Humberside drive and the West Country event the week previously. Our Hon. Secretary, Alex Aldous, led the crew of 16, comprising past and present Salopians and school staff, through a moderately challenging route that covered over 100 miles of mainly south Shropshire countryside. Cars present included a BMW 125i, a pair of MGBs, a Morris Minor 1000 convertible, a Bentley Turbo R and a Ferrari 458. No vehicle (or Salopian) broke down in the scorching June heat and everybody enjoyed a decent drive that included typically breathtaking scenery, decent food, the occasional sheep and great company. The Surrey Hills group is hosting the next SDC regional tour, scheduled for this Saturday.



London Summer Party at the Saracens v Shepherd's Bush Cricket Match

Friday 18 June 2021

Change of date

The London Summer Party, to coincide with the Saracens v Shepherd's Bush cricket match and originally planned for Thursday 24th June, has now been postponed until 5.30pm on Thursday 5th August at Shepherd's Bush Cricket Club, 38 Bromyard Avenue, London W3 7BP.

Beer and wine will available on the Salopian Club from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and there will be burgers on repayment. We would be delighted to see any Salopians there.

Nick Jenkins
Director

Third and Fourth Form get out and about for Outdoor Week

Friday 18 June 2021

It's been a week full of serious fun for our Third and Fourth formers as they enjoyed all the activities that this year's Outdoor Week had to offer.

Outdoor Week is a major part of the Salopian calendar and takes both these year groups out of the classroom on a combined expedition and multi-activity programme. Pupils spend half the week in the Shropshire countryside undertaking an independent walking expedition and three varied days of group work, such as community projects, a conservation day and an activity competition day.



This year has seen our pupils travel across the county, with two-day, 35km expeditions starting in Habberley in South Shropshire, assault courses being conquered at Conover Activity Centre and creative bush craft enjoyed in Crickheath with Shropshire Wildlife Trust members, where they added to a stone wall that has been constructed by generations of Salopians.



Back at the school site, our Eco-Committee created a Pollinators Garden to provide an environment for bees, pupils enjoyed willow weaving and spent time preparing for their expedition, ensuring their tents were in-tact and routes were organised.



Our Salopians also assisted Shropshire Council with installing a user-friendly gate for the community along a footpath in the town, students visited the Barnabus Community Centre to help spruce it up prior to the Bell Vue Arts Festival Open Day and a number of pupils visited The Shewsy as part of the Outdoor Week programme.



Stuart Cowper, Head of Partnership and Community Engagement, said: “We’ve seen our pupils actively engaged in a range of worthy volunteering projects, both on site and in the community more widely this week.

“Students have been working hard down at the Barnabus Centre and Food Bank+, where we tend to help annually as part of Outdoor Week with this or similar work – it’s just one of many threads in the work we do together in partnership.

“Along with many of our other activities, this meaningful partnership work and wider volunteering for the community in and around school is all part of the Salopian experience.”



Director of Activities, Nick David, added: “What I’m really pleased about is the sense of fun the boys and girls are getting out of this - I think they need some fun in these times.

“We’ve been really pleased with how Outdoor Week has gone and I think we’ve succeeded in providing some really strong memories for the Third and Fourth formers who have taken part this year.”



Success for Shrewsbury at National Schools' Fives Championships

Friday 18 June 2021

In a normal year, many Salopians would have played in the National Schools' Championships in the last week of the Lent term. For two consecutive years this biggest event of the fives season has not been able to happen.

Nonetheless we've still hoped to get a champion for each of these cohorts, so with eased restrictions (notably for outdoor sport and for movement around the country) we set a date for Monday and Tuesday of half term.

With some of the top seeded pairs in both competitions unavailable on those dates, the competitions were to be qualifying for a later finals day, the date of which remains to be confirmed. Our top senior pairs had been on court whenever time and other sports training allowed, so were ready, and Peter Clark (Rb, 2019) had been coaching for us last term and on court fairly frequently so was well set to nurse Arthur Garrett (Ch, 2019) back into form over the Tuesday.



On both days there was a relatively small but high-quality field: on Monday 9 pairs competed in two groups. No match would allow the players to relax and, after a cool wet May, temperatures suddenly shot to almost Mediterranean levels; this in combination with a glass roof made for a physically pretty tough day. Our pairs though, are nothing if not fine athletes and the day was going to be equally difficult for the opposition.

Both pairs made it out of their groups to knock-out stages, in which the first place from one group played fourth place from the other, and second played third. Shrewsbury's second pair - Nick A (SH, LVI) and Jago A (SH, LVI) - met the St Olave's 1 pair, who had gone through second after losing to Shrewsbury 1 - Rory M-O (PH, LVI) and Digby T-W (I, LVI). This was just too great a challenge as Nick's cold (on the hottest day of the year?) kicked in – though they battled honourably it was not to be. Rory and Digby, meanwhile, had relished the testing group games and found their best for the knockouts.



The final knockout round for the day saw two pairs undefeated: Shrewsbury 1 had taken St Olave's' position in the top seeding spot and played Eton, while Olave's 2 now faced St Olave's 1. Eton, after their comeback in a long match against Harrow, played Shrewsbury 1, who had beaten them in the group stages. Eton had been gaining on confidence and consistency and the first game proved a real battle, Shrewsbury eventually edging it 14-12. At this stage, Eton's hard work to this point started to catch up with them and they were visibly less able to chase down retrieves and change direction. The rallies therefore increasingly fell in Shrewsbury's favour: after long battles for any points at the start of game 2, Shrewsbury put together some dominant phases of play and took the second and third games by margins which looked more comfortable on paper than the battle for them had seemed, watching it live. In the other match, St Olave's 1 came through (less comfortably) against their 2nd pair, meaning that Digby and Rory were the only pair unbeaten on the day.

If the 2021 Schools' Open had been delayed, the 2020 had been in a back corner of the freezer for a few months. But if ever there was a day to defrost it quickly, Tuesday 1st of June was it: surpassing even Monday's heat, the forecast was for 25 degrees, cloudless and sunny and at 10am the courts were already in full sunshine. So idyllic was the day, the railway system had got a train away five minutes early.



Five pairs (two from St Olave's and one each from Shrewsbury, Ipswich and Highgate) were due to play in this qualifying day, with two strong pairs (one Eton, one St Olave's) unavailable. One group was planned with each pair playing every other in a best of 3 game. With two pairs delayed by the railway shenanigans, play started a little later than planned with the on-court temperature rising. And the competition ignited straight away: both first-round games were well contested, went to 1-1 and became protracted battles. Highgate came through against Ipswich having started first of the two matches; St Olave's 2, in touch having been on court the previous day in

the 2021 tournament, pushed Shrewsbury all the way in the first two games before the Salopians (Peter Clark and Arthur Garrett) found their stride, coming through 12-11, 9-12, 12-2. It was 1pm by the time the second round started so the danger of a late finish looked quite real.

In the group it was St Olave's, Highgate and Shrewsbury who came through their battles and looked to be the pairs to fight it out for the top spot. The first meeting between these came in round 3, when Highgate took on St Olave's 1. After the inevitable exchange of the first two games, it was the lower unforced error count of St Olave's that won out in the decider. In the next round, Highgate faced Shrewsbury. The match stood out for unorthodox positionings with three left-handers on court (indeed when the schools had met in the Lent term of 2019 all four players were southpaws). Shrewsbury took a close first game; in the second Highgate went to an 8-0 lead and held most of the lead to win 12-6. In the decider it was Shrewsbury, cutting and returning well, who pressed on and won conclusively: in one phase when Peter seemed unable to miss the pepperpot, Arthur's call was that it was simply exhibition fives from his partner.

In the last match of the day, then, well after 6pm with the temperature starting to approach bearable, the two undefeated pairs from St Olave's and Shrewsbury met each other. Again, there were three left-handers on court and all were now well into their groove intercepting around the buttress and finding sharp volleys into it. Both Peter and Arthur for Shrewsbury retrieved stubbornly and Peter's accuracy counter-punching in the buttress was telling. St Olave's took the first game 12-6 but Shrewsbury responded with grit to take the second 12-7, so yet again we were in for a decider. This time Shrewsbury dug in to make a few consecutive returns of cut and maybe the two days in the heat started to take their toll on the Olavians' legs as the Salopians ran away with the decider, finishing the day on top of the pile.



It had been a long day and a test of match fitness as well as skill, which saw excellent fight from all pairs throughout the day. All had some good, close games and hopefully enjoyed their day. The timing of finals day is yet to be confirmed but an oddity remains possible: that the winners of this competition might be holders for a negative amount of time, since there's every chance the 2021 competition will be completed before the 2020 one!

While these were two good and successful days for Shrewsbury, it was a great shame not to be able to offer participation, particularly to our departing Upper 6th formers: usually their last Nationals would be something of a rite of passage, forming memories to tie together all of their away weekends over their years at the school. We hope we will see them back in Shrewsbury sometime next season to give them the send-off they've deserved.

Seb Cooley

Master in Charge of Fives

Cricketer Cup 2021

Tuesday 22 June 2021

It was a game of thin margins

Tom Cox (M 2000-2005), Hon Secretary of the Saracens writes on the Cricketer Cup loss to Bradfield Waifs:

I am sorry to report that our campaign ended at Bradfield, when we lost a tight game by 28 runs. It was a game of thin margins – and one that might have benefited from DRS. On the plus side, there were fine debuts from Arthur Garrett and in particular Peter Clark, who made a fine unbeaten half century which deserved to win the game – and it was great to see so many supporters there cheering the team on. Thank you to all who attended.

Pictured are Nicko Williams, President of Shrewsbury Saracens and Tom Cox, Hon Sec of Shrewsbury Saracens - two former winning Captains.

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Cancelled - Old Salopian Lodge Meeting

Wednesday 23 June 2021

We will try again next year

Due to the delay in the Covid unlocking process, the Masons meeting and lunch planned for Saturday 10 July is cancelled. We will try again next year.

Old Salopian Lodge meeting, in the Barnes Theatre, followed by family lunch, open to all. Booking in advance is essential.

Contact the Secretary, Chris Williams - chrisjhwilliams@yahoo.co.uk - 07956 964937
www.oldsalopianmasons.com

Sixth Formers' online bingo game declared winner of National Skills Challenge

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Last week our Lower Sixth Form students put their skills to the test in the National Skills Challenge.

The National Skills Challenge is a real-life business Challenge in association with The Digital Institute, London. Delivered over the course of a full school day, the challenge aims to develop the key employability skills required for the world of work, including teamwork, communication and leadership.

The teams were asked to come up with an idea for a new computer game that could be downloaded and played on a PC, mobile device or console. Our Sixth Formers spent the morning creating a game, before going through to heats to find the finalists that were judged in the afternoon by Shrewsbury School staff.

Team Yellow A proved they were on top of their game by winning the Shrewsbury School leg of the National Schools Challenge. The winning team members were Tim C (Rt), James H (SH), Dominic I -J (Ch), Olivia R (M), Rose S (EDH) and Harriet S (EDH).

Head of Business, Colm Kealy, said: "They devised a game was called Zingo, an online bingo game. They clearly defined their target market and displayed the creativity and ingenuity to decide how the game would look and how they would promote it including the creation of an e-sports event.

"The day was really successful with our Lower Sixth embracing all of the activities and challenges in a positive and enthusiastic manner."

Rowers reach finals at Marlow Regatta

Wednesday 23 June 2021

On Saturday the Senior and J16 Crews raced at the Marlow Regatta.

The Boys 1st VIII were the first Shrewsbury crew on the track in Tier 2 Eights taking on Senior men's and University Crews. The crew came 4th out of 47 crews in the time trial. In the final they had work to do in the outside wind affected lanes and were disappointed to come in 7th in the A final.



In the afternoon the crew split into two coxed fours in the Tier 2 event. The two crews both progressed to the B final from the time trial. In the final they had a great race over the course to finish second and third with only half a second separating the two Shrewsbury boats.



The Girls 1st VIII had their first race in an eight having previously raced in a quad and four at National Schools. The crew posted a promising time in the time trial coming in second out of seventeen crews. In the A final they confirmed that result placing second again and, in the process, beating the National Schools bronze medallists. The girls will be looking to build on this result in the final week of term at the Henley Women's Regatta.



The 2nd VIII raced in the Junior Eights category. The crew came 14th out of 52 crews in the time trial. In the B final they came 6th. The J16 VIII came 2nd in their time trial and put in an impressive performance in the final. The crew were pressing the National Schools winners Shiplate hard in the closing stages of the race when disappointingly a rudder failure impacted

their steering effectively ending their final charge, but the crew had done enough to secure an impressive second place.



Sixth Sense Festival talks inspire Lower Sixth Formers

Thursday 24 June 2021

Lower Sixth Formers were this week given the opportunity to enjoy a range of talks from outside speakers in order to inform, prepare and inspire our pupils.

The Sixth Sense Festival offered diverse talks and workshops that were designed to help our students manage their current lives and lay the foundations for managing future experiences.

Pupils enjoyed talks on a range of issues with real-life relevance to them, at a crucial transition point in their lives.



Tuesday saw the Festival start with a talk from Dr Charlie Easmon on ‘A History of Prejudice’, followed by author Shaun Attwood’s ‘Life Lessons’, ocean advocate Emily Penn and her talk on ‘The Ocean Plastic Issue’ concluding with ex-professional footballer and broadcaster Neil Mellor and his talk on ‘Leadership, Teamwork and Resilience’.

This was followed by a barbecue and festival-themed soiree at Kingsland House – with the addition of a big screen for the England Euros match!



On Wednesday, our pupils enjoyed talks from Daniel Heatherington on 'Financial Matters', Nick and Carol Pollard on pro-active self-care for mental health and wellbeing, finishing off with an interesting talk from the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, Laura Bates.

Later that day, pupils were invited to a peer education session with Nick and Carol Pollard, who were offering advice to our Lower Sixth formers on how to discuss mental health and wellbeing matters with younger pupils.



Henry Farmer, Head of Pupil Wellbeing, said: "Thanks to the seven speakers who made the two days stimulating and relevant with their counsel, advice or caution. There were some inspirational presentations and much to reflect on for our pupils who reach the pinnacle of their schooling next year.

“The lighter moments will be fondly remembered and having the whole year group together outside for a barbeque and some live music with a DJ set was warmly welcomed. England getting the right result on the big screen also helped!”



How Outdoor Week engages with the community...

Thursday 24 June 2021

As well as being a fun week of expeditions and activities, Outdoor Week is also a chance for our pupils to engage in some work for the community.

This year our pupils assisted Shropshire Council with pathway projects to make areas more accessible for the public, helped out down at the Barnabus Centre and Foodbank+ with painting and gardening, and also took a trip to The Shewsy to see the hard work that goes on there.

Stuart Cowper, Head of Partnership and Community Engagement said: “Outdoor Week saw lots of meaningful partnership work and wider volunteering for the community in and around school – all part of the Salopian experience.”

Outdoor Week Highlights - Watch what our pupils got up to

Thursday 24 June 2021

This year 239 Third and Fourth form pupils took part in Outdoor Week, where they trekked across the Shropshire hills, tackled assault courses and took part in some serious fun competition days.

Director of Activities Nick David said: “As the staff member in charge of the week, I am content that it went well and feel we had considerable success, aided by fine weather.

“I think we achieved our aim of providing challenge, fun and educational value. I also feel we continue to open the eyes of pupils and staff to the value that can be added by well delivered outdoor education.”

ILM Young Leaders Award helps to prepare pupils for future

Friday 25 June 2021

Monday 21st June marked the start of what I hope will be the most unique final fortnight to an Upper Sixth Formers life at Shrewsbury School. Normally at this point, formal examinations are all but over, leavers trips are taking place all over Europe and the countdown is very much on to the official end of school.

Now, their ending is a little different. As I am sure the reader of this article is aware, formal examinations have not taken place this year. Leavers trips have taken place, but to slightly more sedate locations in the United Kingdom. The countdown is possibly still happening though!

This change to the normal routine has presented an opportunity for our Upper Sixth to embrace a programme which is not widely available, and that's to gain the award in the title.



The Institute of Leadership and Management Young Leaders Award consists of two very distinct units; 'self-leadership' which looks at topics such as resilience, self-motivation, problem solving and seeking support, whilst next week will be looking at 'leadership skills', which will focus more on the challenges and enjoyment of leading others.

The students conclude this week by taking on a self-leadership challenge. Some are attempting to beat their 5k PB, some are foolishly attempting to solve a puzzle Dr Oakley has set, some are trying to achieve over a 30% shooting success rate on the basketball courts. In many ways the challenge is irrelevant, it's about testing their ability to keep going if they are finding it difficult, finding solutions if their approach isn't working, putting into practice some of the theory we have looked at during the programme to date. Whisper it quietly, I think some of the students might actually be enjoying it as well...



Finn S (PH, UVI) said: “The course has been very enjoyable whilst at the same time helping us to improve ourselves individually. The effort that has gone into this programme has really made it a valuable experience. It has allowed us to reflect on our self-leadership, helping us to better ourselves, whilst also allowing us to understand our strengths at the same time. Hopefully this course can be continued in the future as it is really quite fun!”



Though not an academic course, I cannot emphasise how helpful I believe this award could prove for our students in the future. The Institute of Leadership and Management is a global brand and many of our students will go on to gain further accreditation with this awarding body up to as high as level seven. Having this award, even at level two, will offer a point of difference

on application forms for the future and will stand out to employers who are used to seeing very similar qualification profiles.

Most importantly though, what I hope each student will take away are some useful pointers and a greater understanding of how effective leadership can take many forms, shapes and sizes, but it begins with some honest self-reflection and a commitment to self-improvement.

Chris Wain
Head of Futures

Upper Sixth Formers embrace all that Shrewsbury U has to offer

Friday 25 June 2021

Following the virtual launch in 2020 of Shrewsbury U, a programme designed to give Salopians a head start at university, this year we welcomed over 150 of the Upper Sixth back to take part in an expanded offering.

Though the bedrock remains a focus on the academic study skills required at university, created in partnership with four Russell Group universities, we were delighted this year to provide more hands-on experiences.

The importance of First Aid has been prominent in both the national and Salopian minds recently, and we are immensely proud that each participant will have completed an emergency course that will provide them with the vital skills to save a life.



Alongside this, another key skill highlighted by Old Salopians as important was Student Cooking, and our amazing KH team have offered a masterclass in the basics each student should know when embarking on independent living. Matt Warburton, Executive Head Chef, has been brave enough to test every offering – and is still standing, which is a key indicator of success!

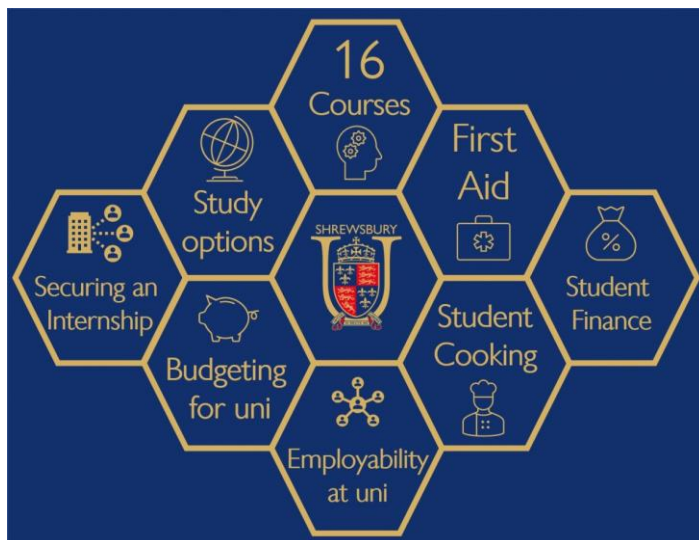
Following consultation with OS and the Upper Sixth themselves on what they wanted to know, the programme also included sessions on Budgeting, Finance, covering the key and riveting introductions to Tax and Pensions (!), as well as an insight into gaining internships, making the most of university and developing the best online presence for employers.



To end, Dr Kate Daubney, Director of Careers at the Careers Group, who oversees the function of all of the University of London, provided invaluable tips in a session on how to make yourself more employable whilst at university.

Toby Percival, Head of Higher Education, said: “A key tenet of the Shrewsbury U programme is that it needed to be relevant and engaging for the Upper Sixth as they entered their final two weeks at Shrewsbury. Hopefully, they will be able to embark on their next adventure more confident in forging a successful path through university and beyond.

“We wish them the very best for their futures and look forward to seeing their successes. I am particularly grateful to my colleagues, the dozen OS who helped and colleagues at universities for leading informative, engaging and incredibly useful sessions.”



Salopians compete in first ever Moreton Hall Mini-MUN

Friday 25 June 2021

A group of 18 Salopians took part in the first-ever Moreton Hall Mini-MUN, which was brilliantly organised and chaired by staff and girls from Moreton.

There were two debates in each committee during the morning, and then in the afternoon there was a crisis debate, bringing all the delegates together. Delegates had to think on their feet to respond to a fictional event.

Head of MUN, Huw Peach, said: “Our team were relatively experienced, but it was good to see so many of our Third Form who were up for the challenge.

“A number of them, who really made their mark, also picked up awards, and I was delighted to see the spirit with which they engaged and debated.

In each committee of 25 delegates there were 2-3 Commended, 1 or 2 Highly Commended and one Outstanding Delegate.

The following won awards:

Outstanding: **Liam G** (Rt, IV - USA) and **Henry W** (Ch, III - Zimbabwe)

Highly Commended: **Issy P** (MSH, III - USA) and **Cam G** (O, III - Mali)

Commended: **Maggie C** (M, III - Mali) and **Miranda R** (EDH, III - Mali)

Mr Peach added: “It's good to see new talent coming through. One more MUN to go on Sunday 27th June, hosted (online again) by Withington School, involving older pupils.”

Salopian essay writer Highly Commended in National prize

Friday 25 June 2021

Many congratulations to Phoebe W (MSH, LVI) for being Highly Commended in the prestigious New College of the Humanities Essay Prize.

Phoebe's essay on 'Is Democracy Experiencing a Setback Worldwide?' explored vital contemporary issues such as the democratic 'deficit', contemporary American politics and the impact of COVID-19 on global ideologies.

Head of Academic Enrichment, Harry Mackridge, said: "Phoebe selected this title from a range of intellectually stimulating questions and was able to critically engage with a number of sources to reach her powerful conclusion. I hope you enjoy reading a snippet of Phoebe's essay as much as the judges evidently did!"



IS DEMOCRACY EXPERIENCING A SETBACK WORLDWIDE?

This essay will explore whether democracy, defined as a system of government in which the people have the ultimate authority through elections, has suffered a worldwide setback in recent years. Possible explanations for the argument of a decline in democracy include recent events in America and the impact of corona virus, as well as the development in technology in the last few years. The 'Economist Intelligence Unit's' 'Democracy Index'^[1] assesses the level of democracy all over the world, based upon five categories: electoral processes and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture, and has been doing so

since 2006. In 2019, this index found that, based upon these categories, the average level of global democracy has fallen to the lowest that has ever been recorded by the EIU, to a level of 5.44. This index clearly demonstrates that democracy has definitely experienced an overall setback worldwide.

Throughout all of this however, the resilience of democracy has in some ways been shown to be stronger than ever. Despite all the accusations against him, Joe Biden's victory was approved by Congress the day after the violence, and his inauguration on the 20th of December does go to prove that, despite the assault by the president, democratic processes are strong and have been carried out successfully. Despite this positive result, events in America must be viewed as a setback in democracy, as such an extent of protest was seen against the result of a completely lawful process. As well as this, it should be viewed as a setback because, no matter the result of the election, events of 2020 highlighted how there are millions of people living in America who feel as though they do not experience the same opportunities or treatment as others, and this is a problem which has in no way been solved.

Sixth Former awarded Scholarship to Art School in Italy

Friday 25 June 2021

A Sixth Form pupil has been awarded a scholarship at a private art school in Florence.

Giorgia I (EDH, UVI) has been awarded a full scholarship for her undergraduate course in Fashion at Polimoda.



Giorgia is just one of over half of our current Upper Sixth who are going on to study creative courses at excellent institutions in a diverse range of areas.

Her work, along with many others from across the school, is currently on display as part of the art faculty's final show 'Salopian Art 2021'.



The exhibition features art and photography pieces from our GCSE and A Level students and includes a range of 2D and sculpture work along with film and installation rooms.

Those attending Cabaret Concert on Friday and Speech Day on Saturday will be able to view the exhibition, with a limit on numbers in the building. For any further information regarding the exhibition, email LAC@shrewsbury.org.uk

Impressive medals haul at Shropshire Athletics Championships

Friday 25 June 2021

28 pupils attend the Shropshire Schools Athletics Championships held at Telford, Oakengates.

This is a major event in the athletics calendar and is qualifications for the English Schools National Championships.



We came away with a very impressive medal haul – 30 medals! and some outstanding performances. 16 PBs (Personal Bests) were also achieved!

Shropshire Athletics presented a new trophy on the day for Best Performance at the Championships – this is judged on the athlete who gets closest to a National Qualifying time in their age group on the day.



Jack K (PH, III) was presented with the award – a fantastic honour and enormously deserved. Jack is currently ranked 2nd in the UK in the 800m with a time of 1.58.69. To go sub 2 minutes is fantastic achievement – congratulations Jack.

We now look forward to Sunday and the Finals of the Sidney Darwin Dash and Quarter Mile Challenge.

100m U20

- Sam R (S, LVI) **3rd** - **13.1**

100m U15

- Daniel O (Rt, III) **2nd** **13.1**

100m U20 Women

- Sophie R (EDH, LVI) - **1st** 13.8
- Izzy S (G, LVI) - **2nd** 14.0

200m U20 Men

- Sakunori N (O, LVI) **2nd** 28.4

200m U20 Women

- Izzy S **1st** 29.6

400m U20 Men

- Jonny P (I, LVI) **1st** 51.8 (PB)

800m U20 Men

- Harrison C (R, LVI) **1st** 2.04.6 (PB)

800m U17 Men

- Brad K (R, IV) **1st** 2.08. (PB)
- George H (O, V) **2nd** 2.16.5

800m U20 Women

- Martha S (M, LVI) **1st** 2.48.3 (PB)

1500m U20 Men

- William O (Ch, UVI) **3rd** 5.01.3

1500m U17 Men

- Hamish G (PH, IV) **1st** 4.50.3
- Massimo W (PH, IV) **2nd** 4.54.1 (PB)

1500m U15 Men

- Jack K (PH, III) **1st** 4.18.9
- Harry P-M (I, III) **2nd** 4.39.7

1500m U17 Women

- Sophia U (EDH, V) **1st** 5.16.4

3000m U20 Men

- William O **1st** 10.22.2

3000m U17 Men

- Will S (R, V) **1st** 9.31.7 (PB)

2000m Steeplechase U20 Men

- Harrison C **1st** 6.30.6 (PB)
- William O **3rd** 7.21.7 (PB)

High Jump U20 Men

- Seb P (R, LVI) **1st** 1.70 (PB)

High Jump U17 Men

- George H **3rd** 1.55

Long Jump U17 Men

- Massimo W 5th 4.87 (PB)

Long Jump U15 Men

- Daniel O **1st** 4.98 (PB)

Shot Putt U20 Men

- Seb P **1st** 10.42 (PB)
- Sam C (Ch, LVI) **2nd** 8.77
- Ollie Powell **3rd** 7.23

Discus U20 Men

- Ollie P (I, LVI) **2nd** 21.64
- Tim C (Ch, UVI) **3rd** 20.99

Javelin U20 Men

- Ollie P **2nd** 33.36

Salopian Art Show 2021 - Your chance to view the exhibition

Tuesday 29 June 2021

The Art Faculty is excited to showcase all the GCSE and A-Level art and photography work in the gallery for the final show.

The Art Faculty has hung the work 'Royal Academy' style with a floor-to-ceiling hang that really makes the most of the beautifully redecorated gallery space and celebrates the richness and diversity of the work, which has been created despite the extraordinary and challenging circumstances of the last year.

Head of Art, Lucy Caddel, said: "Students have worked incredibly hard in the face of unprecedented adversity showing resilience, independence and positivity and this is reflected in the individuality, intensity and highly personal nature of the work we can see here.

"The range of artwork on display is outstanding, featuring everything from exceptionally high quality oil painting to exciting projection-based installation. Meticulous drawing and printmaking have been professionally framed and we have beautifully printed large scale digital drawing, graphic illustration and photography. In the Upper Sixth studio gallery you can see a broad range of contemporary practices including surface pattern design, screenprinting, fine art textiles, photographic installation, film, ceramics and kinetic sculpture."

The final show is opening up from Thursday, September 9th to Saturday, September 11th from 5pm to 7.30pm each day for anyone wishing to view our Salopians' work. For more information, contact Lucy Caddel at LAC@shrewsburyorg.uk