

Third Former named UK's Number 1 Male U15 runner in 800m

Wednesday 5 May 2021

The Shrewsbury School pupil crossed the line in 2:02.92, smashing his own PB as well as the UK U15 Male title for 800m.

Jack K (Ph, III) ran in the Spring Special Open in Nuneaton last weekend, where he beat the fastest time in the UK, which was 2:04.

Despite the lockdown earlier this year, Jake has been training intently. He has been distance running with the Hunt and more recently focussing on athletics, practicing sprints and fast endurance training, running four times a week at school with an added out of school session.



Jack said: "It felt good to win as I have been training a lot. When the race started, I felt strong and came through the first lap in 56 seconds, I knew then I was on target for a massive PB. I had done 2:11 a month earlier but knew I could do better.

"I am very happy to be number 1. I have been aiming to achieve this for a while now, but I know I'm only as good as my last race and I need to keep up the training to improve further.

"I have qualified to be a member of the British Milers Club and over the next month I have three races with them, across the country. I want to do a good number of races to improve my experience and my times."



Jack's aim this year is to get under the two-minute barrier.

"I also want to qualify for the national championships and the national school's events and win them. I want to keep improving my times over the next few years and then I am aiming to become a GB athlete and compete at the Olympic games."

Salopian artwork decorates Shrewsbury streets as part of national exhibition

Wednesday 5 May 2021

Students in the third form have had their artwork selected to be displayed throughout Shrewsbury as part of the Great British Art Exhibition.

The exhibition, launched by Sir Antony Gormley, is part of a nationwide project designed to get the whole country making and exhibiting art.

Out of 900 entrants, six of Shrewsbury School pupils' work was selected to be hung in the town. Images of their artwork have been made into flags by the ShrewsburyBID and are currently festooning the high street.



Head of Art, Lucy Caddel, said: "Sir Antony Gormley chose the theme for the whole country of 'animals' which suits Shrewsbury's Darwin connections down to the ground! All third formers created a two-week gouache study of an animal and a selection of our very best were entered into the competition."

Charlotte T (EDH, III) who painted the green parakeet, said: "It's really cool that my work is flying above the high street - and people can't believe it's mine! All my friends and family are seeing it and they love it."

Our designs chosen by the BID team were by the students as follows:

- Charlotte T (EDH) - Green Parakeet
- Nyah W (M) - Flamingo
- Holly Y (M) - Blue Footed Booby from Darwin's Galapagos
- Jess F (EDH) - Dragon
- Archie S (Rb) - Shark
- Lyla W (G) - Toucan



Girls step up to the crease for boys cricket match

Thursday 6 May 2021

Shrewsbury School's cricket season is continuing an impressive run, as last week saw three of our girls' team cricketers play for the boys' team.

Alice B (EDH, III), Georgia N (G, LVI) and Sarah L (EDH, III) all stepped up to the wicket in matches against Wrekin College.



Head of Girls' Cricket, Gwen Davies, said: "We are lucky enough at Shrewsbury School to have a number of talented individuals amongst the female cricketers. Three of these talented individuals were given the opportunity to showcase their skills amongst the boys last week in a block fixture vs Wrekin College.

"Third former Alice B was selected for the boys U14A team and came away with brilliant figures of 4 overs, 2 for 16. From the same house and year, Sarah L was selected for the boys U14B team and came away with figures of 4 overs, 1 for 9. At the top of the tree playing for the Boys U18A XI, Georgia N returned figures of 6 overs, 1 for 18 after watching JJ Fielding (Rt, U6) score a brilliant 123 not out.

"We are very privileged to have such individuals within our squads and are always keen to keep pushing them further in their development. All three girls welcomed the challenge of playing within the boys teams, and not only held their own – but performed with success. I'm extremely proud of all three girls, and I am sure there are plenty more to come."

Boat Club gain valuable experience at inaugural fixture against Eton College

Thursday 6 May 2021

On Saturday the Boat Club took eleven crews to race in a match against Eton College at Dorney Lake.

The trip provided the first opportunity for the J15s and J16s to see Dorney Lake and compete in their first side by side sprint race fixture.



The age groups were spread out between three coaches and there was a real sense of excitement and anticipation as we made the journey south. The weather was favourable for racing on the lake and provided a great chance for the crews to familiarize themselves before the National Schools Regatta scheduled for the end of the month.



Six of the crews had like for like competition with the Eton boats and the remaining five crews were paired up to race against similar speed boats. Each crew raced twice with the first race covering the full 2000m course for the Seniors and J16's while the J15's raced over 1000m. The second race saw all the crews covering the shorter 1000m distance.

Eton won the 1st and 2nd VIII's races with strong performances. The J16A VIII won their match after getting off to a fast start in their two races. There were close races for the J16B's and the J15 matched boats which provided valuable race experience. Eton won the W.E.K Anderson Bowl in this inaugural fixture. The trophy is named after Eric Anderson who was the former Headmaster of both schools (Shrewsbury 1975 -1980 and at Eton 1980 -1994).



The day proved extremely useful for all the crews including the girl's boats who had some great races. The 1st Quad took on four J15 boys matched eights in an excitingly close race over 1000m. The two J15 girls octuples had an entertaining race with the Eton J15 C crew.

Futures Feature - IBM and Beyond Update

Thursday 6 May 2021

Head of Futures Chris Wain catches up with former pupil Olivia on her IBM Internship.

Back in October 2020 Head of Futures Chris Wain caught up with former Head of School Olivia M (MSH) who had just started on a one year internship with IBM. Details of the interview can be found on this [link](#). Seven months on, Chris chatted to Olivia again to find out how this placement was progressing.

CW: Olivia, thanks for taking the time to speak to me. Now you are more than six months into your internship, what have you been up to? What are your main responsibilities?

OM: My main responsibilities involve running client Stand-Ups and Retrospectives as well as taking backlog items out of Salesforce and writing them up into Powerpoint in a more user-friendly layout for the clients. "Stand-ups" and "Retrospective" sound really fancy but they're just Agile terms for the daily project catchup and project recaps.

CW: Have you had to remain working from home? Presuming yes, what impact do you think this has had and is this likely to change before the end of your contract?

OM: I have, unfortunately, had to continue working from home. There is a chance that I will get into the office before September but it's quite slim. The closest thing I will get to meeting my colleagues before July will be at Wimbledon. It has been difficult as the nature of my role means I would get the odd job from people walking past my desk in the office but IBM have done a great job trying to combat the loneliness that working from home can bring. My task manager and foundation manager reach out whenever they can and there is a weekly intern social as well as quarterly team socials which are always lots of fun.

CW: You mention that you will be involved with the upcoming Wimbledon tournament. What will this involve?

OM: IBM have worked closely with Wimbledon since 1990. IBM provide the crucial AI for making the tennis and data graphics but also analyse all of the data to get it back to the coaches, players and fans. With the help of IBM cloud they do it in record time. This means there is quite a big team working behind the scenes at Wimbledon. Usually the team at Wimbledon take on between 20 and 30 of the interns who apply for the 2 Championship weeks but this year due to Covid-19 restrictions IBM have only been able to hire 6 interns. My role will be analysing the data during the qualifying week and working closely with the team of match analysts.

CW: Which skills and competencies do you feel you have been able to develop through this internship?

OM: I am so lucky that my role is a client-facing one because my confidence talking to strangers in a professional setting has seriously grown from working with different clients on various different projects. My online skills have also developed no end - I am much more competent with a computer than I was at school! I've also been able to take courses in Agile and Design Thinking which are practices used very frequently by IBM and my professional vocab has been seriously upgraded. The assessment centre and interview process that I had to go through in

order to apply for the Wimbledon role was also great practise for interviews and group assessments in the future.

CW: Our lower sixth are now starting to think more seriously about their post school plans? Any advice you could provide them?

OM: I honestly think that doing a year in industry is one of the best things a school leaver can do. I know my experience has been rather different to usual but I've got the bad side and I still think it's a fantastic thing to do. Going to university with a little bit of real-life experience will allow you to have your eyes set on the kinds of things you do and don't like when it comes to job hunting but it also changes the way you think. I've spoken to many of the interns who are University placement students and they all say that those who they know did years in industry all went on to get Firsts because they had a whole different mindset and attitude to working when they returned. Now that's when you're already halfway through University - imagine starting from the very beginning with the same mindset. Also having a whole year of experience on your CV makes you a seriously attractive candidate when it comes to applying for Spring Weeks and Summer Internships. You meet and connect with so many people - these are great connections to hang on to and if you're in the office you'll be able to get some drinks with them and actually make friends! It's also great to be able to go to University with some money and yes you're not able to travel in the same way as other gap year students but you still get 5 weeks of holiday.

CW: How are you feeling about starting university in September? Do you feel this experience will prove useful?

OM: I am really excited to start University in September. Having a year off where I was working and looking after myself has given me both work experience but also life skills that will be great to have going into University. I'm also far more ready 12 months after leaving school than I was last Summer.

CW: Finally, are you looking forward to getting back together with your year group, when restrictions allow?!

OM: I am super excited to reunite with my school friends properly - hopefully at our Leavers Ball! It'll be really fun to see everyone again and hear about all the different things everyone has gone on to do.

- Stop press – coincidentally IBM have just announced an insight evening next week, Thursday 13th May from 5-6pm, open to pupils from 5th form and above. You can register on this [link](#).

Futures and Higher Education Bulletin

Friday 7 May 2021

Futures and Higher Education Bulletin Edition 13 Summer Term 2021 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 13, Summer Term 2021.](#)

Postor Body organise Mental Health Awareness Week

Friday 7 May 2021

Every year, the Postor Body have an individual aim for how they, as a group, can positively influence the school.

This year, we chose the issue of mental health to focus on and have coordinated our own Mental Health Awareness week at Shrewsbury. As peers and members of the Shrewsbury community we wanted to use this week to start the conversation around mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding it.

Throughout this week pupils have engaged in a range of activities with a focus of raising awareness of issues surrounding mental health. We began our week with a short [video](#), outlining to the pupils what it was all about. Then, two Postors, Orlando (Rt, UVI) and Joseph (SH, UVI) spoke in Chapel to the 5th Form about their experiences, something they will be repeating to three other year groups in the coming weeks.

With an aim of creating a more comfortable atmosphere in which one can speak about mental health, a team of Postors went around to talk to junior school tutor groups in houses about the language we use when discussing mental health. We then held a zoom seminar with the counsellor, Wendy Brook, for third and fourth form, though many other pupils from different year groups attended, which was exceptional in aiding us to raise awareness and to also remind students in what ways they can get support.

We have been very fortunate that our catering partners, Holroyd Howe, have worked in conjunction with us on the week, looking at the link between nutrition and mental health during lunchtime on Friday. We also fed the discussion of the importance of fuelling ourselves correctly into houses where we had pupil-led conversations, coordinated by the Postors.

Both the motion for the Junior House Debating Competition and the library book blast - which were based on the theme of mental health - have acted as tools to help our message reach an even wider range of recipients. As well as working to help those within the school, we have also been keen on raising money for charities associated with this issue, and we have managed to raise upwards of £600 thanks to a cake sale carried out by a taskforce, helped by the contributions from across the houses. This will only be increased by our non-uniform day later in the term.

As Postors, we have developed our skills of leadership, communication and delegation. We have all really cherished the opportunity to step up to the plate and pursue a student-led initiative. From the pupils' perspective, according to the feedback we have received, it has been overwhelmingly positive, and we hope that we have encouraged people to open up the conversation surrounding mental health, and for the school to continue having these important conversations for years to come.

Immy J (MSH, UVI) and Joseph M (SH, UVI)

The Economics Society – Brexit & the Pandemic Question Time

Friday 7 May 2021

The Economics Society staged their first Question Time event of the year in the remote Zoom manner to which we have become accustomed for these events in the pandemic.

If the BBC can do it, so can we. George C (Rb, LVI) and Theo P (Rb, LVI) took the lead with this event organising, promoting and running proceedings on the night. The subject was to be Brexit and the Pandemic.

The evening started with thumbnail sketches of the illustrious panellists from Theo, starting with the Rt Honourable Owen Patterson (Conservative Member of Parliament for North Shropshire), Old Salopian Will Kenyon (ex-partner with PWC specialising in Forensic Accounting), Dr Julia Buckley (Labour Councillor for Bridgnorth and Labour Party parliamentary candidate in Shrewsbury and Atcham at the last election) and Nat Green (Liberal Democrat councillor for Quarry and Coton Hill). Each had specific perspectives and expertise which promised to make discussions interesting.



The first question from Lem M (I, LVI) immediately focused the mind as he asked the panel whether if Covid had happened prior to the Brexit referendum, would Brexit have happened at all? There followed a series of equally searching questions that the panel fielded honestly if not, from time to time, assertively, but always in the civilised and academic manner that is an expectation of our community. Credit for this must go to the deft professionalism of the Chairman George that I am sure Fiona Bruce and David Dimbleby would have been proud of. A career in broadcasting may be calling!

The final question of the evening was on the environment which was sure to raise contentious views, and it did not disappoint.

Theo wound up the evening with a suitable vote of thanks to the panellists summarising how much ground we had covered in the evening. Some of these panellists have already indicated their willingness to come and speak to our students again in the future. I would add my thanks to them.

Nick Zafar
Economics

Dima's app helps reduce dinner time queues

Friday 7 May 2021

A Sixth Form Salopian has ingeniously created an app to support the smooth flow of mealtimes at Shrewsbury School.

Dima S (Ch, LVI) has created a Virtual Queuing App which speeds up the already efficient queues at lunch and supper for pupils at Kingsland Hall.

“The initial idea for creating the app came to me while queueing at the catering hall because I wanted to help speed up queuing times. I was also thinking that the idea could be used for my EPQ project having decided that I was going to be making an app - it was a good opportunity to kill two birds with one stone.”



Dima began working on the project before the first Lockdown last year, so he was able to conduct necessary observational studies in time.

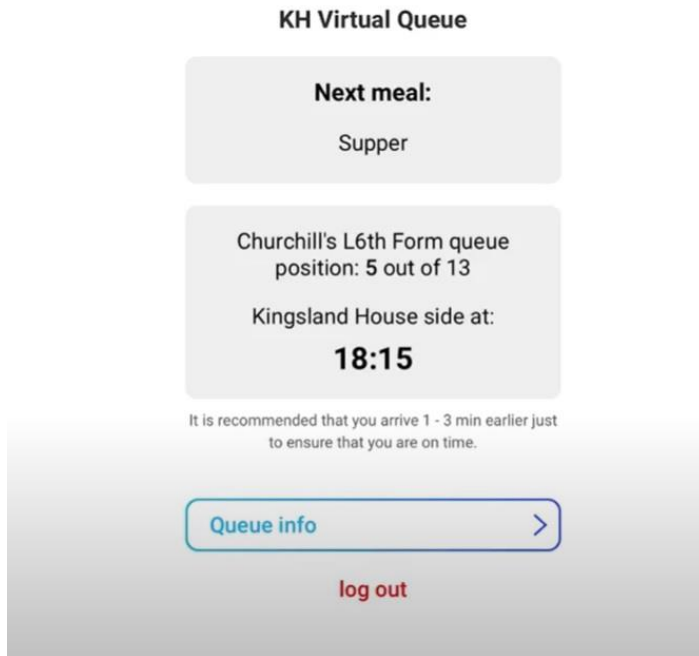
After observing the amount of time different year groups were queueing for, and from which house, Dima started brainstorming ideas on how he could make his app as effective as possible.

“Once I was happy with the initial idea, I started designing the app, keeping in mind that the app needs to be very simple and intuitive to use to ensure that the amount of getting used to it will be minimal. I designed three tabs:

- The login tab - a form that lets the user choose whether they are a student or supervisor and the information necessary to continue onto the next tab.

- The student tab - displays the order of the next meal, the time at which they need to arrive and the option to view the entire queue.
- The supervisor tab - displays the order and time of each house within the year group and displays a tick if clicked on a house.

“After fixing a bug in the system, and 22 hours of work, the app was complete.”



Dima has produced a video explaining the benefits of the app, which was shared with staff at the school and can be viewed [here](#).

He was awarded a Floreat - an award which celebrates the effort, endeavour and enterprise of Salopians – for his work and the school agreed to pay for hosting and the domain for the app.

“The app was then implemented on the last week of term before Christmas and the tests went astonishingly well. Not only did our queuing time reduce to approximately five minutes, but we have also at most only encountered three other houses queueing,” added Dima.

“Overall, I can say that the entire endeavour was a staggering success.”

Dima is now building an online platform that aims to help solve some of the world’s most pressing global problems by inspiring action on a local scale, providing reliable information, organisations and activities to help solve them.

Eco Committee encourages school to take part in No Mow May

Friday 7 May 2021

Shrewsbury School is taking part in a campaign entitled No Mow May – lead by the Eco Committee.

The campaign, run by the British conservation charity Plantlife, asks that people do not mow their lawn for the entire month of May. Instead, let the wildflowers in the lawn bloom until the end of the month, providing nectar for bees.

There is a designated 'No Mow Zone' by the Kingsland Hall Lawns, where a sign designed by Theo G (SH, UVI) explaining why the grass has been left long.



The Eco Committee: Theo (SH, UVI) in the centre of the photo designed the sign. Izzy (MSH, LVI), Eva (G, V), Henry (O, LVI), Ella (MSH LVI), Sapna (G, V) and Harry (Ch, LVI)

In a presentation to the Houses, the Eco Committee has provided information to promote No Mow May.

The Eco Committee said: “More than 10 per cent of UK species are threatened with extinction.

“Since the 1930s, 7.5 million acres of flower-rich meadow have been destroyed - overall that is 97 per cent of wildflower habitat loss. Against this loss, habitats such as lawns have become increasingly important. With 15 million gardens in Britain, our lawns have the potential to become major sources of nectar.

“Just 1 per cent of our countryside now provides this floral feast for our pollinators. On a single day in summer, one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers, producing 1kg of nectar sugar. That’s enough to support nearly 96,000 honeybees per day.



“The driving force behind the Eco Committee is the genuine belief that our pupils can make a difference, and that everything we all do, no matter how small, will help.”

Old Salopians beat Old Kimboltians 3-2

Tuesday 11 May 2021

Congratulations to Ollie Brown and his team

On Saturday 8th May the Old Salopians beat Old Kimboltians 3-2 in a match Sean Dyche would have been proud of. Congratulations to Ollie Brown and his team

On a tiny grass pitch with strong crosswinds, the match was not one for displaying footballing quality. Salopians went 1-0 up with a lofted through ball over the top to Tom Kelly who won a 50 / 50 tackle with the Kimboltians' keeper and passed the ball into the net.

Kimboltians replied with a direct free kick to make it 1-1 before Tom Kelly scored again to make it 2-1.

Two minutes before half time, Kimboltians fired in a corner and with the ball flying into the top right hand corner, George Lewis had a Suarez moment (World Cup 2014 vs Ghana) and performed a wonderful save. Kimboltians scored from the spot and Salopians were down to 10 men.

The second half was gritty and determined and with 10 minutes left on the clock, Raul Alexis fired home a header at the back post to make it 3-2.

The next round will be on Saturday 22nd May, again at Merchant Taylors at 3pm with the opponent still to be decided this coming Saturday.

Guy Williams

Salopians take on Westminster School in Mock Trial Competition

Friday 14 May 2021

Carys C (M, LVI) reflects on the two-day Mock Trial, supported by a criminal lawyer.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, together with a group of lower sixth students, I participated in the Independent School's Mock Trial Competition against Westminster School.

Although due to COVID, we didn't get to do the trial in person, as with anything, we persevered with technology, stepped up to the challenge and held our own.



Having started the preparation a few months back, we attended regular meetings both in person and via Teams preparing speeches, rehearsing and developing our argument within our groups- defence, prosecution and jury.

We were judged by the jury of both school's as well as by Esther Schutzer-Weissmann, a highly regarded criminal advocate, who gave us all feedback on the case. As part of the defence team, she particularly liked our delivery and the fact we worked together well in a team to provide similar evidence, whilst also giving us advice as to how to improve.



Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of staff involved in helping us with this rewarding process, in particular Miss Corcoran. This experience has not only enabled us to develop our public speaking skills in an adversarial environment, practise thinking very quickly on our feet and work independently but also provided us with a taste of law and the judiciary, all of which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Carys C (M, LVI)

Non-Uniform Day raises money for two important charities

Friday 14 May 2021

Students were given the opportunity to dress in their own clothes on Friday, May 14th, as part of a non-uniform day, to support two great charities Young Minds and World Land Trust.

Oscar H-R (R, UVI) and Kate V (G, IV) have put together a fantastic video detailing the reasons they have chosen Young Minds and World Lands Trust, and why these charities are so important to them.

Young Minds – The Praepostor's have chosen the charity Young Minds on the back of their excellent Mental Health Awareness week. Young Minds is the UK's leading mental health charity for young people with an ambitious strategy "to make sure every young person gets the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what". Find out more at the [website](#).
World Land Trust – The 4th form charities committee have chosen the charity World Land Trust. An ambitious environmental charity that provides emergency conservation action to the areas that need it most. The 4th form has chosen to donate the money raised to help securing over 8 acres of forest in Central and South America, to protect from Logging, Poaching, and ensuring a future for wildlife. Find out more at the [website](#).

Thank you in advance for your support for these excellent charities and a reminder you can donate at the link [here](#).

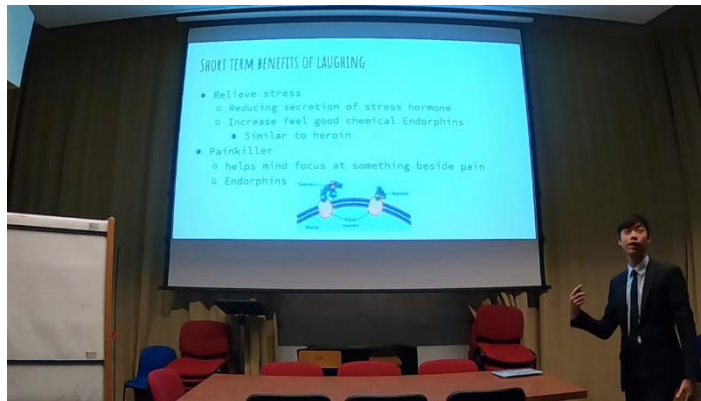
Lower Sixth Darwin Presidents present Science Lectures

Friday 14 May 2021

Four of our Lower Sixth Darwin Presidents gave talks on various topics to the Fourth Form in an evening as enjoyable as it was informative.

The Darwin Presidents are a select group of students in the Sixth form who assist in the promotion of Science subjects in multiple ways throughout their tenure. This year, among other behind-the-scenes ventures, this group have been instrumental in producing the inaugural STEM Magazine and, on Friday 7th May, presented short talks on Science to an audience of more than 50 Fourth Form students and teachers.

Kicking off the evening by posing the question ‘Is Laughter the Best Medicine?’, Marco C (O, LVI) had the audience laughing from the off before delving into research by Norman Cousins, who promoted laughter’s miraculous pain-relieving effects, and the biochemical reasons behind this.



Annie F (M, LVI) gave her talk on neuroscience and clinical depression, which was particularly fitting at the end of Mental Health Awareness Week in School. She spoke with clarity and compassion on a sensitive subject, bringing in research into both behavioural and physical symptoms, with explanations provided in terms of the hippocampus and other brain regions’ functions.

A discussion of the wide range of ‘Nature’s Economists’ was provided by Ellie L (M, LVI) in her exploration of research into Symbiotic Relationships. From coral and algae to forest-wide networks of trees and fungus mycorrhiza, Ellie delivered a well-structured whistle-stop tour of the processes and theories behind these inter-species dependencies. Ellie ended with a stark warning on the interdependency of lots of ecosystems and the far-reaching effects of climate change.



Finally, Ella H (MSG, LVI) delivered her talk on the research into why Thalidomide causes the life-changing birth defects seen in the later 1950s, with some new theories added to the literature on the topic as recently as 2018. The talk ended on a happy note as she focused on the advances in medical ethics and stringent drug-testing procedures that stemmed from the consequences of thalidomide use.

All the talks were delivered with incredible professionalism, yet each speaker demonstrated their own 'style'. It is hoped that the experience will have helped to prepare these talented Sixth Form scientists for future public-speaking and research projects over their further studies and careers, and also inspire the top Fourth Form scientists to engage in similar academic challenge in the future.

Very well done to Marco, Ellie, Annie and Ella! If other students wish to view these talks, they may be made available via eStream; please contact Mr Wray for the links.

Mr David Wray
Head of Science Outreach

Lower Sixth Formers enjoy presentations on careers insights

Friday 14 May 2021

Effective leadership. The Art of Communication. Problem Solving & Analytical Thinking. Creativity & Innovation.

This is not a personal book wish list for Christmas 2021, this is the title of the series of four presentations our lower sixth formers have enjoyed on consecutive Fridays, all delivered by former pupils. In the past twelve months pupils from all year groups have had access to a huge number of careers insight talks, varying from lawyers, filmmakers, investment bankers, retail managers, politicians, diplomatic officers, surgeons – the list goes on. The benefits of doing these remotely in this period is the fact that all are recorded, so all are available on the school firefly pages for students to utilise at any point.



Members of the lower sixth form have attended many of these talks and the purpose of this group of presentations is to build upon the themes that have often been mentioned. Leadership. Communication. Problem solving. Analytics. Creativity. Innovation. You will struggle to find any of the talks that have taken place where at least one, if not more of these words has not been mentioned by our guest professional. There is also significant research around the topic of ‘skills’ that adds credence to this. For example, the World Economic Forum published the Future of Jobs Survey in 2020 and detailed the top fifteen skills that are likely to be needed in the workplace for 2025. All of the ‘skills’ listed above feature in the top six, with analytical thinking and innovation top of the pile.



What I hope this block of talks will help encourage is some self-reflection and a stock take amongst the participants in terms of where they feel they are with these skills. It certainly has for me and I feel that one of the advantages of a school like Shrewsbury is that there are always opportunities to build and develop these daily. If our pupils continue to do this, they will be well placed to meet the challenges of the working future with some aplomb!

Many thanks again to our four wonderful speakers.

Floreat Salopia!

Chris Wain
Head of Futures

Sabrina News

Monday 17 May 2021

After a summer of no racing and rowing, our Sabrina men finally got back on the water for the 20/21 season at the start of the Michaelmas term.

We have managed outings most weekends and had various matches against RSSBC's top squad finding real speed before another lockdown returned to thwart our season. However, it did not dent our enthusiasm to continue to train at home alone, helped by another training challenge set by RSSBC which the Sabrina squad joined in with to keep ourselves fit.



Finally, returning to the water following the latest lockdown with at least a few targets for the Summer in our sights. The 'older' members looking to retain their Henley Masters winning crown from 2019 and the younger members looking to return to Henley to find that allusive first win... We hope to see the rowing world return to normal sometime soon. Once it does, we will be ready to go again.

Anyone Old Salopians returning from University and interested in racing at HRR in August, please get in touch!

Philip Wood.

Henley Royal Regatta is now taking place from 11th to 15th August, at this time we are still waiting on decisions to be made on numbers etc, so will be in touch regarding Sabrina reunions when we have more details.

Forthcoming Old Salopian Lodge Meetings

Tuesday 18 May 2021

Open to all

Saturday 10 July 2021 - 11.00 am - 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

Twitter - @osfreemasons

Tuesday 28 September 2021 - 5.00 pm - Old Salopian Lodge meeting, at the Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, off Whitehall, London SW1A 2HJ. Followed by Lodge dinner. Booking in advance is essential.

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

Twitter - @osfreemasons

Tuesday 16 November 2021 - 5.00 pm - Old Salopian Lodge meeting, at the Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, off Whitehall, London SW1A 2HJ. Followed by Lodge dinner. Booking in advance is essential.

Contact the Secretary, Chris Williams - chrisjhwilliams@yahoo.co.uk - 07956 964937
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RSSH Runners take to the hills for Hash Run

Tuesday 18 May 2021

The Hunt Runners were out in the countryside for the first time this year.

Having missed out in the Lent term due to Covid, we were extremely keen to organise another Hash run for the Hunt, the last one having taken place near Pulverbatch back in October when we were so generously hosted by the Owen family. This time around we were returning to an old favourite of ours, Whitton Hall near Westbury, hosted by the Halliday family. I think this is our fourth visit in the last 11 years, and it has never failed to disappoint!



After very wet weather on both the day before and on the morning of the run, we were prepared for a rather grizzly time as we boarded the coach at the back of KH, but by the time we arrived, we were very lucky that things seemed to have dried up and indeed they managed to stay so for the rest of the afternoon.

Colonel David took two trusty UVI runners, Oscar H-R (R) and Cosmo W (Ch), to help him lay the course – a long-standing tradition at the club in which a ‘scent’ is laid in flour and the ‘hounds’ follow it through some of Shropshire’s prettiest countryside.

After about fifteen minutes or so the rest of the pack set off in pursuit, guided only by small markings of flour in the grass, with no clue where they would lead us. After some careful navigation through streams, past some extremely friendly young cows and across a bit of impromptu barbed wire, we found ourselves up on a ridge with stunning views across the valley towards Stiperstones, Bromlow Calow, Corndon Hill and, way off in the distance, the Wrekin. I’m afraid my phone camera doesn’t quite do justice to the majesty of the scene! A poor workman blaming his tools perhaps...



With a group of about 25 pupils, it was remarkable how well they kept together and looked after each other, especially across difficult obstacles and awkward terrain, with enthusiastic cries of 'On! On!' to show the way. The non-competitive nature of the event really allows the pupils to just enjoy the day and each other's company, and while it was certainly a challenging route, there was such a sense of collective spirit and relaxed cheeriness at the opportunity to be off site, amongst nature and with good friends.

After about 12km or so, we eventually made our mud-spattered way back to Whitton Hall, where we were treated to an incredibly generous spread of sausage rolls, cake, biscuits and tea among the outbuildings of this beautiful farm.



We had a number of Hashing first-timers, who needed to be 'blooded', a tradition which sees the senior Hunt members dish out a bit of the remaining flour into the rueful faces of the rookies of the group. This run included Mr Cooley who took his punishment – gleefully meted out by our Huntsman and Huntswoman – in typically stoic fashion!



It really was a wonderful afternoon out and reminded me and my team of how lucky we are to work with such great kids. My huge thanks to the Halliday family for hosting us so warmly, and to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable day.

Ian Haworth
Master in Charge of The Hunt

Runners take part in remote Time Trial event

Tuesday 18 May 2021

Salopians put in an impressive effort for the remote competition.

It was a great shame that due to the pandemic one of the biggest events of the school's cross-country calendar, the King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry, had to be cancelled this year, alongside so many other fixtures. Thankfully the organisers of this race were determined to put on some form of competition and devised a race held 'in remote', in which schools would send their teams round a local Park Run 5km route and post their times, with different courses given a weighting according to difficulty.

On Tuesday, May 4th we took our runners across the Severn to the Quarry to complete our entry in conditions that looked rather daunting, with heavy rain and hail showers having hit over the course of the morning and early afternoon. By the time we lined up on the start line these had abated and the sun had come out.



It was difficult for the pack to determine their best pace around an unfamiliar course and in a time of year when – while not exactly unfit – they were some way off mid-season form, and without much in the way of recent competition to give them a benchmark to work from. Will S

(R, V) set a very strong early pace, with Harrison C (R, LVI) in hot pursuit alongside Jonny P (I, LVI), and Oscar H-R (R, UVI) hanging on gamely despite having twisted an ankle the previous Friday. Unfortunately two of our runners, Brad and Sam, both picked up injuries mid-race and were forced to retire, but we had enough strength in depth that this wasn't as disastrous as it might have been.

Sophia U (EDH, V) made an excellent start for the girls, keeping up with a good pack of B team boys, and looking strong at the halfway point. Behind her, Sophia C (MSH, III) showed that she remains in good form despite the lack of competition as she stretched away from a pack of three girls, Hattie A (G, IV), Eva H (G, V) and Martha S (M, LVI) further back, helping each other to keep a steady pace.



In the second half of the race, Will pulled away from the pack, showing real mastery over this distance, and looked comfortable as he crossed the line in a hugely impressive 16:44. Considering the course, which includes two significant inclines and a few sharp twists and turns, this really is a remarkable time. Harrison (17:30) managed to pull away from Jonny (17:34) enough to protect himself from a late surge from Jonny, whose 200m and 400m prowess means he's got a very dangerous kick. Oscar (17:37) was not far behind, protecting his ankle, with Jack K (PH, III) posting a very strong time of 17:49. Hamish G (PH, IV), concentrating on his tennis this term, was still able to get round in 18:05, showing he's retained plenty of fitness over the last few weeks. Arthur B (R, UVI) headed up the B team with 18:21, followed by Will O (Ch, UVI) in

18:38, Archie T (Rt, IV) in 18:45, Tim S (I, IV) in 19:23, John B (Ch, LVI) in 19:45 and Cosmo W (Ch, UVI) in 20:17.



Sophia U managed to finish as strongly as she started, posting a blistering 19:31, ahead of Sophia C (23:12), Hattie (24:27) and Eva (25:32), with Martha finishing in 25:57.

It was lovely to be able to get out for some competition, albeit in rather strange circumstances, and we're very grateful to the KHVIII organisers for going ahead with this modified race. We await the final results to see where we placed nationally.

Ian Haworth
Master In Charge of The Hunt

Salopians 'hold their own' in mock trial against Westminster School

Tuesday 18 May 2021

Mrs Corcoran reflects on the impressive show from the Mock Trial.

Lower Sixth Form students participated in the Independent School's Mock Trial Competition against Westminster School last week, a trial spanning over two days.

The Salopians involved performed so well, the Headmaster congratulated the group for their efforts.

You can read a pupil's reflection on the Mock Trial [here](#).



A trial can be described as 'part dance and part fight, undertaken by parties who don't want to be there on the day'. Who would step up for this challenge?

When I assembled our team, I was bowled over by the variety of personalities present at our inaugural meet. The exciting element of the Independent Schools' Mock Trial Competition is that there is a wide range of roles from barrister to clerk, usher, juror or witness. This means plenty of room for the die-hard, aspiring lawyers but also roles for children who wouldn't put public-speaking, debating and acting at the top of their forté list. One student wanted to be journalist and thought being a barrister would help her questioning skills, I cast her as a witness so that she could see what cross-examinations and examinations-in-chief are like from the other side of the fence. The latter are always hardest. One student declared himself to simply enjoy anything competitive – he was the perfect defendant: cool, calm, composed, convincing - and another tended to always participate in sport and wanted to try something different during his time at school. Being relatively new to Shrewsbury, I was impressed by how good Salopians are at self-reflection. The team were a diverse cross-section of individuals; we were in it to win it but we also aimed for a memorable and meaningful school experience.



The trial featured a criminal damage offence and culpability turned on whether or not there was a lawful excuse for the damage and if the action taken was reasonable and proportionate: a complicated case masquerading as a simple one. As with so many events this year, the competition became a zoom-based project rather than the chance to enjoy a prestigious courtroom. What we lost in terms of the majesty of justice, we gained in convenience. Zoom came into its own when our prosecution barristers were respectively stuck overseas and suffered a broken collarbone, 24 hours before the event. Both still took part, both from home and one with a sling in a seated position.

We were pitched against Westminster School – formidable and ambitious opponents. We held our own and in the event the verdicts and feedback resulted in a tie. Westminster successfully prosecuted on the first day, we succeeded on the second. My stand-out moments were observing how independent the students can be and how well they worked as a team. I bobbed between two rooms and two zoom links and was delighted that when the pressure was on and the adrenalin flowing, the students flying solo manoeuvred themselves around the stands, witness box and dock in perfect sync whilst advocating, testifying and examining with aplomb. I was also pleased to hear instant, practical solutions from them when a connection froze and, as I leapt on the surface to hit reconnect, I heard the rest of the team simultaneously ushering a stricken witness to the neighbouring room to use the jurors' link so as not to disrupt the cross-examination. This was teamwork.

The pupils learnt a lot about presenting evidence in a preferable way, the importance of credibility and how to amplify it, as well as how to hold their own in the face of aggressive and tactical questioning. Ultimately, we learnt that, like most things, trials are determined by human nature. The presiding barrister, who kindly and comprehensively gave each pupil personalised feedback, warned us that jurors need careful direction but must be given a comfortable space to

make their own determinations, as no one likes being told what to do. Juries will often convict or acquit a defendant simply because they were ordered to do the opposite, a mistake made by many junior judges. In terms of useful life lessons on how to achieve a desired result, this was the takeaway message for us all, parents and teachers included!

Mrs Louisa Corcoran

RSSH Runners take to the hills for Hash Run

Tuesday 18 May 2021

The Hunt Runners were out in the countryside for the first time this year.

Having missed out in the Lent term due to Covid, we were extremely keen to organise another Hash run for the Hunt, the last one having taken place near Pulverbatch back in October when we were so generously hosted by the Owen family. This time around we were returning to an old favourite of ours, Whitton Hall near Westbury, hosted by the Halliday family. I think this is our fourth visit in the last 11 years, and it has never failed to disappoint!



After very wet weather on both the day before and on the morning of the run, we were prepared for a rather grizzly time as we boarded the coach at the back of KH, but by the time we arrived, we were very lucky that things seemed to have dried up and indeed they managed to stay so for the rest of the afternoon.

Colonel David took two trusty UVI runners, Oscar H-R (R) and Cosmo W (Ch), to help him lay the course – a long-standing tradition at the club in which a ‘scent’ is laid in flour and the ‘hounds’ follow it through some of Shropshire’s prettiest countryside.

After about fifteen minutes or so the rest of the pack set off in pursuit, guided only by small markings of flour in the grass, with no clue where they would lead us. After some careful navigation through streams, past some extremely friendly young cows and across a bit of impromptu barbed wire, we found ourselves up on a ridge with stunning views across the valley towards Stiperstones, Bromlow Callow, Corndon Hill and, way off in the distance, the Wrekin. I’m afraid my phone camera doesn’t quite do justice to the majesty of the scene! A poor workman blaming his tools perhaps...



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Ian Haworth
Master in Charge of The Hunt

House Debating 2021

Tuesday 18 May 2021

House captain Rhys W (SH, UVI) reflects on this year's House Debating Competition.

And so ends the annual house debating competition – School House crowned winners for 2021.



Overall, I think that it is fair to say that this year's competition took a slightly unorthodox course, having to deal with the inherent difficulties of 'Zoom' debating and being pushed back by an unexpected Winter lockdown. Nevertheless, all of its participants, regardless of experience or prowess, showed impressive commitment and stamina to keep up with the weekly fixtures and (oftentimes) pursue their own academic or extra-curricular activities simultaneously, which is testament to the strength of Shrewsbury debating.

As for the School House journey to the final, we started by getting through 4 group stages fixtures relatively unscathed, and found our spot in the business end of the competition and the quarter-final now loomed large. Against a formidable opponent comprised of the best that EDH had to offer, we managed to navigate our way through to the semi-final after managing to convince Mr. Chipperton that animals do not currently have rights. Subsequently, we encountered a younger, yet not to be underestimated Grove team which put forward three promising fifth form debaters. A tough contest, Mr. Fitzgerald and Rev. Keulemans both agreed that School House had collectively made a stronger argument that the British public does not expect too much from its politicians; the final was now in sight and preparations for a motion and date began.



Unfortunately, COVID-19 had other ideas. Initially scheduled for the second week of the Lent term, the final was to be pushed back until the 13th of May in order to be properly enjoyed: both Churchills and School House felt it inappropriate to deny the loyal supporters the opportunity to cheer on their heroes and witness intellectual combat in the flesh.

So, it was to be the Hodgson Hall Theatre which would accommodate the final of the 2021 house debating competition. The motion concerned the West's role as the guardian of world affairs and certainly did not disappoint the neutral. School House's argument comprised of an initial examination of what a guardian actually is and what it does, with each speaker then taking one of political, economic and military global affairs to illustrate the West's incapability to act as this guardian. However, Churchills responded with a slightly different line of argument by presenting the moral issue of not having the West as the guardian of world affairs, and pointing to a host of persuasive examples of the West acting positively on behalf of global affairs. Ultimately, however, it was not to be for this unquestionably talented Churchills team; School House came out as victors and ended this year's competition.



As a final note, I'd like to congratulate all of the participants in this year's competition, thank all of the judges, and - on behalf of Shrewsbury debating – give thanks to Mr. Mackridge for masterminding the competition and ensuring its smooth running.

Floreat Salopia!

Rowers take on Monmouth School in friendly fixture

Wednesday 19 May 2021

On Sunday the 1st VIII took on Monmouth School in a friendly home fixture to sharpen their skills in the lead up to the National Schools Regatta.

The crews raced multiple times over various distances into and against the stream.



The friendly rivalry was great to see and proved productive for both crews. The Monmouth match has been a regular fixture for the crews over the past few years and ironically has seen the crews meet in the draw at the Henley Royal Regatta in both 2018 and 2019.



The Senior and J16 crews are looking forward to competing at the National Schools Regatta at Dorney Lake on the 29th & 30th May.

Third form rowers also 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.



Field Day fun for Salopians

Friday 21 May 2021

Salopians were out in force enjoying a variety of activities as part of this year's Field Day.

From Snowdonia to Stiperstones, Llangollen to Long Mynd, our pupils took part in a exciting range of educational adventures that were enjoyed by all despite the wet weather.

Here is a small selection of pictures showcasing just a few of the activities that took place for Field Day, with more to follow in next week's newsletter.

Director of Activities Nick David said: "Pupils were faced with the challenge of a wet and blustery field day this week – but as these pictures show they coped admirably with all the weather threw at them.



"As ever there was a huge and eclectic range of activities taking place: a Natural History visit to Wales, Creative Writing on the Long Mynd (the paper must have been sodden), the production of a John Peel playlist, a volunteer litter pick and the usual array of adventure activities including climbing and zip lining in Snowdonia, mountain biking in the Welsh hills and expedition training in the Shropshire Hills for the third form.



“We only name a selection of the two dozen options taking place on the day, and the activities should have provided a welcome change from the routines of school life. Well done all and the spirit of adventure, curiosity, compassion and companionship lives on through our activities programme.”



Deputy Head Co-Curricular Peter Middleton added: “Whilst the weather wasn’t exactly the glorious sunshine that we might have hoped for, this term’s Field Day saw an incredible range of activities both on site and off campus. A Salopian education encompasses learning both inside and outside the classroom and this week’s Field Day saw pupils learning about the value of teamwork, leadership, creativity and perseverance amongst others.

“Director of Activities Nick David put together a fantastic programme of activities and I’d like to take the opportunity to thank Nick and likewise colleagues from the Common Room who delivered such a fantastic Field Day.”

Sixth Former selected for Professional Female Cricket match

Friday 21 May 2021

This week saw Lower Sixth Former Georgia N (G) join the likes of Old Salopian Issy Wong (G, 2015-20) and Head of Girls' Cricket Gwen Davies as she played cricket for the Central Sparks Senior Team.

Georgia was selected to play for the West Midlands professional cricketing team to go up against Western Storm at Newport Cricket Club in South Wales on Wednesday.

Georgia said: "I was delighted when the message came through that I was playing, and I couldn't wait to get out there. I really enjoyed the opportunity to play with a great group of girls and although we couldn't quite get the win, it was great to be part of such a professional yet enjoyable environment.

"I feel like I worked hard in the nets over winter and I'm glad to see it paying off now. It was obviously really nice to play alongside Gwen who has put a lot of time and effort into developing me as a player, and also Issy who has only just left here herself and whose footsteps I hope to follow in the future."



Head of Girls' Cricket, Gwen Davies added: "It was a hugely proud moment for me to see Georgia take the field on Wednesday for the Central Sparks Senior team. But even more so to watch her bat with Issy Wong and build a great partnership that pushed the team near 200 runs.

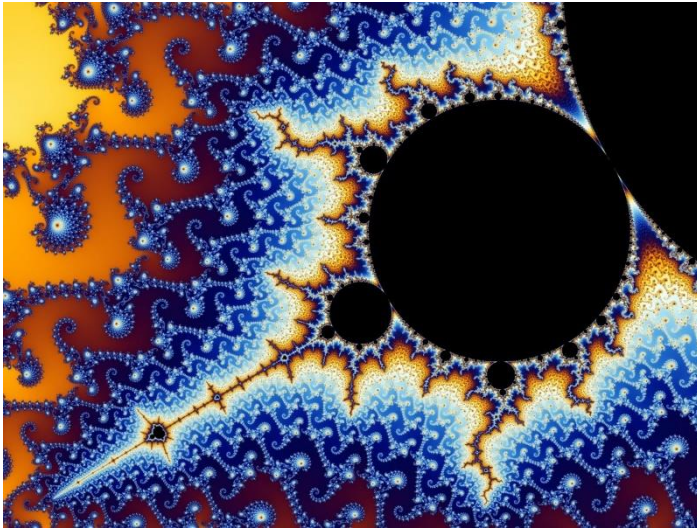
"Georgia has kept improving since she arrived at Shrewsbury, and always takes everything in her stride. I'm looking forward to seeing what this summer has in store for her!"

Third Former takes over theatre for experiment

Friday 21 May 2021

Mr Cooley helped transform the theatre to find out more about fluid mechanics.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award, as we've been reminded recently, encourages young people to enjoy the outdoors and to develop a skill or interest. It can be any interest and George M-S, a 3rd former in Rigg's, decided he would like to find out more about fluid mechanics, particularly turbulent flow. Through reading he had already established that it is a field in which chaotic behaviour is readily spotted (as in chaos theory and the butterfly effect, not as in an 8-yr-old's birthday party 20 minutes after the injection of a lot of sugar). He was also interested in fractals: mathematical constructions, often visual, which echo themselves if you zoom in on a smaller part of them.



A part of the Mandelbrot set – a famous fractal image

Besides the odd poster in a maths classroom displaying the Mandelbrot set (one of mathematics' most famous fractals), it is unlikely that anyone would meet any of these fields in an academic context before university: turbulent flows are complex and unpredictable and the mathematics describing fluid mechanics very rapidly become fiendish – indeed in most forms the equations are insoluble. Nonetheless (or maybe because of this) there is something visually intoxicating about these flows, as anyone who has sat in front of a fireplace can confirm, and equally intellectually fascinating as many who have studied fluid mechanics will attest.



After some discussion with George and with an OS Moserite currently applying for a PhD in fluid mechanics, we decided an initial target would be to try to get some images of the “energy cascade”: a fast fluid flow will break down from laminar flow into a large vortex or vortices which in turn feed ever smaller vortices, with energy passing down the chain. This might also show some properties similar to fractals. We enlisted help: Adam Wall, the theatre technician, has a smoke machine, a nice strong laser and an engineering degree so shared in the excitement of seeing some proper fluid mechanics. Mr Bird also helped, having a good camera and the wherewithal to use it! And off it all went.



Not without cause are turbulent flows difficult to model and predict: while there were some pretty cool patterns and atmospheric photographs, there was no sign of the breakdown from laminar to turbulent flow George had hoped to see. Indeed after setting off smoke alarms and opening a load of doors we learnt a bit about drafts and the efficacy of airing a space. There will be more experiments in flow visualisation to come – possibly using water tanks and ink in the physics department. The pictures we get will almost certainly not be as cool as these, there should be plenty of chances to see complex situations develop.

Mr Seb Cooley



Arthur Dunn Cup

Tuesday 25 May 2021

With a place in the Arthur Dunn Cup final against Old Foresters awaiting the winner, the match kicked off in the usual frantic, enthusiastic manner.

Old Salopians 3 – 2 Kings College School Wimbledon

With a place in the Arthur Dunn Cup final on Saturday 29th May at 2.30pm against Old Foresters awaiting the winner, the match kicked off in the usual frantic, enthusiastic manner. The opposition had clear height advantage throughout the pitch and Shrewsbury learnt the hard way when KCS scored after 15 minutes from a set piece header at the back post. Some nice football was played as a response, but ultimately there were a distinct lack of chances created by Shrewsbury in the first half. The half time team talk was composed and thoughtful with the message being to carry on playing the way that Shrewsbury like to play.

Ten minutes into the second half Old Salopians equalised via an own goal from an in swinging corner that caused a mix up at the front post. Dan Humes claims it was on target which would lead to it being marked under his name. One for the dubious goals committee to mull over.

With Shrewsbury now dictating the game, the next goal felt inevitable with momentum all Shrewsbury's way. That goal came 5 minutes after the equaliser with Tom Kelly through on goal on his favoured left foot, drilling the ball low across the keeper into the bottom right hand corner of the goal. 2-1 Shrewsbury...

Five minutes later, a hand ball mix up on the edge of the box handed Shrewsbury a penalty which Tom Kelly stepped up and rifled home with that same left footed shot into the bottom right hand corner. 3-1 Shrewsbury...

With one minute left on the clock, KCS Wimbledon got back a goal to make it 3-2 and a slightly nervy ending. Ultimately, though, the result flattered KCS Wimbledon who were played off the park. Man of the match was rightly Tom Kelly, but there were some honourable mentions of George Pearce who played a very composed match in the centre of midfield and Raul Alexis from the left wing position.



Hundreds of entries for the fifth Biology Photo Competition

Tuesday 25 May 2021

The winners of this year's Biology Photo Competition have been announced, with the prize-winning pictures ranging from some stunning wildlife photography to impressive nature shots.

The judges of this year's photography competition were made up of biology teachers, enthusiasts and an art and photography teacher, who all took on the challenge of judging the hundreds of entries.

Biology Teacher Henry Exham said: "This is now the Fifth year of the Biology Photo competition and it is great to see once again such a variety of different images. There were over one hundred entries showcasing a wonderful biodiversity across both the plant and animal kingdoms. The job for the judges was therefore tougher than ever with so many images of merit but they narrowed it down in the end and have picked some fantastic photos once again.

"Congratulations to all the winners!"

The winners:

Junior Category (3rd - 5th Form)

Winner – Poppy G (MSH, IV)

Runner-Up – Towa N (EDH, III)

Commended – David S (S, IV)

Commended – Poppy G (MSH, IV)



Poppy G's winning entry

Senior Category (6th Form)

Winner – Annie F (M, LVI)

Runner-Up – Charlotte R (G, UVI)

Commended – Jerry L (R, LVI)

Commended – Natalie D (G, UVI)



Annie F's winning entry

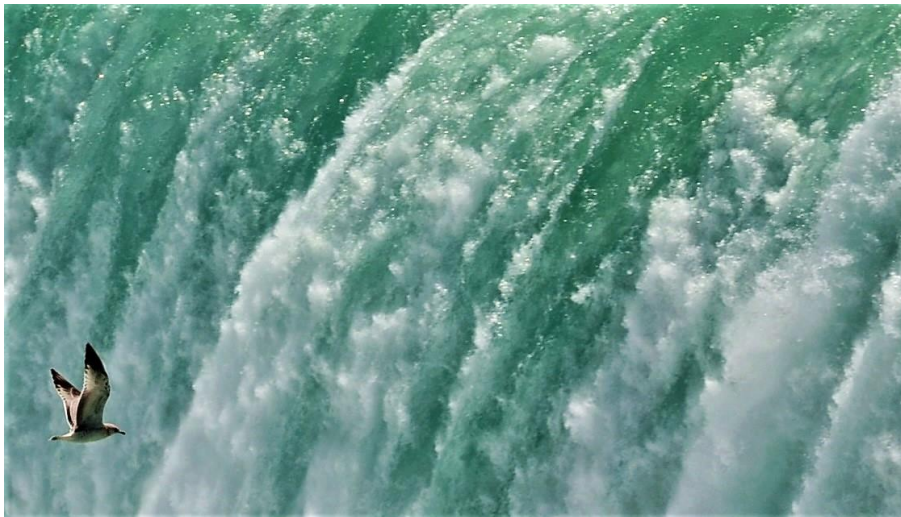
Staff

Winner – Stewart Harrison

Runner-Up – Ray Vardill

Commended – Leo Winkley

Commended – Deb Hazan



Stewart Harrison's winning entry

A Feast of Concerts from Shrewsbury School

Friday 28 May 2021

The return of audiences has seen the Music Department host both lunchtime and a Friday night concert.

Friday Night Concert

Director of Music Stephen Williams said: "We were delighted to shine the spotlight on our talented younger musicians at the Lower School Concert on Friday May 21. It was such a thrill to be joined by an audience made up of the parents of the performers. This was a watershed moment as we returned to something we all cherish; communicating - through live music – with an audience. I commend the concert to you for its many superb performances with great tunes to match."

Lunchtime Concert

A special lunchtime concert was performed in Alington Hall on Monday.

The concert featured two of the chamber ensembles that have worked relentlessly this term and throughout lockdown before some of the overseas students leave at half term. The programme will be as follows:

Pantomime for 13 Wind Instruments - Gary Carpenter

1. Prologue
2. Grand March (of the Chief Executive)
3. Waltz Finale - 'Depravity'

Assistant Director of Music, Maria McKenzie said: "Prologue reflects the morning bustle of a mythical Far-Eastern market place.

"Grand March (of the Chief Executive) is the music that accompanies the first arrival of the Emperor and his court. The important music that is required for entry is provided by Mahler, although in the wrong key and on the wrong beat of the bar!

"Waltz Finale - 'Depravity' Abenazar the embodiment of all evil, also doubles as a music-hall turn, and in this version in waltz time as well."

Sun shines for annual Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter Mile Challenge Heats

Friday 28 May 2021

It was glorious weather for an afternoon of running, as Salopians took part in this year's Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter Mile Challenge Heats.

After weeks of rain, the sun shone for one of the first all-school events of the year which saw our boys and girls take part in the Heats before the finals on Sunday, June 27 at 10am.



The pupils were out in force to cheer on their houses, with face paints and flags out showing their support.

Master in Charge of Athletics, Emma Davis said: "And I did promise sunshine... an excellent afternoon of Athletics took place on 'Top Common' for the Annual 'Sidney Darwin Dash and Quarter Mile Challenge'. It was a delight to see so many pupils competing, supporting each other and a wonderful sense of normality returning. There were some exceptionally quick times and I look forward to the Final - it looks to be an epic battle in a number of races!

"Thank you so much to all the staff who supported the event - the grounds team for preparing the 'track' in tough conditions, the Physical Education department and of course Mr Percival for his commentating and excellent DJ'ing!"

The genesis of the event came when a local resident of the town contacted the School asking whether we would be interested in a silver butter dish top that she had found in her attic, presented on 17th June 1869 to a certain H Hughes for winning the Shrewsbury School Quarter-Mile.



Having gratefully received this donation, we added a rather fine plinth and silver plates and considered the idea of recreating the old ‘Quarter-Mile’ event. A suitable location was scouted for, with various areas around the school campus and beyond considered, but the area around Central was settled on, to include a loop down past the Main School Buildings and around the Alington Hall. We decided, moreover, to extend the event to include a sprint, with the tree-lined avenue running between the Sidney and Darwin statues providing a natural ‘track’ to put our speedsters to the test.

It was certainly quirky and not your average athletics event, but the first year’s in 2011 event was a tremendous success, with competitors and spectators relishing the uniqueness of the event and the exciting action that it generated. The trophy was won by Port Hill’s Howard Stringer in a time that remains the event record, a title that he retained in his upper sixth year in 2012.



In 2016 the event was relocated to Top Common, being deemed a more suitable (and safer!) option for our exceptionally quick runners!

The event is a highlight in the School’s Athletics Calendar, and one that was warmly welcomed after a year of remote learning.



We look forward to the final competition at the end of June!

No Mow Campaign to extend until July

Friday 28 May 2021

The Eco Committee were out and about on Thursday afternoon, enjoying the results of No Mow May so far.

The No Mow May campaign, run by the British conservation charity Plantlife, has seen the lawns outside Kingsland House left to grow, with a range of wildflowers now adorning the meadow to provide more nectar for bees.



The pupil-led Eco Committee took to the lawns to count the number of flowers that had grown in a month using random sampling. The results would then allow them to calculate the nectar rating, so they could work out how many bees would be fed in a day with the flowers grown on the KH Lawns. The lawn will be given a nectar rating once the data has been analysed and added to the national database.

As there has been so much rain recently the flower growth will have slowed down, meaning that the No Mow campaign will carry on until Speech Day on July 3rd, where the Eco Committee will be able to showcase the lawns and how the campaign has impacted on flower growth and in turn, become a source of nectar for bees.



The Eco Committee also sent out a survey earlier this week to receive feedback on the No Mow May Campaign, and whether the No Mow areas could be considered for a permanent fixture.

Salopian athletes impress as they beat PBs

Friday 28 May 2021

There's been a spate of Personal Best records recently for our Salopians.

- Jonny P (I, LVI) gained a PB of 52.7 for the 400m.
- Will S (R, V) and Brad K (R, IV) – 1st (4.14) and 2nd (4.21) in the 1,500m.
- Harry P-M (I, III) set a new PB (4.34.07) in the 1,500m - Harry was ranked 13th in the UK when he set his PB.
- Jack K (PH, III) set a new PB, taking almost 30 seconds off his last 1,400m time. He ran in 4.15.81, placing him 6th in the rankings this year for U15s.



Elsewhere members of the RSSH placed 3rd in the boys' race and 9th in the girls' race King Henry VIII Relay Race, which was done remotely around the Shrewsbury Park Run route around the Quarry.

The Boys B Team placed 10th, making them the second-fastest B Team of all.

Particular congratulations to Will S (R, V) for posting the 12th-fastest time for an individual boy, and to Sophia U (EDH, V) for the 9th-fastest individual girl.



Well done too to Jack K (PH, III) whose time of 17:49 made him the second fastest U15 runner and the fastest U14.

Master in Charge of Athletics Emma Davis added: "The Athletics Squad are also looking ahead to Saturday 19th June for the Shropshire Schools County Championships – if any more pupils wish to enter please get in contact with me as soon as possible. We hope to take at least 30+ athletes to the event."

Field Day one week on - a chance to see what our Salopians got up to!

Friday 28 May 2021

A week on from a jam-packed Field Day, it's time to see what just some of our groups got up to.

From music technology to mountain biking, creative writing to cricket, there really was something for our Third, Fourth and Lower Sixth Form pupils to enjoy.

Director of Activities Nick David said: "For us, Field Days are something different. They give the boys and girls a chance to get out of school and to pursue something of real interest in a different environment."

The John Peel Society were set the task of creating an A-Z playlist of artists hosted by the iconic DJ.

Jonny P (I, LVI) said: "John Peel was famous for his eclectic taste in underground music. The artists chosen for the playlist have originated from a variety of genres including Post-punk, darkwave, industrial, world, country and reggae. Some of these artists are virtually unknown while others have reached commercial success (possibly through the help of exposure from the John Peel show). Above anything the society has shown us a huge variety in music that we likely would not have found otherwise."



Pupils also visited Marches Centre of Manufacturing and Technology (MCMT) in Bridgnorth and Lower Sixth pupils presented for the STEM Challenge to MCMT, Leanne Mee CEO of the STEM Workshop.

Miss Perkins, Design and Technology Teacher said: "All students' presentations were of an outstanding quality. The presentation by Thea H (MSH, LVI) was exceptional and congratulations for being the prize winner on the day."

Thea and Saxon S (S, LVI) said: "Meeting Leanne, receiving the tour around MCMT and giving my presentation for the STEM challenge, all provided me with invaluable experience. It was incredibly useful and opened my mind up to numerous possibilities which I hadn't considered

before, such as apprenticeships. I was quite interested in hearing about the heritage section and repairing older cars.

“I am extremely grateful to Leanne for being so kind to put in the time and effort in showing us around and judging our presentations. I look forward to seeing her again and learning more about engineering, particularly robotics and electrical engineering.”



Over on the West Coast of Wales, the Natural History Society enjoyed the new Cors Dyfi Centre.

Director of the Society, Jackie Matthews said: “We had an amazing day, with lovely warm sunshine. The first osprey hatched just before we got there! We were the first ever school tour to visit the new Cors Dyfi Centre, a very impressive sustainable new build. We ate lunch in the dunes at Ynyslas and felt the full force of the wind and rain on the beach - a great day out!



Elsewhere our Concert Party Group performed at a local care home, the Combined Cadet Force were at multiple locations including Snowdonia, Cosford Museum and Whitemere and the Rovers travelled to Llangollen where they walked the Horseshoe Pass.



Deputy Head Co-Curricular Peter Middleton added: “Packed full of adventure, challenge, teamwork and camaraderie, Field Day saw our pupils engaged in a vast variety of activities from scuba diving to sign language, willow-weaving to wet weather mountain biking, and everything in between.

“It's our belief that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom, and days such as these are both memorable and fun occasions but likewise tremendous learning opportunities. I'm grateful to my colleagues for planning, preparing and delivering such a terrific suite of activities, and we very much look forward to the next one!”

