

# Letters from Shrewsbury No. 13: Dear Jeremiah

Sunday 6 September 2020

*The latest in the Headmaster's series of 'Letters from Shrewsbury'. A letter to 'Dear Jeremiah'*

Please follow the link to enjoy reading it:

[No. 13: 'Dear Jeremiah'](#) (4 September 2020)

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

[No. 12: 'Dear Gavin'](#) (16 August 2020)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 'The Peace of Trees that All Night Whisper Nothings'

Friday 11 September 2020

*Members of the School's Creative Writing Society have published a wonderful anthology of poems inspired by the 'Shrewsbury School Tree Walk' created last year by the Natural History Society.*



The anthology was edited during the lockdown by Edward Bayliss (Rt U6) and has been illustrated with photos by Mr Yule (Art Faculty).

"We are grateful for the visionary powers of Mrs Matthews, Dr Law and the wizardry of Euan Parr (Rb U6) and the rest of the Natural History team in helping spark this project to life," says Mr Fraser-Andrews, Teacher in Charge of the Creative Writing Society, in his introduction to the anthology.

"The numbered trees in each poem correspond with the numbers on the map at the back of this volume, found online at <https://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/news/shrewsbury-tree-walk>. I hope these poems enrich any arboreal amble around over 800 trees within our beautiful campus, from the moment you walk through the Moss Gates.

"When we started the process of 'composting' our collective imaginations on Thursday afternoons, our creative writers responded to a wide-range of stimuli, from oral and folk traditions of 'The Green Man' and other local legends, from the writings of Andrew Allott, former head of Biology and Shrewsbury's tree expert par excellence, and from excerpts from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and 20th and 21st century treatments of this seminal work which, among other things, explores the idea of change so profoundly. The title of this volume is taken from the poem 'Philemon and Baucis' by Thom Gunn, from his collection *The Man with Night Sweats* (1992), which was written, in part, as an elegy composed in the shadow of AIDS.

"Setting out last year, we had no idea how drastically life would change, nor in what ways the conditions of writing these pieces would alter so dramatically with the onset of a national

lockdown and the school closure in response to this pandemic of our own time. Written from afar, some of these poems therefore conjure a spirit of the place recollected, if not in tranquillity, then with intimate fondness, somehow capturing both the dynamic of natural mutability and an unforgettable chapter in 'The Schools' five centuries of history. Yet it is also poetry that expresses an urge to seek reassurance and inspiration from Nature's simultaneous ability to project strengths that appear to transcend change itself."

Please follow the link to download a copy of the anthology: [Fire Engine 2020](#)  
*Crescant arbores. Floreat Salopia.*

# Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Success

Friday 11 September 2020

*An update on our Sixth Form Chemists' achievements in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.*

During the summer, while working in remote, 17 of our Lower Sixth Chemists took time out of their schedules to stretch themselves via the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Ordinarily a 90-minute paper sat in schools across the country, this year candidates had a time window in which to complete the paper and submit their responses online.

The Lower Sixth Cambridge Chemistry Challenge aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry and is set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists. It is designed for Year 12 students but takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.

Following moderation, every entrant from Shrewsbury School came away with a medal, with 3 Copper, 5 Silver, 7 Gold and 2 Gold Star awards, representing marks in the top 60% of entries.

Particular congratulations go to Ivan Ye and Eudora Xiao, who scored over 90% in the challenge, placing them among the top 0.6% of all entries.

## **Awards gained:**

Copper: Amos Cheung, Klim Sizov, Nick Xie

Silver: Molly Fox, Winston Luk, Maarten Straube, Oliver Taylor, Krystal Zhu

Gold: Jeremy Au-Yeung, Edward Hou, Joe Pattenden, Anya Wong, Ian Wong, Tetsuyoshi Yamada, Jasper Yip

Gold Star: Eudora Xiao, Ivan Ye

Many thanks to Mr Schofield for overseeing and marking the competition in remote. We wish our Lower Sixth Chemists the best of luck as they navigate university applications this term.

*Mr Wray*

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*Mr Wray*

# England Women's Cricketing Preparations Continue for Issy

Friday 11 September 2020

*Issy Wong (G 2015-20) is currently part of the England Women's Cricket Bio-Secure Bubble as they prepare for their forthcoming series of matches.*

The squad of 24 players were selected earlier this summer to isolate in a bio-secure bubble, where they are training and playing internal matches amongst the squad, in preparation for playing the West Indies in a short series of five IT20 matches later this month.



Issy comments: "It's been such a good experience being in the bubble this summer. There's a lot of knowledge in that dressing room and it's been exciting for me to learn from some of the players that I have grown up watching."

The Vitality IT20 Series will be played at the Incora County Ground, Derby and begins on Monday 21st September. Good luck to Issy and the rest of the England Women's Cricket squad!



# Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Friday 11 September 2020

*Futures and Higher Education Bulletin Edition 1 Michaelmas Term 2020 from the Futures Department, full of useful information, reminders, resources and weblinks for Fifth and Sixth Formers and their parents.*

Please follow the link to download it as a pdf: [Futures Bulletin Edition 1, Michaelmas Term 2020.](#)

# First Week Back - Photo Gallery

Friday 11 September 2020

*A few photos of life at Shrewsbury shared on social media over the last few days...*



The new dance studio in action







# Saracens Undaunted in Devon

Monday 14 September 2020

*Taking their lead from the recent Test series, the Saracens triumphantly succeeded in going on their traditional cricket tour of North Devon whilst observing social distancing protocols.*

To assemble a tour party of 24 in the current circumstances was remarkable.

In the four matches played, two wins (against North Devon CC and Bideford CC) and two narrow losses (against North Devon CC on Day 2 and Brasenose College Strollers) were recorded, but on and off the field it was cricket that was the overall winner.

Particular congratulations to Steve Barnard (RB 09-11) for organising the not-to-be forgotten 2020 tour.

**Nick Jenkins**

# Current Sabrina News

Wednesday 16 September 2020

*September saw a historic Sunday morning, with both Sabrina oarsmen and women in training together on the Severn*



# Moser's History

Wednesday 16 September 2020

*Not one but two former Moserites delivered their daughters to their old House at the start of this term.*

John Sharman (M 83-88) and Matthew Morris (M 85-90) dropped off Sophie and Millie respectively for the start of their time in Moser's, thereby making a bit of Salopian history for the House.

# Bubbles, Balloons and Happiness - Summer at the Shewsy

Friday 18 September 2020

*An update on the Summer re-opening of the Shewsy.*



**John Hutchinson**, Chair of the Board comments: "The children and staff are thrilled to be back together again. The young people are visibly thrilled to be back in 'their' place and are extremely happy with the improvements that have been made to the club, such as the new canteen area, sensory room, additional room upstairs, and the repainted gym."

## **John Dumbell's Update:**

In the first week of reopening we have held an outreach session in Everton Park in which we had a BBQ and water balloon games. This was very popular and attended by 40+ young people. In total we have delivered quality provision to around 100 different young people safely and effectively within the first week.

The younger age group have really flourished allowing the staff to have some very positive engagements and has created a more relaxed atmosphere with all young people participating positively.

In **Junior club** we have introduced a bubble system where parents must book their child's place in advance. With the bubble system in mind we have been running identical programmes of activity both upstairs and down and using different entrance/exit points for each bubble to use.

This has worked very well and the Junior club members have managed to adhere to the new guidelines without any fuss. We have had the same 24 young people booked in for the whole week and are already booked up for the next week, with a reserve list in place.

Young people are advised to bring their own drinks bottle and snack although we have ordered fruit for next week as part of healthy eating week to promote a better diet.

Throughout the week we tried to spend as much time as possible outdoors so having the park on our doorstep has been an added bonus.

All parents have signed our covid consent form and electronic one are being emailed out to all our senior parents as getting their forms returned has proven more difficult

**Senior Club** has also seen its fair share of changes the first week has seen us run 5 sessions Monday and Wednesday we have had the year 7,8,9s in, Tuesday and Thursday the year 10+. We have been pleasantly surprised at how popular the split sessions have been.





# Crucial Weekend in National Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for Salopians

Friday 18 September 2020

*Gwen Davies, Head of Girls Cricket at Shrewsbury School, and Issy Wong (G 2015-20) provide an update on their involvement in Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy.*



Pipped to be the favourites of the North Group, Central Sparks didn't start off as expected. The opening match of the competition was held at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, as the Central Sparks took on The Northern Diamonds. Packed with experienced England Internationals like Katherine Brunt, Nat Sciver and Lauren Winfield as well as ex England Internationals like Beth Langston and Jenny Gunn, The Northern Diamonds bowled the Central Sparks out for just 144, Gwen Davies top scoring with 33. Not only did the experience of their line up shine through in their bowling attack, The Northern Diamonds then chased the total down having only lost one wicket to secure the win in just 24 overs.

After being knocked down heavily two days prior, the Central Sparks had to dust themselves off and go again. This time to take on Lancashire Thunder at Edgbaston. Raring to go and firing out of the blocks, Issy Wong took 3 for 26 in her 10 overs, as her side bowled Lancashire out for 135. After a slight wobble at the top of the order the Central Sparks secured their first win at home. Moving across to their second home at New Road, Worcester – Central Sparks were able to make it 2 from 2 against Lancashire Thunder as this time, they posted a more comprehensive win by 8 wickets, thanks to a first wicket stand of 113 from the opening pair of Gwen Davies and Eve Jones.



The second game at New Road, saw Central Sparks in a last over thriller vs Loughborough Lightning, which unfortunately saw them on the losing end by 6 runs. Despite a good 50 from Gwen Davies, the lower order of the Central Sparks weren't able to get them over the line. The penultimate game of the competition saw the Central Sparks travel north for their second match vs The Northern Diamonds, this time with all England Cricketers missing and in Loughborough on a training camp, which included Amy Jones and Issy Wong from the Central Sparks - it was a battle of the best domestic cricketers. Winning the toss, Central Sparks captain Eve Jones elected to bowl first and put the Northern Diamonds in to bat. After 50 overs, The Northern Diamonds were bowled out for 217. A competitive score on a very good pitch, The Central Sparks were going to have to work hard. Leading from the front, Eve Jones scores a classy 77 at the top of the order to give the lower order a platform to build on, in which they did. Thanks to a well worked 31 from Poppy Davies and a quick fire 23 from Chloe Hill, the Central Sparks clinched the win in the 47<sup>th</sup> over.

Going in to the last game of the group stages, which is on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, it is all to play for. If Central Sparks clinch the win vs Loughborough Lightning with a bonus point, and Lancashire Thunder beat The Northern Diamonds, The Central Sparks will find themselves in the Final at Edgbaston vs The Southern Vipers on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. With the return of Issy Wong from the England Training Bubble, The Central Sparks will be hoping to post a comprehensive win against Loughborough Lightning away at Grace Road Leicester, and pray for a red rose win at Headingley!

Gwen Davies, Comments: "It's been great to finally get out on the park and play some cricket, after a long wait in lockdown. A huge thanks has to go to everyone that has been involved behind the scenes, especially Laura Macleod, who has worked tirelessly to make sure that this competition has been allowed to happen. It has been very different in training and in matches, with the very close monitoring of health and social distancing, but it's good to be back. Fingers crossed the results go our way this weekend, and we can play in the final at home on the 27<sup>th</sup>."







# Salopian Crowned KAZ Worldwide Touch-Typing Champion

Friday 18 September 2020

*Many congratulations to Mew Hansiriphan (O L6), whose speedy typing skills have earned him the prize of being crowned winner of the inaugural KAZ Worldwide Touch-Typing Tournament.*

KAZ provide award-winning online typing courses and software to schools, businesses and individuals across the world. Their Worldwide Touch-Typing Tournament for schools was a new venture this year and they were delighted with the response:

“Learning to touch type can sometimes be considered a bit of a chore, but the launch of KAZ’s very first touch typing tournament earlier this year created a whirl of excitement amongst schools across the world. Not only did it encourage pupils to learn the skill, but it also brought out their competitive spirit.

“After fluctuations in leadership over the school term, we are delighted to announce that Mew Hansiriphan of Shrewsbury School has been crowned champion, with a score of 65 words per minute (WPM) and 89% accuracy.”



Touch-typing is one of the activities on offer to all pupils at Shrewsbury as part of the School’s co-curricular Societies programme. It is very popular among pupils and is championed enthusiastically by teacher Karen Mitchell, Head of Learning Support:

“Touch-typing is a valuable life-skill that not only supports pupils’ academic studies at school but also their future career paths. As your typing skills improve, you save time, you can focus on the text on the monitor rather than on the keypad, and it improves your accuracy. Learning

to touch-type properly also has health benefits, as it ensures you sit correctly at your computer, which is good for your spine, increases your productivity and unleashes the potential of your brain.

“Our pupils very much enjoyed the challenge of taking part in the KAZ Worldwide Touch-Typing Tournament, and we were thrilled to be told that the competition had been won by Mew. He worked extremely hard at improving his typing speed and accuracy and he is to be warmly congratulated for his achievement.”

“Mew is a top academic student, excelling in many of his subjects, but especially in Science and Maths,” says his Housemaster, Henry Exham. “He is also a keen rower, representing the School at a high level, and is a highly motivated student who gets the most out of everything he does. He has a great attitude and work ethic – as his fantastic success in the KAZ Touch-Typing Tournament clearly demonstrates

# Annual Third Form Race 2020

Friday 18 September 2020

*Our new Third Form entrants were treated to glorious late-summer sunshine on Saturday as they headed towards Central for the start of the annual Third Form Race. One week in to their time at Shrewsbury School, this will be a date they will probably remember for years to come, as one of their first opportunities to compete for their House.*



This event would of course be rather different from previous years – the socially distanced pens beforehand, the altered course to ensure we stayed entirely on site, the lack of parents to spectate – but the tension as they gathered to put on their numbers was as palpable as ever. Clearly nervous (perhaps influenced by some mischievous older pupils telling them that the entire School would be watching, and that the course was at least 10km long), they listened intently to the Master in Charge's briefing, learning to their great relief that the race was in fact just over 2km long and that the only people watching were the many teachers who would act as marshals along the route.

One significant change to previous years was seen on the start line, as we separated the Houses into three waves: five boys' Houses, then all four girls' Houses, then the remaining four boys' Houses, separated by a gap of five minutes each. This meant that as the third wave set off, they could already see the leaders of the first wave come through the tape and stagger back to their House pens to await the results.





It is difficult with an amended course to compare times with previous years, but the course was measured to be a shade shorter than normal, and flatter (the climb up from the river back along Ridgemount Lane having been eliminated) so we were expecting times to be a little quicker. And so it proved, with the leader of the first wave, Jack Kinrade (PH), crossing the line in just 7:35, which – altered course notwithstanding – probably puts this among the very best performances in the Third Form Race in recent memory. Harry Parker MacLain (I) was not far behind, in an impressive 7:55.



With the three waves setting off separately, we would have to wait until all the results were compiled before we knew the outright winners and the House victors. Neither Jack's time nor Harry's was to be beaten by any runner from the other two waves, and so they claimed gold and silver medals respectively. A remarkable run from Sophia Coulson (MSH) in a time of 8:36 meant she claimed not only the girls' gold medal, but also third place overall. Claiming the boys' bronze medal was George Moody-Stuart (R) in a time of 8:51, while the girls' silver was won by Olivia Kerley (M) in 9:12, ahead of third-placed Catty Collings (MSH) in 9:22.

The boys' House winners were Radbrook, who though they only had one boy finish in the top ten, they packed in brilliantly and have five finishers inside the top 15. Second place went to Ingram's, who also showed significant strength in depth with four finishers in the top 15, and third went to Oldham's Hall. The girls' House winners were once again Emma Darwin Hall, reclaiming a title they've won for several years in a row now. Second place went to Moser's Hall, with the team bronze medals being picked up by Mary Sidney Hall.

It was terrific to see the House spirit on display at this event, and the efforts made by pupils right through the pack, even to the last few places who were determined to cross the line and complete what was in some cases their first-ever cross-country race. After the tension beforehand, the collective happiness and camaraderie after the race was wonderful to witness. Well done to everyone who competed.





# Michaelmas Term Co-Curricular Update - 18 September 2020

Friday 18 September 2020

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

## Co-Curricular Roundup

It is good to be back.

This has been something of a refrain since term began with both staff and pupils thrilled to be back on campus and enjoying the rich variety of Salopian life once again. We've benefited from some quite glorious late summer weather, but more than anything it is the radiance of a campus coming to life with the sights and sounds of pupils and staff living and learning together again that has made for such a vibrant first fortnight.

The campus has seen an absolute feast of activity with the first weekend a fine example. The Third Form race- with three waves set off at intervals- saw our new pupils don their house vests for the first time whilst the football and hockey fields were similarly awash with the vibrant spectrum of house colours as fiercely contested Inter-House matches filled the first Saturday afternoon. Serious fun.

It got even better. Sunday saw seven hours of Inter-House cricket matches for the boys and an inaugural [girls' House Football competition](#). The former is something of a familiar sight on the Shrewsbury campus (albeit not normally in September); the latter was an historic first and the atmosphere on those pitches and sidelines was really something to behold. New Director of Sport [Andrew Pembleton](#) and his team deserve considerable praise for the work they've put in to getting sport up and running.

Foundation Fortnight has, as ever, been a wonderfully varied and busy induction programme for our new pupils where, alongside settling in to their academic lessons and house life they have likewise been able to explore the wide range of co-curricular opportunities available to them at Shrewsbury with workshops in drama and dance, an introduction to music, and a wide range of sporting experiences whether familiar activities such as football and hockey or those perhaps that are new such as rowing and Fives. Head of Year Jeremy Lucas has done a superb job in putting together the programme and, as ever, the pupils have relished this immersive first experience of Shrewsbury School life.

The brand new Barnes Theatre has been something of a talking point as our pupils have returned, and our dancers and actors are positively buzzing to have such an amazing facility to come back to. A sprung-floor dance studio (with the most glorious view down the tree-lined avenue of Central) has seen hundreds of Salopians already taking advantage of the facility, whilst the new-look theatre is already alive with rehearsals for House plays and examined performances.

The campus is likewise alive with the sound of music and how good it has been to see and hear our pupils getting back to playing together again. New Director of Music [Stephen Williams](#) and his team have put together a wide variety of ensembles for our musicians to participate in, and we have our first concert of the year on Saturday 19 September with the traditional New Entrants' Concert taking place in the Alington Hall to an audience of Third Form pupils sat in their House bubbles. It is of course unfortunate that we are unable to welcome parents to attend this- and other events- but we will be filming it and providing a link for parents so they can watch the concert at home.

Whether it be MUN or bee-keeping, mountain biking or STEM, we've got a wide and varied programme up and running and where there are challenges, we're endeavouring to find solutions. What has been so good to see is the positive spirit in which both pupils and staff have returned to school site and engaged so enthusiastically in the co-curricular programme. Salopians tend to be pretty upbeat and resilient and, if the first fortnight is anything to go by, the term ahead is one in which we'll see them meet both challenges and opportunities with relish.

It is good to be back.

# An Update on Shrewsbury School Cricket

Friday 25 September 2020

*Information on our cricket results and recent achievements in September.*

For the first time since the 1980s the school ran a short cricket programme in September that met the needs of both the house and school cricketers.

The wonderful weather allowed us to play on excellent dry pitches and I would like to thank all the officials, cricket, teaching, grounds & house staff that made the events possible.

**Andy Barnard, Master IC Cricket**



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**SCHOOL FIXTURES** Shrewsbury School 1<sup>st</sup> XI Won 1 Lost 1

**HOUSE COMP** OLDHAMS do the double and win the U15 & U18 September House Cricket Comp

**GIRLS SQUAD** Play a competitive squad training match

## **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. JJ Fielding is currently taking part in trials for the England U19 squad, who are due to tour Australia in the early part of next year.
2. George Hargrave (Rb 2012-2016) scored his second Varsity century for Oxford University in September.
3. Ed Barnard (PH 2012-2013) was appointed captain of Worcestershire Rapids for their T20 campaign in August and September.
4. Gwenan Davies( Staff Coach) scored 169 runs at an average of 28 in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint trophy.
5. OS Issy Wong selected to be a part of the England Training Bubble at Derby & Loughborough University and signed first professional contract with Central Sparks.
6. Harriet Shuker elected Warwickshire U17 Captain.
7. Eve Jones ( Staff Coach) signed first professional contract with Central Sparks, and elected Captain.
8. Issy Wong, Eve Jones and Gwen Davies all selected to play for Central Sparks this summer, with contributions from all 3 throughout the Rachel Heyhoe Flint Trophy.
9. Meet Issy Wong article in The Telegraph – [Please click here to read the article.](#)

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**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> - 1stXI Boys v Malvern 11.30am Senior (40 White Ball match)**

Shrewsbury School 161 ao (Cooke 77, Walker

Malvern 162-6 (Parry 4-26)    **Malvern win by 4 wickets**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - 1stXI Boys v Warwickshire 10.30am   Shrewsbury CC**

Warwickshire 201-5 (Gallimore 2-24)

Shrewsbury 204-3 (Lees 61\*, Cooke 53, Parry 34\*)

**Shrewsbury win by 7 wickets**

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**House Cricket 2020**

**Quarter Finals Day – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

(Semi Finals & Finals Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>)

**1st House on Senior ( 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Form)**

Game A 10.00am **DAYBOYS BEAT RIGGS**

Game B 12.00pm **RIDGEMOUNT BEAT SCHOOL HOUSE**

Game C 2.00pm **SEVERNHILL BEAT CHURCHILLS**

Game D 4.00pm **OLDHAMS BEAT OLDHAMS**

**U15 House on Chances ( 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Form)**

Game A 10.00am **DAYBOYS LOST TO OLDHAMS**

Game B 12.00pm **RIDGEMOUNT LOST TO INGRAMS**

Game C 2.00pm **SEVERNHILL BEAT CHURCHILLS**

Game D 4.00pm **RIGGS BEAT SCHOOL HOUSE**

**Semi Finals Day – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**1st House on Senior (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Form)**

Semi Final A    10.00am **Ridgemount LOST TO Oldhams**

Semi Final B    12.00pm **Severnhill BEAT Dayboys**

**House Final    2.00pm   OLDHAMS BEAT SEVERNHILL**

**U15 House on Chances (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Form)**

Semi Final A    10.00am **Severnhill BEAT Oldhams**

Semi Final B    12.00pm **Ingrams BEAT Riggs**

**House Final    2.00pm OLDHAMS BEAT INGRAMS**

**GIRLS CRICKET Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Great to have the girls out yesterday and pleased to see the standard the game was played to.

**Team Kynaston 84-4 in 18 overs (Georgia Norman 35; Ellie Leigh Livingstone 2-7)**

**Team Shuker 85/5 in 15 overs. (Sophie Thomas 20; Alice Hughes 1-4, Scarlett Whittall 1-10)**



# Shrewsbury School Praised for Summer 2020 Community Support

Friday 25 September 2020

*During the summer holiday Shrewsbury School was pleased to be able to support the charity 'Action For Children' after its existing plans had been upset by COVID restrictions.*

Throughout high summer, enjoying largely warm sunny weather, the 'Action For Children' team were able to enjoy the space and peace of the school grounds to provide a short break holiday club for disabled children and at the same time to give some welcome respite to parents and carers. The children who came to us had fun and were able to learn and to develop, thus becoming more independent.

In total 27 families were supported, with children aged between 6 and 17 years of age taking part.

**Katrina Salimi**, Service Co-ordinator of Shropshire Community Short Breaks stated:

'We cannot thank the staff at Shrewsbury School enough for their support to us during a very difficult time (COVID-19) in allowing us to access their facilities in order for us to run our summer holiday club.'

'If we had not had access to Shrewsbury School we would not have been able to support our families who were in desperate need of their short break which would have ultimately had a detrimental effect on their health and wellbeing and may have resulted in families going into crisis.'

# Launching Shrewsbury Economists Magazine

Friday 25 September 2020

*A brand-new pupil driven Salopian community publication focusing on economics.*

To launch the first edition of the magazine please see below an introduction from Mr Nick Zafar, with commentary from pupil Ruby Read (MSH U6), followed by a sample article taken from the publication.



## Introductions

*"Economics can be a great challenge for students because, unlike many other subjects, they have no prior experience of it. For those with the necessary flair, empathy and, most important of all, an interest in applying their learning to the world, it is an opportunity to shine. These will be the economic 'movers and shakers' who will help shape society.*

*"This magazine was a project to provide a platform for these budding economists to show their excellence and how well they have done just that. Many of the articles in the first issue of 'Shrewsbury Economists' would put many a professional economic journalist to shame with the sheer quality of research and comment.*

*"Well done to all contributors and a special well done to Milton Tai (SH U6) who collated the content with skill and expertise beyond his years, and to Ruby Read (MSH U6) whose talent in designing and organising the final product was exceptional."*

**Mr Nick Zafar, September 2020.**

If you would like to read the full magazine, please contact Mr Zafar (nnz@) who will be able to send you a digital copy of the magazine.

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*"I have thoroughly enjoyed generating this magazine. As a new entrant it was daunting being set the challenge of creating something which is yet to be done at Shrewsbury School. Although it was a hard work at times, I have learnt new design skills and mastered unfamiliar software, which I am sure will be valuable to me in the near future. I think it showcases the vast amount of activities to get involved with at Shrewsbury.*

*"I would like to thank Mr. Zafar, Mrs. Warburg and all the other members of staff involved for making it possible. As well as a big thank you to Milton who has been diligent throughout the whole process."*

**Ruby Read (MSH U6), September 2020**

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## **Shrewsbury Economists Magazine**

### **UK and Hong Kong Article**

#### **The Minimum Wage - By Max Cheung**

In most parts of the world, the labour market is not a free market. It is usually intervened by the government by introducing a minimum wage. Minimum wage (MW) is the lowest remuneration which employers are legally expected to pay their workers. This legislation has been introduced by most countries at the end of the 1900s. In the UK, the minimum wage was introduced by the Labour government in 1998, with the rate at £8.72 starting on the 1st April 2020. The Legislative Council of Hong Kong enacted the Minimum Wage Ordinance to set a minimum wage in July 2010, with the current rate at \$37.5 HKD (~£3.75). Comparing the two figures, UK workers at minimum wage seem to be much better off, as they are earning more than double of what Hong Kong workers are receiving at minimum wage in nominal terms. However, is this the actual case? In this article we will be discussing whether it is justified to have the current rates of minimum wage by comparing numerous factors of these two countries.

In Hong Kong, a normal worker who is working at MW works an average of 42 hours per week. This gives an annual income of \$75,600 HKD (£7,560). This is way below the income tax allowance in Hong Kong.

Hence these workers do not have to pay any tax. Whereas in the UK, an average worker working at MW works around 37.5 hours per week – which is the median of the UK. The worker will, therefore, be earning £15,696 annually. With the UK's income tax allowance at £12,500 and a basic income tax rate of 20%, the worker will be left with a disposable income of £15,056. Although workers in Hong Kong at MW do not have to pay tax, from the statistic above it shows that UK workers at MW, after paying tax, earn about twice as much as Hong Kong workers do at MW. Having said that, UK workers work fewer hours than Hong Kong workers. Is this because the minimum wage in Hong Kong has forced the workers to work for longer hours to fulfil their basic needs? 'Yes' would be the simple answer.

Hong Kong is known to be one of the most densely populated places in the world. It has a population density of 6,659 people per km<sup>2</sup>. With limited space for housing, the housing price in Hong Kong is the most expensive on our planet. This is further worsened by mainland Chinese immigrating, who raise the housing price even further. The average cost to rent a flat in the UK (£728/month) is more than 2 times cheaper than renting an adequate flat in Hong Kong (£1,743/month). People in the UK working at MW with £1,308 every month will be able to afford shelter. Not such the case in Hong Kong. workers at MW would be earning only £630 per month. This gives them no option but to give up renting an adequate flat and to go for a than 2 times cheaper than renting an adequate flat in Hong Kong (£1,743/month). People in the UK working at MW with £1,308 every month will be able to afford shelter. Not such the case in Hong Kong, workers at MW would be earning only £630 per month. This gives them no option, but to give up renting an adequate flat and to go for a subdivided flat. This type of rental housing is introduced in the housing market to solve a market failure – shortage of housing. Subdivided

flats are usually disturbingly poor in quality and unsanitary, yet they are ubiquitous in Hong Kong. Some might argue public housing (council houses) should resolve this problem. However, in both the UK and Hong Kong, there is an excess demand for public housing, creating a shortage. In Hong Kong, it is even being categorised as an 'impossible task' to buy and own an adequate place for living. The average price to buy an apartment in Hong Kong is 5 times as much as the UK's, even if we compare the price of Hong Kong to London, the price in Hong Kong is still doubled. Overall, *ceteris paribus*, looking at the housing market and supply of housing in both countries and doing a comparison, the statistics show an overwhelming result of how Hong Kong's MW is being set too low in relation to the housing market, which leads to workers working at MW unable to find adequate shelter, thus a low standard of living.

Cost of living is inarguably the most important aspect considered when setting the minimum wage. Cost of living includes the cost for food, transport and shelter (which is mentioned above), which is positively correlated to the price level. The price level is measured by the CPI (Consumer Price Index). Most food-related goods like milk, beef, fruits or bread in Hong Kong are at least double the price of the UK. For example, 1L of milk cost £0.91 in the UK, whereas in Hong Kong, that would have cost £2.22. Food is the most commonly consumed type of goods, as it is essential in everyday life. On the other hand, transport costs in the UK are more than double what they are in Hong Kong. Cost for transport in the UK is more than double of what it is in Hong Kong. Combining these two costs of living, the UK is still cheaper to live in than Hong Kong. The reason for this is that food is regarded as the more significant factor between the two, as it 'weights' more to consumers. Therefore, a higher price for food would affect ordinary consumers greater. As a result, the cost of living in Hong Kong is higher relative to the UK's, linking with the low MW, it is clear to everyone that Hong Kong workers are worse off.

Minimum wage should be related to productivity; as MW increases there should be an incentive for workers to become more productive. Moreover, it would encourage employers to train their workers to become more productive to avoid being eliminated from the market. When productivity increases, MW should be raised to reward and motivate the workers. However, in both the UK and Hong Kong, no pattern of this is seen. In fact, in the UK, labour productivity has barely increased after 2014, averaging an annual increase of 0.3%. Therefore, productivity has only risen by 1.5% over the last 5 years.

However, MW in the UK has increased by more than 30% since 2014. The inability to increase productivity combined with a rise in MW has affected society negatively because this made it harder to lift GDP and impose higher wages for ordinary workers. This lowers the standards of living as a whole for society. In contrast, Hong Kong has achieved an annual increase of around 2% in productivity since 2014, giving an overall rise of 9.5% for the past 5 years. Although the MW in Hong Kong has been raised, it is nowhere near the 30% which UK workers enjoy. Hong Kong's MW only rose by 15% over the past 5 years. The increase in productivity has allowed wages for ordinary employees to go up. This would lead to an upsurge in consumption, causing an increase in aggregate demand and pushing up the price level. Therefore, workers at MW – fixed income – will be worse off.

Inflation is a sustainable increase in the price level. Inflation rate in Hong Kong has averaged 3.3% for the past 10 years, while the UK has been close to its trend at 2% inflation with its current rate at 1.8%. As the UK government has announced an increase in MW by 6.2% to £8.72, UK workers will, therefore, receive a pay rise which is quadruple the inflation rate. This is known as a rise in real income; thus, the employees are better off. In 2019, Hong Kong had saw its MW rise by 8.7% to \$37.5 HKD (£3.75) which beats the inflation rate. Unlike in 2017, where MW trailed behind inflation by 0.1%. An increase in MW would lead to higher purchasing

power, hence create demand-pull inflation. In Hong Kong, the inflation rate was expected to rise by 0.1%, meaning workers would have an 8.6% rise.

Putting income aside, welfare benefits can create a huge impact on low-income households. To claim benefits – universal credit – in the UK, workers have to be working under 16 hours a week. Therefore, a normal worker at MW who works the average number of hours in the UK will not be entitled to claim the benefits. In contrast, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance scheme is a welfare programme in Hong Kong which provides supplementary payments to low-income households. These households usually work at the MW and find it difficult to meet their basic needs. The scheme ensures an extra \$32,000 HKD annually. Since the Hong Kong government spends more on benefits, Hong Kong employees will be able to take advantage of this. Having said that, this wouldn't necessarily close the gap of living standards between British workers and Hong Kong workers, even though this is a good policy to minimise the governmental interference with the labour market and simultaneously subsidise these low-income households.

Alongside the monetary factors, health care and crime will play a part in determining standards. The health care services in both Hong Kong and the UK are two of the best in the world, as they are affordable by normal citizens and guaranteed high-quality service. The only downside is the long waiting times. The crime rate in Hong Kong is 3.2%, whereas in the UK the rate is 9.5%. Therefore, in terms of crime rate, Hong Kong workers will be better off. The minimum wage is not favoured by free-market economists as they believe minimum wage can cause a rise in unemployment. However, the unemployment rates are 3.4% and 3.8% in Hong Kong and the UK respectively. Although unemployment rates have been low, this has neglected the problem of underemployment. In the UK, more than 14% of employees working part-time would wish to work full-time. This is the case because when wage levels go up, firms lower their cost of production not by cutting back labour, instead by reducing the working hours of employees. This can be used to justify the reason for not increasing the MW immensely.

Minimum wage – price floor of the labour market – is introduced to protect workers from exploitation in work. Also, it is used to ensure workers' basic needs are met. In the UK, the level of the minimum wage is justifiable as it provides employees with a decent standard of living. Along with this it will not shock the market and cause mass unemployment. On the other hand, lots of workers at MW in Hong Kong struggle to fulfil their daily requirements. Although they are subsidised by the government, it has only contributed trivial effects on improving their lives. A reason for this is the MW is only altered once every two years, therefore, workers at MW will experience a fall in real income in the year in-between the adjustment due to inflation. Overall, MW in Hong Kong seems unreasonable. However, it could be justified, because a massive increase in MW will trigger an increase in unemployment, especially for inexperienced teenagers and workers with a disability. Hence employees will be worse off because of the scheme which is supposed to be used for protecting their rights.

To conclude, it is indubitable that the minimum wage has improved people's living standards, compared with the times without it. Since the policy acted as an incentive to work, it has led to economic growth. Therefore, higher quality products are produced, giving a better standard of living for ordinary people. Conversely, an introduction of a minimum wage has raised price levels, as firms decide to place their burden (cost of production) on the consumers instead. Furthermore, the long-run aggregate supply will not grow, because firms will be less willing to employ inexperienced workers and train them. As importantly, the flexibility of the labour market has reduced due to minimum wage. This lowers the competitiveness of the economy as a whole. Although there are negative effects of the minimum wage, I believe it is essential for the economy. The minimum wage in Hong Kong is unjustifiable as it does not ensure the basic needs of workers are being met. Although some might argue a greater increase in minimum wage

will cause unemployment, this is not true, as this pay rise is only suitable for workers at minimum wage. These workers work in lowskilled jobs. In Hong Kong, there is inelastic demand for low-skilled workers as more and more people graduate at the university level, fewer lowskilled workers are available in the market. As a result, the minimum wage should be raised higher to reduce poverty and close the inequity of wealth in Hong Kong. Additionally, unemployment caused by a higher minimum wage will be outweighed by the long-term benefits of a minimum wage, as a higher level of minimum wage will act as a strong incentive to raise productivity. Once productivity is raised, sustained economic growth will be achieved, therefore more jobs will be created. Hence the whole of society will be better off.



# Shrewsbury School Announced as Finalist in National Awards

Friday 25 September 2020

*Shrewsbury School is delighted to be named as a finalist in the category of Community Outreach at the annual Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2020. This award recognises the positive impact and contributions our pupils and staff have made by working with and supporting communities over the past year.*

All pupils at Shrewsbury School are involved in volunteering and community support during their educational journey, and this culture of kindness has a long history at the school. An example of this is the unique relationship between Shrewsbury School and the youth club Shrewsbury House ("The Shewsy") in West Everton dating back to 1903. Regular, joint activities have been held in the past year including a residential programme, sporting fixtures and fun days for the junior club.



Pupils are empowered to lead their own initiatives to broaden support and work with our local communities. Our award-winning Global Social Leaders student group have organised a homework club for refugee children, hosted tea parties for local elderly residents, delivered a major food bank Christmas fair, and visited the local frailty ward at Christmas. Art students have also hosted a 'The Big Draw' event for primary schools, and Musicians have hosted 'Symphonic Sundays' attended by over fifty 7-13 year olds from local schools.

In addition, over the last year pupils, and staff, have supported Shropshire hospitals and care homes, the local food bank, conservation projects, local schools with reading and sport, as well as, raising money in groups or through whole school activities for several local, national and international charities.



During the national lockdown period this year, the School adapted to support urgent local needs. We donated and manufactured thousands of items of PPE for frontline workers, encouraged and promoted fundraising and charitable action from our own community across the country and abroad, made donations to food banks and adapted our community volunteering programme to work virtually by streaming musical performances into care homes and writing letters to the elderly to mitigate increased social isolation.

Headmaster Leo Winkley said:

“We are thrilled to be recognised as finalists for this national award for our community outreach work. At Shrewsbury, we value deeply our strong and varied links with the community around us. Community outreach is both rewarding and mutually beneficial. As we support worthy local and national projects, our pupils learn vital life skills and enact a sense of social responsibility that they will carry with them for life.”

The successful finalist of the Community Outreach award will be announced at a virtual Independent School of the Year Awards event on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

# New Entrants' Concert September 2020

Friday 25 September 2020

*A video of the New Entrants' Concert recorded on Saturday 19th September 2020.*

**The introduction from the concert programme by *Stephen Williams*, Director of Music:**

How wonderful it is to welcome you to this concert of live (hooray!) music given by pupils who are newly arrived. It is surely a sign of a great musical heritage that newer pupils are willing to get stuck-in and generously share their music with the wider School community. Throughout the globe musicians have missed performing to, and making connections with, their audiences. So it is right that we should have many reasons to feel excitement and optimism as this evening unfolds.

Our enormously impressive Assistant Director of Music, Maria McKenzie has masterminded all the arrangements for this evening; that it all will work so well is down to her organisational brilliance. She has been ably supported by many members of the School community, most notably the wonderful Shelley Oliver in the Music Office.

The musicians you will hear this evening have been nurtured, inspired, and coached by numerous Directors of Music and Visiting Music Staff in a multitude of Prep and Junior Schools. That work has been particularly challenging in an online environment. I would like to pay tribute to their great dedication and thank them for their expertise which forms the bedrock of the performances you will hear this evening.

Joining, supporting, encouraging, and accompanying our soloists are the incomparable Susie Allan, Benedict Wilson, and David Joyce. I am grateful to them for their supportive and brilliant work that has made this evening possible.

As an incoming Director of Music I will always have a particular enthusiasm and empathy for this group of young people as we set out together on our Salopian paths. Having heard snippets of their rehearsals I know that you are in for a treat.

I sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we are able to welcome you all - in person - to the Allington Hall for similar events.

# BBC Young Writers' Award Success

Friday 25 September 2020

*Talented Salopian author Eustacia F (M L6) has been hailed among the best writers of her generation with notable success in a prestigious national writing competition.*

Judges of the BBC Young Writers' Award have long-listed the poetic and beautifully poised short story 'A Hundred Moons' which Eustacia wrote during Mr Fraser-Andrews' Creative Writing programme. Her entry was one of just 50 considered for the shortlist from nearly a 1,000 entries to the hotly-fought annual prize.

"This is an awesome achievement," says Mr Fraser-Andrews. "Eustacia exhibits a rare poetic sensibility in her thoughtful and considerate approach to her craft. She is dedicated and her reading is voluminous – all of which makes her a exemplary president of this year's Creative Writing Society."

Held in conjunction with First Story and Cambridge University, the competition will see its winner will be announced live on Front Row at 7pm on 6th October. You can read and listen to the five stories eventually shortlisted at [www.bbc.co.uk/ywa](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ywa), or on the Short Story podcast on BBC Sounds.

Eustacia's entry can be viewed at <https://shrewsbury.fireflycloud.net/english/creative-writing-lockdown-2020>

# Shrewsbury Classicist Highly Commended in Oxford College National Essay Competition

Friday 25 September 2020

*Bertie Shepherd-Cross (O U6) is celebrating after being highly commended for his submission in a national essay writing competition.*

The Mary Renault Prize is a Classical Reception essay prize for schools' and colleges' sixth form pupils, awarded by the Principal and Fellows of St Hugh's College, Oxford; the prizes are funded by the royalties from the late novelist's book sales.



Bertie tackled the ambitious and fascinating subject of the ancients' portrayal of skin colour and its perception and use in modern times. '*Fascism, Slavery and White Supremacy: Why We Need to Colour Correct Antiquity*' looked at the issues and questions raised by the practice of representing marble statues as being monochrome, when in reality Greeks and Romans painted them, often in rather gaudy colours.

Bertie said, 'It was enjoyable researching a topic that I found very intriguing; the misconception today is that all ancient statues were a sort of whitewashed cream colour – this was simply not the case.'





Head of Classics Mr Paul Fitzgerald added, 'Bertie's essay was a real work of scholarship, self-motivation and research; he clearly had put in the hours and his commendation shows how high the bar is in this national competition; it will certainly bolster his application this term to read Classics at Oxford.'

# Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Friday 25 September 2020

*Futures and Higher Education Bulletin Edition 2 Michaelmas Term 2020 from the Futures Department, full of useful information, reminders, resources and weblinks for Fifth and Sixth Formers and their parents.*

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

# Letters from Shrewsbury No. 14: Dear Dr Johnson

Monday 28 September 2020

*The latest in the Headmaster's series of 'Letters from Shrewsbury'. A letter to 'Dear Dr Johnson'*

Please follow the link to enjoy reading it:

[No. 14: 'Dear Dr Johnson'](#) (27 September 2020)

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

[No. 13: 'Dear Jeremiah'](#) (4 September 2020)

[No. 12: 'Dear Gavin'](#) (16 August 2020)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Shrewsbury School Staff Support Iraqi Communities

Wednesday 30 September 2020

*Dr Helen Brown details how Shrewsbury School staff have worked voluntarily with the Ankawa Foundation to support young Iraqi graduates.*

Trish Henderson and I travelled to Iraq, the summer of 2019, to deliver a teacher training programme for a UK based charity, the Ankawa Foundation. The Ankawa Foundation (AF) works within communities in Northern Iraq, providing funds and expertise to local initiatives supporting refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in this war-torn corner of the world.

The summer school project was intended to train young Iraqi graduates to work in schools: Iraq has no teaching qualification, and the education of millions has been severely disrupted by the last three decades of conflict. At the same time, many young people have been through horrific trauma and are dealing with long term mental health issues arising from their experience of violence and instability.



We planned to return in 2020, continuing to mentor the teachers we trained last summer and rolling out the programme to more schools across Erbil. The global pandemic made this impossible, however, undaunted, AF decided that we would offer the same programme remotely.



In the spring, I appealed to the Shrewsbury School common room for volunteers and was overwhelmed by the generosity of the response. Seven Shrewsbury teachers took part in the project, giving up two weeks of their summer holiday to offer their expertise: Maurice Walters, Toby Percival, Lauren Temple, Heather May, Andy Keulemans, Anita Wyatt, and Naomi Pritchard.





We were able to offer bespoke mentoring to Iraqi teachers in P.E., English, Maths and Art & Design, as well as providing lectures and seminars in pedagogy and educational philosophy. The Iraqi teachers with whom we worked were all eager to improve their teaching practice and were hugely grateful to all those who helped them plan lessons and develop strategies for safeguarding and behaviour management.



Rasha – who fled from Baghdad during the insurgency – told us that ***‘We are so touched that teachers in England are standing beside us. It helps us feel that we are not alone.’***