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Shrewsbury School

The Schools
Shrewsbury
SY3 7BA

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to write at the end of what has proved to be a hectic and unusually disrupted term. The cumulative effect of 'the beasts from the East', maximus and minimus, together with almost continuous cold and 'flu symptoms affecting most of the school community at some stage, has meant that we look forward to the rejuvenating effect of the holiday more than usual.

That said, there have been numerous highlights of the term. I hope that you will take the trouble to view some of the video material, made by David Clifford, our new Film Fellow, who has produced excellent short films to record some of our main school events and in support of our Careers operation. I particularly recommend the 'Failure Week' and 'The Chapel Choir Evensong at Hereford Cathedral' videos, which can be found on the Shrewsbury School TV section of the school website (www.shrewsbury.org.uk).

One spectacular change worthy of special mention has been the massively-enhanced footfall in the Moser Library. There is little doubt that the significant centenary anniversary refurbishment has resulted in a greatly enhanced learning and research space, in a warm and conducive atmosphere for independent enquiry. We hope very much that what is now regarded as a greatly enhanced facility will really come into its own through the weeks of intensive revision that are soon to be upon us.

A real disappointment for our talented and hardworking musicians has been the cancellation of two significant events - the Concert at Oxford's Holywell Music Rooms on Saturday 3rd March and then the further cancellation of the Gala Concert at Birmingham Town Hall, involving the combined forces of the Shrewsbury School Community Choir, Chapel Choir, Symphony Orchestra and Wind Orchestras, on Sunday 18th March. Both of these events were hit by the episodes of extreme weather. It says something when musical fixtures are cancelled!

We have a distinguished group of senior musicians, who we hope to support through the Summer term, particularly at the Leavers' Concert on Monday 25th June and the Eve of Speech Day Concert on Friday 29th June, which will take on an even more significance than usual. You may also be interested in our 'Mozart Weekend'. On the evening of Saturday 28th April 'The Magic Flute' will be performed in the Maidment Auditorium and on Sunday 29th April the programme prepared for the Birmingham Gala Concert will be performed in the Alington Hall.

As I write, I have just enjoyed listening to a lecture by Old Salopian, Lord Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister 1995-1997. It was wonderful for many of the boys and girls in the school today to hear a political icon talk about his Shrewsbury roots, how that informed his political thinking and how he had re-galvanised Liverpool by promoting inner-city regeneration. It was most appropriate that members of 'The Shewsy', our youth club in West Everton, were in the audience. Despite the passage of the years, Lord Heseltine has lost nothing of his forthright views and eloquent delivery.

The Governors' Report on the 2016-17 academic and financial year is now available on the front page of the school website. This gives an excellent general overview of 'the state of the nation'. I commend it to you.

For now, I wish you a restful and relaxing few weeks to recharge batteries, and for our examination candidates to seize the opportunity to 'kick-start' their revision, free from the routines and distractions of school life.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. S.', written over a horizontal line.