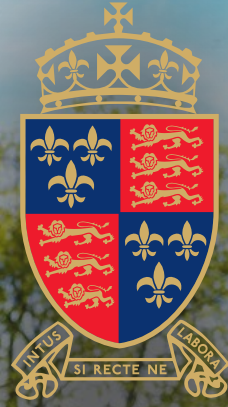


“ Empathy, patience and selflessness are embedded throughout the school community.



Shrewsbury
School



ISI Inspection
Report Guide

“ Pupils are kind and recognise the value of service to others.

A message from the Headmaster

We are delighted to share with you the latest Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection report for Shrewsbury School. All standards were met and exceeded, and our commitment to excellence in whole-person education and pupil wellbeing was recognised.

I am particularly thrilled that Shrewsbury was awarded the very rare accolade of ‘a significant strength’ for our Partnership and Community Engagement (PCE). The inspectors praised “the extent and sustained nature of pupils’ contribution to external communities” and found that “pupils are kind and recognise the value of service to others”. I can think of no higher educational aim than this.

There are numerous positive comments on the affirmative attitudes and efforts of the pupils; the dedicated work of our teaching and support staff; the supportive and analytical governance; and the vibrant, inclusive culture of the School.

The report highlights our dedication to providing an environment where each pupil is valued and supported, showcasing our diverse curriculum, and a distinctive sense of a 24-7 community.

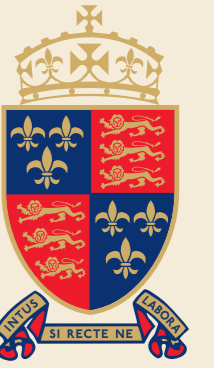


Our focus on individualised support and listening to our pupils’ voices ensures that we continuously evolve to meet their needs.

I am proud of the achievements outlined in the report and grateful to our staff, students and families for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the ‘serious fun’ of The Salopian Way.

Leo Winkley
Headmaster

A message from the Chair of Governors



As Chair of Governors, it is my distinct pleasure to commend the outstanding achievements and exemplary standards that Shrewsbury School has consistently upheld.

It is with immense pride and satisfaction that I reflect on the recent ISI inspection report, featuring an extremely rare award of a significant strength, which highlights the dedication and excellence embedded in every facet of our educational provision.

As the report illustrates, as Governors we have an informed oversight of all areas of school life and we offer our collective gratitude to all staff, whose unwavering commitment and passion for education form the backbone of our institution’s success, and to our pupils, whose engagement and contribution to the School community are truly commendable.

The Governors and I are immensely proud of the vibrant, inclusive culture and the robust safeguarding measures that ensure every pupil thrives both academically and personally at Shrewsbury.



James Pitt
Chair of Governors



Our Significant Strength



Shrewsbury is one of just a few independent schools that has been awarded the accolade of 'significant strength' by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). They recognised the depth and range of our Partnership and Community Engagement (PCE) programme.

ISI Key Findings as a 'significant strength' on PCE:

- ✦ "The extent and sustained nature of pupils' contribution to external communities through the school's partnership and community engagement programme is a significant strength."
- ✦ "Pupils are kind and recognise the value of service to others. They are supportive in the boarding houses and appreciate the positive impact that those of different national and cultural backgrounds have on the school."
- ✦ "Pupils develop a convincing belief in the value of service."
- ✦ "The school's community involvement programme results in pupils developing skills while improving their understanding of economic disparity, and the importance of community. Through participation, which involves all pupils in the school, pupils learn from their active involvement in the programme, for example how to deal with tricky situations and the importance of safe spaces during childhood."
- ✦ "Leaders have thought carefully about the wide range of partnership activities



in which Shrewsbury pupils are engaged through the programme. As a result, pupils demonstrate and learn from, for example, supporting refugee children with homework, organising art, dance and sporting events and running classes in science and music."

✦ "Leaders take an inclusive approach, with all pupils involved so that the skills development opportunities, such as empathy, patience and selflessness, are embedded throughout the school community."

“ We enjoyed working with Shrewsbury School, nothing was too much trouble and there was a lovely atmosphere. The highlight of the day was watching the pupils interact with the older people, ensuring they had a wonderful time.

Emma Wilde, Manager of Wellbeing Services for Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin

The Shrewsbury Distinction:

- ✦ In 2020, Shrewsbury School received the award for Community Outreach at the Independent School of the Year Award. The school was recognised for the positive impact and contributions its pupils and staff have made by working with and supporting communities.
- ✦ In 2022, Shrewsbury's Partnership and Community work was recognised by being highlighted as 'Best for Philanthropy' in The Week's Independent School Guide 2022.
- ✦ 1,250+ hours worked at The Shewsy, Youth Club.
- ✦ £150,000 raised for charities by Salopians in 2024.
- ✦ More than 4000 children from Alpha Academies Trust in Stoke-on-Trent have taken part in activities hosted by Shrewsbury School teachers.



“ Shrewsbury's connection with different charities has influenced me to be involved in that line of work, and it has inspired me to go on to work with a charity after School.

Annabel, Old Salopian

“ My experience at (Refugee) Homework Club has provided me with valuable insights into teaching and learning, and it has also shown me how important it is to help others. I was able to share my knowledge and support others in their studies.

Grace, Lower Sixth Form



Teaching and Learning



At Shrewsbury School, teaching and learning thrive within a dynamic and nurturing environment that blends tradition with innovation.

Through a tailored curriculum, dedicated educators and a wide range of academic and co-curricular opportunities, Shrewsbury School inspires pupils to explore their passions, develop their skills, and achieve their full potential, preparing them for success both in their future studies and in life.

ISI Key Findings on Teaching and Learning - Academic and Co-curricular:

- “The curriculum and co-curricular programme meet the needs and interests of pupils. The curriculum is structured to introduce pupils to new subject areas in Year 9, and to both preserve balance and allow specialism at GCSE and A Level. In these years pupils are encouraged to follow courses alongside their main subject disciplines and hence maintain a broad range of skills.”
- “Leaders provide a broad and extensive curriculum that encompasses all the required areas of learning.”
- “The school day ensures that pupils can maintain a commitment to their studies and an extensive range of co-curricular activity, whilst allowing them sufficient free time. This is indicative of the way in which leaders promote the wellbeing of pupils.”
- “Pupils have a secure and consistent record of success in achieving places at university, in national competitions, in music and other fields.”



- “Teaching is effective in that at GCSE typically over one half of examinations are graded 9 to 7, and at A Level about three quarters A* to B.”
- “All pupils follow a digital skills curriculum, and they develop secure skills in this area during the year.”
- “Every pupil for the first two terms of each A Level year follows an “Academic Perspectives” course, researching an idea outside their A Level disciplines.”
- “Teachers stimulate interest with a varied range of approaches, provoking intellectual response, and allowing time for pupils to devise their own strategies in attempting problems.”
- “Pupils are creative, for example in music, science, drama and art. They show high levels of self-motivation in their EPQ research or in pupil-published magazines such as The Shrewsbury Economist.”

- “The school’s co-curricular programme, series of lectures and house competitions in, for example, debating, drama and music, develop a wide range of pupils’ skills, particularly speaking and performance. Pupils of all ages consistently reach the final rounds of Olympiads in mathematics or the sciences.”
- “The wide choice of curricular and co-curricular opportunities helps pupils to develop self-esteem and an awareness of their strengths.”
- “The school’s curriculum cultivates pupils’ human, social and economic knowledge. Pupils show respect and are tolerant.”
- “Pupils have opportunities to practise and develop expertise across a wide range of physical activity, including team and individual sports.”
- “Through art, music, and drama opportunities leaders extend pupils’ cultural insight. The provision in the curriculum to follow interests outside the examination curriculum helps pupils to both specialise and continue to develop broad skills.”

- “Teachers have secure subject knowledge and use this to elaborate and draw on a wide range of examples from their experience.”
- “The investment in the stimulating environment and up-to-date resources means that pupils have an extensive choice of recreational and sporting activity.”

The Shrewsbury Distinction:

- We were shortlisted as finalists in three distinguished award categories in the Tes Schools Awards 2023: Independent Senior School of the Year; Boarding School of the Year and Excellence in Creative Arts. Shrewsbury’s recognition serves as a testament to the hard work, commitment, and dedication toward achieving excellence in our educational provision.
- In 2024 we were shortlisted for Independent School of the Year for the Best Use of Education Technology.

“The teachers at Shrewsbury are amazing - I can feel their passion for the subject here and they’re really helpful with everything. They’re keen to give feedback and also keen to not only do the syllabus but go beyond the syllabus and talk about other topics that we would be interested in.”

Clara, Lower Sixth Form

“The teachers are here at all times of the day and they’re really committed to pupils being the best that they can be, and that joy and commitment really seeps through into the quality of the work.”

Kate, Old Salopian

“Academic life at Shrewsbury is second to none and especially for those who have the hunger for academics, the support is always there. The teachers, no matter what they’re doing, always have the time to give you that support, to give you that extra work, to give you that extra reading to ensure you are able to further your academic learning.”

Luke, Upper Sixth Form

Futures: Preparation for Life



At Shrewsbury School, the Futures Department is a cornerstone of the educational experience, dedicated to equipping pupils with the skills, insights and opportunities needed to navigate their future careers.

Designed to complement the school's academic and co-curricular offerings, the programme provides personalised guidance, professional development workshops and a range of career exploration activities. By integrating academic learning with real-world applications, the Futures Department ensures that Shrewsbury School pupils are not only well-prepared for higher education but also for life.

ISI Key Findings on Futures:

“The ‘Futures’ programme provides careers education across the age groups. Pupils value the individualised advice they receive, and in guiding their decisions about university courses.”

“Pupils value the advice they receive. Almost all achieve the grades needed for their first-choice university place.”

“The Head of Higher Education Mr Percival’s help was invaluable; he has so much experience and helped make sure that I was saying the right things, and that I tried to stand out with my application, and I’m very grateful because I’ve managed to get an offer.

Luke, Upper Sixth Form



“From the time they start at the school, through careers guidance and by attending ‘life experience’ lectures, pupils are made aware of the range of possible careers available.”

“The development of skills such as teamwork, initiative, entrepreneurship and mentoring are threaded through the careers programme.”

“Pupils study at least three A Levels and can take an extended project qualification (EPQ), a ‘Future Ready’ course, or a leadership award. This incorporates a range of modules including qualifications accredited by the institute of leadership and management (ILM), digital skills, online courses, and virtual work experience.”

The Shrewsbury Distinction:

Shrewsbury School was named as a finalist in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards in the Student Careers Programme category in 2022 and 2023.

Shrewsbury has also achieved the national Quality in Careers Standard using the Career Mark approach for the second year running. As England’s dedicated national quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard - through external assessment - uniquely accredits the four components of the CEIAG; Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.



“The Futures Department really helped me in Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Form to formulate an idea of what I wanted to go on and do. Mr Wain and Mr Boyes supported me so much, being able to talk to someone about work experience was invaluable and the work experience I did was because of them.

Ed, Old Salopian

“Before I came to Shrewsbury I had no idea what I was going to do; what university I wanted to go to, what I wanted to study; but after having Futures talks, and then having individual Future meetings, my path is much clearer - the department were so helpful.

Clara R, Fifth Form



School Life

Pastoral

At Shrewsbury School, pupils thrive in a community driven by kindness, mutual respect and a deep appreciation for diversity.

Pupils actively support each other in boarding houses and value the contributions of peers from various national and cultural backgrounds. The school community is well-informed about lifestyle choices and wellbeing, demonstrating a strong commitment to physical and emotional health. Shrewsbury nurtures a supportive and respectful atmosphere where pupils are encouraged to grow both academically and personally.

ISI Key Findings on School Life - Pastoral:

- “Pupils are kind and recognise the value of service to others. They are supportive in the boarding houses and appreciate the positive impact that those of different national and cultural backgrounds have on the school.”
- “Pupils show persuasive levels of respect for those of different faiths, national background or gender to their own.”
- “The ‘Foundation Fortnight’ introduces new pupils to opportunities such as rowing, Eton fives and a range of other co-curricular activities and hence enables them to develop new skills from an early stage.”
- “Male and female pupils enjoy equal opportunity.”
- “Pupils are kind to and support each other.”



- “Pupils are well informed, and actively exemplify the learnt messages about lifestyle, diet and interactions with others.”
- “Pupils are alert to the factors that affect their physical and emotional wellbeing.”
- “In a busy school and boarding life, pupils allow each other space, both physical and in conversations and activities. Pupils listen, quietly but attentively, to each other’s views. They demonstrate high levels of trust.”

“The thing I cherish the most about Shrewsbury School are the close friendships that form within the boarding house. I felt as if my housemates were my family, and that the teachers at Shrewsbury were always friendly and welcoming.

Jasper T, Old Salopian

- “The school has replaced ‘peer listeners’ with ‘peer educators’, and these senior pupils are successful in adopting a more proactive role in advising and supporting younger pupils.”
- “Leaders have a detailed knowledge and proactive involvement in school life.”
- “Leaders promote the wellbeing of pupils.”
- “Senior, academic, pastoral and support team leaders have secure knowledge in their areas, and skillfully apply it. They are acutely aware of the aspirations of, opportunities for, and risks faced by pupils in a busy seven-day-a-week boarding school.”
- “Leaders have devised a personal development curriculum which coherently meets the needs of the different ages and experiences. In the sixth form, this includes preparation for daily living skills and living independently, building on the competencies learnt in boarding houses.”
- “Leaders have created a culture in which pupils can be forward looking but enjoy tradition.”
- “Leaders have created a culture in which praise is generously given and modestly received.”
- “Senior leaders, pastoral staff and senior pupils work cohesively to maintain high standards of behaviour.”
- “House staff are acutely aware that the balance between involvement and over-commitment is different for each pupil, and carefully ensure that equilibrium is achieved.”
- “Not only does the school meet the requirements of health and safety and fire legislation, but it also provides a well maintained, stimulating and comfortable environment for pupils, including those who board.”

The Shrewsbury Distinction:

- Shrewsbury School is delighted to be shortlisted as **Boarding School of the Year in the 2024 Tes Schools Awards for a fourth consecutive year.**
- In 2024 we were nominated for **Best Public School** in the Tatler Schools Awards 2024.

“As a day pupil, I definitely think that being part of an integrated house system has given me a lot of support and the experience that I need to live away from home. I’ve learnt so many tips and tricks from my boarding friends about living away from home that have helped me to feel more confident about moving away for university.

Nat, Upper Sixth Form

“Boarding has helped me become a more independent person and be able to rely on myself more. Despite having the support there when we need it, we’re also encouraged to be ourselves, be independent and I believe that has helped me become who I am.

Matt, Upper Sixth Form



Safeguarding

Pastoral



Our pupils' safeguarding and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do at Shrewsbury. We provide pupils with an environment where they can flourish and feel secure.

Engagement with relevant agencies, combined with a constant training programme enables our senior leaders, governors and house staff to maintain a vigilant oversight, providing a secure environment and ensuring the wellbeing of all pupils at all times.

ISI Key Findings on Safeguarding - Pastoral:

- ✿ "Senior pupils are trained in basic safeguarding awareness."
- ✿ "Pupils feel safe, including online."
- ✿ "Senior leaders maintain regular contact with the external agencies involved in any safeguarding issues. They contribute to multi-agency meetings, take advice and follow any guidance suggested."

✿ "Governors and senior leaders have a strategic approach to identifying and managing any risk of harm to pupils' wellbeing. Leaders limit the potential impact on boarders by providing secure, well-maintained accommodation, opportunities to exercise, and house staff with the experience and training to recognise in pupils the symptoms of emotional unsteadiness. They ensure such pupils are immediately supported."

- ✿ "The reassurance that leaders give to staff means that they are confident to discuss or report any possible issue of concern."
- ✿ "The behaviour policy and anti-bullying strategy are understood by staff and pupils and are effective."
- ✿ "Safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively so that the wellbeing of both day pupils and boarders is promoted."

- ✿ "Staff receive frequent and detailed training."
- ✿ "House staff have a prominent role in ensuring these are implemented for individual pupils to support their emotional and physical wellbeing."
- ✿ "Buildings and grounds are well maintained. Those responsible ensure that risks to pupils are minimised through the systematic detailed checks of health and safety and fire procedures. The security of pupils during the day and night is prioritised."
- ✿ "Leaders limit the potential impact on boarders by providing secure, well-maintained accommodation."

The Shrewsbury Distinction:

- ✿ Shrewsbury was named as Best for Boarding in 2023 in The Week's Independent School Guide.

“The way the school treat you and how they integrate you into the community is a brilliant way and it helped me to fit in very quickly.

Ollie, Old Salopian

“As a Peer Educator it means being a bridge between pupils and teachers, and teachers genuinely do listen to what you say. If someone has a problem, I'll relay it across to teachers and you do see changes which is a real positive at a school like this because you don't just come here to learn, you genuinely live here.

Ellie, Upper Sixth Form



The Salopian Way:

At Shrewsbury, championing the individual and engaging directly with pupils is central to the school ethos. The school fosters a supportive environment where pupils' opinions are valued and actively sought.

We encourage our pupils to develop a range of character strengths grouped around six core Salopian Virtues - The Salopian Way: Kindness, Courage, Spirit, Self-mastery, Integrity and Wisdom. Through personalised support and open dialogue, Shrewsbury ensures every pupil's unique perspective and potential are recognised and nurtured.

Championing Individuals through Pupil Voice

- ✦ Pupils are kind and recognise the value of service to others.
- ✦ Leaders invested in a whole school project that focused on enhancing levels of respect that pupils show for those of diverse backgrounds, gender, national background or faith. The project confronted unconscious prejudice, and pupils' deep-rooted views. The success of the initiative is reflected in the balanced and proportionate language that pupils use to speak about contemporary issues, revealing an informed understanding and empathy towards others. Pupils take responsibility for their peers and themselves.
- ✦ Pupils' opinions have contributed to a reshaping of the school day, and changes in timings to allow greater discretionary periods for pupils.
- ✦ Senior pupils led an effective assembly on the consequences on pupils' wellbeing of an overdependence on mobile telephones.
- ✦ Leaders have formulated an effective representative structure to gather and debate pupils' views, which as a result are well represented to senior leaders.

- ✦ Boarders are encouraged to raise concerns informally and formally, and often these prompt changes in procedures.
- ✦ Pupils talk to school counsellors, house masters and mistresses, tutors and matrons, and hence feel listened to.



Shrewsbury Awards and Accolades since 2020

Independent School of the Year Awards:

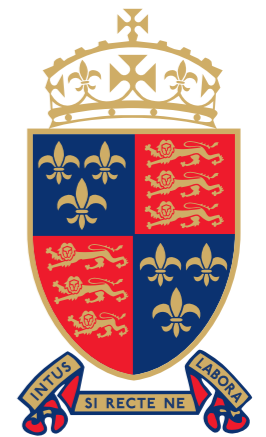
- ✦ Crowned Independent School of the Year in 2020
- ✦ Winner Community Outreach Award 2020
- ✦ Finalist Student Careers Programme 2022 and 2023
- ✦ Finalist Best Use of Education Technology 2024

Tes Schools Awards:

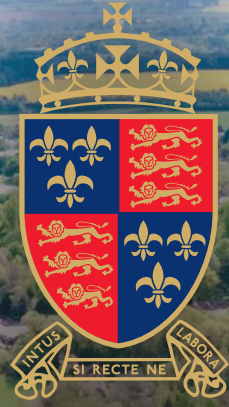
- ✦ Boarding School of the Year Award – Highly Commended in 2020
- ✦ Shrewsbury is the only independent school to be shortlisted for Boarding School of the Year in 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024.
- ✦ Shortlisted Excellence in Creative Arts 2020 and 2023
- ✦ Shortlisted Independent Senior School of the Year Award 2023

Other Accolades:

- ✦ Named in 'The 25 Best UK Senior School' *Spear's Magazine 2024*
- ✦ 'Top 80 Schools in the Country for Oxbridge' *The Spectator 2022*
- ✦ Top 1% of schools in the UK for sport *School Sport Magazine 2024*
- ✦ Top 10 'Most Generous' Independent Schools *The Sunday Times 2023*
- ✦ Named in '40 British Schools – Best on the Planet' *Time Out 2024*
- ✦ 'Best Public School' - *Tatler Schools Awards 2024*
- ✦ 'Best for Boarding' - *The Week 2023*
- ✦ 'Best for philanthropy' - *The Week 2022*



Shrewsbury
School



Shrewsbury School



Scan the
QR Code
to read the
full report

The Schools, Shrewsbury SY3 7BA
Tel: 01743 280552
Email: admissions@shrewsbury.org.uk

www.shrewsbury.org.uk