



# James Taylor's New Interview for the Daily Telegraph

Wednesday 1 March 2017



James Taylor (R 03-08) has given a detailed interview to the Daily Telegraph, in which he describes living with the heart condition which nearly killed him. Nick Hoult, the cricketing news correspondent, uses the word 'positive' throughout the article and this is a term we have become accustomed to seeing applied to James in the aftermath of his initial illness. Nevertheless it's a moving piece, which pulls no punches about just how scary and unpredictable the condition is and how extraordinary the effects are when the automatic defibrillator fitted in Taylor's chest fires up and throws him across the room.

You can [follow this link to the article](#), which is well worth a read and we continue to wish James the very best.

# Naming Ceremony for Newly Donated Boat.

Wednesday 1 March 2017



The 22nd February saw the Shrewsbury School Boat Club gain a new stable member when a new Empacher VIII was named and launched from the boathouse. The new boat was generously donated by Jonathan Beeston (Rb 95-00) who was a member of the 1st V111 in 1999 and 2000 and Captain of Boats in 2000. The boat was named after Jonathan's father Robert Beeston, who was sadly unable to attend, but both Jonathan and his Mother, June were there, along with the Headmaster and Sabrina Captain Nick Randall (O 72-76).

In the calm before storm Doris the ceremony went off perfectly and the new boat was able to take to the river in good weather.

Master in charge of rowing, Athol Hundermark, said:

"It was fantastic to have the former Captain of Boats, Jonathan Beeston, at the boathouse not only to name the new boat but also to share some of his experience with the current 1st VIII and Captain of Boats. One of the biggest assets we have as a club is the support of former pupils, who do so much to keep the Boat Club at the fore in our sport, and also to help current pupils realise the fantastic traditions they are part of and the opportunities they have. We are extremely grateful for the generous support offered by Jonathan and the Beeston family over the years."

Pictured above: Jonathan Beeston (Rb 95-00), Headmaster Mark Turner and June Beeston.

Below, the new boat in action



## Prep School Chemistry Spectacular

Wednesday 1 March 2017

*On Thursday 23rd February, Shrewsbury School Chemistry Department welcomed pupils from Prestfelde School for the first of a new series of prep school science enrichment afternoons.*

This was the first of our planned visits from prep schools for 2017 after the very successful [Darwin Science Prep School Competition](#) held during the week before half-term.

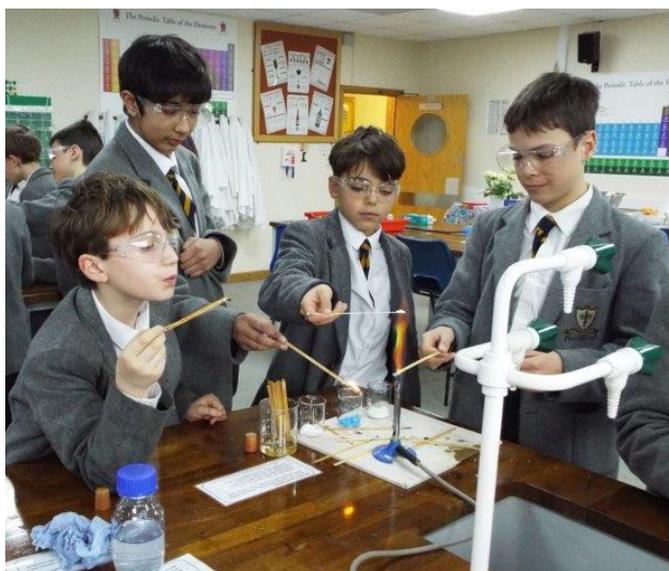
This Chemistry event was designed by Senior Chemistry Technician Rachel Schofield and Head of Chemistry Dr Andy Briggs and was assisted by our Chemistry Technician Kathryn Davidson.

Thirty Year 7 pupils, together with Prestfelde's Head of Science, Mr James Peakman, and Science/Maths teacher Mr Anstey, were given a whistle-stop tour of the Chemistry Department and prep room. The extent of our facilities was a real eye-opener and an insight into the science opportunities at Shrewsbury School.



This was followed with spectacular explosions and illuminating flash-bang demonstrations in the Science Lecture Theatre by Dr Briggs. The pupils experienced some of the sights, sounds and smells that are real chemistry at work. There were lots of excited comments and a huge number of willing volunteers as the demonstrations progressed!

Then it was on into one of the laboratories. In small groups, the pupils were allowed to experience a variety of chemical situations and reactions themselves, including the use of household items should they wish to continue their research at home.



They were also able to use some equipment they do not often use in prep schools, including chemical elements and solutions, the magic egg in a bottle trick, smelly plastic milk and most enjoyable flame tests. All the senses were engaged – which is what chemistry is all about. Liquid nitrogen was a particular highlight!

At the end of the experiments we had a special treat for the pupils. Dr Briggs made some 'liquid nitrogen' chocolate chip ice-cream and a couple of lucky pupils managed to secure a second helping.



The Prestfelde pupils were very well behaved and showed excellent lab skills and concentration.

With a few gifts to take back home, the staff and students agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon. It is now an annual event that both schools look forward to.

*Andrew Briggs and Rachel Schofield*

## RSSBC: Winning performances at the Head of the Trent

Wednesday 1 March 2017

*Nine Shrewsbury crews travelled to Nottingham on Sunday 26th February to compete at the Head of the Trent.*

One crew from the Senior squad competed along with two J16 crews in the first division. All three crews handled the tricky conditions well with strong wind and stream, making marshalling challenging.

The Senior crew came third in J18 Eights behind a crew from Eton and King's Chester.

The J16s won their event, after setting up a good rhythm and showing consist speed over the length of the course. The crew (*pictured below*) consisted of Toby Cope, Alexander Davies, Jack Lockett, Elliot Crossley, Edward Hart, Adam Pattenden, Henry Ludlam, Chad Usher and Ben Holehouse.



The second J16 crew had to settle for third place by 0.2 seconds behind Bedford Modern School.

In the second division the J15 boys and girls took to the water in the Novice eights events. The J15 boys went off first in the division. With the course shortened due to adverse conditions, they attacked from the first stroke, putting down a strong marker to record the fastest time of division two and winning the Novice eights category. The crew (*below*) consisted of Archie Duckworth, George Bramwell, Connor Hickey, Archie McKirdy, Frank Kelly, Nathan Mielczarek, James Weir, Louis Nares and James Martin.



The J15 girls also put in an excellent performance in their second ever eights race, coming in third.

The J14s took four octuples to compete at the race and all handled themselves well given the conditions. They will have gained valuable boatmanship skills in the process.



*The J14 crews waiting at the start*

The first of the three J14 boys' boats was the crew of Luke Russell, Kanei Nishii, Christian Beard, Oliver Taylor, Sheldon Yuen, Angus Shepherd-Cross, Arthur Bramwell, Marcus Young and Arthur Myrddin-Evans. The boys won their event and hopefully the first of many pots.

The J14 girls handled the conditions well to come second in their event.



*The winning J14 crew*

## The Darwin Society welcomes back our first Old Salopian girl

Wednesday 1 March 2017

*On 24th February, we were delighted to welcome back Michelle Degli Esposti (MSH 2008-09) to give a Darwin Society lecture on "What we know about the human brain".*

Michelle joined Shrewsbury School in 2008 as the only girl in the Upper Sixth and the following year became the first ever Old Salopian girl. She spent a Gap year working to support a trip to a remote Island in Fiji, where she helped an isolated village build a community hall and taught English. She then went on to read Experimental Psychology at Magdalen College, Oxford, where she graduated as top of the year with the Commendatory 1st Class Honours.



Michelle is currently studying for a DPhil in Experimental Psychology investigating Childhood Adversity and Life-time Resilience. The project focuses on a better understanding of the long-term psycho-pathological outcomes of people who were maltreated in childhood, specifically looking at risk factors and potential pathways to life-time resilience.

Michelle captivated an audience of current Shrewsbury School students, staff and visitors with her lecture on the different branches of psychology, which included audience participation and many pertinent examples of psychological experiments. She pitched her talk at a perfect level and left the audience asking for more.

She was accompanied by Ben Jenkins, who is a DPhil student in Materials Science at Oxford University. They were both very helpful in answering questions from a number of students who are interested in applying to Oxford next year.

*ADB and CMS*



## Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Money, Money, Money'

Thursday 2 March 2017

*From John Maynard Keynes to Cleopatra and F Scott Fitzgerald to Jerry Lewis, this week's 'Sparkpoint' looks at the theme of 'Money' from an intriguing range of perspectives.*

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury Sparkpoint: Money, Money, Money' as a pdf file:

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL | SPARKPOINT

**If I were a rich man...**

We all use it, we're all aware of it and I suppose the sad truth of the matter is that most of us will spend a good portion of our lives trying to earn it. But Money is an extremely peculiar thing when one steps back and takes a good look at it from an objective perspective.

We tend to perceive its value to be fixed, tend to quantify other things in a monetary context and make value judgements in response, but how much do we really understand about money? How far are we in control of our currency and economy and to what extent does a financial fixation impact on our ability to be creative or to explore creative connections across the boundaries of wealth and class? Also – don't forget that Little Bohemia takes place next week!

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**Putting Us in the Picture**

Artist Guido Van Helten specialises large scale works which tend to reflect, particularly, the economic character of commissions and institutions. He often chooses derelict or abandoned industrial buildings as the canvas for his work. [Click here](#) to read more.



**SP49 – Keynes**

It was during the Great Depression that John Maynard Keynes wrote his extraordinary masterpiece: The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money. His ideas began to demonstrate how an economy can sometimes behave irrationally based on a whole plethora of different factors and they have profoundly influenced monetary thinking. [Click here](#) for a basic introduction.



5 Minutes

**SP50 – F Scott Fitzgerald**

It wasn't all about the Great Gatsby – he wrote about other things too – but many of his novels are underpinned by a deep interest in the economics of the American dream and the cultural and social responses they brought about. [Click here](#) to read an extract from The Beautiful and Damned.



5 Minutes

**SP51 – Cleopatra**

For a woman who really knew the value of money look no further than the famous Egyptian Queen. Realising that the fate of her country – she was the last in the Ptolemaic line – rested in the hands of the aggressively expansionist Romans, she used the iconography of coinage to present herself to the known world as a ruler who was not to be trifled with! [Click here](#) to learn more about her.



5 Minutes

Mr Walters | Deputy Head (Academic)

February 2017



## Shrewsbury School dancers and musicians get ready for 'Happily Ever After?'

Friday 3 March 2017

*On Tuesday 7th March, we look forward to our first ever Dance Showcase event, which will be held in the Ashton Theatre at 8.30pm. Dance teacher Sian Archer explains some of the background to what promises to be a wonderful evening.*



Towards the end of the last academic year, I was approached to see if I would like to oversee and assist some Shrewsbury School students in their production of a dance showcase event. This is something that has been a real pleasure to be involved in, and I have enjoyed working with some very talented students.

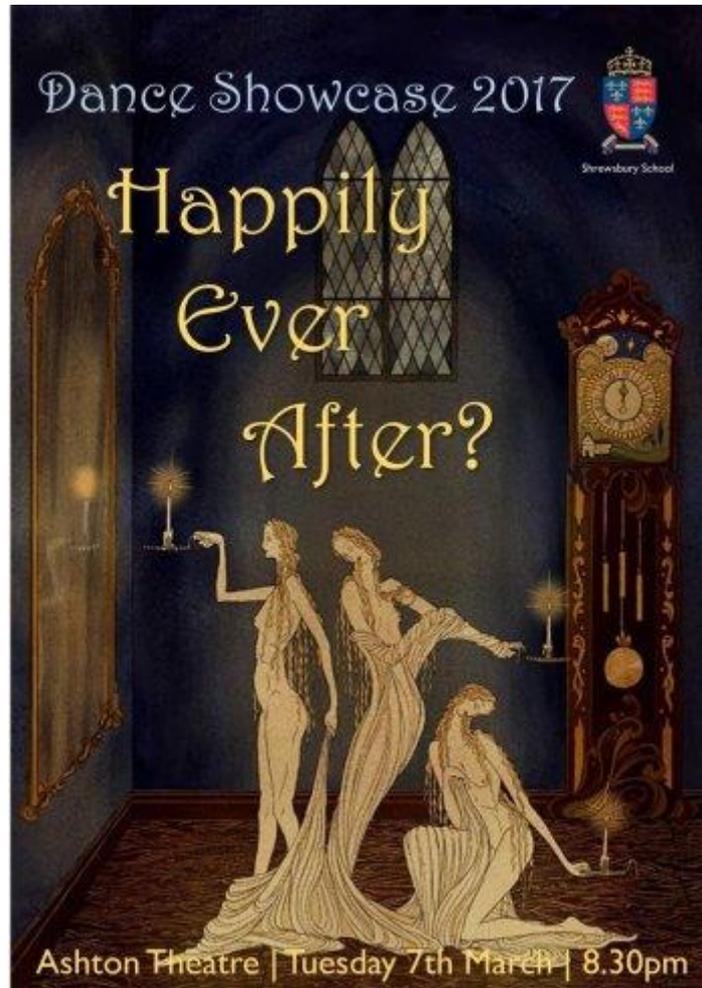
Since the start of Lent Term, Niamh Thomas (G UVI), Angel Chan (EDH V), Fiona Lim (EDH LVI) and Anya Tonks (MSH IV) have been working hard on their dance pieces for a showcase on the evening of Tuesday 7th March, which will be held in the Schools Ashton Theatre. The event is entitled 'Happily Ever After?', and each piece is connected through a fairy-tale theme.

Niamh's piece 'I wana be a real doll', is based on the tale of Pinocchio and explores the idea that ballet and dance is not all sweetness and light but can have a much darker side. She looks at the ideas that dancers strive to be perfect like a doll and the pressures that this brings.

Anya has created a contemporary dance called 'Cinderella Story', which looks at the title character longing to be someone else, the girl she was before her stepmother arrived. Anya's dance is supported by vocals from Jessie Inglis-Jones (EDH LVI), with Jessie portraying the once happy Cinderella and Anya the fairy-tale character that we all know.

Angel and Fiona have collaborated to produce a piece entitled 'Into the Mirror'. This is a dance that looks at the story of Snow White and focuses on the devastating impact of greed.

The showcase is tied together by a selection of musical numbers from Broadway hit musical 'Into the Woods' that has been put together and rehearsed by Dan Powell (Ch UVI) and friends.





## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 3 March 2017

*This week, Fives.*

Having walked all the way down to the river and then back up again to bring you news of rowing successes for my last Team of the Week piece, I felt I owed it to myself to go a little closer to my office this time.

One of my nearest sporting venues is the Fives courts. My ex-English teacher and distinguished OS Ken Shearwood has a picture of the Fives courts on the back of his book *'Hardly a Scholar'* filled with top hats and books, whilst presumably the owners of these artefacts were deep in prayer and reflection in Chapel.



Such a scene can still be found, with the exception of the top hats, as the present generations still pay their respects to the Divine before lessons on Tuesdays and Fridays. However, you would be wrong to think that the Fives courts are just some glorified file, book and pencil-case depository. Most afternoons the courts are seething with athletic endeavour as players of all shapes, ages, genders and sizes battle out games that seem to go on for ever, especially when it is cold, under the watchful eyes of Master in Charge Seb Cooley and his team of master tacticians.

Mr Cooley reminds me of another diminutive general, Napoleon Bonaparte. He likes to win and he has a look of steel in front of those friendly and twinkly eyes. Although I have to admit that that is where the similarities start to diverge, since Mr Cooley is not French, has two arms, does not wear a three-cornered hat, nor aspire to control most of the Western world (as far as I know), ride a white horse, go to Russia for his winter holidays. And he is very very good at Fives (World Champion, no less).

Having established that Mr Cooley is not very similar to a nineteenth century dictator, I wondered how he felt the Fives squad was shaping up. Mr Cooley felt the Fives squad are shaping up very well and this article could now end at this point. Yet I know how many of you have come to depend on a more analytical and in-depth analysis of our Salopian sporting gods and goddesses.

I told Mr Cooley that I was going to probe him for further information. (At that point he began to look a little worried and the information began to fall from his lips like a veritable torrent.)



He admitted that he was a little frustrated that a couple of fixtures had been cancelled this term, but he was proud of those players who had performed so well at the Northern Championships. Dan Orchard and Mr Cooley reached the semi-finals, defeating OS pair Ed Taylor and Sam Welti before losing to the eventual winners.



Mr Cooley is confident that his talented group of top players, Max Morris, Tom Bromley-Davenport, Tom Brunskill, Sam McLoughlin, Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield, Dan Orchard and Josh Himsworth, can perform to a high level in the National Championships at the end of this term. I asked Dan Orchard what it had been like playing with Mr Cooley in the Northern Men's Championships. Dan told me it had been an amazing experience to play with one of the world's top Fives players. "It was an amazing experience playing with one of the World's top Fives players." He went on to tell me it is something he will be able to tell his grandchildren, although he admitted that he may well embellish it a little, as of course in a fairy story Dan and Mr Cooley would probably have won.

Tom Bromley-Davenport wanted to tell me that Fives had a really cool image around the School. "When I say I have done a lot of court time, one or two people seem to think I am quite hard." Ed Stapleton only plays Fives for the KitKats. "Mr Cooley has explained to us how important KitKats can be and as Fives players we are encouraged to have ten a day now (fingers that is). I think Mr Cooley thinks that a finger of KitKat can strengthen our actual fingers," Ed told me. (Currently the Fives team do not have any nutritionists working with them).

The girls' squad is also in a good place. Izzy Wong and Adelaide Sillar won the Plate at a recent tournament in London and a number of pairs performed well in the Ladies' Open competition in London last weekend.



*Lizzie Ware and Sophia Breese*

Top pair Nina Lange and Sophia Breese were hoping to bring back some silverware. "We are hoping to visit a jewellery shop in Kensington," Nina told me. Apart from their purchases, they also came back with the Ladies Plate trophy, having lost to the winners of the main competition early on. Other successes involved the mighty Ella Windle and equally mighty Georgie Nicholas, who came second in the Ladies Festival. Whilst at Eton the boys had success against Highgate on the Saturday but not quite so much against the home team.



Lizzie Ware, Phoebe Wasdell, Libby Hedges, Abi Watkinson, Katie Oswald and Emma Graham have been training hard, as the Girls' coaches Andy Barnard and Gwen Davies run a tough regime. "Mr Barnard is quite tough on us," Katie told me "although since he has heard that Rod Stewart is coming to do a concert in Shrewsbury his mood has lightened somewhat."



*Gwen Davies and Andy Barnard*

“I think Rod Stewart and Mr Barnard may have gone to school with each other,” Lizzie Ware added.

“We really enjoyed our tour to London,” Emma Graham said. She likes the camaraderie when they go on tour. “I like the camaraderie when we go on tour,” she said. “We turn up the music in the minibus and someone usually has a Little Mix of sweets to hand out; Miss Davies calls us the Sugar Babes but we don’t eat that many sweets. As its only Girls allowed at this competition there are no mixed pairs. We are hoping to put in a good performance in London. Mr Barnard has told us we need that extra Three Degrees of effort if we are going to be known as the Supremes.”

Libby Hedges is looking forward to a team curry. “We all like a curry and Mr Barnard calls us the Spice Girls!” Sophia did say that she was pleased to get back to the safety of Shrewsbury, as Slough is not as salubrious as one might imagine.

To conclude after all my research: it would seem that Fives at Shrewsbury is literally in good hands!

*GJFB*



# Churchill's Hall House Play: 'Julius Caesar'

Friday 3 March 2017

*A review by Helen Brown, Director of Drama.*



Tackling one of Shakespeare's most famous and oratorically brilliant plays is hugely ambitious for a House production, but the Churchill's boys have never been afraid of a challenge. *Julius Caesar* feels almost prophetically significant in the current political climate, with its story of would-be dictators, cynical demagogues and ruthless coups d'état.

The play opens on the streets of Rome, where the people are celebrating the return of Caesar after a string of great military victories. Directors Richard Hudson and Fintan Simmons had chosen to set the play in an unnamed Fascist state: the banners and brutalist architecture of Niki Holmes' set design harked back to the menace of the 1930s.

Caesar, played with confidence and maturity by Elliot Crossley, is a man on top of his game; he has conquered the world and returned to receive the adoration of the masses. Among the sycophants and toadies who surround him, he depends upon the love and loyalty of his wife, Calpurnia (Anna Cowan) and dearest friend, Mark Anthony (Toby Pattinson).

It quickly emerges that the political machinations of the Senate can be harder to navigate than a battlefield, and Caesar finds himself surrounded by plots and conspirators. Chief among these are the ambitious and cynical Cassius – played by a brilliantly slimy Rider Hartley – and the honourable Brutus (Tim Lovick). Brutus' decision to murder Caesar stems from a genuine desire to preserve the republic, and Lovick's performance left the audience in no doubt that this truly was "the noblest Roman of them all".



Caesar's death leaves a power vacuum, and there is no shortage of men wishing to fill it. His funeral becomes a masterclass in spin, as one side and then the other takes to the podium hoping to manipulate and harness the power of the people. Brutus speaks first, but his bluff honesty is overshadowed by the rhetorical fireworks deployed by Mark Anthony, whose address to "Friends, Romans, Countrymen" is perhaps Shakespeare's most brilliant piece of writing. It is always difficult to reinterpret a speech that your audience know by heart, but Toby Pattinson managed to bring a powerful sense of immediacy to these famous lines.



The second half of the play – largely cut in this production – follows the civil war that follows Caesar's death, culminating in the rise of Octavius (Harry Remnant) as the new dictator. Appearing in the dead Caesar's regalia, he left the audience in little doubt that while names and faces may change, the archetypes of politics do not.

To open up a gallery of photos please click on the main image below and click again to scroll through the images. (Photos by William Temple <https://william-temple.com/>)

## Lenten Supper and Reflections

Friday 3 March 2017

*Last Saturday 125 pupils and staff enjoyed an evening meal and series of talks by the artist Paul Hobbs to mark the start of Lent. Report by Hattie Brammwell (EDH LVI).*

This was a new idea brought to the School by Reverend Aldous and seems to have had many great reviews, with everyone present having a fantastic night. The evening included pupils from across all year groups and houses, with a set seating plan and smart dress code. The Lenten Supper began with drinks which preceded a lovely meal provided by KH.



In between courses we were privileged to have the artist Paul Hobbs talking about his artwork and how it related to faith in modern life. He even brought some of his exhibits to the meal, including 'The Gate', which is a small wooden gate that stands by itself, referring to the invitation from Jesus to "enter through the narrow gate" (Matthew 7:13). More of Mr Hobbs' work was on display in the gallery in the Art School from Saturday to Tuesday (and please follow the link to visit his website: <https://www.arthobbs.com/>)





After the Lenten Supper there were also four Lenten talks spread over Monday and Tuesday by Revd Henry Corbett, who is attached to the Shewsy, Shrewsbury School's Youth and Community Centre in Everton, Liverpool. He particularly spoke very honestly about whether Christianity is "worth it?", making these discussions engaging, especially when pancakes were involved on Tuesday night!

After the success of this year, hopefully we can look forward to the Lenten Supper becoming an annual occasion.

*Hattie Bramwell (EDH LVI)*

## Shrewsbury School Rugby

Friday 3 March 2017

*Alex Loumidis (Rt V) gives an interesting pupil perspective on rugby at Shrewsbury and an insight into how the teams achieve success.*

Cold, wet and muddy. If ever there were three words to describe rugby, they would be it. However, Salopians believe that rugby gives us a chance to show leadership, determination and teamwork whilst embracing the hardship of training and the results that follow.

We play rugby in the Lent Term throughout all age groups, and the 1st XV are able to play in the Michaelmas Term as well. We play schools such as Wrekin, Old Swinford Hospital and of course our main rivals Adams' Grammar. In general, Shrewsbury enjoys success throughout the age groups; however, it is in the current under 16 As (Fifth Form) where success is a regularity. They have only lost one match in their three years of playing at the School – and that was to a strong Sixth Form College this year.



*The U15s (now the U16s) after winning the Adams' Grammar Invitational Sevens Tournament in February last year*

The players in all years have learned that success isn't won purely on the pitch but on the training ground especially. We have many great coaches, including a former England international player in Mr Cook senior. With these coaches – who are allocated teams at the start of the year – we plan for up and coming matches, fixing problems and improving strengths. This year we have



decided to incorporate strength and conditioning into our sessions in order to be peak physical condition for the matches. We tend to train four times a week and play on the Wednesday or Saturday in a match.

Although our coaches are a great help to us, it is our initiative that helps us get so much success all over the board. Generally it is expected of the team kicker to practise kicks, the backs are expected to practise runs, and the forwards practise scrums and line outs.

Although most would think that a typical training session starts and ends with the coach's arrival and departure, this has never been the case. The teams put work in when they're not expected to and practise until they can't get it wrong in order to grab that success when it stares us in the eye. We are not individuals in the team, but one. This is the mentality that we have had in all of our rugby seasons, and we hope that future Salopians will embrace this and enjoy the success that will follow.

*Alex Loumidis (Rt V)*

# Salopian Economists are Bank of England 'Target Two Point Zero' national finalists

Friday 3 March 2017

*Many congratulations to Upper Sixth Economists George Hargrave (Rb), Mathew Hedges (Rb), Harris Huntsman (R), and Max Yale (S), who won the Midlands and South-West area final of the prestigious Bank of England Target Two Point Zero Challenge on 28th February and have now reached the final six of approximately 300 schools who entered.*



*'Target Two Point Zero' national finalists Max Yale, Harris Huntsman, Mathew Hedges, George Hargrave*

George Hargrave also won best individual contribution at the event; his prize is a month's paid work experience at the Bank of England.

Target Two Point Zero is an annual competition run by the Bank of England that gives teams of students aged 16 to 18 the chance to take on the role of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

Each team assesses economic conditions and the outlook for inflation and then sets the interest rate to meet the Government's inflation target of 2.0%. They therefore have to decide whether or not to change the interest rate from the rate set by the Monetary Policy Committee and if so whether to increase it or decrease it, and by how much. There is no right or wrong answer; it is a matter of their judgement. Having made their decision, teams prepare and give a short presentation to a panel of judges arguing the case for their decision and answering questions.

“The key to success is how well students answer questions from the panel,” said Mr Merricks-Murgatroyd, Head of Economics. “The Shrewsbury team gave a 20-minute presentation showing real confidence and enthusiasm for the material. They then answered questions for another 20 mins and here they really excelled, demonstrating outstanding understanding of Economics, knowledge of the UK economy and careful considered judgement. The latter part very much reflected the time they have put in outside of our dedicated time to meet on a Thursday afternoon, demonstrating their independent learning and initiative.

The final will take place at the Bank of England later in March.



# Shuttlecocks and Schubert: 'Have a Go Friday' and the value of challenge

Friday 3 March 2017

We sit silently, still, with oars poised in the water at 45 degrees to the boat. The meandering bends of the River Severn await us, a 1km stretch to the Shrewsbury School Boathouse that we have been told to attack hard. I am in the No.2 seat with 15-year old Chad at Bow behind. He is an experienced oarsman - a member of the J16A crew - with many races and regattas under his belt and an impressive collection of medals and silver pots to his name. I listen out for the instructions from our cox, Boss, who will no doubt enjoy shouting at his former Housemaster to row harder and put his back into it. I glance to my right and see Head Coach and Director of Rowing Athol Hundermark in the accompanying launch. He looks terrified.

He has every right to be. In one of his prized Empacher boats (which, by all accounts, cost roughly double the price of my car) sits a novice. Me.

“Two, take a stroke,” comes the instruction. I apply pressure to the blade pushing it through the water, my legs extending. The boat realigns. “Well done, Sir,” says Boss, and I hear somebody chuckle. That was the easy bit.

This is the first time I have ever been in a rowing boat and I don't mind admitting that I, too, am terrified. As a runner, my sport is fairly simple. Left foot forward; right foot forward; repeat. Rowing, in contrast, is a complex art requiring more than just speed and endurance. The slightest mis-timed stroke and you run the risk of catching a 'crab' and the distinct possibility of ending up in the water. I try not to think too much about this as Boss instructs us to come forward in our seats and ready ourselves to row.

Staring into the fleur-de-lys on the RSSBC top worn by Ed in the seat in front of me, I reflect on what seemed like a good idea a few days before, when I sent an email to Athol asking whether I might be able to come down to the Boat Club to try rowing for my weekly 'Have a Go Friday' activity.



This weekly event became 'a thing' somewhat by accident. The week before, I had been covering for a colleague who couldn't make his usual recreational badminton session in the

School gym. Aside from taking the register, I was told, I wouldn't have to do anything, so I might as well bring some marking. This I did, but having marked the set of tests I had brought with me and with 20 minutes still to go, I couldn't resist. I had to have a go; it looked like fun. Not exactly dressed for it (I noted that nobody else was playing in a three-piece tweed suit...) and never having played before, I nevertheless abandoned my brogues, borrowed a racket and rotated round the courts hitting a few shuttlecocks over the net and a good deal more into it. The pupils I played with politely entertained my whim, explaining the rules to me as I went along. The teacher had become pupil.



As the session ended, it struck me just how much I had enjoyed trying something new. Further, it had given me a valued experience of being the pupil for a moment or two, and equally importantly, it had taken me out of the office. Having left my post as Housemaster of Rigg's Hall to join the Senior Leadership Team at the start of the academic year, one of the most significant adjustments I had to make was adapting to life away from the bustle and buzz of the boarding house. Likewise, relinquishing my role as Master in Charge of the School's running club 'The Hunt' had further removed me from the privileged position of working closely with pupils and nurturing their talents in this area of School life. As Deputy Head Co-Curricular, now responsible for the non-academic life of the School, it struck me that there was perhaps no better way to gain a fuller understanding of life outside of the classroom than to get myself out there and experience it for myself. 'Have a Go Friday' was born.

As somebody who firmly believes in the value of stepping out of your comfort zone and indeed the value of failure as a learning experience, there has certainly been merit in practising what I preach; to 'walk the walk' and expose myself to that potential for failure. It is an hour in my week that I look forward to and dread in equal measure. The challenge I set myself was to try something new each week which, by its very nature, is both exhilarating and somewhat nerve-racking. I've had to accept that as a novice I am going to be setting myself up for potential humiliation and embarrassment and that in many cases I'm going to be far out of my comfort zone.

They haven't all been as daunting or as dangerous as rowing (which, in case you're wondering, I managed to survive), though in every case I have been very much the inexperienced pupil. I was outclassed on the lacrosse pitch by the senior girls, run ragged on the Fives courts by last year's U14 national champions, and for the life of me couldn't score a goal in a netball match. It's a good job I have never taken myself too seriously.



Has it been worth it?

From my point of view, absolutely. Aside from the clear benefits of getting out of the office and committee room, it has also allowed me to step into the shoes of the pupils, to experience what they experience outside of the classroom and to gain a very real understanding of the particular sports and societies they participate in on a weekly basis. I now know what it feels like to get up at 6.30am and put in a Strength and Conditioning session before breakfast, I now know just how hard our 1st XI football team work in preparation for their matches, and I now know not to be late for 1st XV rugby training (I'm still recovering from the planks and press-ups that was my punishment for sauntering to the session five minutes late...).





I also know how terrifying it can be to stand up and perform in a concert having (with some trepidation) put my name forward to play the piano at one of the Friday lunchtime concerts in the School's Maidment Auditorium. Admittedly, I was only playing the accompaniment to Felix Mason-Hornby singing Schubert's 'Standchen' but that didn't make it any less nerve-wracking! The potential to fail was quite high for this one, particularly to do so in a quite public way. But I reasoned that if it was a disaster, I'd probably live to tell the tale. What's the worst that could happen?

Stepping out of your comfort zone and taking on something new is a message we promote to all Salopians, and it has always impressed me how willing many of them are to do just that. Only this morning, I was joined for this week's 'Have a Go Friday' (dance!) by three Fifth Formers (Fingal Dickins, Frank Morris, Harry Remnant), all more at home with a rugby ball in hand, but all willing to give dance a go. I think it's fair to say we all found it really tough but we had a brilliant time, gave it a go, and the guys left saying that they'd love to do it again. Watch this space: Shrewsbury's first all-male dance troupe may have been formed...

Being prepared to take a risk and try something new is the hard bit. Sure, you might fail; but what's the worst that could happen? The best that could happen is you find a new passion, a new skill, and perhaps most importantly, the confidence to face challenge head on.

*Peter Middleton, Deputy Head Co-Curricular*

You can follow [#haveagofriday](#) on Twitter via [@ShrewsburyDHCC](#)



## Basketball: Victories for the Sharkettes

Friday 3 March 2017

*The U18 girls' basketball team is in great form at the moment, with an excellent performance against Concord College on Wednesday and a 28-19 victory.*

This follows on from their fine victory (39-15) at Ludlow two weeks ago.





## Mr Middleton's 'Have a Go Friday'

Friday 3 March 2017

*Over the course of the last two terms, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) Peter Middleton has challenged himself to try something new each week – what has become known as 'Have a Go Friday'. This has seen him take part in numerous co-curricular activities alongside the pupils, experiencing something of what it feels like to be a pupil out of their comfort zone and trying something for the first time.*

The idea started somewhat by accident during a badminton session that Mr Middleton was covering where he decided (dressed in full three-piece tweed suit!) to 'have a go'.



From that Friday onwards he has sought to challenge himself each week with something new. In his own words, he has been outmanoeuvred on rugby field and football pitch, outclassed on lacrosse field and netball court, and experienced what he describes as 'utter trepidation' ahead of a public performance (playing piano at a Friday lunchtime concert in the Maidment Auditorium).

He's been up at the crack of dawn to take part in a Strength & Conditioning session, rowed in a boat for the very first time, and last Friday was up early before lessons to take part in a dance masterclass given by choreographer Sian Archer and Upper Sixth Former Niamh Thomas (G).





Whilst the hashtag [#haveagofriday](#) may not have quite gone viral on Twitter (yet!), the idea seems to be spreading. Mr Middleton was joined at the dance session by three of the U16 rugby team (Fingal Dickins, Frank Morris and Harry Remnant) who were keen to 'have a go' at something new. After 45 minutes, the resulting routine can be viewed in the video on the Shrewsbury School TV YouTube channel by clicking on the image below. (Please note that for copyright reasons, the sound has been muted by YouTube - though the dance routine is entertaining even without the soundtrack! The dance with the music can be enjoyed on Twitter.) To read a fuller account of Mr Middleton's 'Have a Go Friday' experiences and see more photos from previous weeks, please follow the link: [Shuttlecocks and Schubert: 'Have a Go Friday' and the value of challenge.](#)

You can follow Mr Middleton on Twitter [@ShrewsburyDHCC](#).



## The news this week 100 years ago: 3rd - 9th March 1917

Friday 3 March 2017

*This week we remember:*



*The Leadbitter Cup was presented to the Royal Shrewsbury School Boat Club by Mrs Moeller in memory of Francis Leadbitter. It is awarded to the most successful boys' rowing House of the year.*

**Second Lieutenant Francis John Grahame Leadbitter, 11th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps.**

Moser's, left in 1899, rowed Bow in the 1st VIII.

He had been a most regular and valued member of the executive Committee of the Old Salopian Club for some years and was greatly respected by all his colleagues.

He rowed in the Thames R.C. VIII at Henley, and in the O.S.R.C. crew and was admitted a Solicitor in 1904. Enlisting in the Inns of Court O.T.C. in December 1915, he obtained his commission in December 1916 and went out to the Front a month later.

*Killed in action in France, 5th March 1917, aged 35.*

*Buried at Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeuufs, France. Grave IX. Q. 9.*

**Second Lieutenant John Vibart Dixon, 3rd North Midland Brigade. Royal Field Artillery, Ammunition Column (attached 2nd North Midland Brigade R.F.A.)**

School House, 2nd XI cricket, won the Bentley Elocution Prize three years in a row, left in 1915.

*Killed in action while in charge of a trench mortar battery in France, 6th March 1917, aged 20.*

*Buried at Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France. Grave VI. C. 1.*

# National Lacrosse Championships

Tuesday 7 March 2017

*The Senior Lacrosse team gave up their Coach Weekend to travel down to Guildford for the National Lacrosse Championships. They made sure it was worth the journey by performing some of their best lacrosse of the year, with everything slotting into place at the right time.*



Six games on Day 1 would determine which division we played in on Day 2. We couldn't have hoped for a better start, with Shrewsbury dominating Canford in game 1, resulting in a 7-0 win, and then going on to beat North London Collegiate 3-1 in game 2.

Game 3 was against much tougher opponents, St Mary's Calne, though Shrewsbury fought to the end, just losing 2-4. Game 4 was against an extremely strong Benenden team (who went on to win the whole championships), losing 1-10. This threw us off course a little and we didn't really get going against Bolton in game 5, where we lost 3-6. The team picked themselves up though and recorded a fantastic 5-1 win over Coloma.

With 3 wins and 3 losses, Shrewsbury qualified for Division 1 (second tier of the Championship), a great achievement and one up on last year when the team only reached Division 2.

Although they were pleased to have reached Division 1, it obviously meant much tougher games for the girls on Day 2, with play starting in pools of four. We were a little slow to start and were 0-2 down against Withington after a few minutes. However, the team persevered and broke through Withington's defence just before half time to make the score 1-2. It was end to end for the rest of the match, with the score at 4-4 with two minutes to play. Shrewsbury eventually came out on top with a 6-4 win, thanks to great team work.



The next three games were tougher. Game 2 was against Wycombe Abbey and Shrewsbury were 0-3 down at half time. The defence were outstanding in the second half and denied Wycombe the chance to score any more, and the score finished 0-3 – a solid result against the eventual Division 1 winners.

Our final pool game was against Claremont Fan, and Shrewsbury just lost out, 2-4. This meant we drew St Paul's in the knockout stage. Though Shrewsbury fought hard, they weren't able to break down St Paul's defence and lost 0-3.

This was a great performance from the whole team, with special mention to Phoebe Wasdell (MSH), Mimi Ashworth (EDH), Mimi Mason-Hornby (G), Clemmie Baynes (G) and the Captain Imo Luczyc-Wyhowska (G). Thanks also to Paul Coups, Mrs Nicholas and all parents who came to support.



*Nicola Bradburne, Head of Girls' Games*



## Rugby news round-up

Tuesday 7 March 2017

The **U16** rugby team travelled to Adams' Grammar for the quarter-final of the County Cup. With many players missing through injury, this was going to be a tough fixture, and with aggressive play from the hosts taking out three of our top players within the first quarter of the match, things weren't looking good.

However, it was testament to the character of the squad they rallied to win the match 22-12, with two tries from Frank Morris (O) and one from Felix Kenyon-Smith (S).

The **U14Bs** played The Priory School on Tuesday; a great game against local opposition, which Shrewsbury won 34-7. Charlie Tyler-Weswood (S) led from the front as captain; Jonty Gould (SH) and Billy Watkinson (S) played well in the back row; Ben Adebisi (SH) showed he is a strong runner with nice offloads; Alex Whittall (S) and Jonjo Wood (R) created good space; Seb Vanhoonacker (I) did well on the wing.

### Rugby Sevens

The **U14s** were at the **Solihull Sevens Tournament** on Wednesday (1st March). A shocking journey around Birmingham meant that we arrived at Solihull with limited time before the first game. A gruelling programme awaited, with 15-minute matches and a 15-minute break between them.

The U14s finished fourth in their group with results: vs Bromsgrove (lost 0-40); vs Bishop Vesey's (won 35-15); vs Warwick (lost 0-43); vs Lawrence Sheriff (won 34-7); vs Aderdare Community School (lost 0-22); vs KES, Birmingham (won 40-5); and vs YGG, Bro Edern (lost 24-26).

An injury to Oscar Hamilton Russell (R) in the first match did not bode well, but other players stepped up: Will Sanford-Davies (O) and Fred Jones (Rb) made good ground; Olly Taylor (R) broke through for good tries; Guy Macey's (I) conversions; Fred Stephens (Rt) was busy; Ed Craik (PH) made some great breaks; Shuntaro Chikamori (S) scored some nice tries; Henry Wild (O) and Oscar Glendenning (Ch) grew in confidence; and Tobi Braithwaite (SH) came into his own as the tournament progressed.

The squad should be proud of their efforts as they continue to develop into the Sevens format.

The **U15s** were at the **Adams' Grammar Sevens** on Thursday and gave a spirited performance, playing excellent Sevens rugby in both defence and attack.

We started with a narrow win over Ellesmere, who were expecting to beat us, with Bilal Khan (I) and Leo Walton (S) enabling us to control the game and nullify their threat.

Next came Cheadle Hulme, where a return to 15-a-side tactics resulted in a narrow loss. This meant we had to win the final match. Antoine Ceolin (Rt) and Gordon Chong (SH), who scored the 'Try of the Day', made this certain, securing us a place in the next round.

Old Swinford Hospital waited in the Cup Semi-Final, which we eventually lost by a single try.

This was a real team effort, with special mentions to Frank Mansell (PH), Harry Sutherland (Ch), Henry Davies (Rt) and Rory Lockett (Ch).



## Natural History Society Field Day trip to mid-Wales

Tuesday 7 March 2017

*The Natural History Society spent Field Day last month exploring the Ynys-Hir RSPB Reserve and the ancient submerged woodland at Borth Beach, as Jenn Westermann (G LVI) recounts.*

Our day started early and we left at 8.30am to travel down to Ynys-Hir in mid-Wales. The Ynys-Hir reserve has been referred to as a mosaic of habitats. Across the site they have a salt-marsh, ancient peat bog, ponds and forestry. This impressive array of habitats meant that the variety of species it is possible to see at this reserve is vast.



On our arrival we were met by Jenny Dingle, an Educational Officer for the RSPB, and Russell Jones, the Conservation Manager for the reserve, who kitted us out in warm hats and gloves. Russell led a 2 km walk via the new hide overlooking a pool teeming with wildfowl. He told us about the reserve's history, showed us how he maps bird territories in the spring and talked about the wader conservation work, as well as pointing out birds along the way.

The first habitat we walked through was an oak forest that had been planted by the original owners of the estate. Russell is a bird expert and can identify a bird just from their call. Walking through the forest, Russell would pause to tell us what bird he had just heard. We found the carcass of a pigeon that had been eaten by a bird of prey and Russell told us that you can work out which bird of prey had killed it based on whether there was claw marks on the breast bones or not.

As we moved on towards the peat bog we came across gorse. Gorse flowers throughout the year and it led to the saying, “I will love you if the gorse flowers”. The flowers also have a very sweet scent that smells of coconut. Before we got to the peat bog we saw a treecreeper, a type of bird that can very quickly scale tree trunks as it searches for insects. On the peat bog we were told about the history of the site, that if you go down five feet you are moving down a couple of centuries. The vegetation five feet down would have been exposed centuries ago. We then moved on to look at the hides, where we saw many different types of waders.



After lunch, Jenny took us pond-dipping. This entailed dragging a net through the shallow water, emptying it out into a small bowl of water and then looking through it to identify species. We found many mosquito larvae, water beetles, palmate newts, water boatmen and several sticklebacks. This was an interesting insight into the amount of life present in water even in the depths of winter.



We then left the reserve to travel to Borth beach. At Borth an ancient forest was discovered after a storm washed away the top layers of sand, revealing the ancient wood stumps below. Although this was very interesting to see, it was also freezing, so we did not stay long.

A delicious stop for fish and chips polished off a long yet interesting Field Day. It was fascinating to see the variety of species and habitats at the Ynys-Hir reserve and then see the ancient exposed woodland which many of us have never seen before.

# Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'A Little Bit of Magic'

Tuesday 7 March 2017

Please click on the image below to open Shrewsbury Sparkpoint: A Little Bit of Magic' as a pdf file.

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL | SPARKPOINT

### Foolish wand-waving...

Perhaps it seems a little peculiar to move from the very earthy and tangible concept of money into a land of fantasy and magic, but escapism and the capacity to believe in things that are apparently beyond the possibilities of our world are fundamental parts of what it means to be human.

Magic – some highly potent force that is capable of defying not only the basic laws of physics, but perhaps even those more intractable laws of human behaviour has been a driving force for science, exploration and indeed literary and cultural development across the centuries and remains a topic of fascination to this day.

### The Art of Magic

Of course best known for his writing, J. R. R. Tolkien was also a highly competent illustrator. Drawing on Scandinavian influences, his original illustrations for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* were rich in symbolism and mass-like ascriptions, helping our imaginations to enjoy that richly complex magical world.



### LITTLE BODENMÄN – THIS WEEK

If you relaxed out on the infernal performance event last week, then don't fret – you can sign up for this one. You could reach a peak, sing a song, take us through an equilateral or explain your favourite piece of art. Give it a go – you know you want to!



I couldn't be this late just without a reference to great magicians and my childhood hero, Paul Daniels. Click [here](#) for some clever parodies!

### SPS2 – Goethe – The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Many of you may be familiar to recall Disney's *Fantasia* – a powerful combination of orchestral music and animation, but one of the key moments was an adaptation of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' in which the servant masters his master with early electrical contraptions. Click [here](#) to read Goethe's original poem from 1797, or [here](#) to relive a Paul Dukas' gripping score.



5 Minutes

### SPS3 – Angela Carter – Fairy-tales

Facilitated by the construction of the fairy-tale, Angela Carter breaks magic in an extraordinary different way, using fantasy as a means to explore latent desires and uncomfortable truths about ourselves – not to mention imparting a feminist message. Click [here](#) for a critique (spoiler: some prophecy and a reading of a fairy sticking extract from one of her stories).



5 Minutes

### SPS4 – Zhang Guozi – c. 600 BC

An important figure in the history of magic, Zhang Guozi was an Alchemist whose quite scientific approaches to magic gave him a reputation for an ability to perform all sorts of miracles – including folding up donkeys and putting them in his pocket, speaking with the dead and indeed, rising from the dead himself. Click [here](#) to learn more about this extraordinary man – 'revel'd god'!



5 Minutes

Mr W Jones | Deputy Head (Academic)

March 2017



# Fencing: Two more Salopians qualify for the British Youth Championship Finals

Tuesday 7 March 2017

A number of pupils performed at the West Midlands British Youth Qualifiers over Coach Weekend.

- Stanley Wong (I LVI) won 2nd Place in the U18 Men's Foil and 3rd Place in the Senior Men's Foil
- Suky OuYang (MSH V) won 2nd Place in the U18 Women's Foil.

Both go forward to represent the West Midlands in the British Youth Championship Finals at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield in May.



# RSSH: Midlands and Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Championships

Wednesday 8 March 2017

*The full account by Master-in-Charge Ian Haworth of the Colts' emphatic victory - and strong performances from all Hunt runners - at Oundle on 26th February.*

The annual Midlands and Northern Independent Schools' Cross Country Championships – which gets the award for ‘mostly unwieldy name of a sports event’ – was held this year at Oundle School, on a flat but challenging course around their grounds. Heavy rain had made the going reasonably soft, but the afternoon itself was dry by the time the races actually began. Last year we won the Colts trophy and narrowly missed out on the Seniors gong; we were hoping to go one better this year. Unfortunately, due to illness and injury, we were unable to put together a girls' team this year.

In the first race, the Colts began their 4.2km course with a fiercely quick start. We had managed to bring a large group of about 15 runners in this category and were able to pack in well around the first small lap, while our quicker runners jockeyed for position up towards the front.

Tom Jackson (R) established himself in a leading pair alongside a Wellingborough runner and sensibly tucked in behind him for the first kilometre or so, before making a move and peeling away. This represented a marked change in tactics for this talented young man, who has begun to race much more intelligently over the past few months.



*Tom Jackson leading the field*

Meanwhile, a pack of Hunt runners was gradually moving up the field, with Sam Watts (Ch), Paddy Barlow (R) and Toby Pegge (PH) establishing themselves well inside the top ten. As the runners moved into the long lap, it was clear that Shrewsbury were dominating the race, with plenty of support further back in the shape of Oscar Hamilton Russell (R), Jonny Snell (Ch), Timothy Clarkson Webb (O) and Mark Pangin (SH).



As they rounded the final corner, Tom had built up a sizeable lead and took an impressive win. Paddy had managed to move into second place in the wooded section, and held on ahead of Toby to make it a Shrewsbury 1-2-3!



*Paddy Barlow, Toby Pegge and Oscar Hamilton Russell*

Sam Watts had been struggling with his knees but still managed to hold on for 7th place, with Oscar just behind him in 8th. 11th, 12th and 13th were all taken by Shrewsbury runners – Mark, Tim and Jonny respectively – making this an extremely strong showing for the club. They easily claimed the team gold, with a score of just 13 points, well ahead of their nearest rivals Uppingham with 66.



In fact, our B team effectively came second on the day, with Mark, Tim, Jonny and Jamie Anwyl (S) taking the final place of 18th for a very low score of 44.

In the senior race, we knew it would be a tall order against an extremely strong Sedbergh team, who had beaten us (very marginally!) at Coventry earlier in the month. Injury and illness had once again impacted on our team, with key runners like Cameron Anwyl, Monty Hardcastle and Owen Mock unable to race. That said, we still had some very strong runners, and in our Huntsman Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) and Senior Whip Will Hayward (R) we knew we would have good quality at the head of the race. And so it proved to be, with both these two establishing themselves early on in a lead pack of around seven or eight. Not much further back was Scott Hatton (S), who having suffered from a chest infection earlier in the season is now making a real return to form. Charlie Ockleston (O) – still only a Fifth Former but being used to bolster the ranks of the seniors – was going extremely well just behind him.



It was a long race of 7km, and this left plenty of time for true quality to stand out. What emerged after the first lap was an excellent battle between Freddie and the leading Sedbergh runner, Joe Bird. A little behind this was another battle for third place, as Will tussled with the strongest Uppingham runners. Further back there was strong support from Scott Hatton, Charlie Ockleston, while a bit further back, Fergus David (Ch) was making his return to the Hunt team after a long lay-off from injury.

In the final lap, the fight between Freddie and Joe continued right to the end, with Freddie just about coming out on top with about 300m to go and pulling away slightly, but Joe offering a

threat all the way to the finish line. An excellent performance by both these runners and a great win for Freddie.



Will Hayward came through in 4th, in another gritty display that is his trademark. Scott had a fine run to place 8th, managing to reel in and overtake a Sedbergh runner in the last few hundred metres. Arguably the performance of the day went to Charlie Ockleston, who finished in 10th despite being young for this age group. It was a mark of how much he has progressed as a runner in the last few weeks. Fergus placed 21st, Tom Hughes came through in 28th, ahead of Ali Harris (R) in 30th in what was probably his best ever race and hopefully a sign of plenty more to come from him!

In all, the seniors weren't quite able to match the quality put out by Sedbergh on the day, but finished in a strong second place. This meant a very low score for the Midlands League, of which this race formed a part, and puts us in a commanding position with only a couple of races to go.

A really good effort by everyone who ran. With plenty more racing to come in the next few weeks, it suggests the team is in excellent health.

*IPH*



## Netball news round-up

Wednesday 8 March 2017

*There were five netball teams in action last week: three senior teams away at King's Chester and the U14 and U15A teams in a triangular tournament with The Priory School and Meole Brace.*



The **1st VII** played their best netball of the season so far. There was strong court play from every individual, with exceptional attacking moves from Molly Stokes (MSH) and Amy Pook (MSH). Our two shooters were playing against a strong defensive pair but they stayed calm and we were 3-0 up after three minutes.

The game continued well for us until our Goal Shooter Sophia Price (EDH) picked up an injury, which left us weakened in the shooting circle. Our defence made some vital interceptions to keep the game alive, but eventually their attack proved too strong. The game finished 26-17. A great effort from all the girls.

The **2nd VII** started really positively against a strong King's Chester team to finish 8-5 up after the first quarter. From here they managed to extend the gap every quarter and edge a little further in front, with some excellent defending to limit Kings' scoring opportunities.

The final score was 28-17. A great result and excellent play from Katie Oswald (MSH) and Hattie Bramwell (EDH).

The **3rd VII** played fantastically this week; they really pulled together and worked as a team. Attack and defence were both superb, ensuring we maintained possession and consistently drove the ball forward. Even during the third quarter when our girls switched positions (in an attempt to make things a bit more even), they still played a very strong game.



As a result, we won 35-4, with excellent play from Clemmie Baynes (G) and Ferne Nicholas (EDH)

The **U15A VII** started slowly after a long break between their last school game. However, after battling through they stepped up their game and produced a 11-5 win against a strong Meole Brace side. Poppy Collingwood Cameron (EDH) and Georgia Kannreuther (MSH) continued to produce effective attacking netball, linking with the centre, Mary Lees (EDH) which resulted in a one-sided win against The Priory School, 26-2.

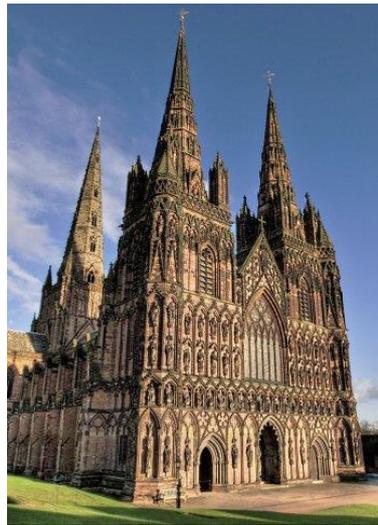
The **U14A VII**, led by Alice Hughes (MSH) and Imogen Jones (MSH), recorded big wins against The Priory and Meole Brace with their strong centre court attack. Annie Middleton (EDH) was nearly flawless in her shooting, supported by Ellie Kynaston (MSH). Strong defence from Phoebe Morris (EDH) and Olivia Usher (MSH) prevented the opposing teams from getting the ball into the circle.



## Chapel Choir trip to Lichfield Cathedral

Thursday 9 March 2017

*On Monday 6th March the Chapel Choir sang Evensong in Lichfield Cathedral to a large congregation of parents, staff and locals.*



Shrewsbury is part of the Lichfield Diocese, so it was good to return to our 'local' Cathedral once again, the Chapel Choir having last sung there in 2012. Indeed our connections with Cathedral and School have been strong over the years, with many Lichfield choristers joining the ranks of Shrewsbury Music Scholars.

The Cathedral itself is an extremely impressive building and its three medieval spires dominate the countryside for miles around. The magnificence of the architecture certainly inspired the Choir in their singing of music by Herbert Howells and Antonio Lotti.

Opening with Ayleward's Responses and Psalm 32, the Choir then embarked on Howells' setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis written in 1945 for the choir of King's College, Cambridge and known affectionately as 'Coll Reg' in choral circles. This piece is one of the high points of 20th century 'Cathedral' music and has some wonderful soaring lines for the sopranos, exquisite close harmony for the sopranos and altos, and muscular phrases for the tenors and basses, all of which were sung with great confidence and finesse by the Chapel Choir.

Ben Higgins' (S UVI) solo at the start of the Nunc Dimittis was delivered with great sensitivity and control, with the full Choir accompanying in hushed tones.

The anthem was Lotti's well-known setting of part of the Creed, 'Crucifixus', in eight parts, composed 1717-19. This has become a firm favourite of the Choir and they brought out the expressive qualities in the harmony with great care.

In addition to the superb choral singing, there was some fine organ playing before and after the service by Fintan Simmons (Ch UVI) and Dr Godwin.



## Chemistry Olympiad success

Thursday 9 March 2017

*Our Sixth Form Chemists have achieved outstanding results in the first round of the International Chemistry Olympiad, amassing a total of two gold, nine silver and five bronze medals.*



*Gold medal winners Isaac Dai and Andrew Kim*

This competition is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young chemists in the country and is open to all post-16 students in the UK. Seventeen students took part from Shrewsbury School, 13 from the Lower Sixth and four from the Upper Sixth.

There are three rounds to the competition, at the end of which the UK team is selected to train for, and compete in, the International Chemistry Olympiad. Further information is available on [www.rsc.org/Education/events-and-competitions/Olympiad/](http://www.rsc.org/Education/events-and-competitions/Olympiad/).

The paper itself is based on the core of the Chemistry A Level specifications, so that students taking any of the different exam board A Levels can compete fairly. The exam lasts two hours and is composed of a series of structured questions designed to stretch able students by making them apply the principles they have learnt to new and often more complex situations than they would meet in their A Level course. Thus, in order to score marks, it is essential to have a very sound base of knowledge and understanding, but also have the ability to think and reason - often "outside the box" - at a high level.

The students concerned had worked at this with a weekly session throughout the year.



**Gold Medals** were awarded to:

Isaac Dai (S LVI), Andrew Kim (S UVI)

Isaac's achievement is particularly noteworthy, as he has also won gold medals in both the **Physics Olympiad** and the **Mathematical Olympiad**.

**Silver Medals** were awarded to:

Josh Bray (Rb UVI), Betty Chau (G LVI), Ben Jones (S UVI), Artyom Kutovoya (SH LVI), Boris Kwok (Ch LVI), Zheng Liang (MSH LVI), Mill Luangamornlert (SH LVI), Lucy Price (EDH UVI), Stanley Wong (I LVI)

**Bronze Medals** were awarded to:

Marcus Cheung (SH LVI), Jake Elliott (Rb UVI), Emily Lo (MSH LVI), Selina Tang (MSH LVI), Andrew Wu (S LVI)

*Dr Andy Briggs, Head of Science*

## Organist Fintan Simmons (Ch UVI) performs in London and Lichfield

Friday 10 March 2017

*There has been a welcome renewal of interest in organ playing here at Shrewsbury in recent years, with eight pupils currently learning the instrument. This week saw Fintan Simmons (Ch UVI) perform on two occasions: first at Lichfield Cathedral, and the following day at St Lawrence-Jewry in the City of London.*

Fintan's Lichfield performance was before Evensong on Monday 6th March at which our own Chapel Choir performed (see report). His London performance the following day was part of a series at St Lawrence-Jewry featuring talented young organists from schools across the UK. Fintan shared his lunchtime concert with two organ pupils from Tonbridge School and he performed three pieces by Bach, Mendelssohn and William Mathias.

One of the main challenges for the organist is adjusting to different instruments in a short space of time. Fintan managed this brilliantly, going from the 'Romantic' Hill organ (built in 1884) in Lichfield to the 'modern' Klais organ (2001) in St Lawrence-Jewry with effortless ease. On both occasions Fintan made imaginative use of the organs' stops and showed off some nimble footwork in the Bach and some rhythmic playing in the Mathias.



There are some interesting Salopian connections with both places: Mr Mason was Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir at Lichfield Cathedral; the father-in-law of Fintan's Housemaster, Richard Hudson, built the organ at St Lawrence-Jewry before the Klais; and Catherine Ennis, Organist of St Lawrence-Jewry, is a former Salopian parent.

There is an opportunity to hear Catherine Ennis play a recital in the School Chapel on Wednesday 14th June at 6.30pm as part of our summer series, so do put the date in your diaries now!

*Alex Mason, Assitant Director of Music*



## U14 House Fives Competition

Friday 10 March 2017



*Richie Li and Marcus Young (both Third Form) – winners of the U14 House Fives B pair Competition*



# Go-karting with the Fifth Form

Friday 10 March 2017



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## The news this week 100 years ago: 10th - 16th March 1917

Friday 10 March 2017

*This week we remember:*

Chaplain 4th Class, **The Revd Vincent Coke Boddington**, Army Chaplains' Department. Haydon's (now Rigg's), left in 1901. He graduated from St John's College, Cambridge, and was appointed Curate of East Ham, later Temporary Army Chaplain, 22nd November 1914. He contracted tuberculosis aggravated by active service and died at the Pinewood Sanatorium, Wokingham, UK on 13th March 1917, aged 30.

Remembered at Wokingham (St Sebastian) Churchyard, England. Spec. Plot. 23.



# ‘ShrewsMUN’ - Shrewsbury School’s inaugural Model United Nations Conference

Friday 10 March 2017

*United Nations flags fluttered proudly above the Main School Building last weekend, to welcome more than 100 delegates representing countries from all over the world to the inaugural Shrewsbury School Model United Nations Conference.*



Devised and organised by a small and extremely hard-working Executive Committee made up of Sixth Form students led by Secretary General Ed Plaut (S), ShrewsMUN 2017 was hailed an outstanding success by delegates, organisers, Chairs of Committees and accompanying members of staff alike.

Together with Ed, Deputy Secretary General Max Morris (S), Joint Heads of Press Michael Schützer-Weissmann (S) and James Whitaker (Rt) and Head of Media Sebastian Hervas-Jones (S) had collectively put in hours of work in the weeks and months leading up to the Conference. They were supported, too, by a team of fellow ‘MUN-ers’ who took on the roles of Chairs of Committees and Presidents of the Security Council, preparing resolutions, and researching and writing briefing notes for delegates.



*L-r: Sebastian (with James in background), Ed, Max, James, Michael*

The Committee were delighted that seven schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from Frankfurt International School travelled over from Germany. They were also very honoured to welcome Justin Bedford, Head of the UN Strategy Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to give the Keynote Speech at the opening General Assembly – particularly given the fact that he had spent the previous week travelling in China and South Korea and had flown back to the UK only the day before. He gave a fascinating insight into the world of international diplomacy, and answered very skilfully some challenging and probing questions.



The Keynote Speaker in the final General Assembly was former Head of School Esmé O’Keeffe (MSH 2013-2015), a talented and enthusiastic ‘MUN-er’ during her two years at Shrewsbury, who is now at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge studying French and Italian. She spoke about

her experience last summer working for a humanitarian aid agency in the Ukraine and her research for a report she had written for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As Ed Plaut said in his vote of thanks, she demonstrated to the ShrewsMUN delegates “that these issues are not as removed from us as we might think, and that we do not have to wait to make a difference to those things we debate at MUN”.

During the course of the weekend, the ShrewsMUN delegates debated some of the major global issues currently being discussed in the ‘real’ United Nations, including the question of migration, the Syrian Civil War, sustainable energy in developing countries, cyber warfare, the use of drones in war and the treatment of terror subjects.



*Human Rights Committee*



*ECOSOC Committee Chairs Alec Barnes, Sumaiya Quraishi and Ebrahim Jamshid*



*Political Committee Chairs Chad Usher, Megan Redhead and Sergey Vartanov*

Work in each of the six Committees was intense and productive. In their closing remarks in the final General Assembly, all of the Chairs of Committees paid tribute to their respective teams

of delegates for the high quality of debate – commenting that it made the awarding of Commended, Highly Commended and Outstanding Delegates difficult to decide.

"It was great to see all of our hard work and hours of preparation pay off over the weekend, as everything worked extremely smoothly," Ed said at the end of the Conference. "Everyone really enjoyed their weekend and learned a great deal, either as a delegate, a chair, or on the organisation side of things."

Michael Schützer-Weissmann agreed: "Given Shrewsbury's prolific MUN record, it's extraordinary that we have had to wait until 2017 for our own ShrewsMUN conference. But no matter - it was well worth the wait. For me, the key to this conference's success was its almost entire dependence on pupils' commitment and initiative."

As joint Heads of Press, Michael and James were responsible for producing a newspaper during the weekend, which they published in time to hand to delegates in the final General Assembly. Meanwhile Sebastian, as Head of Media, roamed the Conference with his camera and put together two films that captured the lively spirit and positive atmosphere of the Conference.



*Chairs of Committees and Shrewsbury School MUN delegates*

Speaking at the end of the Conference, Ed Plaut was warm in his thanks not only to his fellow organisers but also to the members of staff who gave up their weekend to help with the Conference. In particular he paid tribute to Mr Peach, Master in Charge of MUN. "He is the man I must credit with not only introducing me to MUN, but supporting me and mentoring me every step of the way, including to the end of this conference. His leadership of MUN has irrevocably and positively shaped generations of Salopians, who, like me, are eternally grateful for all the hours that he has put into us as MUNners, but more importantly as people. ...He believed

in our vision for the conference, and let us run with that vision with complete control, for which we are so thankful.”



*Max and Ed during the final General Assembly; Ed with Mr Peach*

Mr Peach expressed his huge pride in their achievement. “Ed, Max and their team of committee chairs, administrative staff, delegates and journalists shouldered the vast majority of the planning and work for this conference and were a tremendous credit to themselves and Shrewsbury School. Because this conference was their brainchild, they ‘owned’ it, and were thus determined to make their conference a success. It's strange, but true, but some of the greatest moments that I have experienced in my teaching career (and this was definitely one of them!) have come from standing to one side, doing very little and just watching as talented stars of the future like Ed and his team take flight.”

Ed concluded the Conference with his favourite quote, from Ronald Reagan:

*“I know in my heart that man is good, that what is right will always eventually triumph, and that there is purpose and worth to each and every life.”*

Ed, James and Sebastian gave a very engaging interview on Radio Shropshire shortly before the start of the Conference on Saturday morning. Please follow the link to listen to it and scroll forwards to 2:17:15 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04sx4st>



## Girls' U15 cricket team win Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket Area Qualifiers

Monday 13 March 2017

*The U15 girls' cricket team have secured a place at the Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket Area Finals after an excellent performance at the Qualifiers last Tuesday.*



After last year's success in the Area Qualifiers, the Shrewsbury team were favourites to win again this time round, playing against Meole Brace and Mary Webb Schools.

Skipper Issy Wong (G) led from the front; Lara Ockleston (G) and Georgia Kannreuther (MSH) opened the bowling in fine style; Ellie Kynaston (MSH) did well on debut opening the batting with Amelie Davies; and Georgie Nicholas (MSH) and Alice Hughes (MSH) played their part with bat and ball. Well done to all.

The Finals will be played on 21st March, where the team will be seeking improve on last year's performance and take the title.

## "Shrewsbury School music at its very best"

Tuesday 14 March 2017

*A review by Mr Middleton of last Sunday's stunning concert in the Cadogan Hall, London, performed by the School's Wind and Symphony Orchestras and combining current and Old Salopian musicians.*



Any review of a Shrewsbury School concert runs the risk of very quickly exhausting available superlatives. Forgive me, therefore, if I begin by proclaiming that the quality of musicianship at Sunday evening's concert in London's Cadogan Hall and the electric energy of the programme really had to be heard to be believed. This was Shrewsbury music at its very best.

After a Friday evening concert in the Alington Hall for pupils and the local community, two coachloads of musicians travelled down to London early on Sunday morning for a few snatched hours of rehearsal ahead of an evening performance in the grand venue of Cadogan Hall.



Following a reception for Old Salopians, parents, guardians and other friends of Shrewsbury School, the concert opened with Sir Malcolm Arnold's rousing Scottish Dances performed by the Wind Orchestra and conducted with typical verve by Maria McKenzie. As a Scotsman recovering from the humiliation of the Calcutta Cup the day before, the ebullience of the four movements did wonders in restoring my deflated mood, the soaring flutes and earthy clarinets almost transporting me back to the heath and heather of homeland. Ah, ye bonny banks and braes...



There was no time to become too misty-eyed and home-sick, however, for there soon came the first of the solo items: Steffan Williams (O) performing the first movement of Horowitz's Euphonium Concerto. This was an extraordinarily complex piece played with aplomb by this

highly talented musician, a final year student who is off to study Human Sciences at Oxford University next year and is no doubt destined for great things.



Greatness was likewise evident in the extraordinary performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major by Nateewet Ruechuseth (Ch). Played from memory and with an exhilarating energy combined with control and poise, the performance was a tour de force and an outstanding achievement from such a young musician. Four hours of practice a day, I'm told, is what it takes to play to this kind of standard, and I don't doubt it, such was the faultless quality of the performance.



Similar poise and effortless musicianship was evident in the third of the solo items, Upper Sixth Former Jemima Price taking the stage to perform Carl Maria von Weber's Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra. We were treated to yet another masterclass, with Jemima's beautiful tone and timbre mellifluously rising and falling with the cadence of the piece. She fully deserved the rapturous applause that was bestowed upon her by an appreciative and highly impressed audience.



As we moved towards the Interval, we were treated to the glorious Finlandia by Sibelius, a rousing hymn to the composer's home nation underscored by a political tension resulting from the oppression of Russian rule under Tsar Nicholas II. The context of the piece is fascinating, but as a piece of music it is sublime and a fitting way to end the first half of the concert. Most wonderful of all was the fact that the piece was conducted by Old Salopian Henry Kennedy (I 2009-14, who is now studying clarinet and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. His energetic command of the orchestra on the conductor's rostrum was enthused about over half-time glasses of wine by audience members drowning in superlatives.



A shorter second half provided us with two final gems: Haydn's 'London' Symphony in D Major and Arturo Márquez's Danzón No 2. The first is a firm favourite amongst Salopians and the Cadogan Hall was, of course, a fitting occasion to perform this work commissioned during the second of Haydn's two London residencies in England. First performed at the King's Theatre on 4th May 1795 led by the composer himself, Haydn wrote in his diary that "the whole company was thoroughly pleased and so was I. I made 4000 gulden on this evening: such a thing is possible only in England". The Shrewsbury School version was conducted by Director of Music John Moore who, whilst not earning 4000 gulden for his efforts, can nevertheless be equally pleased with the performance of the symphony and the skilled manner in which his musicians brought the piece alive.



I hope I haven't exhausted the superlatives entirely, for the final piece, certainly for me, was the most memorable performance of the evening. With an orchestra composed of pupils, staff, music teachers and Old Salopians, we were soon given something quite strikingly different to Haydn with the hypnotic swish and sway of the Mexican composer Márquez. In his own words, the *Danzón* is "a music full of sensuality and qualitative seriousness... which old Mexican people continue to dance with a touch of nostalgia and a jubilant escape toward their own emotional world." The six-strong percussion section were in their element on bongos, snare, timpani, bass drum, maracas and woodblock, and John Moore seemed to be less conducting and more dancing, such was the fun he seemed to be having with the music. It was infectious and whilst the audience showed suitable English restraint and limited their outpouring of emotion to the odd tapping of toe or nodding of head, the finale was met with a standing ovation from members of the audience and even a whoop or two (possibly from the Headmaster).



John Moore once again created a mesmerising evening of music along with his team of staff and of course his wonderful musicians both Salopians present and past. Bravo!

PJM

A footnote from Director of Music, John Moore:

*I would like to express my deep gratitude to those Old Salopian Musicians who gave up their Sunday to come and take part in the concert: Chris Carver (viola), Patrick Craig (harp), Ollie Darrington (percussion), Sam Grainger (viola/recording engineer), Richard Hudson (trombone), Andrew Hughes (cello), Louise Hughes (Violin) (OS Elect), Henry Kennedy (clarinet/conductor), Laura Nightingale (cello) Henry Southern (percussion), David Theodore (oboe), Alastair Thomas (bassoon), Henry Thomas (trumpet).*

*We are immensely proud of these wonderful musicians, and it was also so heartening to see many more OS musicians during the course of the day and in the audience at the concert in the evening. Following on from the highly successful Epiphany Evensong in St Mary-le-Bow Church in London in January, the Cadogan Hall concert further strengthens the links between the School and its wonderful extended Salopian community. We will hope to plan more events for the future, and what our pupils gain from this contact is immeasurable. Floreat Salopia.*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

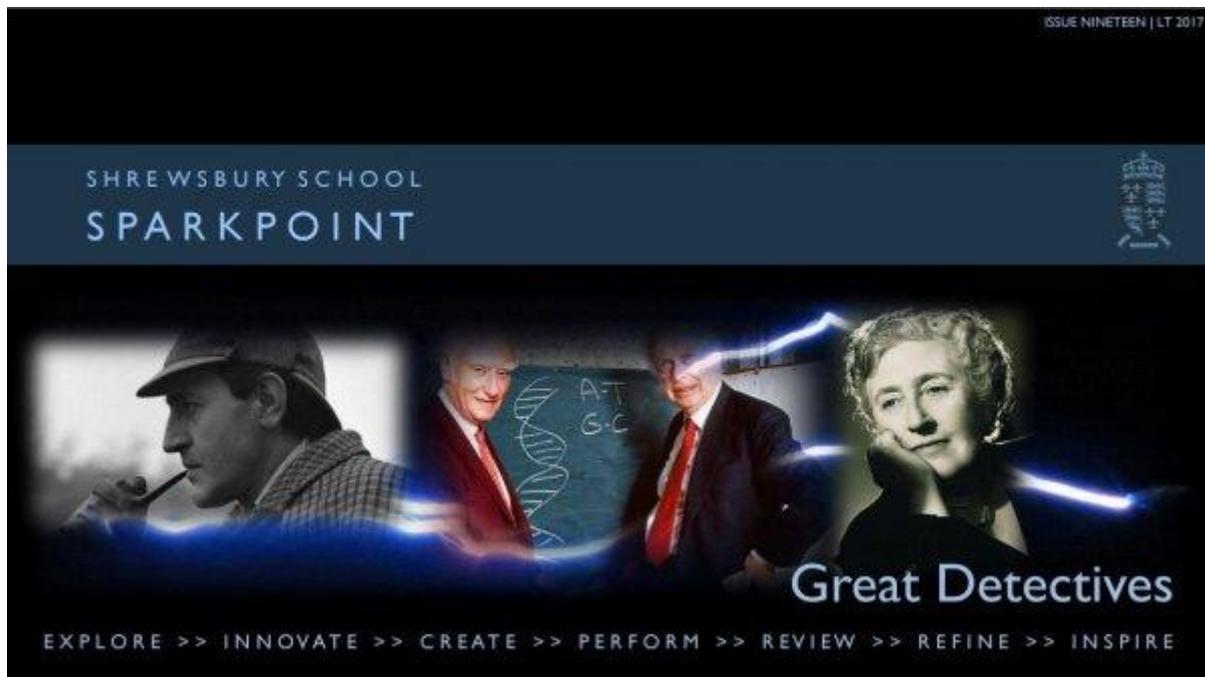


# Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Great Detectives'

Tuesday 14 March 2017

*This week's fascinating edition looks at some of the ways that human beings' love of working out puzzles and finding solutions to problems has made itself manifest in literature, the arts and the sciences.*

*Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Great Detectives' as a pdf:*



# Football: The end of an outstanding season

Wednesday 15 March 2017



The 1st XI rounded off an outstanding season on Tuesday with yet another very impressive performance - playing against Telford in the Shropshire Schools County Cup Final. Although the match ended in a 1-0 defeat, heads remained high and each and every player can be extremely proud of his achievement.

A full report will be published on the website shortly.

Last Wednesday (8th March) the senior footballers attended the Barry Burns Northern 8s competition held at King's Chester.

Despite a slow start largely down to limited experience of playing 8-a-side football, the Shrewsbury team got into their stride, winning their first four games against The Grange (2-1), Stockport Grammar (3-0), Arnold QEMS (3-1) and Cheadle Hulme (2-1). But they unfortunately lost to St Bede's (0-4).

This placed them in the semi-final where they faced Manchester Grammar, who beat them at the start of the year in the ISFA 6s. However, this time the Shrewsbury team came out on top with a tight 1-0 win.

In the final they faced their old foe Repton. Shrewsbury were on top in the first half and created the better chances. However, Repton came out fast in the second half to score an early goal. This made for an open game and in chasing a goal to bring us back into the game, Repton scored again to win 2-0.

It was a tremendous effort from our team, and to get into this prestigious ISFA final in our first showing was extremely positive.



## West Midlands Junior Rowing Championships medals

Thursday 16 March 2017

*The Boat Club took 11 crews to race at the West Midlands Junior Rowing Championships held in Worcester on Sunday. The event also acted as a qualifying event for the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta to be held in Nottingham in April.*

All of the crews put in competitive performances, resulting in five gold medal and three silver medals.

The School has qualified the following boats to represent the region at the National Regatta: J16 8+, J16 4+, J15 4+, WJ15 4X+ and J14 4X+.

Well done to all of those who raced.

The previous day, the J14s were in action on the River Dee in a match against King's Chester. See [report](#).

*Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing*

*Please click on the large image below to open a gallery of images from the West Midlands Junior Rowing Championships. Click again to scroll through:*



## Oldham's rugby players shine at the Stonyhurst Sevens

Thursday 16 March 2017

Pictured below is the 1st VII after their success in winning the Plate competition at the Stonyhurst Sevens on Wednesday 15th March.



*Back row L-R: Scott Walker, Magnus Chaplin, Tom Drury, Oli Dixon (Capt), Angus Drummond, Nifemi Okusanya, Tom Atkin, Ed Plant, Rory Davies. Front row L-R: Rob Ford, Kwaku Antwi. Not pictured: Ivor Fetherstonhaugh.*

Six of the squad were Oldhamites: Oli Dixon, Tom Atkin, Angus Drummond, Rory Davies, Tom Drury and Ivor Fetherstonhaugh (who, after dazzling performances in attack and gritty defence, sadly needed a stop at Chester A & E to fix a fractured wrist/thumb).

The boys should be looking forward to the Schools' National Sevens at Rosslyn Park with some real confidence now.



## RSSBC: King's Chester Match

Friday 17 March 2017

*Due to strong stream conditions on the River Severn, we were unfortunately unable to host King's Chester at Shrewsbury on Saturday 11th March. However, the River Dee was more accommodating and provided a great opportunity for some racing for the J14s in the lead up to next week's Sculling Head.*

Four J14 boys' octuples and one girls' octuple took to the water in either octuples or quads over the two divisions. There was a great competitive spirit and all the boys and girls will have gained some valuable race experience.

King's won the A Octuples and Girls' Quad; Shrewsbury won the Boys' B Octuple and the A Quads' race.

A big thank you to Chester for hosting the event at short notice and to their parents for providing lovely eats for the boys and girls after the race.

*Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing*



## 'Phenomenal Women'

Friday 17 March 2017

*On Wednesday 8th March to coincide with International Women's Day, we hosted an event in the Ashton Theatre entitled 'Phenomenal Women'. Taking as its theme the title of Maya Angelou's rousing poem, the event provided an opportunity to celebrate our co-educational 'journey so far' at Shrewsbury School.*

*Sara Hankin (Shrewsbury's first Housemistress) reflected on the first steps taken by the pioneering girls who joined the School as Sixth Formers in 2008, and some of the challenges and highlights of those early years. The evening began with Abi Watkinson (G V) giving a spine-tingling performance of the poem 'Pretty' by Katie Makkai, with further highlights coming from three Sixth Form girls who took to the stage to speak about 'phenomenal women' who had inspired them.*

*It was (as even the men in the audience agreed!) an inspiring evening.*

*Jasmine Lo (EDH V) gives her own reflections on the event:*

On Wednesday 8th March, the School gathered together to celebrate International Women's Day and reflect on the role of women in the 21st century.

During the evening we had a number of inspirational talks from Shrewsbury School girls. Abi Watkinson (G V) recited the poem "Pretty" by Katie Makkai, which angrily challenges traditional expectations that are still so often engraved into the brains of girls. It tells girls that "the word Pretty is unworthy of everything they will be. They will be pretty intelligent, pretty creative and pretty amazing, but will never be merely 'pretty'."

Emma Gardener (G LVI) spoke about the rock music pioneer, Joan Jett. Hattie Bramwell (EDH LVI) told us about Martine Wright and how she became inspired to be a Paralympian after a life-changing accident in which she lost both her legs. Lastly Nifemi Runsewe (MSH LVI) spoke about gender inequality in Africa, and the dreadful and shocking situations in which many young girls are forced to live. All three of the Sixth Form girls explained what they believe makes a 'phenomenal woman' and what we should learn from them.

Mrs Hankin described the early years of girls arriving at Shrewsbury School and studying in a predominantly boys' school, and what we have done to change how girls are perceived in society. She described the challenges girls took before us in Shrewsbury School and the achievements they have gone on to make in their lives, showing us that even if historically girls have been considered the 'lesser sex', we can be and do whatever we want. Mrs Hankin ended her talk with a piece by Pamela Redmond Satran called '30 Things Every Woman Should Have and Should Know by the Time She's 30'. It was originally written for Glamour magazine in 1997, to tell younger women about the things she really wished she had known earlier. It has definitely given all of us some advice!

To close the day's celebrations, all the girls at the School were asked to nominate who we thought the influential girls in the School were: those who commit themselves to different challenges and, in some cases, may even change history. We all thought highly of Nina Lange (LVI G) for playing in the boys' 1st XI football team and breaking the boundaries of single sex sports. Issy Wong (IV G) was also commended for engaging in cricket and leading the School to success. Last but not least, Lauren Powell (EDH UVI) was given due credit as a leading oarswomen and for inspiring girls in the Shrewsbury community.



On leaving the theatre, each one of us received [a letter from OS Elle Gurden \(MSH 2008-10\)](#). She was one of the first girls at Shrewsbury had most definitely made the most of her time at the School. As she was not able to attend the International Women's Day event on Wednesday, she sent us a letter telling us "to be brave and to be your own person... throw yourself into school life and you will love every minute of it... Floreat Salopia!"

I believe this event not only lets the girls of Shrewsbury unite together as one and celebrate what it means to be a woman, but it also helps us realise as young women to support, empower and fight for one another. It was a very enjoyable night for the students and teachers, motivating us to be the women we want to be.

I must thank Mr Middleton for making this event happen and allowing us to celebrate the special day with all of us. He has gone through a lot of planning and work to let us all be part of such a memorable event.

A film of Abi Watkinson reading the poem 'Pretty' was recorded for International Women's Day and published on the Shrewsbury School TV YouTube channel. To view it, please click on the image below:

## Amelie Davies selected to play hockey for Wales

Friday 17 March 2017

*Many congratulations to Amelie Davies (MSH IV), who has been selected to play for the Wales Under-16 Hockey team in their International Test Series versus Scotland and Switzerland next month.*



Amelie has been playing hockey since she was seven years old and plays for Wrexham Glyndwr Hockey Club in addition to her commitments as part of the Shrewsbury School U16 team. She has also been part of the Shropshire Squad for several years.

Last summer she entered the Wales 360 Performance Programme and she has progressed quickly through their Performance levels. She was nominated for a three-day U16 National Age Group camp held in Cardiff in December and has attended several further training sessions since then.

She is excited to be representing Wales in their Test Series against Switzerland and Scotland in Cardiff over the Easter weekend. "I am thrilled to have been selected and aim to continue improving as a player and to inspire others to play. I hope to retain my place for the match against France later this year and also the Futures Cup. My ambition is to eventually progress to the International Senior Squad."

Amelie is also part of Shrewsbury School's U15 girls' cricket team that won through to the Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket Area Finals last Tuesday, 14th March. See [report](#).

## Success in the British Physics Challenge 2017

Friday 17 March 2017

*A group of Fifth Form pupils took part in British Physics Challenge 2017 examinations recently and performed remarkably well, amassing between them three Gold, five Silver, six Bronze I and eight Bronze II medals.*



*Abi Watkinson (G), Adam Pattenden (S) and Mark Pangin (SH) were in the top 5.5% students achieving the highest award, the Gold medal.*

This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in physics and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further.

The paper itself is based on the core of the Physics GCSE specifications, so that students taking any of the different exam board GCSEs can compete fairly. The exam lasts one hour and is composed of a series of multiple-choice and short answer sections that aim to test students' knowledge and understanding of basic physical principles.

It is designed to be accessible to all GCSE students but will take them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at A-level. Thus in order to score marks, it is essential to have a very sound base of knowledge and understanding, but also have the ability to think and reason - often "outside the box" - at a high level.

Further information is available

on <https://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/olympiad/PaperPhysicsChallenge.html>



Gold Medals were awarded to:

Mark Pangin (SH), Adam Pattenden (S), Abi Watkinson (G)

Silver Medals were awarded to:

Ben Cowley (R), Alexander Davies (O), Will Hope (Ch), Suky Ou Yang (MSH), Toby Pattinson (Ch).

Bronze I Medals were awarded to:

Lucas Artwright (O), Reuben Denison (SH), Boss Lertthundorn (R), Tom Plaut (S), Otto Rothwell-Hurley (Ch), Chad Usher (S)

Bronze II Medals were awarded to:

Ludo de Falbe (SH), Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH), Libby Hedges (G), Ebrahim Jamshid (SH), Jack Lockett (Ch), Archie Mobbs (O), Jetty Russell (G), Tommy Tong (SH).

*Dr Andrew Briggs, Head of Science*

## The news this week 100 years ago: 17th - 23rd March 1917

Friday 17 March 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.

# School House wins the Basketball Competition!

Saturday 18 March 2017

*After a couple of years abroad, the trophy returned home to School House, who have now claimed the title an impressive total of 10 times in the competition's 15-year history.*

Mr Hughes, who organised the event, reported that "the standard today was the highest I have ever seen for House basketball. CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the main competition, School House, who consistently played the best basketball today and kept cool heads. Special mention goes to Matt Rowe (SH UVI), the MVP (most valuable player), who scored 22 points and proved again what a top all-round sportsman he is."



*The winning squad (L-R): Jonah Greetham (LVI), Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (V), Sergey Vartanov (LVI), Marcus Cheung (LVI), Eccles Cheong (UVI - Capt.), Matt Rowe (UVI), Milton Tai (III), Kwaku Antwi (UVI) and James Wong (UVI)*

Captain Eccles Cheong worked hard and played some inspirational basketball to lead the team through three consecutive victories on the way to the trophy. They won the quarter-final 14-0 against Rigg's before beating Churchill's 14-9 in the semi-final. This left us facing the holders Ridgemount in the final showdown, which resulted in School House defeating the reigning champions 13-6.

It was a thoroughly entertaining afternoon of sport and it was great to see Milton Tai, our very talented Third Form player, more than holding his own alongside his Fifth and Sixth Form teammates. Well done to all involved!



*Sergey taking on the boys of Rigg's Hall in the quarter final, with Captain Eccles ready in support*

# Salopian Club Sports Committee Annual Meeting

Monday 20 March 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Salopian Club Sports Committee took place on 22nd February at the offices of Stephenson Harwood, Finsbury Circus.

OS sporting representation has been increasing steadily and it was good to see that there was a great turnout, with most sports represented.

The minutes of the meeting can be read [via this link](#).



Pictured from left:

George Blakemore (Rt 01-06) Football

Tony Barker (DB 68-73) OS Treasurer Elect

Ben Stirk (M 91-96) Squash

Rupert Parry (Ch 04-09) Squash

Peter Stewart (Ch 58-63) OS Club Chairman

James Pitt (S 79-84) Yachting

Bryan Yick (M 10-15) Basketball

Miles Preston (DB 63-68) Sabrina

James Tucker (I 04-09) Football



Rob Cutler (Rt 84-89) Golf

Chris Hughes (SH 04-09) Fives

Richard Boys-Stones (SH 68-73) OS Club Treasurer

Portia Hibbert (MSH 08-10) Ladies Sport

Rob Hillman (M 94-99) Saracens

Annabelle Brentnall (MSH 09-11) Ladies Sport

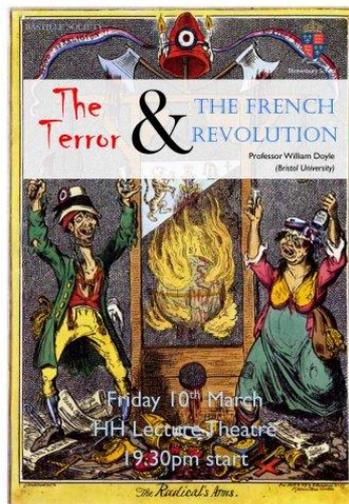
Peter Birch (DB 66-71) OS Sports Chairman

Also present – Nick Jenkins, OS Club Director.

# Bastille Society Lecture: The Terror and the French Revolution

Monday 20 March 2017

*On Friday 10th March, the Bastille Society was delighted to welcome Professor William Doyle of Bristol University to lecture upon the title "The Terror and the French Revolution". As one of the world's foremost French Revolution scholars, it was of huge benefit for historians across the School to hear Professor Doyle's insightful perspective on this controversial moment in history.*



As Professor Doyle pointed out, it is a moment that is a source of great debate, with a wide range of historiographical opinions on the subject.

Interestingly, Professor Doyle reminded us of the renowned work done by two Old Salopian historians on the period of the French Revolution: George Rudé (O 1924-28) and Richard Cobb (R 1931-34). Indeed, their scholarship is one of the predominant reasons why the Bastille Society is named as it is.

It was fascinating to hear Professor Doyle's lucid and compelling interactions with the predominant historical opinions of this period. He provided us with his own unique take on the seminal events of the Revolution and the Terror and dispelled many of the popular myths propagated about them.

The Society would once again like to extend its thanks to Professor Doyle for coming to give such an enjoyable and informative lecture.

*Mr Mackridge, Head of History*



## U15 County Lacrosse Tournament

Monday 20 March 2017

*Following the U19 County teams' successes last term, Shropshire came out top again in the U15 A and B North Counties Tournaments at Queen Margaret's York last week.*

Georgia Kannreuther (MSH IV) and Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH IV) were hugely instrumental in the success of the A team, scoring many of the goals. Georgia was singled out for particular praise from the Moreton Hall coaches for her solid play.



*Poppy (68) and Georgia (70) with the Shropshire A team*

In the B team, Captain Laura Elliott (G IV) led the team to three comfortable victories (after a little stumble in the first five minutes of the Tournament), winning 10-5 over Cheshire, 11-2 over Lancashire and 10-5 over Yorkshire.

Special credit to Lucy Lees (EDH III) for her incredible stamina and determination. And well done to Willa Bowman (MSH III), Annabel Naylor (G IV) and fellow team members Laura and Lucy.

*Mrs Nicholas*



*Laura (60), Lucy (43), Annabel (65) and Willa (67) with the Shropshire B team*

## OS Squash vs. School

Monday 20 March 2017



The Old Salopian Squash Club came up on 12 March to play a number of matches against the School and were successful in winning 4:2, with the individual results as follows:

Rupert Parry (Ch 04-09) lost to David Lau 0-3

Jonny Williams (R 04-09) lost to Miles Harding 0-3

Ben Stirk (M 91-96) beat Alex Webb 3-1

Will Briggs (O 05-10) Beat Charlie Lennox 3-0

Nick Davies (Rb 04--09) beat Stefan Hart 3-0

James Franklin (PH 02-07) beat Mungo Hargreaves 3-0

OS Squash is enjoying quite a revival, following a quiet period, and members now enjoy regular fixtures funded by a grant from the Salopian Club. Do get in touch if you are interested in playing.



# Fundraising for Comic Relief

Monday 20 March 2017

*Severn Hill are proud to have raised £,600 for Comic Relief.*



# The Salopian Club Annual Birmingham Dinner

Tuesday 21 March 2017



Richard Woodgate and his Birmingham Committee can always be relied upon to produce a typically stylish Salopian evening, and this year's OS Birmingham Dinner proved no exception. The cuisine was better than ever, the musical entertainment from John Moore and his pupil singers never disappoints, and our President, Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, eloquently addressed the Salopian gathering without a note. Even without the presence of some regulars who had unaccountably absconded to the Cheltenham Festival, almost 40 Salopians sat down to dinner. As always, one of the spring highlights of the Salopian calendar.



## Shropshire Schools Under-18 Football Cup - the view from the stands

Tuesday 21 March 2017

*"One of the reasons for being a teacher, if you like sport, is that you get treated to evenings like last Tuesday night when the 1st XI were to be found engaged in a titanic tussle with Thomas Telford (the school, not the man) for the Shropshire Schools Under-18 Football Cup." - Mr Bell, author of the regular 'Team of the Week' features, gives his account of the match.*

For those of you not in the know, Thomas Telford are one of the strongest football teams in their age group in the country. They are the English Schools Football Association reigning National Champions have a nationally recognised football academy programme. They actively recruit players and I have it on good authority that 13 of their squad are Academy players. My sources also tell me that three of their team have played representatively for England at some junior level. I think we can definitely say that it was clear that the Shrewsbury team were going to be up against it!



The match was to be played at the Telford United ground under lights, and that always adds to the atmosphere. The other factor that added to the atmosphere was the presence of two busloads of Shrewsbury School fans. As a lifelong football supporter, I have always enjoyed the 'cheerful banter' between sets of fans. Though I think it would be fair to say that the 'cheerful banter' can sometimes develop into 'less cheerful banter.' This is why there are police officers at professional matches and Deputy Heads at school fixtures!

I remember when I was at school down south, Lancing had a similar match in the Sussex Cup at a school in Brighton. We lost 1-0 and a couple of the travelling fans made a derogatory comment about the referee. The master in charge of football was not amused and told those involved that they would be walking home. They took him at his word and he picked them up somewhere along the A27 and was even less amused!

Bearing all this in mind, it was with some trepidation that I alighted from the coach at Telford and followed our professional travelling steward 'Big Dave' Bresnen who took us on a slightly circuitous route into the ground. All the while we could hear a good deal of noise from inside the ground. I was beginning to think there might be two or three thousand fans warming up! I was

genuinely surprised to find it was just some 50 Salopians from the first bus warming up their vocal chords. At the end of the game the announcer thanked the Shrewsbury School fans for enlivening the atmosphere at the match, and despite the fact that the score was not to their liking the fans went home in good spirits.



I caught up with the self-styled leader of the Shrewsbury School 'Firm', Ed Plaut, to find out what he had made of the game and how he had rated the support. I started by asking Ed who the key members of the 'Firm' were. He told me that George Garrett is widely recognised as the drummer, (largely because he was carrying and hitting a large bass drum), as well as being seen as the spiritual leader of the group. George is a Bristol City fan and Ed is a Cardiff City fan. Despite there being plenty of rivalry between the championship sides, Ed assures me that supporting the Shrewsbury School team has bridged the divide and they now respect each other's boyhood clubs. Sam Bayliss is important, as he has knowledge of local chants, being a diehard Shrewsbury Town fan. Toby Spencer Pickup was disappointed not to make the 1st XI squad but enjoyed the warm embraces he received in the stands. "I felt really loved and wanted by the Shrewsbury Firm," he admitted.



I asked Ed to give me a fan's-eye view of the evening. He was pleased with his dismount from the coach. "I did not injure myself in my coach dismount," he told me. He was also pleased with Mr Wilderspin's tactical approach to the game. "We parked the coach on the pitch and that's what you have to do sometimes. They are a good side and there is no point leaving yourself open for aesthetic reasons. Beautiful football does not always win you games." I was pleased to hear this assessment of the game, as Mr Wilderspin had earlier spoken of his approach to the game in a very similar vein. Ed went on to tell me that "playing Nelson up front was a sensible tactic, which is why the crowd were keen to chant 'in wilders we trust' on a regular basis". They also

enjoyed asking ‘Wilders’ for a wave, and I sensed that Wilders was only too happy to oblige. I asked how patient the fans would be if the trophy cabinet remained bare for more than a couple of seasons. Ed replied: “We will give him a couple more seasons before it will be time for him to go, unless he wins a trophy. The fans are patient but within reason. Mind you, most of us will have left by then.”



Ed was impressed by Wilder’s summer signings. Jamie Whelan and Jo Chilaka have both added to the team and settled in well. According to Ed, the ‘Firm’ enjoy singing ‘Whelan’s on Fire’ inspired by the Wigan anthem ‘Will Griggs on Fire’, which in turn was inspired by the song ‘Freed from Desire’ by Italian singer Gala. Certainly there were several well-polished renditions sung on Tuesday. Jo Chilaka is also a ‘Firm’ favourite for his power and pace up front.

Another fans’ favourite is the hard-working George Pearce, who was also well supported by his family who had travelled up from London for the game. Josh Malyon was considered inspirational by Ed both in his English lessons and on the pitch, and the fans also enjoyed Tom Brunskill’s brief five-minute cameo when he came on for the hard-working and exhausted Dan Humes.

Charlie Tait- Harris was well received with chants of ‘he scores when he wants’ and he certainly looked a threat on the break. At the back George Newton, Dan Orchard, Charlie Byrne and Paddy ‘Patrice’ Jacob (who Ed informed me took the goalkeeping jersey off him in the under-14s) were more than resolute and can be proud of their efforts.



The chanting did not stop at the on-field players. Kwaku Antwi came in for some affectionate chants concerning his love of the bench and how well he keeps it warm. Ed was pleased he did not come on, as he knew that Kwaku was saving himself for the Stoneyhurst Rugby Sevens Tournament the next day (in which we won the Plate).



The crowd were pleased to see Tracey from the School Shop and also loyal fan and local legend Edmund Palmer (OS), who seemed to enjoy the rendition of 'Edmund is a Legend'. The Firm were disappointed that successful Under-15B coach Mr Harding were not at the game, but concluded he was probably helping Gareth Southgate. Mr Hughes was also warmly applauded for his role as assistant coach to 'Wilders'. Ed was keen to point out that 'Wilders' had gleaned a lot of his coaching tips from his nights on duty in Severn Hill.

For me, the highlights of the evening were the Viking claps which were introduced to football by the Icelandic fans at Euro 2016. The Poznan was also in evidence but the ultimate will always be the numerous renditions by the Shrewsbury crowd of 'Libera Me' from Fauré's Requiem, followed by a chant of "we can sing in Latin". The self-deprecatory nature of this anthem was such that it was difficult not to smile every time it made an appearance. The Deputy Heads looked relaxed and were able to enjoy their evening with no concern for how the crowd would behave. That says a lot for a school. A self-policing football crowd!



There has been a lot in the press about the value of boarding recently. The warmth and humour of the crowd of Salopian boys and girls was a testament to the camaraderie that is the essence of a school such as ours. They deserved their thank you from the announcer and the sporting way in which they applauded both teams for an exciting and tense game of football, which Telford eventually won 1-0. I look forward to a similar evening next year – with the score reversed!

'Wilders for England!'

*GJFB*





## Young OS Party

Wednesday 22 March 2017



Despite the counter attraction of Six Nations Rugby on a Friday evening, about 60 young OS gathered in the lively surroundings of the Blues Kitchen, Brixton, on the evening of Friday 10th March for drinks accompanied by welcome platters of food. Although audibility became more of a problem as the music volume increased (!), OS contemporaries clearly enjoyed meeting up and look forward to another gathering planned for the summer. Particular thanks are due to the Joint Young OS Chairs, Henry Unwin and Felicity Davies, for organising such a successful evening.



## Evensong at Westminster Abbey

Wednesday 22 March 2017



Evensong in Westminster Abbey is magical enough but, when combined with a subsequent tour with expert guides organised by Gavin Williams (Chaplain 93-02), it is not to be missed. Monarchs, statesmen, poets and scientists (including Charles Darwin OS) are all honoured there, even Britain's oldest man, Tom Parr from Alberbury, Shropshire (allegedly 152 years and 9 months!). The fortunate group of Salopians were then treated to wine and canapes, kindly provided by Claire Williams in the Camden Room, Westminster School. An evening well worth braving Storm Doris to get to!





## Team of the Week

Wednesday 22 March 2017

*This week, Lacrosse.*

Lacrosse is a sport I have never played and, if I am honest, probably never will. But that does not mean that I do not have a great respect for those who do. “I do I do I do,” as those wonderfully sophisticated lyricists of Abba would say. Not that I don’t respect their ability to write deep and meaningful lyrics in a second language; “I do I do I do”! (Before any of you think of deriding my favourite pop band of all time, how are your Swedish lyrics, eh??)



I watched the lacrosse training sessions from the top of the bank, overlooking the ‘arena’ as I shall call it. This was partly to give me an elevated view of proceedings but also partly to keep my over-exposed pate clear from even more damage. The ball was flying around and there seemed little concern from the players for the photographer and wordsmith in their midst. Or perhaps Coach Fenella Nicholas has her troops so highly tuned that they are unable to notice any distractions for fear of making an error and wandering from the game plan. Sometimes you have to go where most sports journalists might fear to tread, if you want to gather the best action shots seen at a lacrosse training session since last year’s lacrosse Team of the Week article – which I strongly urge you not to look up, in case the material is at all similar!



The Junior team have had a good season, including finishing sixth in what was described by Mrs Nicholas as a “fast and furious tournament” at Moreton Hall. I notice that on the school website

it says that “the girls played to their utmost and executed all...”. That does give you an inkling into the brutal nature of the game.

It was at this point that I began to think of my family and escape. I was beginning to creep away when I was hailed by a stormtrooper who suggested I take a picture of her. Not wishing to incur her wrath, I obliged.



There are rumours that Mimi Mason-Hornby was inside the helmet, but I cannot verify this fact.

Actually I can. Araminta Plumptre, who has two older brothers whom I looked after very well when I was in School House (whatever the family says), told me that Mimi was in fact a very good goalkeeper and not an enemy of Yoda.

Georgia Kannreuther who, along with Poppy Collingwood-Cameron, Mary Lees and Georgie Nicholas, is a fine goal-scorer then had to sit down having been hit in the head. Amelie Chaplin was keen to look after her as she is a very caring girl. “I am a very caring girl,” she told me.

Annabel Naylor, who is a very fine wielder of both a lacrosse stick and a paint brush, was keen to show me a depiction of the game at its most fluid. Annabel is one of five Shrewsbury girls who have been picked for the County B team, and Georgia Kannreuther and Poppy Collingwood-Cameron have been selected for the A team.



Annabel was just about to put the finishing touch to a move of extreme intricacy when Laura Elliot was injured by a stray stick. (No one was quite sure whose stick it was or even if there had been contact.) Laura was clearly in some discomfort, but I was very impressed by the concern shown to her by the rest of her teammates.



After a few minutes of ‘treatment’, Laura bravely decided to get up and carry on. She has clearly not been affected by the tendency to ‘dive’ in professional football. “I am not a diver,” she told me. Annabel and Araminta both explained to me that there is no place for diving in lacrosse. “There is no place for diving in lacrosse,” they both said together.

The Senior squad were out training soon after the Juniors. There were fewer of them at practice than usual, as many of them were preparing to watch the 1st XI football team in the County Cup final at Telford. They are a very talented group of players, and Mrs Nicholas was impressed by their dedication to the sport as they gave up their Coach Weekend recently to travel down to Guildford for the National Lacrosse Championships.



Those of you who went to support them will have enjoyed the tournament, as – according to their coach – the girls played some of their best lacrosse of the year, “with everything slotting into place at the right time”, which is very important in lacrosse. I asked Mrs Nicholas if she used the Lego training manual, but she denied this.

Clemmie Baynes and inspirational Captain Imo Luczyc-Wyhowska deserve a mention. Clemmie because she is a goal machine and my tutee and Imo because she, like Annabel Naylor, is also a fine artist who brings her artistry to the game.

I left the pitch feeling lucky to still have my health and with even more respect for these brave ladies who laugh in the face of danger!

*GJFB*



# Girls' U15 cricket team are Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket County Champions

Wednesday 22 March 2017

*Many congratulations to the U15 girls' cricket team who were crowned Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket County Champions on Tuesday 21st March.*



This was the second year that Shrewsbury had qualified for the County Finals, and the team were determined to improve on last year's third place. The date fell right in the middle of the National Schools' Fives Championships, which the majority of the girls were competing in as well. Nevertheless, they managed to find time to prepare well, seeking extra training sessions when they felt they needed them. The girls were ready.

Just before the competition started, we were informed by the organisers that one of the schools had pulled out and that we would therefore be playing the first game rather than sitting it out as originally scheduled. For a few minutes, fears crept in of a possible repeat of last year's disappointment when a school had also failed to turn up and we had ended up facing our toughest opponents, Moreton Hall, in the first game and losing.

This year, however, we drew Newport Girls High first. We won the toss and elected to bowl. Lara Ockleston took the ball for the first over. Early nerves showed as we conceded 13 runs; Newport were off to a flyer. But with the third ball of Georgia Kannreuther's over we took a wicket, dismissing one of the opening batters. Enter Ellie Kynaston. Ellie bowled a perfectly timed wicket maiden, piling the pressure on to Newport. It proved to be the critical over, as they managed to score just 20 runs in the next four. Thanks to some smart glove work from Georgie Nicholas behind the stumps, Shrewsbury had a target of 59 to reach.

With no hesitation, our top three batters, Amelie Davies, Ellie Kynaston and Issy Wong, all retired on 16, 17 and 15 respectively. We had the game in the bag, needing just 11 runs to win. With a ruthless mind-set and some intelligent running once more from Alice Hughes and Georgia Kannreuther, we sealed the game in just five overs. Game 1 done; on to the next one!

The second game saw us up against Bridgnorth Endowed. Losing the toss this time, we were put in to bat first. Leading from the front and showing her class yet again, Amelie Davies retired on 16, with Ellie falling just short and being bowled on 14. Due to some misfortune we lost our skipper early for just 3 runs, but this did not seem to shake our determined young Third Formers, with Georgie Nicholas following in the footsteps of her comrade Ellie, also being dismissed on 14. After a quick fire 9 from Alice, Lara ended the innings with a very well-worked 16 and we concluded with a total of 98, our highest score in the competition so far.

Having shaken off the early nerves in the previous match, Lara showed her true ability in her first over of the second game by claiming 2 wickets and conceding just 4 runs. We started to make our mark. Following on from a fantastic over from Lara, Issy then followed suit by conceding just 1 run. Bridgnorth were 5-2 from 2 overs; they had a big job to do. A rare loose over from Ellie allowed Bridgnorth to catch up slightly, as they climbed to 22-2 from 3. But with Alice Hughes calmly taking a vital wicket in her over and conceding just 3 runs, the game was over, as Bridgnorth needed a mammoth 73 from their 4 remaining overs. The second game was in the bag with a 35-run victory.

And so on to the decider, the big one, the game that the girls had been preparing for! Skipper Issy lost the toss and we were put into bat once more. Amelie showed no remorse by crashing the first ball for 4 and the third ball for 6. We were off to a stormer! Then owing to a misunderstanding between our openers, Ellie was run out without facing a ball. Two balls later, our skipper was caught behind without scoring. The dreaded collapse began!



We lost Georgie and Alice in quick succession, followed by Lara and Mollie 10 runs later. But Georgia Kannreuther held strong and waited for Amelie to return to the crease after retiring. Thanks to Amelie's class and Georgia's determination, we strode on to 104-6 from our 8 overs; a fantastic achievement. And once again we beat our original top score of 98.

Nevertheless, the girls realised they still had a job to do with the ball. Thanks to wickets from Issy, Ellie, Georgia and Lara in their best bowling performances yet, and to some mature captaincy from Issy, the girls pull off a fantastic win against our rivals to dismiss them all for just 67 runs!

# Shrewsbury

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County Champions!

Head Coach Gwen Davies was thrilled with the team's achievement. "Throughout the qualifiers and the finals, the girls have shown fantastic maturity and determination, and they have been an absolute pleasure to work with this term. We now look forward to the regional finals at the end of April, which will then also bring the outdoor season. The girls have certainly earned a well-deserved break over Easter! Congratulations to them all."

*Miss Davies*



## Rugby: Three Shrewsbury teams take part in the world's largest school rugby tournament

Wednesday 22 March 2017

*During this week, the U16, U18 and U14 rugby teams travelled to London to take part in the hugely prestigious Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Rugby Sevens Tournament. Chris Cook, Master in Charge of Rugby, reports on the U16s' performance, fresh from their victory in the Stonyhurst Sevens Plate competition a few days previously. (Further match reports to follow.)*



With over 1,700 matches over the week and all of the strongest teams in the country in action, this was going to be a tough ask for a squad hit by a number of injuries. This did not deter the boys, however, who were in fine spirits as we pulled into the grounds.

With 20 pitches in use throughout the day, it was a wondrous sight to see so much rugby being played, and our lads were determined to make the most of the experience.

In the first match, Shrewsbury took on an athletic side from Robert Clack School. Putting together effective Sevens play, we took the lead with a well-worked Harry Remnant try. We should have built on this, but Felix Kenyon-Smith was judged to have been taken out of play as he scored. On the back of this Robert Clack struck back, using their extra pace to take the lead with three of their own tries. This is not a squad that backs down in the face of adversity, though, and a great try from Kenyon-Smith, followed by power play from Jacob Jefferis in the second half, saw us win the match 22-17 to get the day off to a great start.

The next match was a much tougher affair against a well-fancied St Edward's, Oxford team. Some weak front-up tackling allowed St Edwards to build a lead, though by half-time another Remnant effort had pulled the score-line close at 10-7. St Edward's brought on a strong

bench and with some big players in midfield they were able to open gaps in the Shrewsbury defence. In the end we lost the match 22-12.

After a long lunch break, in which we got to watch exciting rugby – especially if you were lucky enough to see the awesome power and strength of the Wellington team who dominated everyone all day – we then set about mission improvement. Earlier on in the season we had lost the Plate final at the Warwick Sevens to King’s School Worcester, and we were determined to gain revenge. Things did not go to plan, when in the first minute King’s skivvied passed the Shrewsbury defences to open the scoring. But it did not take long for Shrewsbury to wake up, and when Tom Plaut opened his legs, he raced through to get us to 7-7 at half-time.



*Tom Plaut*

The second half was a close affair, with both sides trading blows and hard tackling keeping each other tied in the centre of the field. It was the introduction of the bench, though, that made a key difference, and Aaron Clarke showed increased vision to nip down the short side to bring us within a score of King’s within a minute left on the clock. Excitement mounted as Shrewsbury showed guts to keep on pushing for the win, and when Plaut again found himself in space, it was Frank Morris’ superb kicking that gave us the victory – 21-19!

And so to the final game of the day, Shrewsbury versus Barnard Castle. At this stage, a three-way tie meant that Barnard Castle, St Edward’s Oxford or Shrewsbury could go through, with each side having lost one game. A glorious success story appeared to be on the cards when the scores were level at 7-7 after two minutes... but tired legs soon told on the Shrewsbury boys. Playing a power game with huge mountains in the midfield, it was taking two Shrewsbury boys to drag Barnard Castle to the floor, and this meant that there were increasing gaps for the opposition to exploit. Though valiant to the end, Shrewsbury were finally defeated 29-7 and knocked out of the competition.

Rugby, however, was the real winner of the day. This U16 team have been blighted by injury but have never shied away from a tough situation. Pulling together, the squad has faced adversity and achieved unbelievable success. Taking on board advice, making adjustments and improving,

little more can be asked from a squad of lads who have done Shrewsbury proud every time they have pulled on the white jersey.

*Mr Cook, Master in Charge of Rugby*





# Parents' Telephone Campaign

Thursday 23 March 2017

*31st January - 25th March 2017*



For the first time in the long history of the Shrewsbury School Foundation a separate Parents' Campaign was conducted. Our student callers asked parents for essential support for the soon to be redeveloped Moser Library and also for bursaries for qualified means-tested pupils.

Through the generosity of our parents and Old Salopian lead donors, Shrewsbury School has secured the necessary funds to begin construction on the £1,000,000 redevelopment of the Moser Library. However, in order for our pupils to take full advantage of this outstanding new facility, funding for the extras inside the Library are necessary.

Our callers did an outstanding job conveying this urgent message. They spoke to 330 current parents during the campaign and we are pleased to report that parents supported this most worthy cause, pledging £69,125. When asked, our parent donors said they identified with the Library's direct impact on teaching and learning at Shrewsbury. Thank you to those parents who made a charitable gift.

Although the campaign has now finished, if you would like to make a gift please either download our [gift form](#) or go to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/shrewsburyfoundation>

## Careers Bulletin for Sixth Formers

Thursday 23 March 2017

*The Careers Fellow, Mrs Dry, produces a weekly bulletin for Sixth Formers with links to information on work experience opportunities, university taster courses, gap year schemes, school leaver programmes - along with news articles and other items that may be of interest to students and to parents.*

Please click [here](#) to download this week's edition.

## Art Scholars' Exhibition and Dinner

Thursday 23 March 2017

*At the end of the first week of the annual Art Scholars' Exhibition in the Art School, our 11 Art Scholars and their guests enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion and celebratory meal on Friday 17th March.*



Each of the Scholars had chosen a favourite picture to present and talk about before the Dinner, which led to a lively discussion about the work of many different artists, including Anthony Gormley, Picasso, Van Gogh, Cézanne and Velasquez.

A presentation was made to the President of the Arts Society, Imogen Luczyc-Wyhowska (G UVI), for her good stewardship over the past year.



*Abstract by Imogen Luczyc-Wyhowska*

The Art Scholars' Exhibition continues until 5pm on Friday 24th May in the Art School.

Shrewsbury

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# Nine Shrewsbury School fencers qualify for the British Youth National Finals

Thursday 23 March 2017

Congratulations to the following pupils who have now qualified to represent the West Midlands Region at the British Youth National finals to be held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, 29th April - 1st May 2017.

## Foil

Boys Under-18 - Stanley Wong

Girls Under-18 - Suky Ou Yang

## Epée

Boys Under-18 - William Holcroft

Boys Under-16 - James Hinwood and Jan Tai

Boys Under-14 - Oliver Holcroft

## Sabre

Girls Under-18 - Suky Ou Yang

Boys Under-16 - Andrew Chan

Boys Under-14 - Oliver Toms



## CCF cadets taking to the skies

Friday 24 March 2017

*Members of the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force head out to the Long Mynd each Thursday to spend the afternoon learning to glide at the Midlands Gliding Club.*



This picture shows one of the club aircraft the pupils are instructed in, and also demonstrates that the RAF section in particular is popular with both girls and boys.



## 'Fantastic Mr Fox'

Friday 24 March 2017

*A review by Mr Middleton of a hugely enjoyable A Level Theatre Studies Examination piece, performed to a large and appreciative audience in the Ashton Theatre last week.*



There used to be a great 150-year-old beech tree by the side of a lane near the village of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Known locally as the 'witches tree', it was a tree, so Roald Dahl's children were told, where Mr Fox and his family lived in a hole under the trunk. In turn, this story was shared with the children of the nation when Dahl wrote his timeless classic *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

The Upper Sixth A Level Theatre Studies group chose to stage an interpretation of Dahl's work for their examined performance piece and, whilst normally the examined piece is watched by a select few, this year the Ashton Theatre was almost packed out, such was the enthusiasm for seeing the work on stage.

A quick refresher, in case you need any reminding:

*Boggis, Bunce and Bean  
One fat, one short, one lean  
These horrible crooks  
So different in looks  
Were nonetheless equally mean.*

The three agricultural antagonists of the play were played by Katie Edwards as the obnoxious and obese Boggis (ably plumped up by a pillow stuffed under her shirt), Claudia Fang as the diminutive Bunce, and Ella Davies-Jones as the cider-swilling Bean. Opening the play with some comic dancing from each of them immediately generated much hilarity from the audience, who were lapping up the larger than life characters. Indeed, it didn't take long before there was plenty of audience participation, too, with some energetic dancing from the front row of Johnsons, Bells and Peaks (as their children looked on in embarrassed horror).



The eponymous Mr Fox was played by a dapper, bow-tied Dan Powell, who was very much at home as the enterprising and audacious *pater familias* of the fox clan. Yet when he loses his tail to Boggis's gun and, forced into subterranean incarceration and his bucolic way of life under threat, it is Mrs Fox (a glamorous and stylish Niamh Thomas) who comes to the rescue. As Mr Fox bellowed out the rousing lyrics of 'Wind Beneath My Wings' (*"Did you ever know that you're my hero?"*), Mrs Fox was prepared for battle, armed with flak jacket, machine gun and other assorted military accoutrements. Mum was very much in charge!

The Fox family's forays into the farms of Boggis, Bunce and Bean required further audience participation (*"Come on, everyone, dig!"*) and one by one, we were taken into the chicken farm of Boggis, the duck and goose farm of Bunce, and the turkey and apple farm of Bean. The Fox family, of course, included the offspring of Mr and Mrs Fox (requiring multiple swift costume changes for Edwards, Fang and Davies-Jones) and along the way, various other woodland creatures emerged to play supporting roles, including the flamboyant figure of Badger (Niamh Thomas's dancing skills coming to the fore here) and the cider cellar-dwelling Rat. (I began to lose count of the number of roles Katie Edwards was playing!).



It was a fast-paced farmyard adventure with plenty of originality and laugh-out-loud comedy. My eldest daughter's favourite moment was when a rambunctious Bean (pedalling with difficulty on a children's toy tractor) was scolded by Mrs Fox and sent back into the wings, bottom lip pouting and suitably berated. Sophia, our middle daughter, said her favourite moment was when a terrified chicken laid a Cadbury's creme egg. If our youngest daughter had been there (it was past her bedtime and she would have been a distinct liability if allowed to watch the show), she would undoubtedly have found greatest pleasure in the doughnuts handed out at the end. Her culinary vacuuming almost rivals the chicken thieving of Mr Fox himself...



A finale of glitter balls, balloons and baskets of treats saw the children in the audience invited on stage for a final dance alongside the performers. As the actors took their bows at the curtain call, they were met with a rousing ovation from an appreciative audience who had been treated to a quite wonderful evening of drama. Performing to a young and unpredictable audience (never mind the notoriously hard-to-please theatre critic Giles Bell) was a gamble, but it was a gamble that paid off with the children (and adults) won over by the fizz and wit of the piece. My children loved it; the fact that our ultra-shy middle daughter got up on stage at the end is an achievement in itself and testimony to the engagement of the piece. The cast of five students gave us energy, wit and creativity in a short play packed full of surprises and theatrical innovation which nevertheless stayed true to the original charm of Dahl's farmyard yarn. Fantastic!

*PJM*

## RSSBC: North of England Head

Friday 24 March 2017

*Just a few days before the Schools' Head of the River Race in London (report to be published on the website shortly), on Saturday 18th March the Boat Club had ten crews racing at the North of England Head.*

The Senior, J16 and J15 girls took to the water in division one in two quads and an eight respectively.

The Senior girls' quad was the fastest women's quad of the day and put down a fantastic time despite having to steer around four Novice eights along the course. It was a fitting first appearance and win for the girls' new boat named the Philip Lapage.



*1st Quad in training*

The J16 girls had a good row and had to settle for a commendable second place out of five crews in their event.

The J15 girls have been making outstanding progress in recent weeks, having turned their hands to sweep rowing in preparation for Thursday's Schools' Head of the River. They impressed many as they dominated the J15 girls' eight event and can take some confidence in their performance.



It was the turn of the boy's crews and Novice girls in the second division. The 1st VIII were not to be outdone by the Senior girls and didn't hold back as they took first place and recorded the

fastest time of the day in impressive fashion. This was the first race for the new 1st VIII boat, the Robert Beeston.



The 2nd VIII and J16A VIIIs both put in very strong performances to win the J18 and J16 events respectively.

The 3rd VIII put in a strong row to come fourth in IM3 8s and should take some confidence from their performance heading into Schools' Head.



*2nd VIII*



*J16 A VIII*



*3rd VIII*

The J16B VIII came second to the King's 2nd VIII in the J17 VIIIs. As with the 3rd VIII, they were looking forward to taking on their equivalent opposition at the Schools' Head on Thursday.



*J16 B VIII*

The J15B Quad raced over the short course in J15 quads, coming fourth.

It was a great sight to see our Novice Senior girls out racing in the octuple at their first ever race. Getting the girls to the start line has been an achievement for all concerned and we look forward to seeing them racing at more events over the summer.



*Novice Senior Girls octuple*

Congratulations to the 1st VIII: Tomas Shiels, Matthew Rowe, Sam Branford, Zander Lyster-Binns, Barney Fox, Matthew Farrow, Alex King, Rory McKirdy and Mathew Hedges; and to the Girls' 1st Quad: Alys Howells, Jennifer Hallsworth, Eleanor Fox and Tessa Scott Bell.

*Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing*

## RSSH goes 'hashing'

Friday 24 March 2017

*Members of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt took part in a 'hash run' across the hills of Shropshire this week.*



'Hashing' involves following a trail set by staff and runners, with the 'hounds' being the remainder of the runners attempting to pick up the trail. The Hunt usually do at least one a term, and kind parents living in rural areas often offer a venue and large 'slay' (tea) afterwards.

This week we were the guests of Mrs Anna Bayliss, and the group ran a tough and muddy 14 kilometres over hill and lane in a quiet western corner of Shropshire, with lovely views towards Wales and even a snow-capped Cader Idris.

The RSSH is very grateful to Anna Bayliss and Gemma Hughes (both current parents of boys at the School) for their generous hospitality and for making the event such a success.

NPD



## Football: Shropshire Schools U18 Final

Friday 24 March 2017

*The 1st XI rounded off their terrific season at AFC Telford United last Tuesday, playing in the Shropshire Schools U18 Final against Thomas Telford School.*



A crowd of over 100 vociferous Shrewsbury supporters added a superb atmosphere. (See ['The view from the stands'](#) by Mr Bell.)

It was always going to be tough playing against a school that has a nationally recognised football academy programme and who are ESFA reigning National Champions, with 13 Academy players in their squad of 16. However, the Shrewsbury 1st XI made life really difficult for their opponents. The tactics of defending deep and trying to play on the counter certainly nullified Thomas Telford School (TTS) in the first half, as well as creating a couple of chances ourselves.

Shrewsbury grew in confidence as the game progressed and started to get on the ball more. Alas, the only goal of the game came from a stroke of bad luck as the ball bobbed in the penalty area, dropping to a TTS player who struck a shot that found the bottom corner. Shrewsbury went after the equaliser and had two penalty claims turned down late in the game, meaning that they couldn't draw level.

Despite the disappointment of defeat, the squad (and the crowd) can be so proud of their efforts in the game. To take TTS all the way was testimony to their organisation and work ethic.

SPW

## School House awash with swimming victories!

Friday 24 March 2017



*The Junior and Senior Swimming Squads with their medals; Captain Kwaku Antwi is holding the shield in the centre*

When it comes to the inter-house swimming competition, School House has ruled the waves of the Shrewsbury pool for the last decade. This year was no different. The Senior Team, captained by Kwaku Antwi (UVI), won by a significant margin with impressive victories in all three relays as well as several individual events.

The winning Fifth Form Medley Relay team were:

Ramzi Masri (backstroke), Henri Cramsie (breaststroke), Jacob Jefferis (butterfly) and Brandon Wan (front crawl)

The winning Sixth Form Medley Relay team were:

Eldon Kwok (LVI, backstroke), Vardan Hambardzumyan (UVI, breaststroke), Kwaku Antwi (UVI, butterfly) and Matt Rowe (UVI, front crawl)

The winning Cannon Freestyle Relay team were:

Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (V), Will Holdcroft (V), James Wong (UVI) and James Nelson (UVI).

Winning their individual events were:

Vardan Hambardzumyan (breaststroke), Kwaku Antwi (butterfly) and James Wong (freestyle).

In addition, congratulations are due to the Junior Team, which was runner-up in the competition and only missed out on the victory by the tiniest of margins: the only thing separating them from victory was less than a tenth of a second in one of the relays!

It was a great team effort and bodes very well for the future; there is clearly plenty of talent coming through the ranks to help us compete for the Senior title in the years ahead. From the Juniors, there were individual wins for Fourth Formers Louis Street (backstroke), Ben Stewart (breaststroke) and Roman Khidirbekhov (freestyle).



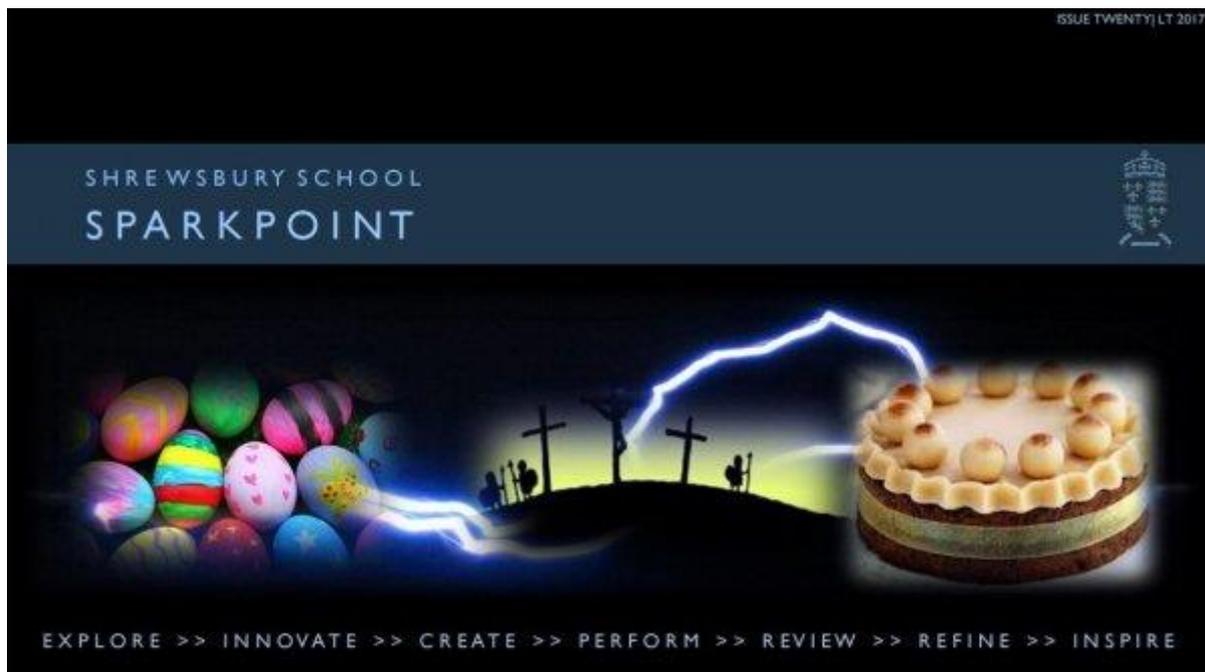
*The boys who won their individual events (L-R): Roman (IV), Vardan (UVI), Kwaku (UVI), Louis (IV), James (UVI) and Ben (IV)*

# Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Easter'

Friday 24 March 2017

*At the end of a busy Lent Term and with holidays just around the corner, this week's slightly frivolous edition focuses on all things Easter.*

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury SparkPoint - Easter' as a pdf:





## The news this week 100 years ago: 24th - 30th March 1917

Friday 24 March 2017

*This week we remember:*

**Lieutenant Thomas Bate, 5th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.**

Moser's, left in 1908.

Shortly before the war, he joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and served with them in Gallipoli. He rowed in the School crew and was one of the finest swimmers that the School has ever produced. He won the Up-river Swimming Cup in no fewer than four successive years, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908. On the first occasion he was barely 15 years old.

On leaving School in 1908 he went to Assam as a tea-planter but returned to Wales on the death of his father, Mr Thomas Bate, of Kesterton Hall Estate, Flint, whom he succeeded.

His Colonel wrote: *"He died in a noble manner, leading and encouraging his men in the attack on the Turkish Position on 26 March. All who were near him during the attack bear witness as to his gallant conduct throughout this day up to the time of his death. He was always to the fore, and showed an utter disregard to his own personal safety. He was a fine fighting soldier and a favourite with all ranks. I have put his name forward for recommendation, and I hope it will go through. You have every reason to feel intensely proud of him."*

His servant said: "He died a hero, if ever there was one. He was one of our best officers; his old platoon loved him. I lost my best friend when I lost Captain Bate; I shall never forget him as long as I live. His first thought was about his men, and himself after. I never had a better master."

*Killed in action in Gaza, Palestine, 26th March 1917, aged 27.*

*Remembered on Jerusalem Memorial, Israel. Panels 20 to 22.*

# The news this week 100 years ago: 31st March - 6th April 1917

Thursday 30 March 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in World War I this week 100 years ago.