

Medal-winning performances at the Ashburton Shield Competition

Monday 2 September 2019

Congratulations to the team of eight members of the Royal Shrewsbury School Rifle Club, who spent six days of the summer holidays competing with great success at the prestigious Ashburton Shield Competition at Bisley.



The Ashburton Shield is the premier national inter-school shooting competition and also lays claim to being one of the oldest sporting competitions in the country, having been in existence since 1896.

The Shrewsbury Senior Four were captained by George Bramwell (R) and included Oliver Taylor (R), Akim Schmidt (S) and Jonjo Wood (R). They demonstrated their outstanding marksmanship skills at 300-, 500- and 600-yard ranges and set high standards for others to follow, winning silver medals in the Ashburton Four.



The Junior Pair of Jonty Roberts (PH) and Jake Ludlam (R) also achieved notable success, winning bronze medals in the Cadet Pair (Open) competition.



The Senior Pair of Tom Jackson (R) and Cosmo Waddell (Ch) improved steadily through the week but narrowly missed the medal table.

George, Oliver and Akim were rewarded for their consistent achievements over the four days of competition shooting with the presentation of NRA Cadet Hundred badges.



Oliver Taylor capped a splendid team performance by winning the McQueen Trophy for the highest achievement in Sniper Fire over 300 yards.



The team were very grateful for the efforts of Tom Rylands (OS) and Hattie Bramwell (OS), who gave sterling service in coaching at the firing points in baking sunshine.

*Mr Roberts
Teacher in Charge of R.SSRC*

Summer Cricket Highlights

Wednesday 4 September 2019

Current pupils and recent leavers have been hitting the cricketing headlines during the summer – as have a number of Shrewsbury School cricket coaches.

Spirits were high among the Boys' 1st XI following their excellent performance and victory in the Silk Trophy at the start of the summer holiday. (See report: [Shrewsbury 1st XI regain the Silk Trophy.](#))

Dan Humes led the side well throughout the year, and after scoring almost 800 1st XI runs at a strike rate in excess of 160, was selected to play for Warwickshire U19s.



Bowler of the Silk Trophy **Peter Clark** (Rb U6) (*pictured below*) went on to play several 2nd XI fixtures for Worcestershire CCC during July and August and was also selected for the **National U17 Super 4s** held at Loughborough University.



Also playing in the Super 4s was **JJ Fielding** (L6 Rt), who joins the Upper Sixth this term as a Sports Scholar. He was awarded Player of the Tournament at the Super 4s and was subsequently selected to play for England Schools against MCC Schools at Lord's on 3rd September. He is attached to Lancashire CCC.

Harry Cooke (PH 5) was selected, and did well, for the Midlands in the **National U15 Bunbury Festival** held at Felsted in early August. He was thrilled to receive his Bunbury cap from former England Captain Alastair Cook.



Issy Wong (G U6) (*pictured below*) was contracted to Southern Vipers during the summer. She made her debut in the **Women's Kia Super League** on 15th August against Lancashire Thunder at Brighton. On her second appearance, playing against Loughborough Lightning at the Ageas Bowl, she took her first wicket – an achievement that was broadcast live on Sky TV. She finished the season with a Super League runners-up medal, as Vipers lost to Western Storm.



Gwenan Davies (Head of Girls' Cricket) was contracted to Surrey Stars throughout the summer. Previously, she had represented Yorkshire Vikings.

Paige Schofield (Girls' Cricket Coach) also played for Southern Vipers and made Finals Day with Issy on Saturday 31st August.

Evelyn Jones (Girls' Cricket Coach) again played for Lancashire Thunder.

Men's professional contracts and appearances

George Garrett (Ch 2013-18) (*pictured below*) became the tenth Salopian since 2008 to gain a 1st Class contract when Warwickshire signed him up in August. In his debut match in the County Championship against Somerset, BBC Sports Correspondent Michael Perkins commented, "George Garrett is bowling the sort of spell on debut for Warwickshire that country pros many years his senior could learn a lot from". George also played in the Vitality Blast.



Harry Adair (Rt 2011-16) made his debut for Durham CC in the Vitality Blast in August.
School Cricket Festivals

Shrewsbury School hosted the England Girls' Regional Development Camp for the first time in a very successful three-day format.

The long-established Shrewsbury School U11 & U12s July Festivals (now in their 13th year) were once again a great success, gathering together county squads from across the country for a week of competition. This summer they were heralded by David Graveney OBE, the ECB's National Performance Manager whose responsibilities include schools, as being played "in an outstanding setting. The five-day format is the perfect format to develop our cricketers of the future. Shrewsbury School really have got it right."

Finally, Shrewsbury School Cricket Professional **Adam Shantry** receives huge congratulations on being awarded his ECB Level 4 (Merit & Distinction) Degree Qualification after three years of dedicated hard work.

Futures & Higher Education Weekly Bulletin

Thursday 5 September 2019

Each week the Futures Department publishes a bulletin for Fifth and Sixth Formers featuring details about events, talks, exhibitions, work experience opportunities and taster days. It is made available on the website and in the weekly eNewsletter to parents and anyone else outside the School who may be interested.

Please click [here](#) to read this week's bulletin.

The Futures Department is also on Twitter [@shrewsfutures](#)

Biology Expedition to Guyana 2019

Thursday 5 September 2019

During the summer holidays 22 intrepid Salopians and four members of staff travelled to Guyana to work alongside scientists and conservationists in the largest uninterrupted expanse of rainforest in the world.

Guyana is a small country with a population equivalent to a city the size of Leeds but it holds more than 10% of the world's biodiversity. Many of the species there are endemic and live nowhere else.

The mission was to contribute to the programme of ecological monitoring in the Iwokrama Forest, which is testing the concept of sustainable management while working with the 20 indigenous communities that have a say in managing the forest and assessing the impacts of climate change.

Our long stop-over in Miami gave us a chance to enjoy a tour of the Everglades in an airboat.



After a very late arrival in Georgetown and a painfully early start, our first day in Guyana involved a 12-hour minibus drive to Iwokrama. The road – the main highway to Brazil – proved challenging... and at one stage the fortunate arrival of a large truck led to the rescue of our three stuck minibuses all at once.



Our day at Iwokrama was used for a sobering health and safety talk and fascinating lectures. However, we didn't have long to get used to our incredible surroundings before travelling down the mighty Essequibo River to Turtle Mountain Field Camp to begin our work.

The students were split into four groups and contributed to surveys of birds, large mammals, bats, herpetofauna, dung beetles and forestry. We also took gruelling hikes at dawn and dusk for spectacular views and wildlife watching.



Elinor Jones and Amos Cheung setting up mist nets for bird surveys



Jude Huffer holding a feisty Amazon tree boa



Maddy Baly, Alessandra Ardissino and George Clowes learn from ornithologist Dr Brian O'Shea as he rings birds caught in the mist nets they had set up.



A lined-forest falcon that had been caught in the mist nets



Fishing trip: Elinor Jones holding her huge wolf fish aloft in triumph



L: Harry Letts helping bat expert, Iona Cunningham to mark a bat before release. R: A vampire bat. These are rare and this was the second one caught in six weeks of continuous sampling with mist nets.



Spectacular views of nothing but rainforest from the top of Turtle Mountain

After a few days, we travelled back to Iwokrama and then a few hours further south to Surama village – a community of Macishi Amerindians who run a cooperative ecolodge to bring jobs and income to the community. They provided all the cooks, boats and guides for our journey up the Burro Burro River to Rock Landing field camp where we were to spend six nights and undertake further surveys as before.



Nathan Mielczarek on the Burro Burro River



Accommodation at Rock Landing camp



Katie Ford and Charlotte Russell late at night working their way through a dichotomous key to identify a bat they had caught with Iona Cunningham and Quincey Augustine from the Veterinary Department of St George's University, Grenada



Charlotte Russell and Mrs Temple on a large mammal survey



A rare emerald tree boa



Arthur Brammwell with a yellow tail cribo snake... and Jeffrey Li holding a huge black piranha

The group then travelled hours downriver to Sandstone Camp for our final night in the rainforest. On the way we were hugely privileged to see a harpy eagle. It is one of the largest species of eagle in the world and a female can weigh up to 9kg, measure up to 107cm in length and have a wingspan of 2.2m (relatively short for such a huge bird, as they are adapted as ambush predators that attack through forest cover where long wings would be an encumbrance). They have the largest talons of any eagle and can lift prey equal to their body weight.

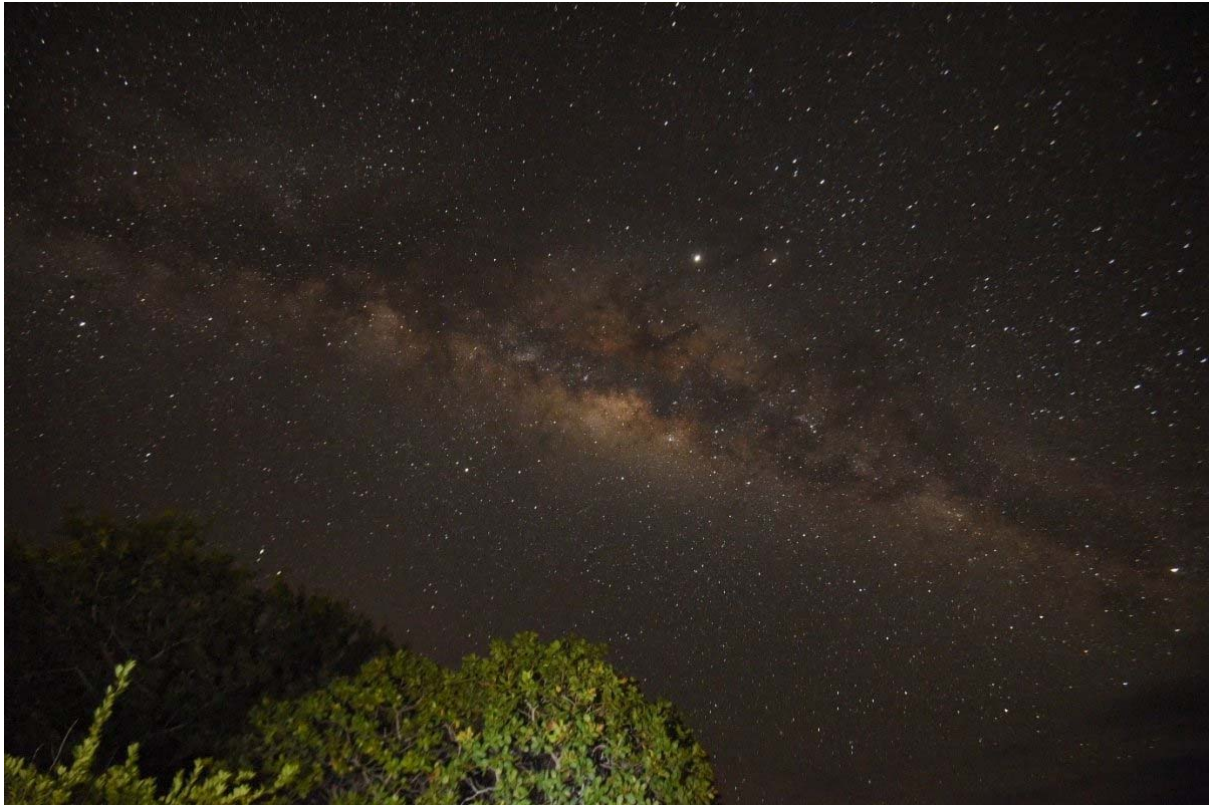


At Sandstone camp the guides discovered a very venomous fer-de-lance snake in the camp which our herpetologist, Sean Laughlin, calmly removed.



We then travelled out of the forest to Surama Village where we spent the afternoon and one night before a 17-hour journey back to Georgetown. We played a very sweaty football match against the locals and enjoyed spectacular starry savannah skies.





On our final day in Georgetown, we flew to the spectacular Kaieteur Falls. These are virtually unknown and little-visited but are the most powerful single drop waterfalls in the world. The total height is a dizzying 251m and the average flow rate is 663 cubic metres per second. With nothing but rainforest around it is one of the most magnificent places on earth and a brilliant way to end the expedition.



Working with knowledgeable and dynamic scientists in such beautiful and remote locations was hugely inspiring. Their leadership and example, together with the wildlife and beautiful environments we saw, will, I hope, live long in the memories of all those who took part in the expedition. And I hope that a new generation of Salopians will be inspired to travel off the beaten path and love travel and the wonders of nature in equal measure. They rose to the many challenges and learnt a lot about themselves in the process.



James Leaver, Jetty Russell, Kaisei Tsnjiki and Jeffrey Li arrive at Kaieteur Falls on one of two Cessnas



Georgetown Cathedral: The largest wooden building in the western hemisphere and built by Sir Arthur Blomfield who also built the School Chapel!

Dr Richard Case

Third Form Foundation Fortnight...

Friday 6 September 2019

... is going very well!

We've gathered together a few photos that show a little of what the Third Form have been up to over the last few days.

'Foundation Fortnight' is an important bit of ring-fenced time for our new Third Formers to find their feet. At the end of a packed programme of inductions to sport, music and other activities, we hope that they are all left with a feeling of excitement that, as they settle in to life at Shrewsbury School, huge possibilities and opportunities await them.

Please click on the large image below to open up and scroll through the photo gallery:



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Another excellent year for exam results

Friday 6 September 2019

Shrewsbury School pupils celebrated very impressive performances in this year's examination results.

A Level and Pre-U

The 2019 Upper Sixth Leavers are now poised to take up a raft of prestigious university places following an examination session that saw nearly three-quarters of all papers graded at A* - B level. Nine pupils achieved a clean sweep of A* or equivalent grades across their disciplines and a total of 37 pupils obtained all A or A* grades.

High attainment was demonstrated across the whole breadth of Shrewsbury's diverse Sixth Form curriculum, with notable successes in the creative world of Theatre Studies and the technical and complex subject of Economics (in both of which over half the cohort was awarded either an A or an A*).

The English Faculty celebrated ongoing success with over 90% of candidates awarded one of the top three grades for the third consecutive year. And Salopians studying Biology did the School's most famous alumnus, Charles Darwin, proud, with 26 achieving a Distinction in the challenging and demanding Cambridge Pre-U qualification.



L-R: Oscar Mattinson, Maddy Baly, Sophia Dixon, Ali Davies, Adam Pattenden

Among those pupils who have secured places at top universities across the globe, Dom Sullivan heads to Yale University, where he will mix his liberal arts course with competing for their

rowing crew, which is regarded as one of the best in the world. Greta Roberts moves to London to begin her studies in the Harp at the Royal College of Music. Seven Salopians have secured places at Oxford University. Amongst them, Reuben Denison takes up a place at University College to read medicine, where he will be able to use his experience as a volunteer at a local care home during his time at Shrewsbury. Grace O'Mara will study History at Lincoln College, having been one of the leading academic lights during her Sixth Form years, with particular successes in several Model United Nations conferences that should serve her well.

Extended Project Qualification

Lower Sixth pupils were also given cause for celebration with the publication of results for the Extended Project Qualification. This programme, which inculcates skills of project management and development in preparation for Higher Education, allows pupils to explore self-devised research questions under the careful guidance of a devoted supervisor.

Some extraordinary projects were completed this year, ranging from detailed assessments of the impact of Astrology or the developing world of artificial intelligence in sport through to one pupil who even constructed his own road-bicycle from scratch!

This year's cohort have been rewarded for their inspirational and intensely detailed work with a stunning set of results – over 60% of them at A* and A.

GCSE

With 40% of all GCSE grades awarded an A* (or equivalent) and nearly two-thirds of all examinations graded at A* or A, last year's Fifth Form pupils had much of which to be proud. Across all qualifications taken on the new and more challenging 9-1 specifications, nearly half of all grades were at 8/9 level.

At the very top end, 26 pupils gained the equivalent of a complete spread of A* and A grades across all their subjects and 82 pupils gained at least one of the new, much sought-after grade 9s (a grade designed to reflect the very highest levels of scholarship).



L-R: Will Owen, Natalie Dee, Issie Halfpenny-Edwards, Lucy Lees, Chris Beard

As with the A Level results, the high achievement was demonstrable right across the board, from the 15 A* grades in Music and the 23 A*s in Design through to spectacular performances in the three sciences, each producing over 80 A* and A grades from the cohort, and notable successes for candidates in the challenging discipline of Physical Education.

Languages, both Ancient and Modern, continue to be a real strength and it was particularly pleasing to see Spanish and German producing such excellent results against a background of declining interest in the languages elsewhere in the UK.

These fantastic results provide pupils with an impressive foundation as they embark upon the variety and challenge of a Sixth Form career at Shrewsbury School.

For details of results by subject, please see [A Level, Pre-U and GCSE results 2019 in detail.](#)

Third Form Race

Monday 9 September 2019

At the end of the first week of Foundation Fortnight, the Third Form had their first experience of representing their House in sport and running a 'Benjy' – an historic 1.5-mile cross-country race around the School site.

The annual Third Form Race is the traditional introduction for all new pupils into the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt, which has the distinction of being the oldest cross-country running club in the world. Its written records date back to the 1830s, and the 'Benjy' course (named after Benjamin Kennedy - Headmaster from 1836-1866) is almost as old as the club itself.

This year's race was an exciting display of speed, determination and wonderful House spirit. Well done to all runners – and particular congratulations to those who reached the podium:

Boys' Race

1st - Brad Keay (R)

2nd - Samuel Jones (PH)

3rd - Hamish Griffiths (PH)

Girls' Race

1st - Emily Windsor Clive (EDH)

2nd - Eloise Jones (MSH)

3rd - Anisha Mupesa (M)



Port Hill won the boys' team event very convincingly with 39 points, ahead of Churchill's Hall and Radbrook, who had 137 and 139 points respectively.

It was very close in the girls' team event, with Emma Darwin Hall beating Moser's Hall by a single point – 62 vs 63.

CCF Camp 2019

Monday 9 September 2019

Twenty-two Shrewsbury CCF cadets attended Summer Camp this year, throwing themselves with enthusiasm into a week of challenging activities based in rural Shropshire, on military training areas and in Snowdonia.

The programme for the week was very much our own. However, we gained much assistance from military units who were kind enough to give us excellent support. We are grateful for the help of our sponsor regiment The Rifles, and also to 1 Royal Irish and the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS).



This photo was taken just after cadets had completed part of Exercise Marathon Chase. The bridge spans the River Severn and had been 'blown'.



On the following day they flew over the same bridge in a helicopter. Here they are receiving their pre-flight brief from Sqn Leader Leigh Woodhouse (a school parent and instructor with the DHFS).



James Martin about to deliver orders for part of the military phase of the exercise.

Many of the Junior NCOs, mostly Fifth and Lower Sixth Form, were given ‘command appointments’ throughout the week, which gives them a chance to experience the fun (and pressures) of being in charge, and develops confidence, planning and leadership traits.

The Range Day at Sealand Ranges was another busy day, with all cadets live-firing the 5.56 calibre cadet rifle. All pupils have to pass a stringent weapon safety test before they can fire blank or live, and this knowledge inculcates respect for all types of firearm. Marksman badges were awarded at the start of term to Oliver Powell, Sam Crossley and Christian Loumidis.



Part of the camp involved a choice of an adventure training day: either coastering and rafting; or the rather drier alternative of a ridge walk in Snowdonia. The group below is about to

complete the classic Nantlle Ridge route (seen behind the group) in superb conditions. The day ended with a dip in a mountain lake – a pretty rare event for this area but much appreciated.



We spent the last morning in Snowdonia exploring a disused slate mine, including a short underground abseil, scramble and boat paddle across a lake. The group are pictured below emerging into the sunlight after four hours in the darkness.



Overall this was a superb camp and the cadets appeared to enjoy every minute.

Attending were James Martin, Christian Loumidis, Akim Schmidt, Fred Bayne, Charlie Bane, Sam Crossley, Oliver Powell, Tobias Libreros, Sam and Josh Canham, Candy Li, Carrie Zou, Will Owen, Jake Ludlam, Henry Weir, Archie Taylor, as well as Third Formers Harry Clarkson Webb, Sophia Urquhart, Johnny Fielden, and three cadets from Adcote School.

Lt Col Nick David

New recruits for the Combined Cadet Force

Tuesday 10 September 2019

It was a busy first parade for the new members of the Combined Cadet Force...

The recruits from the Fourth Form were able to choose from one of four sections: Army, Navy, RAF and Royal Marines. The day for each section started with a short session on Appearance and Bearing (aka ironing and carrying oneself smartly). Then each section was issued a full set of uniform.

Here are the new Naval recruits dressed and ready to embark on their first military experience over the next few months.



Jo Billington, Training Major, Shrewsbury School CCF

Junior Beekeeping Awards

Thursday 12 September 2019

The British Beekeeping Association has awarded Junior Certificates to nine members of the School's Beekeeping Society.



Congratulations to Johnnie Dowd (Rb U6), William Cowper (Rb U6), James Sykes-Waller (Rb U6), Maddy Flood (M 5), Ellie Letts (M 5), Garrett Healey (Ch 5), Henry Weir (O 5), Dominic Inglis-Jones (Ch 5), and Arthur Hope Barton (I 4), whose impressive knowledge and skills in apiculture were assessed last term.

“The Junior assessment syllabus ensures that candidates have a thorough basic knowledge of many key aspects of beekeeping, ranging from the jobs being carried out by the hive occupants in both summer and winter, to signs of diseases and how to keep a healthy colony,” explains Teacher-in-Charge of the School's Beekeeping Society, Mrs Fletcher.



“On the assessment day itself, each group of students had a 15-minute oral assessment, a practical assessment inspecting the bee colonies, and they also had to present their beekeeping diary from their previous six weeks’ activity and produce a piece of creative work.”

The Beekeeping Society began at Shrewsbury School 45 years ago and is believed to be the oldest school beekeeping society in the country. Throughout those years it has also proved to be one of the School’s most popular societies and has inspired many of its members to take up beekeeping as a serious hobby.

“Our beekeepers join the Society initially for one year to learn some of the basics of how to look after bees,” says Miss Fletcher. “But because the challenges of this hobby are so fascinating, we find that a lot of them get hooked and return to the Society again in subsequent years. They also start to realise just how important it is to ensure we look after our pollinators to aid food production and maintain valuable ecosystems.”

Johnnie, Maddy, Ellie, Garrett, Henry and Dominic are pictured below with Jasmine Lo, one of last year's Presidents of the Beekeeping Society, who first joined the Society five years ago as a Third Former. She helped look after the bees and the younger students with her Co-President Chad Usher.



Johnny Dowd and Will Couper taking possession of a new Shrewsbury School swarm last Easter

Coast to coast: Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Sea-Kayak Expedition

Friday 13 September 2019

Six members of the Upper Sixth Form spent the final week of their summer break navigating their way by sea kayak through the waterways of northern Scotland on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition.



L-R: Laura Elliot, William Hurst, Mollie Mathews, Frankie McLaughlin, Paddy Barlow, Ruairidh Lockett

Their journey took them from Fort William on the west coast to Inverness on the east – a distance of over 100km.

The trip represented the culmination of a year-long programme of training, from the first session in the school pool, to tackling some of the world-renowned tidal races on Anglesey, before being let loose on the lochs, canals and rivers of the Highlands.



It was a very successful trip. Huge congratulations to them all.

Major Billington

Third Form Race 2019

Friday 13 September 2019

Nearing the end of an exciting first week at Shrewsbury, our new Third Formers were greeted with glorious sunshine as they gathered on Central for the annual Third Form Race. This event is one of the new pupils' first opportunities to compete for their House.

After an introduction to the history of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt given by the Teacher in Charge, the competitors lined up in their House pens along the start line before the famous Huntsman's cry and bugle call brought the race underway. A mad dash across Central followed, in pursuit of the 'hares' – our two captains of the Hunt, Sam Western (S) and Lillian Wilcox (EDH) – and out along the edge of the School gates to begin the 2.3km course.



Among the boys, an early lead was established by Bradley Keay (R), looking confident as he strode towards the descent at Oldham's Gap, chased by a pack of Port Hill lads jostling for second. The girls' race was being led at the half-way point by Eloise Jones (MSH), though she had a group hot on her heels.

The second half put the competitors' stamina to the test, with a sharp uphill stretch after running along the river, before heading back along the edge of School site and in front of Chapel to a last sprint alongside the front of Main School Building.

Emerging first in front of Chapel was Bradley Keay. His finishing time of 8:11 placed him among the very quickest we have had in this race over the years. Not far behind him was Sam Jones in 8:35, quickly followed by Hamish Griffiths, Louis Crofts and Massimo Wyatt, all of them from Port Hill.

In the girls' race, Eloise was pipped to the line by Emily Windsor Clive (EDH) in 10:42, just two seconds ahead of Eloise. The bronze medal went to Anisha Mupesa of Moser's in a time of 10.51.



As well as being an individual race, this was very much about the House competition, with places determined by the positions of the first six runners across the line from each House. In the boys' competition, Port Hill managed to take the glory – not surprising given that they took four of the first five places – with a very low score of 39 points. Next was Churchill's with 137 points, just ahead of Radbrook in third with 139.

The girls' House race was won by a single point, with Emma Darwin Hall claiming victory ahead of Moser's, and Mary Sidney Hall taking the bronze.



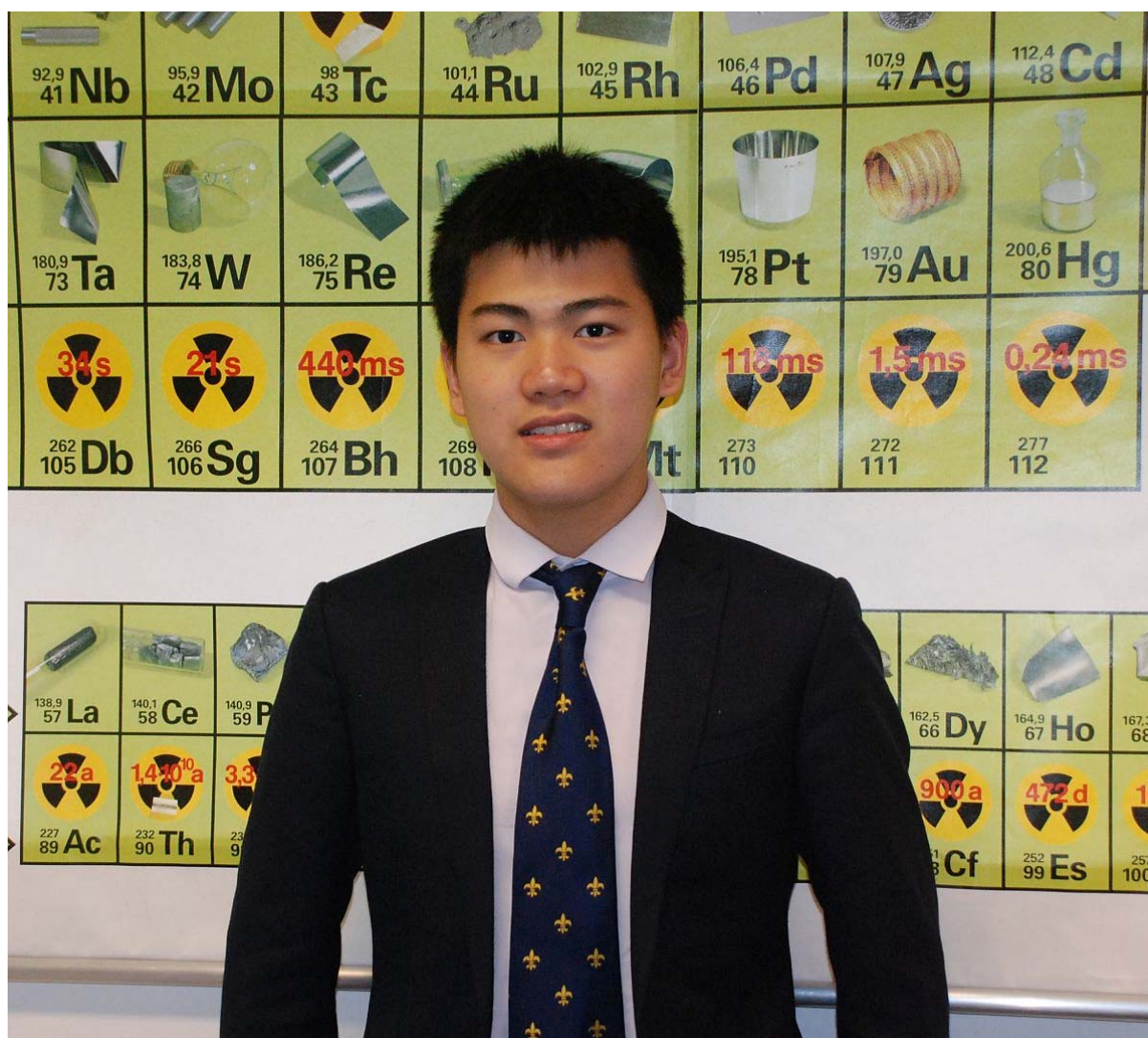
It was a great spectacle to see so many new Shrewsbury School pupils giving their best effort for their House, and the spirit on display was really terrific, right down to the last finishers. Congratulations to all competitors.

Mr Haworth
Teacher in Charge of the Hunt

Peter wins top awards in Senior Physics and Chemistry Challenges

Friday 13 September 2019

Sixth Former Peter Yang achieved the notable distinction of being selected to attend two residential summer schools at Cambridge University during the summer: one for the top young physicists in the country; the other for the top chemists.



The Senior Physics Challenge summer school took place over four days at the beginning of July in Churchill College. To be selected for a place, students in the Lower Sixth Form have to spend the academic year working their way through a series of physics and maths problems on the Isaac Physics Senior Challenge website.

“There are loads of problems which are all helpful for improving exam skills – and some of them really stretch you,” Peter explains. At the end of the year, students are assessed on the number and relative difficulty of problems they have solved and also how regularly they have worked on them. The top 30 students are invited to Cambridge for the summer school.

“We had three undergraduate-level lectures each morning on quantum mechanics with a university professor in Cavendish Lecture Hall,” Peter said. “In the afternoons, we did some classic experiments in the lab. We also had a lecture from some of the admissions tutors on the Cambridge University admissions process.

“The food in college was good,” he added. “And everything was free.”



At the end of August, Peter returned to Cambridge for the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge summer school. To qualify for this, students had to score one of the very top marks in the Chemistry Challenge (C3L6) competition – a 90-minute written paper. Like the Isaac Physics, the C3L6 is open to all Lower Sixth students in the UK and its aim is to stretch and challenge them. Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it takes students significantly beyond their exam syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.

Peter achieved a Roentgenium award, given to the top 54 students in the country – all of whom were invited to St Catharine’s College for the summer school.

“In the mornings, we had lectures on organic chemistry and quantum concepts in chemistry. In the afternoons, we did some of the practicals from the British Chemistry Olympiad. We also had a chance to talk to PhD students studying at the university as well, which was really helpful.

"I would really recommend anyone studying science in the Sixth Form to enter these competitions - they're an excellent way of preparing you for your exams but also giving you lots of interesting problems to solve that are well beyond the syllabus. And it's all free!"

Peter is now in the process of applying to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.

‘Why the Co-Curriculum Matters’

Friday 13 September 2019

A feature written by Shrewsbury’s Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) Peter Middleton has been published today by Odgers Berndtson as the first in their new ‘Voices in Education’ series of articles.

The series aims “to start conversations about important challenges, opportunities and ideas within the schools sector today”.

Mr Middleton’s article can be read via the following link: [**A Broader Approach to Education: Why the Co-Curriculum Matters**](#)

Intermediate Biology Olympiad success

Tuesday 17 September 2019

Shrewsbury School biologists have achieved impressive results in the Royal Society of Biology Intermediate Olympics.

The competition is open to students around the world in their first year of post-16 education. Its aim is both to test their knowledge of biology but also to encourage them to continue studying the biosciences beyond school.

The competition consists of a one-hour multiple choice paper taken online under exam conditions. Gold certificates are awarded to the top-scoring 5.3% of students, silver to the next 10.3%, bronze to the next 14.8% and highly commended and commended to the next 13.6% and 15% respectively.

Congratulations to the following:

Gold

George Lawrence
Frederick Lawson
Nicholas Liu
Anthony Siu

Silver

Hannah Cheng
Charlotte Hancock

Bronze

Edward Evans
Jude Huffer
Wang Chak Li
Mohan Sun
Zhang Jing Wu
Victoria Xie
Carrie Zou

Highly Commended

Paddy Barlow

Commended

Thomas Chamberlain
Jeffrey Li
Qian Yi Luo
Mollie Matthews
Olivia Moir
Araminta Plumptre

Tetrathlete Oscar achieves top national ranking

Wednesday 18 September 2019

Congratulations to Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R L6), whose combined skills in horsemanship, running, swimming and shooting have earned him the top Tetrathlon Intermediates ranking in the country.



Oscar, who has competed regularly for the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt ever since winning the Third Form Race in his first week at the School, and has also been a key member of the Shrewsbury School Equestrian team, competed in two tetrathlons during the summer holidays. Both were organised by the Pony Club: the National Intermediate Championships, which took place over four days at Offchurch Bury in Warwickshire; and the International Senior Tetrathlon, held in Kelso, Scotland.

In the National Intermediates, Oscar was part of the mixed Wheatland Hunt team, who finished as national champions, with Oscar claiming second place in the Individual Boys' competition.

In the International Championships, Oscar finished in fourth place in the Individuals, winning the cross-country riding event and coming second in the running.

The National Tetrathlon Ranking List for 2019, announced last week, was calculated by using the aggregate scores from both Championships. Oscar's tremendous performances in both competitions earned him the Number 1 ranking.

Futures Bulletin

Thursday 19 September 2019

This week's newsletter published by the Futures (Careers) Department includes links to some interesting reports on 'What Employers Want' and 'The Future of Jobs', as well as a reminder of important university application deadlines and forthcoming Careers Presentations.

To download the bulletin, please follow the link: [Futures Bulletin Edition 2, Michaelmas 2019](#)

RSSH: A strong start to the new season

Friday 20 September 2019

Following strong performances against tough opposition in their first fixture, hopes are high among the runners of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt for a great season ahead...

In the first Hunt fixture of the season, the Club travelled up to the gorgeous Yorkshire Dales for a friendly race which nevertheless pitted us against some of our closest rivals (competitively speaking, if not geographically).

With Sedbergh School hosting us for the second consecutive year, the net had been cast wider in search of strong cross-country talent, and we were joined by Ermysted's School from Skipton – the record-breaking winners of the King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry back in February – and George Heriot's School from Edinburgh, as well as St Anselm's College from Merseyside.

As with any first race of the season, this was very much a chance to put a marker down in terms of the progress we intend to make this year, and after a significant period of time without any racing, this would certainly be a challenge.

The course (5km for the U16s, 6.5km for the Seniors) was a tough one, taking in several short sharp hills and uneven ground – what most of us in the sport would call, usually with some relish, 'proper cross country'. Conditions were set to mild, sunny and firm underfoot, which probably suited us at this stage, and we were looking forward to testing ourselves.



The U16s

It was the U16s who got underway first. The course was a complicated one, and unfortunately our top two runners found themselves at the head of the pack in the opening stages and went the wrong way, leading to much confusion. After some chaotic scenes lasting about ten minutes, the race director managed to regroup the pack to set them off again over a shorter course. Such things do happen in cross country, but it was good to be able to get some competition done after the initial mistake, albeit over a curtailed route of about 2.5km.

Will Singleton (R) and Ben Weston (R) both led out from the front after the re-start, and looked very confident of the one-two until Ben was challenged in the final straight. It looked as though he might have lost the initiative but just managed to hold on by a matter of centimetres at the line.



Strong support came through from further back with John Bugge (Ch) and Dom Inglis-Jones (Ch) and Fourth Form entrant John Williams (R) both making their Hunt debuts, and Damian Jelev (R), Arthur Hope Barton (I) also running well.

In the Senior race, we had a strong team who established themselves quickly in the heart of the pack, with our Senior Whip Tom Jackson (R) leading out early on, supported by Huntsman Sam Western (S) a few places back.



Tom began to fade after the first kilometre or so and from that point the race was led by Fraser Sproul of Sedbergh – one of the brightest running talents in the country, particularly over this sort of terrain. Further back, Junior Whip Paddy Barlow was going well around 10th place, ahead of Arthur Bramwell (R) and Will Owen (Ch) who worked well together to chip away at the pack in front of them.



Arthur and Will working well together

Jonny Snell (Ch) and Artur Sarsenov (SH) also ran well together, and Cosmo Waddell (Ch) came through nicely ahead of Mr Russell, who made his debut in the green and gold vest for the Old Salopian Hunt.



Sam, in his first race as Huntsman, showed real strength in coming through for second in the Senior race (third behind an Old Sedberghian) and looked in great form at this early stage.



Full results have yet to be published, but will be released in the next couple of days.

Overall, it was a great day out and well worth the long trip up north. The many strong performances suggest we could be in for a really successful year of cross country running. Well done to everyone who ran.

Mr Haworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt

Glacial and Fluvial Investigations - Snowdonia and the River Severn: source to school

Friday 20 September 2019

Over the last two weeks, two major Geography Faculty fieldtrips have taken place.

Fifty-two Lower Sixth Formers examined the glacial valley of the Nant Ffrancon in Snowdonia and relict post-glacial landscape of Cwm Idwal. The route they followed was similar to the one explored by Charles Darwin in 1831.



The Fourth Form trip involved 95 pupils. They continued their study of rivers by noting changes downstream from the source of the River Severn to School.

River profiling was conducted at various sites near the source in the Hafren Forest, where pupils examined the velocity and discharge of the river. Other sites were visited downstream from Llanidloes to gain a more complete understanding of the fluvial geomorphology of the Severn.



Fieldwork has always, and will remain, an integral part of what we do in the Shrewsbury Geography Faculty. This October Half-term, we will be travelling with our Lower Sixth students to Chamonix to examine a contemporary glacial and alpine environment. In July 2020, we will be taking the Fourth Form to Iceland to undertake an action-packed trip involving caving in lava tubes, snorkelling between tectonic plates, a SuperJeep tour up the Eyjafjallajökull volcano and examinations of geysers amongst many other activities.

The letter for the Iceland Fieldtrip has been sent to all parents of current Fourth Form Geographers. A copy can be downloaded here: [Geography Iceland Trip 2020 - letter to parents](#)

The deadline for returns is 1st October 2019, and places are limited.

Mr Russell
Head of Geography

The 2019 New Entrants' Concert

Monday 23 September 2019

The annual New Entrants' Concert at Shrewsbury has become a much-anticipated event, and this year's was no exception.

Review by Director of Music John Moore, with many thanks to David Wheeler for the photographs.

It would be entirely wrong of any review to draw comparisons with any other years, but suffice to say that this year's concert maintained the high standards established in previous years, and gave a large and appreciative audience some real highlights to treasure as well.

What is a universal truth about the occasion every year, though, is that we as a school can lay little claim to what is performed by way of having taught or coached the performers. We have known most of them for only two full weeks, so their performances do truly reflect the teaching and care given to every single performer by their previous schools and teachers, as well as the support and nurture that parents have undoubtedly provided as well. We are blessed as a senior school with the talent that comes here, and it is so heartening to see so many entrants arrive with a love for and real ability in music.

The concert began with a stunning rendition of the first movement of Richard Strauss' First Horn Concerto played by Edward Pryce. Edward is also an accomplished Saxophonist and joined our trip to Hong Kong last October when still a pupil at Shrewsbury High School Prep. He was followed by a confident rendition of the Contest Solo by Paul Harvey played on Alto Saxophone by Oliver Parton, who joins us from Prestfelde.

Wind players featured strongly in the concert, and next up was Hugo Rees-Pullman from Packwood Haugh, who played the beautiful Fantasy piece by Nielsen with real authority. Emily Windsor-Clive then followed this with an enchanting rendition of the theme from *The Young Prince*. Emily was formerly at The Elms. Also from The Elms was James McKinnon, who gave a bravura rendition of *Darth Vader's March* from Star Wars, with all the requisite menace and dark tone needed for this well-known piece.

The famous *Tambourin* by Gossec received a lovely rhythmical performance from Clodagh Prentice, who comes to us from Lichfield Cathedral School, a school we have had many links with over the years. Following Clodagh was Angel Lai, who sang exquisitely in a rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* by Harold Arlen, and she was followed by Susanna Pearce, fresh from Packwood Haugh, who performed a soulful ballad, *Cry Me a River* with great confidence and poise. Reuben Patten, previously from Terra Nova, then entranced the audience with his performance of the theme from *Ladies in Lavender* on the violin.

It's not very often that we get budding composers in the New Entrants' Concert, but that is precisely what we got next in the form of Ivo Winkley. Ivo played one of his own compositions, a beautiful waltz-like piano solo which conjured up shades of Chopin, Satie and Einaudi, but above all Ivo's own style and sound world. He is a composer to look out for in the future!

Luke Williams has joined Shrewsbury from King's Chester, and is proving to be a really interesting performer on the piano. His controlled, sonorous rendition of the first movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata held the audience spellbound. This spell was further held by Lucy Mielczarek in a wonderful performance of Haydn's delightful song-setting, *Piercing Eyes*. Lucy comes to us from Packwood Haugh.



Oliver Cool

Sometimes a performance just hits one between the eyes with its sheer impact, and that's exactly what Oliver Cool did next with his virtuosic and passionate rendition of the last movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata for piano. This was brave, bold and big playing, and we can only have high hopes for some epic performances from Oliver in the future based on what we heard. Prestfelde will miss him and several others, I'm sure.

Max Wheeler, from Abberley Hall, is a most exciting and talented young violinist with considerable achievements already to his name. His performance of the first movement of Bach's Concerto for Violin in A Minor was poised, stylish and mature. He is another person to look out for as he makes his musical way through Shrewsbury, as too is Tom Kelly, who comes to us from the British School in Muscat. Tom's piano playing is again assured, musical and full of finesse, and his rendition of Selling Sundry Goods was a wonderful foil to Max's Bach.



Max Wheeler

James Gibbon from Prestfelde is a wonderful singer and communicator, and *The Impossible Dream* sounded entirely possible in James' confident and mature performance, with a great bravura last note! Bravura is certainly the way to describe our next performer, Billy Gardiner, formerly of The Elms, who has a unique ability to communicate a song in such a personal and heartfelt way, accompanying himself on the piano.

Rose Farquharson from Prestfelde is a fine Horn player but, like a lot of the performers in the concert, is multi-talented, and so chose to sing on this occasion. Her performance of *The Fools who Dream*, from the film *La La Land*, was just perfection.



This sense of vocal perfection was maintained in the next performer's beautiful interpretation of *On My Own* from *Les Misérables*. Anna Mallett from The Minster School, York, gave the song everything, and the audience were visibly moved by her singing, as they were too then by Hattie Attwood from Cundall Manor who performed *A Change in Me* so sympathetically and with such real style.



Anna Mallett

Sandy Brownsmith, who has joined the School from St Anthony's School then gave the audience a really classic piece of advanced cello repertoire in the form of the brooding, beautiful *Elégie* by Gabriel Fauré; a mature and controlled performance. Hal Cowan then lightened the mood with the eloquent and attractive *Aria* by Eugene Bozza on Alto Saxophone, which he played just so well. Hal comes to us from Packwood Haugh.



Hal Cowan

Jeff Li, who was at Sunningdale prior to Shrewsbury, is a wonderfully confident Saxophone player, and his Tango Till You Drop captured the rhythmical snap of this lovely composition by Richard Kershaw. With Saxophone still on the menu, Max Darke from Prestfelde blew the audience away with his quite stunning rendition of Dreams of You by Dave McGarry, accompanied by his Saxophone Teacher, Shrewsbury's Assistant Director of Music, Maria McKenzie.

The lengthy programme then built to a terrific climax with the last three performers all presenting challenging and wonderfully performed repertoire. First up was Natalia Toms, from Newport Girls' High School, whose performance of the first movement of Poulenc's Flute Sonata was entrancing, poised and polished.



Natalia Toms

Also a flute player, Chester Yuen has joined us from Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School in Hong Kong, and his interpretation and performance of the presto from CPE Bach's Hamburger Sonata was a tour de force.

It fell to Ethan Poon to finish the concert, and he did not disappoint. Coming from West Island School in Hong Kong, Ethan played the Praeludium and Allegro by Fritz Kreisler, an intensely demanding piece, with style, flair and an evidently virtuosic technique.



Ethan Poon

Bravo to all performers, and to all accompanists, especially Mr Skipper, Mr Wilson, who are also new entrants this year, and Mr Joyce. It was a wonderful, memorable concert that will be long treasured by those lucky enough to have been there.

Floreat Salopia

Alan Laurie (1921-2019)

Thursday 26 September 2019

We were saddened to hear that Alan Laurie, who taught at Shrewsbury for 20 years and was Housemaster of Severn Hill, died on 21st September, aged 98 years.

Alan Laurie graduated from Selwyn College Cambridge, where he was Captain of the University Boat Club and rowed in the Boat Race of 1940. After war service, first in the Mediterranean and subsequently in Normandy, he came to Shrewsbury in 1950 to teach History, English and French. He also played a major part on the river.



Between 1960 and 1968 he was Housemaster of Severn Hill, where his liberal and humane regime challenged the hierarchical, disciplinary structures of the traditional Public School and required the establishment by the Housemaster of a direct personal understanding of and with each of the boys. This approach became the hallmark of modern Shrewsbury and his was one of the principal influences in establishing it. His presence, with his wife, Rosemary, at the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the formation of Severn Hill, which took place in May this year (*pictured below*), was the highlight of that occasion.



Alan went on, in 1970, to be Principal of the Royal National College of the Blind, returning to the town of Shrewsbury after six years. He made a huge contribution to civic affairs, serving as a local councillor and, in 1979, standing as a parliamentary candidate. He founded a Home Start scheme, and was deeply involved both in the foundation of community and youth centres and also in marriage counselling.

In his retirement in Ludlow, he retained a keen interest in political and social issues to the very end of his life. He was wonderfully supported in all his activities by Rosemary, with whom he shared a long and happy marriage. She survives him with their four children, (their three sons all came to the School as Day Boys), by their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Alan had an exemplary life, characterised throughout by high principle, warm humanity and service to others.

Dr David Gee

It is intended to publish a full obituary notice in the next edition of The Salopian.

Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 26 September 2019

At regular intervals during term time, Giles Bell turns both his spotlight and his wit on a different sports team within the School.

Giles is a teacher of Philosophy and Theology, Admissions Tutor, Football and Cricket coach, Brighton FC fan and general sports enthusiast. He was also Housemaster of School House for 14 years.

His reports give a good flavour of the wide range of sports at Shrewsbury and the huge enjoyment that pupils derive from playing them, whatever their level of skill and achievement.

It is always exciting when the football season begins. There are the Fantasy League selections to be made. There is the hope that this is the year when 'that hunch' that the cheap Brighton defender may outscore more illustrious selections comes true. Then there is the Staff Premier League Results Predictor League to be joined. Can Mr Tonks do better than last year? Were the scientific methods employed by Drs Briggs and Pattenden one-off flukes or tried and tested formulas that will propel them to the top of the league once again? (It looks like the latter at the moment!)

New boots are unfurled from the excessive packaging that would have Greta reaching for a microphone. Their vibrant colours draw attention to the player who is proudly wearing them, giving them a new-found confidence on the pitch. Charlie Criddle likes his bright lemon boots and told me that he found them going cheap. They weren't going cheap because they were chick-coloured, he assures me. Although he did commit a couple of 'fowls' in his match on Wednesday.

There was great excitement among the 1st XI squad when I caught up with them earlier in the week as they were preparing for their first-round Boodle Cup match against Leeds Grammar School. Leeds have knocked us out before and so 1st Team Coach Steve Wilderspin was leaving nothing to chance. "I am leaving nothing to chance," a serious looking 'Wilders' told me. "We are practising penalties as there is always a chance the game could end in a draw and then go to penalties."

New signing goalkeeper Ben Lees was showing his team mates 'how to do it'. "By missing my penalty, I am hoping that others will follow my lead and make life easier for goalkeepers throughout the land." Ben admitted that he is a member of the Goalkeepers' Union.



I wondered if the coach's message was getting through to the players and so I asked Finn Samson what he thought about the forthcoming battle. "Although there is a good chance we can win the game there is also a chance we could lose it, so chance has to be taken out of the equation," Finn said.

Both Luke Bourne-Arton and Finn were taking the build-up the game extremely seriously. "Football is a serious business and I for one don't want to give the opposition a chance," Luke told me. "I am adopting my game face from now on in case I lose focus during the next 24 hours."



Mr Hughes was also looking very serious. “I am a very serious man,” he stated.



Away from the 1st XI squad preparations were going on for the Under-14D fixture against Shrewsbury High Prep. The Under-14 and Under-15D squads have been training together under the watchful eye of experienced coaches Nick Zafar and Matt Barrett. Mr Zafar is a Southampton fan and enjoyed watching the great Matt Le Tissier among other Saints giants. Mr Zafar felt that Le Tissier had learnt a lot from his coaching. “I used to give him plenty of advice at home games,” Mr Zafar told me, “as did a number of other ‘coaches’ in the crowd,” he added.



Mr Barrett is a keen exponent of the Liverpool's high press. "It's important to use the high press to help win games," Mr Barrett told me. "You are a member of the high press," Mr Barrett informed me, "as you are quite tall, and you are writing an article about football". I think some of his players may be confused about the exact nature of the high press.

I found that despite my enjoyable recent training session with the D squad where we worked on goal celebrations and how to win a penalty, I needed to raid the Under-14C squad for a 'game changer'. My eye rested on Charlie Marsh during the Under-14C warm-up. Having promised to attend Chapel more regularly, I was able to sign Charlie. He was told the good news by Under-14C manager Rev Keulemans (or Rochdale Rev, as he generally called owing to his affiliation to a certain football club!).



Charlie clearly knows about the total football demanded by my training regime and was delighted to be part of Team GB. "I am delighted to be going out on loan to Team GB," Charlie told a news conference earlier this week. Charlie was not the only one delighted to be part of Team GB. Just look at the faces of these happy and focused young footballers as they prepared to walk to their away fixture.



They won't be so happy when they have to walk to Packwood next week!

You will be pleased to hear that there was a certain symmetry to the results of the top team in the School and the 1st XI. The Under-14Ds were 3-0 up at half time, courtesy of a first-half hat-trick by William 'Hotshot' Hughes. The 1st XI were 4-0 up at half-time after good finishing by Guy Gowar, Luke Bourne-Arton and Nathan Day.



After a relaxed half-time team talk by their respective coaches, the matches finished with the Under-14Ds winning 4-3 and the 1st XI winning 5-2. Did you have William Hughes in your fantasy League team?

GJFB

Salopian Art Exhibition raises £2,000 for The Shewsy

Friday 27 September 2019

An exhibition of postcard-sized original artworks by former and current pupils and members of staff has raised a magnificent £2,000 for Shrewsbury House (the Shewsy), the School's youth centre in Everton, Liverpool.



The exhibition included work by more than 30 artists, who had responded enthusiastically to the invitation issued by the Art Department and the Salopian Club to donate a mini picture to raise funds for the Shewsy. Among them were some Old Salopians who have gone on to achieve national and international fame in the art world – Charlie Adlard, Max Baccanello, Kit Oates and Timothy Morgan Owen – as well as former Heads of Art John Alford and Philip Woolley, and internationally-successful local artists Oliver C Jones and Alex Callaway.

Works by several current pupils and members of staff were also on display - including a delicate watercolour of the Main School Building and Chapel by the Headmaster, an intriguing mathematical print by Deputy Head of Maths Charlie Oakley, and a view of Alington Hall by Art Teacher James Yule.

The exhibition took place on Old Salopian Day, 21st September, and the Art School was abuzz with visitors throughout the afternoon.



Head of Art Lucy Caddel, the main organiser of the event, was thrilled with the great success of the event. Two days later, she and twelve Lower Sixth Formers were at the Shewsy for the first of this year's residential Social Studies courses. They were delighted to present them with a cheque for £2,000.



The Shewsy has been part of Shrewsbury School since 1903, when it was first set up by masters from the School. To find out more about the link and the Shewsy's work, please see the Shrewsbury House page of this website: [Shrewsbury House](http://www.shrewsburyhouse.org.uk/) and the Shewsy's own website: <http://www.shrewsburyhouse.org.uk/>.

Shrewsbury School selected as Finalist for Co-Educational Independent School of the Year Award

Friday 27 September 2019

Shrewsbury has been selected by Independent School Parent Magazine as a Finalist for the Co-Educational Independent School of the Year Award 2019.



Independent Schools of the Year is an awards programme launched in 2018 by Independent School Parent magazine. This year, over 250 entries were received for the 20 awards categories, which are judged by a distinguished group of educationalists chaired by Dr Helen Wright, formerly Vice-Chair of the Independent Schools Council.

"We are extremely pleased to be a finalist for the Co-Educational Independent School of the Year Award," said Headmaster Leo Winkley. "This achievement recognises the excellence of the co-educational experience at Shrewsbury School.

"It's our view that girls and boys learn best alongside one another, and in a gentle but challenging environment. With a 50-50 gender balance in the staff room, the atmosphere around the School feels balanced and natural. After all, life is co-educational!

"Having made the move to co-education in 2008, to be a Finalist for Co-Educational School of the Year in 2019 gives a strong external message that co-education is thriving at Shrewsbury. With girls making up more than a third of the School, we continue to grow and extend our co-educational offering.



"It's always a pleasure to visit the co-ed classroom, science labs, art and design studios and other learning spaces and sense a calm and purposeful atmosphere of shared learning.

Outside the classroom, fully co-educational activities such as rowing, running and fencing, as well as girls' and boys' cricket, are thriving. Equally, there are times when teenagers prefer to be in single gender groups: the boys' and girls' houses give a strong sense of place from which they can confidently embrace the opportunities of the day."



The winners of the Independent Schools of the Year 2019 Awards will be announced on 7th October.

The Week in Pictures

Friday 27 September 2019

A brief glimpse of a few of the myriad of activities that have been taking place at Shrewsbury School over the last few days.

Please click on the first image below to open and scroll through the photo gallery,



The sun shone for the Victoria, Sabrina and Williams Sculls



