

From the Housemaster
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**OLDHAM'S HALL
THE SCHOOLS
SHREWSBURY
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Lent Term 2015

26th March 2015

Dear Parents,

As terms pass there seems to be more and more to cram in to less and less time! After a six week first half of term, just four weeks have remained since half-term for Sixth Form exam sets to complete courses and gather together revision resources. All this with a House Play before half-term, music exams, School and House sport and the usual packed extra-curricular programme.

Inevitably at this time I must stress the importance of external exams to Fifth, Lower and Upper Sixth Form boys with particular reference to their Easter revision programme. All Sixth Formers will be greeted by trial exams at the start of next term with exams following for all Fifth Form and many Sixth Form in early May. These three year groups have their exam timetables and have been encouraged to write out and adhere to holiday revision schedules. As mentioned last year, this is common sense to many but I expect some will need additional support and encouragement at home. The Third and Fourth Forms will be sitting internal exams towards the end of term, beginning Monday June 1st. They too will have clear guidance regarding revision from Tutors and Heads of Year.

It is worth noting that with the current Fifth Form taking linear A levels in many subjects (assessed at the end of two years) rather than modular courses, it remains to be seen what the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) will require as part of each candidate's reference. In the past, AS grades scored in the summer of the Lower Sixth were requested by universities via UCAS. It feels likely that without this possibility, GCSE results could become even more significant still.

As last year, I am delighted to record that the UCAS process for 2015 has gone superbly well for our Upper Sixth boys. All those who have applied now have offers and the time approaches for them to decide upon their "firm" and "insurance" choices.

Before looking beyond the classroom, I would like record some significant academic achievements. Henry Graham (4th Form) is to be congratulated on being awarded a Headmaster's Commendation. Henry was one of three 4th Form pupils to receive such an award for continued academic effort and achievement. Teachers may award Commendations too for excellent work and/or outstanding effort. This term the top scorers have been:

	Year	Lent Term total
Archie Mobbs	3 rd Form	11
Ollie Hall	3 rd Form	10
Ben Holehouse	3 rd Form	10
Alex Ainslie	3 rd Form	8
Lucas Arkwright	3 rd Form	8
Rory Drummond	3 rd Form	8
David Schofield	4 th Form	8
Jom Umpujh	4 th Form	8

It is often sport that is referred to when quoting great team success but I'd like to reflect first on a collaboration that involved most of the House before half term. For those of you able to attend (and many were, for which the boys and I were very grateful) we were treated to an hilarious collection of "comedy classics" from the "Oldham's Hall Flying Circus". We took the decision in the House to produce a show that was inclusive with the aim of giving roles to both established actors and also many more who were perhaps more reticent about treading the boards. Each year group staged its own sketch with five further



sketches performed by mixed year groups all produced and directed by Dan Delikatniy (U6th Form) with Harry Schofield (L6th Form), assisted by Guy Hunter and Ollie Pumphrey (both U6th Form). Tom Drury (4th Form) and Jamie Eccleston (5th Form) helped out in the technical box and Jamie tells me that a DVD recording of the show can be made available next term. For me it was one of the real highlights of the past six years or so,

with all year groups joining together to provide us with a great evening of entertainment. Very many thanks to our hugely generous Friday audience of parents, relatives and staff who left over £300 on the door for The Shewsy, the school's youth club in Everton. Pictured above are Third Formers Charlie Ockleston, Ollie Hall and Alex Schoelles in "The Four Yorkshiremen/Salopians" and below left, Guy Hunter and Charlie Steele in "40....45 years" with below right, Ned Hall and Ollie Pumphrey in "Name droppers"



The Lent Term at Shrewsbury is different to that at many schools as there is a broad wealth of sporting provision with the intention being to have each pupil find his or her sport and contribute to it. Our Fives players enjoyed House and School competition. Reuben Arkwright (5th Form) captained Oldham's U16s and Archie Mobbs (3rd Form) led the U14 boys with some real success, reaching finals in their leagues still to be played. A number of Oldham's boys, established and novices, enjoyed competing in the Fives Nationals at Eton again this year.

In the Hunt, Jake Samuel (U6th Form) has become recognised as an important senior figure within the 1st VIII squad breaking personal bests throughout the term. Congratulations to Third Formers, Charlie Ockleston and Alexander Schoelles who were members of the Junior County Championships team that reclaimed the trophy last won in 2012. On the last day of term our Steeplechases A and B teams were placed a creditable fifth and sixth with some runners taking part in both Steeplechases and House Hockey. Hockey seems to have taken off for Oldhamites this term with William Brownlow, Ned Hall, Ollie Pumphrey (all U6th Form), Arthur Price, Reuben Arkwright (both 5th Form) and Henry Graham (4th Form) all playing for school. In the House Tournament we were a little disappointed to go out in the second round.

In House Squash, School team players Anthony Koch de Gooreynd (L6th Form) and Ollie Hall (3rd Form) were ably assisted by Ollie Pumphrey (U6th Form) and David Schofield (4th Form) and reached the semi-final of the competition. Ollie Hall was the voted Most Improved Player of the Year by the Mr Harding, Master i/c Squash.

This time last year I suggested that Oldham's House Rugby Sevens teams looked very promising indeed in both 1st House and U15 competitions. Oldham's fielded two large squads and both tournaments were played concurrently on the last day of term. It was a little disappointing that some Houses were unable to field teams and that others had to withdraw due to injuries. Oldham's was undefeated in the U15 competition and took the trophy with school team U15 and U14 players leading the way. In the 1st House tournament, Oldham's beat School House, Radbrook and Ingram's before losing to Severnhill who finished the competition very strongly. Gaining a meaningful overall result following the withdrawal of some teams was not easy but Mr Kirkby i/c Rugby judged that Oldham's were winners overall. This rare double is attributable not only to Oldham's top level school rugby players across the age groups but also to those seniors who attended special sessions to qualify to play in the tournament, thus showing considerable "House spirit". In a game that relies on the team and not individuals it is hard to single out players, however in the juniors, George Sandy and Ivor Featherstonhaugh (both 4th Form) led the side by example and played just about every minute of every game. In the seniors, Harry Schofield, George Lechmere and Bertie Gilliat-Smith (all L6th Form) were key leaders with Schofield's skillful playmaking and Lechmere's pace and strength often making the difference. We were very grateful to have Hamish Foden (L6th Form) back from injury only to sustain another nasty shoulder injury and we wish him the best with his recovery. We were all very impressed by Anthony Koch de Gooreynd and Alfie Yeoward (both L6th Form) who qualified by attending extra sessions. As coach, one learns sometimes via extreme embarrassment, to say less rather than more. This was perfectly illustrated in the final seconds of a tight game against highly fancied Radbrook (with four School 1st VII players) when Oldham's were up by two points and the referee called final play. The Coach/Housemaster called (then bellowed) for the ball to be kicked off, ending the game with an Oldham's win. The boys ignored this, kept possession and scored again. He asked afterwards "why?". Very politely I was informed "Because we weren't winning by two points, sir... it was tied". Given the nature of this achievement, all players representing the House will be awarded full House Colours.

1st House

Harry Schofield (1st XV & 1st VII)
George Lechmere (1st XV & 1st VII)
Bertie Gilliat-Smith (1st XV & 1st VII)
Hamish Foden (1st XV)
Tom Bibb (1st XV)
Kit Crabtree (1st XV)
Angus Drummond (U16 XV & VII)
Rory Davies (U16 XV & 1st VII)
Guy Morris (U16 XV & VII)
Tom Atkin (U16 XV & VII)
Arthur Price (U16 & A XV)
Anthony Koch de Gooryend (qualified)
Alfie Yeoward (qualified)



It is worth noting that the senior side had no U6th Formers playing making eligibility to play next year possible. Finally, congratulations to all U14 A players on completing an unbeaten season including a County Cup. The U16s also won their County Cup and the U15s reached the semi-final. Tom Bibb was named “Coaches’ Player” and George Lechmere was “Players’ Player” of the 1st XV season.

Pictured left is Tom Atkin winning good line-out ball ably supported by Bertie Gilliat-Smith and George Lechmere

In football, Gene Ratanadaros and Calvin Cheung (both L6th Form) are to be congratulated on playing in the School’s A XI team this term. Novice and Senior IVs rowing begin next term with Bumps to follow. These major House Rowing events will allow oarsmen to figure in the reckoning for House Colours. Congratulations to J14A scullers, Ali Davies and Ben Holehouse (both 3rd Form) who were awarded bronze medals at the National Junior Sculling Head at Dorney Lake recently and to Tom Shepherd-Cross (J15A) and George Rowley (1st VIII) for their respective bronze medal and fifth place finishes at the Schools’ Head of the River on the Tideway. We wish them well as the regatta season approaches.

It’s been exam season already in the Maidment Building where Oldham’s musicians have been taking both theory and practical exams with results to follow. We wish them well. Arthur Price (5th Form) and Felix Jebb (3rd Form) continue to be Oldham’s sole Chapel Choir representatives and I encourage those with a voice to join this worthwhile and enjoyable part of school life. Congratulations to William Shawe-Taylor (4th Form) on securing a role in the Junior School Play, “DNA” by Dennis Kelly, following auditions towards the end of last term. Once again, we look forward to performances in Salopian Week at the end of the Summer Term.

We continue a programme of updating and freshening parts of the House. Redecoration of the top floor is almost complete and will move down to the first floor next term. The Third and Fourth Form bedrooms have some new pictures up and framed photographs now brighten up the corridor by Matron’s flat. The Reading Room has its pool table and a gaming monitor and console are to be installed for use at clearly

U15 House

George Sandy (U15 A & U16 VII)
Ivor Fetherstonhaugh (U15 A)
Tom Hua (U15 A)
Tom Drury (U15 A)
Jeng Chotayathiwat (U15 A)
Ben Elliot (U15 A)
Jom Umpujh (U15 A)
Joe Scott (U14 A)
Alex Ainslie (U14 A)
Frank Morris (U14 A)
Lucas Arkwright (U14 A)

specified times. Outside, we have had the grassed area 'outback' extended and levelled. I await an update from our Head of Grounds regarding its seeding. The whole area is to be professionally re-fenced too in due course. The House Council meets at least one each half of term and I am grateful to its members for some sensible and often easily implemented suggestions.

We do not usually say goodbye to leavers at the end of the Lent Term, but Rory Drummond (3rd Form) is to join his parents in Bahrain following their relocation there. Rory has secured a place at St Christopher's School, Bahrain. Since joining Shrewsbury, Rory has represented the school in football and rugby and we wish him the very best for his new adventure.

My great thanks as ever go to our Matrons, Ellie Phillips and Penny Oak along with our cleaning team of Sue, Gill, Sandra, Deng and Carly (who replaces Colin following his retirement), and who has made a superb start. My Assistant, Colm Kealy, and the Oldham's Tutor team must be thanked and congratulated on maintaining calm and silence in Top Schools and at bed time – quite challenging at times! There have been numerous trips; cinema, paintballing, karting and ice hockey all only possible due to the time and dedication on Oldham's Tutors. I am very grateful to our Tutors for fulfilling this important role, often giving up evenings or weekends, in addition to their 'daytime' job overseeing the academic progress of Oldhamites. The Third Form joined Holly, Penny and I at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for an interesting Spanish night earlier this term culminating in a rousing rendition of Ravel's Bolero – very memorable. We congratulate Dr Torin Morgan, long serving Oldham's Tutor and Head of the Third Form upon his recent appointment to Head of Biology from September 2015. Finally, you will all know Joycelin Hoyland well by now, at least via email or phone. Joycelin runs the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and provides excellent essential secretarial support to the House and my thanks go to her.

It's public knowledge that I find acting in loco parentis for sixty or so boys probably less demanding than looking after a four and a two year old, and so my eternal thanks go to Holly for managing this while covering all the House catering requirements from pre-Play drinks to Confirmation coffee to the ubiquitous birthday brownies. She is often behind the scenes but is very much one of the Oldham's team that is dedicated to the boys of Oldham's Hall.

With very best wishes to you all at Easter,



Awards

At a meeting of the School Firsts Committee on Friday 13th March 2015, a School First was awarded to Ned Hall (U6th Form) for his five years of outstanding and loyal service to Beagling at Shrewsbury.

The following have been awarded for Sport during the Lent Term 2015 by the Director of Sport:

Junior School Firsts:

Rory Davies	5th Form	Rugby
Guy Morris	5th Form	Rugby

Commendations:

Benson Chang	L6th Form	Badminton
Billy Chu	U6th Form	Basketball
William Brownlow	U6th Form	Hockey
Oliver Pumphrey	U6th Form	Hockey
Charlie Ockleston	3 rd Form	Hunt
Jeng Chotayathiwat	4 th Form	Rugby
Thomas Hua	4 th Form	Rugby
Alexander Ainslie	3 rd Form	Rugby
Lucas Arkwright	3 rd Form	Rugby
Frank Morris	3 rd Form	Rugby
Joe Scott	3 rd Form	Rugby
Ollie Hall	3 rd Form	Squash
Anthony Koch De Gooreynd	L6th Form	Squash

And finally....

- I am always prompted to deliver a reminder at this time of year that First and A Leagues cricket starts early next term and the correct kit is required by all.
- The door code for the summer term is 5 3 1 8 0. Please note this.
- A full school calendar is available at:

<http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/calendar>

- Term dates are available at:

<http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/term-dates>

Please consult these dates before making travel or holiday arrangements.

- Coach routes and times are available at:

<http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/coach-routes>