

Dear Families

I'm excited to be given the opportunity to lead Shrewsbury Academy. It's a school I have had the pleasure of being part of since 2021, despite my brief departure to the Marches for the first part of this term. I have loved my time at the Marches and it was great to get a perspective of how things operate in other successful schools. My focus to begin with is to do everything I can to continue to build an inclusive culture within the school in which our students can thrive. Our focus is to improve the GCSE outcomes in Year 11, to ensure every student leaves with the maximum possible grades. All of our students are now on this journey from our youngest in year 7, through to our eldest in year 11, engaging with a curriculum designed to inspire and enrich their learning. Just this week some of our students visited Birmingham Hippodrome and at the end of next week some of our students fly to New York for 5 nights. We look forward to seeing the photographs from the Big Apple.

In the weeks ahead we will be changing our mobile phone policy in school. We are asking students to turn phones off and place them in their bags. It is important to understand why we are doing this. There is extensive research around the harmful effects of mobile phones on the teenage brain. The average screen time for teens is around 8 hours per day, a frightening statistic. Whilst they play an important part in many young people's lives, they can also expose our children to bullying, developing anxiety and can be detrimental to mental health. There is research that also shows they can actually reduce a child's ability to concentrate and effectively communicate with each other. We want our young people to talk to each other, learn social skills and be able to focus on their learning. Like many other schools we feel this step will support a positive learning culture and one I am sure you will support us with.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mr Jim Taylor
Acting Headteacher



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Last week, students and staff at Shrewsbury Academy spent the entire week celebrating European Day of Languages. Subjects across the whole school incorporated languages into their starter activities, form tutors took registers in different European languages, and the canteen served some delicious food from France, Germany, and Spain. In the Modern Foreign Languages department, we delivered lessons to all our year groups about the importance of learning a foreign language, celebrating diversity, and how helpful languages can be for their future. We also held a competition for our Year 7 classes to enter a poster about a European language or European Day of Languages, and the entries we received were excellent! We have so many creative and dedicated students in our school, and we were very happy to celebrate that alongside European Day of Languages. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Outback Shack

Our new 'Outback Shack' has been launched this week for Years 10 and 11. This has already had a noticeable impact on the queuing times at break and lunch making for easier availability of service and food.



McMillan Coffee Morning



Staff and students held well supported cake sale on behalf of Shrewsbury, with all proceeds going to charity



Sixty of our Year 11 students have recently visited Clive, Grinshill for a 2-day period to complete their rock climbing practical assessment as part of their OAA Sports Studies Assignment. Our students were amazing and worked so hard. They learnt how to safely climb up 4 different types of rock face, as well as descend and working together with safety lines and ropes. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience but also gained and learnt some new skills relating to rock climbing.



Fitness Focus

We have been very fortunate to create links with Shrewsbury School, with staff joining our school each Thursday after school. The aim of the programme is to look at strength and conditioning and work with our talented identified group. The first session looked a designed and measured set of fitness tests. The students worked amazingly hard in the session. This programme will run up until Christmas. The aim is to improve their physical performance.

Free School Meal Vouchers over the October half-term holiday

A reminder that families of students eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals will be provided with support towards food costs for the October 2023 half-term holiday, £15 per eligible student and this will be covered for (1 week).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events.

- 16th October – Shrewsbury Academy's got Talent
- 19th – 24th October – New York Trip
- 23rd October – 5th November, Half Term
- 6th November – PD Day

Click [here](#) to view our term dates

NEWS



Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.



Why not also follow us on Facebook @[ShrewsburyAcademy](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff and school celebrations, to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow @[MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

