



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Families

Can I start by taking this opportunity to wish all of our Shrewsbury Academy family a Happy New Year, I hope 2025 is a fabulous and productive year for everyone.

Our focus this year is under the heading of 'relentless **SA**mbition', where we will strive for the highest standards for our pupils. We will be focussing on three key areas, to further improve engagement in learning, to listen and communicate well with our families, and ensure that pupil outcomes continue to improve.

As part of this I am launching a drop-in clinic where any parents can come and meet me to share information or concerns and ensure that everyone feels listened to. More information to follow. We will also be looking again at our behaviour systems in school and making some positive changes, again focussing strongly on belonging and rewarding good behaviour to further grow a positive culture.



*Jim Taylor*

Headteacher

## Your Voice Matters

As part of an ongoing commitment to communication, each week I will ask for feedback via a QR code. I launched this just before Christmas asking how the bulletin could be improved. Thank you for those that took the time to fill the survey in. I will act on the information provided. Overwhelmingly, parents told me that they are reading the bulletin, however longer articles can lead to them switching off. In the spirit of this please see there are more shorter articles than before and more pictures of things happening in school. Some parents also asked for ways to get involved and for information on things like the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Watch out for this in coming weeks. This weeks 'Your Voice' is asking about suggestions around links with local businesses. Are there any parents in our community that could offer work experience to some of our students or who would like to come and talk to our pupils about ambition and drive? Please get in touch →

Opportunities - Community Links



[hyperlink -SAvoice](#)

## Christmas Bingo

The Christmas Bingo was an exceptionally fun evening, expertly arranged by Mrs Grant who, as it turns out, is also a skilled Bingo Caller! Although I am told some bingo callers are humorous?

The evening saw many prizes won, some by staff and some by parents, the result of this has raised worthy funds for S4T.

I had never previously played bingo, I'm sorry to say, and sitting next to Logan and Dillon's mum turned out to be the kiss of death, I won absolutely nothing at all!

Events like this are great fun and we look forward to hosting more at Shrewsbury Academy. It was a lighthearted and entertaining way to end a long term in school. Please look out for upcoming events this term in school and please get involved.



## Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEAM) @SA

Year 11 have done a great job studying organic chemistry, culminating in complete combustion of alcohol on a Christmas pudding (duly scoffed by our Director of Science). They wrote and balanced symbol equations for their combustion reactions. They also carried out an experiment to compare the energy in different alcohols and came up with a fun, seasonal way to remember that alcohols have a functional -OH group: Santa drank too much sherry and instead of saying "Ho, Ho, Ho!" went "-OH!, OH! -OH! [my head]!"! #we love STEAM!



# Shrewsbury Academy Spotlight – Relentless Ambition

In January each year we begin the countdown to success program. We are around 20 weeks away from exams and now is the time for our year 11's to begin revising if they haven't already done so. They will be getting structured support with revision and learning techniques, but ahead of this some great tips are below:

1. **Spaced Repetition:** Spread out your study sessions over time. Review material at increasing intervals to reinforce memory.
2. **Active Recall:** Test yourself regularly instead of just reading notes. This helps strengthen memory and identify weak areas.
3. **Pomodoro Technique:** Study in short, focused bursts (25 minutes) followed by a 5-minute break. This keeps your mind fresh and focused.
4. **Practice Papers:** Regularly complete past exam papers under timed conditions to familiarize yourself with the format and improve time management.
5. **Healthy Lifestyle:** Ensure you get enough sleep, eat well, and exercise regularly. A healthy body supports a healthy mind.
6. **Set Goals:** Break down your revision into manageable chunks and set specific goals for each session.
7. **Stay Organised:** Keep a revision timetable to track your progress and ensure you cover all topics.
8. **Stay Positive:** Maintain a positive mindset and reward yourself for achieving your study goals.



Shrewsbury Academy   
Part of the Marches Academy Trust

## Christmas Choir

Mr Owens and several students were keen to form a choir to enable them to deliver a Christmas performance to the local Coverage Care nursing home. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Home was unable to host the event on the morning. However, still keen to perform, Mr Owens facilitated an impromptu performance for his Year 7 classes, so the festivities continued.

Well done SA choir, pitch perfect, and a huge thank you to Mr Owens for ensuring this happened. We are also delighted to announce that we have appointed Mr Owens as a full time Music Teacher at SA, despite being an Evertonian, his enthusiasm and efforts are infectious. Welcome to the team.



## Student Support Queries



If you have concerns regarding a student's learning needs, would like to request additional support/advice please complete the internal SEND referral form and send it to the following email address: [sendadmin@shr.mmat.co.uk](mailto:sendadmin@shr.mmat.co.uk). Our Student Support Department are now based in the Hub area of the Haughmond Building, taking advantage of their new amazing facilities, life skills cooking area, and outdoor learning spaces. The entrance is off **East Crescent** on the South side of the campus.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

## Information

[shrewsburyacademy.co.uk](http://shrewsburyacademy.co.uk)



Some of our students have **severe allergies**. Please respect our drive to be a 'nut free school.' Always leave snacks and foods containing nuts at home.

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REGULAR & RESERVE

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The RAF is honoured and delighted to share the news that the Department of Education has officially recognised and ranked the RAF as number 4 in the top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2024.

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<b>MEDICAL SERVICES</b> RAF Medical	<b>AIR &amp; SPACE OPERATIONS</b> Air Traffic and Weapons Controller Firefighter	<b>SECURITY &amp; RESILIENCE</b> RAF Police RAF Regiment Gunner

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Apprenticeships Top 100 Employers 2024

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**Little Stars**

Little Stars supports local families with the essential items they need for their children, aged 0 - 13 years.

**Clothing Appeal**

**Can you help?**

We're in need of casual clothing for children aged 11 upwards, such as trousers, leggings, long sleeve tops, jumpers, cardigans and coats.

If you have clean, gently worn clothing for this age range that you'd like to donate, please contact us: [Donate@littlestarscharity.org](mailto:Donate@littlestarscharity.org)

[www.littlestarscharity.org.uk](http://www.littlestarscharity.org.uk)  
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To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow @[MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

Want to work for the Marches Multi Academy trust? Follow the link below:  
<https://www.marchesacademytrust.co.uk/joining-us/how-to-join>



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