

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Dear Families,**

Welcome to 2026! The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and succeed. For Year 11, this term marks the beginning of the exam season, and we're committed to supporting them every step of the way. Our *Countdown to Success* programme this week, will provide practical revision strategies, stress-reducing techniques, and motivational sessions led by experienced staff and expert external speakers. These sessions are designed to inspire confidence, build resilience, and help students feel prepared for the challenges ahead.

Whilst Year 11 is our immediate focus, the new year is a chance for all students to set goals and embrace the rich learning opportunities ahead. We believe every student deserves a positive start, and with your continued support, we can make this term a productive and rewarding experience for everyone. Together, let's make 2026 a year of growth, achievement, and success.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited to work together to ensure every student feels confident and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Jim Taylor  
Headteacher



**Diary Dates:**

Yr 11 'Countdown To Success Day' Thursday 15h January

Yr 9 Options evening: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Half term begins Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February



**Bollywood at Shrewsbury Academy**

At Shrewsbury Academy, we proudly celebrate the richness and diversity of our multicultural community. Inclusion is at the heart of our ethos, and we believe every culture adds something unique to our school. Recently, this was beautifully showcased when a group of students delivered a self-choreographed Bollywood-inspired performance. Complete with vibrant traditional dance and stunning costumes, it was a true celebration of creativity, culture, and unity.

Such moments go beyond performance, they foster understanding, respect, and belonging. When students share their heritage, it builds confidence and pride, while giving others the chance to learn and appreciate different traditions.

At the same time, it gives others the opportunity to learn, appreciate, and embrace different traditions, creating a school environment where diversity is not only acknowledged but celebrated.



## Snow Days

Two snow days in a week is unheard of, but the start of the 2026 Autumn term has been rudely interrupted by Storm Goretti. We take the decision to shut school as a very last resort, taking into consideration the safety of students and staff both on site and on their way to and from our school. On both occasions even after the site team working very hard to drop over a tonne of grit, and get the heating turned on over the weekend, we were unsuccessful in keeping the building open. We hope that's the end of the disruption and we've had our share of snowfall for this year!.



## New Sports Hall Ahead - 2026?

The dedication of our staff and students is truly exceptional. I've never witnessed such committed students regularly taking part in sports sessions before school, with incredible enthusiasm and energy. Despite the cold mornings and the absence of floodlights, our teams show up, train hard, and start their day in the best possible way.

These early morning sessions are about so much more than fitness, they play a vital role in supporting mental health and overall wellbeing. Physical activity is proven to reduce stress, boost mood, and improve concentration, which means our students head into lessons feeling positive, focused, and ready to learn. Starting the day with exercise also builds resilience and confidence, helping young people develop healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Sport fosters teamwork, friendship and a sense of belonging, which is essential for emotional wellbeing. In a world where mental health challenges are increasingly common, these sessions provide a safe, supportive environment where students can thrive both physically and mentally.

We're hopeful that 2026 will be the year Shrewsbury Academy finally gets the full-sized sports hall our students deserve. There are now concrete plans and funding in place, which means I can announce that this really could become a reality very soon. **Watch this space, exciting times ahead!**



## Morning Fitness Club

There's no better way to kick-start the day than with Morning Fitness. Take a look at the brilliant photos below! Even though it's still dark when students arrive at 7:20am, they bring nothing but bright energy and a fantastic attitude. Their commitment is inspiring, with some students showing up to train every single morning. It's a great way to build strength, focus, and resilience before the school day begins. And don't forget, our fitness facilities are completely free to use! Unlike other gyms in Shrewsbury, there's no cost involved. We're open both before and after school, so there's plenty of opportunity to get involved. Just check the PE Extra-Curricular Timetable above to see what's on and when.



Shrewsbury Academy  
Part of the Marches Academy Trust



Spring Term Programme 2026  
Part 1 January/February 2026



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Welcome to 2026 with scientific celebrations that will take some matches-matching. Flammability fun!  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Lights, camera, action! Learn about light at tonight's fabulous physics session.  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Sinking soda surprise!  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Air mazing science! Come and experience Bernoulli's principle.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – feel the ❤️.... get ready for a gross & gruesome Valentine's day – making heart models and dissecting hearts.



## STUDENT SUPPORT

If you have any concerns regarding a student's learning needs or would like to request additional support or advice, our **Student Support Team** is here to help.

For any SEN related queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the SEN Team: [SENDadmin@shr.mmat.co.uk](mailto:SENDadmin@shr.mmat.co.uk)

Our **Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Laura Richmond**, works closely with the SEND team to ensure that every student receives the appropriate support. Laura is available to provide guidance, coordinate interventions, and respond to any SEND-related enquiries.

The **Student Support Department** is currently based in the **Bridge area of the Caradoc Building**, before moving to a refurbished purpose designed area of the school in September offering a central and accessible space for students.

We are also proud to have opened **The Lighthouse**, a purpose-built internal assessment and alternative provision area designed to meet a wide range of student needs in a calm and supportive environment.

## Autism Support



**Kids** Disabled children say we can

We can grow

### Kids Shropshire Autism support service.

Who is the service for?

Parent carers and families of children and young people under the age of 19 years with autism/ADHD, at any stage of diagnosis.

If you are working with families and think they would benefit from Kids Shropshire's support, please signpost families to:

[Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service - Kids](#)

Kids have been commissioned to deliver the Universal Autism Support Service across Shropshire.

What support will I receive?

Kids Shropshire offers support for both parents/carers and children and young people, this may include a combination of both group work and individual support tailored around their assessed need by the Practitioner.

For parents, this could mean a range of things from regular phone calls to Expert Parent experience training and online courses. We're all about nurturing peer-to-peer support, allowing parents who've been through similar experiences to lend a helping hand. Our aim is to build resilience and confidence, empowering parents to support their young ones in seeking appropriate help in the future.

For children and young people our support includes things like Lego Therapy sessions or our understanding me group sessions. All things that can help boost children and young people's resilience, help with transitioning, or support self-esteem.

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Kids will be offering the following support to families:

- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme, designed to reinforce parent carers' resilience

- The 'Riding the Rapids' programme to support parent carers' understanding of behaviour and implement support strategies
- Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions
- One-to-one support
- Child/young person 'Understanding me' group sessions
- Child/young person Lego therapy sessions

Bespoke workshops that cover:

- ASD vs ADHD (3 hours)
- Neurodiversity (specifically autism, ADHD and demand avoidance)
- Girls and the autistic spectrum
- Demand avoidance
- EBSA
- Sleep

Shrewsbury Academy, Corndon Crescent, Shrewsbury SY1 4LL

[KIDS Shropshire.pdf](#)

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[admin@shr.mmat.co.uk](mailto:admin@shr.mmat.co.uk)

## Shrewsbury Academy in Our Community

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



### EXHIBITION

Art Textiles Photography Media Food Tech Design Tech

Wednesday  
3rd December 5-7PM

Location - Shrewsbury Academy School, New Building - LRC, Corridors, Food, DT & ICT room



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.



## Become a Junior Ambassador



Are you?

- ✓ Aged between 13-17
- ✓ Confident and Outgoing
- ✓ Interested in meeting people from around the world

Why Join?

- FREE Trips to Liverpool, Manchester, Alton Towers and many more....
- Join our discos and sports days at Shrewsbury School.
- Gain new skills and great life experiences.



**JOIN NOW** [enquiry@severnvale.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@severnvale.co.uk) 01743 232505  
[www.severnvale.co.uk](http://www.severnvale.co.uk)  
To become an Ambassador please register through our website, email or by clicking **JOIN NOW**.  
Please note that all excursions and on site activities are subject to availability and that on some excursions places may be limited.

Most pharmacies can help you with **seven common conditions** without needing a GP appointment

- Sinusitis** (adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throat** (adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- Eczema** (children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- Infected insect bite** (adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Impetigo** (adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles** (adults aged 16 years and over)
- Urinary tract infection** (women, aged 16 to 64 years)

Ask your pharmacy for more information about this free\* NHS service

Visit your **Pharmacy First!**

\*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied

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'Relentless**S**Ambition' for all our students.