

Monday 19th January 2026

Dear Families,

I am incredibly proud of the relentless**SA**mbition shown by our students across all year groups. This term has already demonstrated what makes Shrewsbury Academy such an exceptional community: high aspirations, purposeful learning and a commitment to providing every young person with inspiring opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom.

Our Year 9 students have made an extraordinary start to their Duke of Edinburgh Award, with almost 50 pupils enrolling, our highest number ever. Their enthusiasm reflects our vision for a school where challenge, independence and personal development sit at the heart of the student experience. We continue to be ambitious and are looking to grow this number.

Alongside this, our curriculum continues to deliver rich, creative and academically stretching learning. This includes innovative projects such as the ones detailed below. It's hard to walk around school and visit many classrooms as you are slowed down by the fact you want to stay and take part.

Our extra-curricular offer remains equally inspiring. From early-morning fitness and competitive sports, to performing arts, cultural events and academic clubs, students have countless opportunities to discover new passions, develop healthy habits and build a strong sense of belonging.

What connects all of this is our unwavering belief that every student can achieve extraordinary things. With your support, we will continue to nurture ambition, celebrate progress and challenge our young people to be the very best version of themselves.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



#Relentles**SA**mbition

Diary Dates:

Yr 9 Options evening: **Thursday 5th February**

Half term begins: **Friday 13th February**



Duke of Edinburgh Award 2026

Shrewsbury Academy is thrilled to see a record number of Year 9 students begin their Duke of Edinburgh Award journey, with nearly 50 pupils attending the first meeting. This fantastic uptake shows how eager our young people are to build confidence, learn new skills and earn a respected national qualification that strengthens future college, apprenticeship and job applications.

Students have now chosen their activities for the Skills, Service and Physical sections, setting personal goals that will help them grow in independence and resilience. Expedition training, led by Mr Ward, begins next Tuesday after school and will develop vital teamwork, problem-solving and navigation skills. To support students, Mr Parker is running a weekly lunchtime drop-in for help with logging progress through the DofE app.

It's not too late to join. Any interested student can still collect an enrolment form. We're excited to see what this enthusiastic year group will achieve.



Calorimetry Year 8 Science

Having carried out research from food packaging to identify food that yields the highest energy per 100g, Year 8 decided that crisps are jam packed full of energy.

The following lesson, students were told of a potential school trip to a beautiful desert island where they would be scuba diving, swimming and playing cricket and rounders on the beach. Students decided they would need high energy snacks to keep them going. Conveniently a selection of crisps (thanks lab technicians) appeared but alas.... their packaging with nutritional information was misplaced.

Undeterred our students devised and investigated. They determined that they would be taking "Monster munch" to the beach!

Students have used calorimetry skills, very similar to how the calorific content of food is calculated. They have planned and completed an investigation that is used on GCSE required practical content. We are deliberately exposing students to these higher order practical techniques, earlier on in their Shrewsbury Academy Journeys.



Year 9 Business – Brand Development

Year 9 students are taking on an ambitious and highly creative business challenge as part of Shrewsbury Academy's drive to deliver a curriculum that stretches, inspires and challenges every learner. Their task: to design a brand-new ice cream flavour from concept to creation, mirroring the real processes used by innovative businesses in competitive markets.

Through this project, students are developing sophisticated skills in product development, market research, branding and visual communication. They are not only inventing unique flavours but are also designing professional-standard packaging, logos and brand identities tailored to a clearly defined target audience. This blend of creativity and strategic thinking pushes students to work at a high level, encouraging them to justify decisions, analyse consumer needs and communicate their ideas with clarity and purpose.

By engaging in this hands-on, entrepreneurial project, students are building resilience, teamwork and critical thinking, producing imaginative flavour ideas and polished brand concepts that showcase the ambition and rigour at the heart of our curriculum. Alan Sugar, be ready for SA students!



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



STUDENT SA 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

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 Shropshire.pdf](#)

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.

We work closely with parents and young people to set clear goals and outcomes for the family. We're here to understand, support, and help everyone thrive.

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 in Our Community



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 01743 232905
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)
- Earache (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



Shrewsbury Academy, Corndon Crescent, Shrewsbury SY1 4LL

01743 276700

admin@shr.mmat.co.uk

www.shrewsburyacademy.co.uk