

Dear Families,

This week I had the pleasure of spending time in several practical lessons across the school, and I was genuinely delighted by what I saw. A particular highlight was a Year 11 science class demonstrating particle movement in gases using a full-class Mexican wave. Watching students physically model how particles spread out and move with energy was not only memorable, but a brilliant example of how active learning brings concepts to life. The room was full of enthusiasm, laughter, and real understanding as students took part.

Across the practical subjects, from Science to Technology, there was a clear sense of joy in learning. In workshops and food technology, students were fully engaged, measuring, testing, designing, refining and embracing the challenge of turning ideas into outcomes. These rich learning experiences are exactly what we strive for: lessons that are ambitious, hands-on, and rooted in real curiosity.

Walking through classrooms this week reminded me how powerful practical learning can be. It builds confidence, deepens understanding and, perhaps most importantly, makes school a place that students genuinely enjoy. It was a pleasure to witness such purposeful, lively learning in action, and I want to thank staff and students for creating such inspiring classroom environments.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



Diary Dates:

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

Half term begins Friday **13th February at 3.10pm**

Not forgetting **Valentines Day 14th February** (forever hopeful!)



STEAM CLUB

If all fizzy drink cans hold 330 ml, why do they have different masses? Why do some float whilst others sink? And how do they compare to the Group 1 Alkali Metals and Group 2 Alkaline Earth Metals on the periodic table?

Our brilliant **STEAM Club** have been investigating! With curiosity and great teamwork, they explored chemical reactions, calculated density, analysed ingredients, and discovered the science behind these everyday mysteries, all while having plenty of fun along the way.

Next week, we're diving into more fantastic Physics as we explore **Bernoulli's principle** and even create our own (mini!) tornados!



Textiles - Technology

Year 9 students are taking on an exciting and demanding challenge in the Textiles curriculum: using red blood cells as a scientific and visual stimulus to inspire their fabric samples. This week, students experimented with printing techniques, decorating their fabrics with shapes, patterns and colours drawn from microscopic imagery of red blood cells.

They worked with homemade gel plates, crafted from gelatine and glycerine by Miss Kovacs, to explore a professional mono-printing method. This technique is deliberately ambitious for Year 9, pushing them to think creatively, apply scientific observation skills, and develop confidence with more advanced textile processes.

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Technology Week! Yet more Textiles!

Miss Higgins' Year 8 classes have been getting hands-on this term as they explore the fascinating world of resist dyeing. Students have had the chance to experiment with traditional Batik, discovering how hot wax can act as a barrier on fabric to block out the dye. Using real Tjanting tools, they created patterns and designs on white cotton before letting the wax cool and applying their chosen colours. Once everything had dried, Miss Higgins carefully removed the wax with an iron, revealing each student's unique design underneath—always a moment of excitement.

What makes this project especially meaningful is how it reflects the ambition of our Art and Design curriculum. Students aren't just learning techniques; they're gaining cultural understanding, developing technical confidence, and thinking creatively as young artists. Their Batik experiments are now inspiring a final piece based on the work of Yayoi Kusama, giving them the chance to connect traditional craft with contemporary art.



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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.



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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 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



SA+
Shrewsbury Academy

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 232505
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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