



Dear Families,

With just two weeks to go until Christmas, the pace of learning across school feels faster than ever, and what a joy it's been to see! Visiting lessons this week has been inspiring: Students have been busy with creative Lego projects in Technology, whilst in Food Technology students mastered complex skills making chilli con carne. Over in Art, the festive spirit was alive as we judged entries for the Christmas card competition, such talent and imagination on display. 1st place was awarded to year 10 Kirsten Handshaker – with a superb effort. Please see the winning entry below.

Meanwhile, Year 11 are entering a crucial phase. They've completed their mock exams and are now receiving personalised feedback to help identify gaps in their learning. This feedback is key to guiding targeted, focused revision in the weeks ahead. With only a relatively small number of school days before GCSE exams begin, we're working hard to support students with the strategies and skills they need to succeed. From revision techniques to subject-specific guidance, every effort is being made to ensure they feel confident and prepared.

It's wonderful to see ambition and progress shining through in every classroom. Thank you to our dedicated staff and hardworking students for making this term so productive and positive. Let's keep the momentum going right up to the festive break!

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



Diary Dates:



Year 11 Progress Evening: Thursday 11th December
Christmas Lunch Day: Thursday, 11th December

Term Ends: Friday 19th December



Year 7 Panto – Oh Yes It Is!

This week, our Year 7 students headed to Theatre Severn for a festive treat, *Dick Whittington!* As part of our Belonging Plan, we're committed to giving every student access to enrichment experiences, from theatre trips and live sports to exciting careers opportunities. And what could be more fun than a Christmas pantomime?

It was a fantastic chance for students to laugh, join in, and make memories together. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make this annual event possible, we couldn't do it without you!

We are privileged to have Theatre Severn on our doorstep, providing very high-quality productions and experiences. Year 7 loved it.



Volcanic Science

This term, Year 7 have been exploring the fascinating topic of *Earth and Rocks*, and what better way to bring learning to life than by making and testing their own volcanoes? Our Stem building has been buzzing with creativity and curiosity as students modelled and painted volcanoes, then labelled them with examples of igneous rocks and their characteristics. Glitter was even used to represent crystals, science with sparkle!

The project didn't stop there. Students produced fantastic homework, researching volcanoes around the world and creating colourful labels for their models. This activity was truly cross-curricular: literacy for annotated labels, art for design and painting, geography for real-world volcano facts, and PSHE as we shared stories of places we've visited or have family connections to. There was plenty of oracy too as students listened to and told their own volcano tales.

Of course, the highlight was chemistry! Year 7 learned how reactants combine in a chemical reaction to form products. Using baking powder and vinegar, they created eruptions of carbon dioxide bubbles, after discussing their everyday uses in cooking. Next, we'll add detergent and food colouring for a spectacular lava effect.

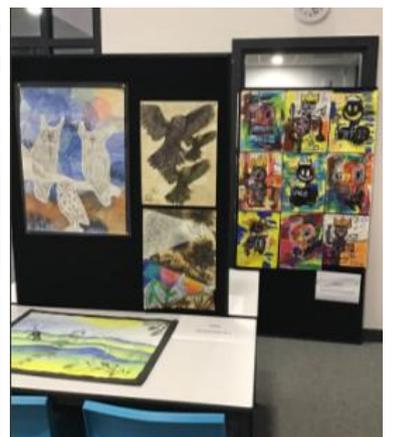


Technology and Art Showcase

This week, our Learning Resource Centre became a vibrant gallery showcasing the incredible talent of our Key Stage 3 and 4 art, textiles, and technology students. The space was transformed into a celebration of creativity, filled with colour, imagination, and thoughtful expression.

The exhibition featured a wide range of work, from bold mixed-media pieces to intricate drawings, each reflecting the individuality and dedication of our students. Seeing their ideas come to life in such a welcoming venue was truly inspiring. Creative subjects are not just about making art; they develop problem-solving skills, resilience, and confidence, qualities essential for success in every area of learning and life.

Thank you to our talented students for sharing their work and to the staff who made this showcase possible. I was lucky enough to see the displays and left feeling inspired by the talent we have in our 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

SF6 with JAL
Tuesdays
3.10-4.10



Autumn Term Programme
Part 2 November/December

- 4th Nov – Cutting edge science. Make 2 DNA models. Prove that STEAM Club is sweet(s) & smash Mr. Phillips DNA puzzle challenge!
- 11th Nov – Remember, remember the 5th November – fire tricks & lava lamps.
- 18th Nov – Cool chemistry. Only 39 days until Christmas. Investigate and make bath bomb presents.
- 25th Nov – Don't let the Grinch steal Christmas: slime time!
- 2nd Dec – make saturated solutions, glistening snowflake decorations and a "chemistree" for Christmas. STEAM Club takes the lead in a whole school interhouse Chemistry and Christmas competition!
- 9th Dec – Exciting electronics – design circuits to light up the festive season.
- Tuesday 16th Dec – Hot chocolate science. Design, build and test a gingerbread house! Yum and of course Merry Christmas!



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 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 equiry@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.

CHARITY NETBALL MATCH
TEACHERS • FAMILIES • STUDENTS
All coming together for a **great cause!**

Wednesday 17th December
3:10pm - 4:20pm
£5 PER STUDENT • £8 PER ADULT
Includes a slice of cake + hot chocolate!

FORM YOUR DREAM TEAM!
Teams of 5 players
Must include one family member (16+)
SIGN UP AT THE PE OFFICE TODAY!

SUPPORTING S4T CHARITY
Every penny raised goes straight to helping those in need.
Get involved, have fun, and support a great cause!



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](#).

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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