



Monday 9th February 2026

Dear Families,

This week I have had the privilege of visiting more than 30 lessons across the school. It is always inspiring to see our students so deeply engaged in ambitious learning, stretching themselves, asking thoughtful questions, and making progress in a wide variety of subjects. The dedication shown by both students and staff continues to reflect the strong learning culture we are building together.

As part of our ongoing work to ensure the safety and preparedness of our school community, we also carried out a whole-school lockdown drill this week. With the forthcoming introduction of Martyn's Law, schools across the country are increasing their focus on emergency procedures to ensure pupils and staff know exactly what to do in the unlikely event of a security incident. Just as students are familiar with our fire evacuation process because of regular practice, it is important that they also become confident in responding calmly during a lockdown. This will become a more regular and routine way of operating.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all pupils for their cooperation and mature conduct throughout the drill. Their calm attitude ensured the process ran smoothly, and it helps strengthen our collective readiness should we ever need to implement these measures in a real life scenario.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



Diary Dates: Half term begins Friday 13th February at 3.10pm

School Opens to students after half term on: **Wednesday 25/2/26**

(Except Year 11 who are in on **Tuesday 24/2/26**)



Travel and Tourism

This week we were delighted to welcome over 300 families to our Year 9 Options Evening. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging thoughtfully with their next steps and exploring the wide range of pathways available to them.

One of the most popular courses again this year is **Travel and Tourism**, now entering its second year. Interest in the subject continues to grow, and it's easy to see why. The course offers students a practical, engaging insight into one of the world's largest industries.

Our current Travel and Tourism students recently took on the role of real researchers, collecting qualitative insights through open-ended interviews as part of their coursework. Their curiosity, thoughtful questioning, and enthusiasm led to meaningful conversations and authentic learning experiences. It has been wonderful to see students enjoying hands-on tasks that mirror real-world practice.



Careers – Royal Navy

Last week, Year 9 students took part in a dynamic STEM Tower Building Exercise led by the Royal Navy Youth Engagement Team. The activity helped students develop teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving skills while giving them an insight into the Royal Navy's global responsibilities.

Students were given a scenario: the Captain of HMS *Sutherland* had sent them to deliver urgent humanitarian support to a nearby island. On arrival, their inflatable craft was punctured, leaving them stranded. To request help from the fleet, now 50 miles offshore, they had to build a radio tower strong enough to transmit a signal.

Working in small teams, they had 20 minutes to design and construct their tower before a simulated "hurricane" tested its strength. The challenge required quick thinking, clear communication and adaptability.

The exercise offered a fun, hands-on engineering challenge while highlighting the diverse roles the Royal Navy plays worldwide.



Duke of Edinburgh

Shrewsbury Academy is proud to announce a record-breaking start to this year's Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. With almost 50 Year 9 students signing up, our highest number ever, the first sessions have now begun in the LRC, which has been chosen to accommodate the remarkable level of interest. It has been inspiring to see the space buzzing with young people eager to begin their DofE journey.

Students are now getting underway with planning their *Skills*, *Service* and *Physical* activities, setting personal goals that will guide their progress over the coming months. These early steps reflect the spirit of **Relentles**SA**mbition** that sits at the heart of the Award, encouraging independence, resilience and a determination to keep improving.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to play an important role in shaping confident, capable young people, and we are incredibly proud of this year's exceptional cohort as they embark on their journey.



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.



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



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)
- 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

SMS

Shropshire Music Service
TEACHING MUSIC - CHANGING LIVES



01743 874145
 admin@shropshiremusicservice.org.uk
 www.shropshiremusicservice.org.uk/lessons