

Dear Families,

As a school, we continue to work hard to develop a rich, engaging and ambitious curriculum that inspires our students and drives a culture of relentless aspiration. A well-designed curriculum is the foundation of strong learning, and it is central to ensuring every student is challenged, supported, and excited by the opportunities we provide.

However, it is increasingly clear, both nationally and locally, that many young people are finding it harder to access the full curriculum because their reading and oracy skills are not consistently at the level they need to be. Developing confident readers and articulate young people is essential if they are to fully understand complex subject content and express themselves clearly in both written and spoken forms

This week, we used our Collaboration Day to focus specifically on strengthening reading across all subject areas. Staff worked together to design high-quality, discrete reading activities that make purposeful use of text in every subject area. Our aim is to ensure that reading is not just a priority in English, but a thread running confidently through science, humanities, arts, maths, and practical subjects alike.

We also recognise that students today often find sustained concentration more challenging, with some studies suggesting that constant scrolling on social media reduces attention span and the ability to stay focused for longer periods. As a school, we are working proactively to counteract this by embedding routines and learning experiences that build resilience, stamina, and deeper engagement. We are also planning on becoming a phone free school in the near future with more information to follow.

Jim Taylor  
Headteacher



## Diary Dates:

**School Show:** Matilda 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March (see below)

**Year 11 Progress Evening 2:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 3.30- 6pm

**Easter Holidays:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

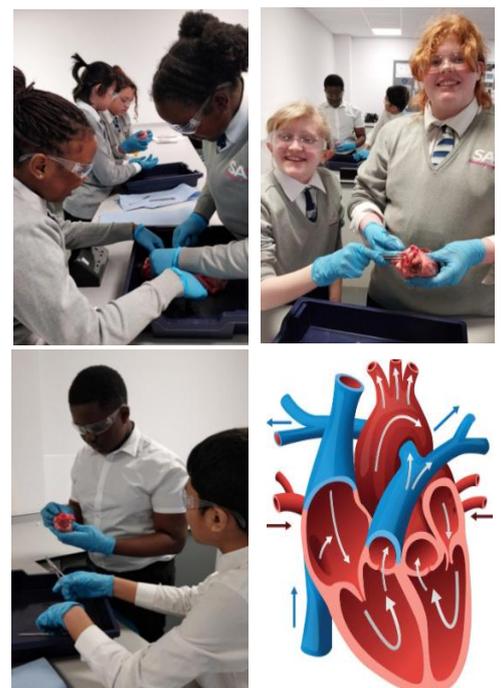


## Future Heart Surgeons

Here are our STEAM Club members getting fully stuck into heart dissection, doing a fantastic job identifying the different structures of the heart. It was brilliant to see 19 enthusiastic Year 7 and Year 8 students choosing to spend their time after school exploring science and embracing the ambitious curriculum opportunities on offer. We are also delighted to now have a dozen Young STEAM Leaders who volunteer to support the Science Department as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award community service.

During the session, students identified valves and the *chordae tendineae* or the "heart strings", which led to an engaging discussion about how the expression originated and the scientific significance of these structures. It was wonderful to see such excitement as students rose to the challenge, sharing how much they value the enriching after-school opportunities at Shrewsbury Academy: "I love STEAM Club" and "This is my favourite after-school club!"

Shrewsbury Academy   
Part of the Marches Academy Trust



## Year 10 Food Skills

Our Year 10 students have continued to impress as they further explored the art of sauce making this week. Before half term, they mastered the foundations of creating a roux and developed it into a rich cheese sauce, which they then used in a dish of their choice.

This week, they returned to this core skill with new ambition. Instead of adding cheese, students incorporated stock to transform their roux into a smooth velouté. They then applied this technique in a variety of dishes, producing flavourful curries and hearty casseroles.

The classroom was filled with exotic aromas and an atmosphere of focus, independence and enthusiasm. Their engagement was exemplary, and the skill level demonstrated was outstanding. Our Year 10s continue to show that they are confident, capable young cooks who are developing both creativity and technical expertise.



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## Shrewsbury Academy Presents.....

We are delighted to announce our upcoming school production of Matilda the Musical, taking place on **19th and 20th March**. Under the expert direction of Mrs. Kelly, our students have been rehearsing tirelessly to bring this much-loved story to life on stage.

This production represents far more than just a school show. It offers our students a unique opportunity to perform, grow in confidence, and develop a wide range of creative and collaborative skills. For many, experiences like these become exceptionally memorable moments in their school journey, moments that often ignite passions and even influence future career paths in theatre, the arts, and beyond.

Audiences can expect a great performance, filled with energy, talent, and the joy that comes from months of dedication and teamwork. It promises to be an unmissable and thoroughly enjoyable event for families, friends, and our wider community.

Book your tickets now and support our incredible young performers!

**SA** SHREWSBURY ACADEMY PRESENTS

Book by **Dennis Kelly** Music and Lyrics by **Tim Minchin**

**19th March & 20th March 2026** | **TICKETS £5** | **6:30 pm**

Caradoc Hall

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**SA**

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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.



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 Bernouilli'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 SA SUPPORT

We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Miervaldis to the SEND team as our new SEND Admin Assistant. Jennifer will be supporting the coordination of SEND provision across the school and will be a key point of contact for parents and carers. If you have any SEND-related queries, please feel free to get in touch with her via:

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 offer **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.

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

we 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](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)
- 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](mailto:admin@shropshiremusicservice.org.uk)  
 [www.shropshiremusicservice.org.uk/lessons](http://www.shropshiremusicservice.org.uk/lessons)