

Dear Families

This week has been inspiring, with lesson visits highlighting strong learning across all areas of the school. In PE, students have begun summer sports, approaching new activities with enthusiasm and positive energy.

Food Technology lessons have been highly engaging, with students developing practical skills through hands-on cooking and food preparation. In Design and Technology, GCSE students are working purposefully to complete coursework, while mastery classes across Key Stage 4 are supporting focused revision ahead of the exam series.

Across classrooms, teaching is underpinned by clear routines that build familiarity, confidence, and consistency for our students. A shared language of learning and clear expectations are evident around the school, creating calm, purposeful environments where students know how to succeed. It has been a motivating week that reflects high standards, ambition, and a strong commitment to effective teaching and learning. I am also delighted to announce that attendance this week was significantly above national average. Being consistently present in school makes an enormous difference to progress and knowledge retention.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



Diary Dates:

Yr8 Progress Evening: Thursday 30th April 4.30-6.30pm

Bank Holiday Monday (school closed): Monday 4th May

Half Term Begins: Friday 22nd May at 3.10pm.

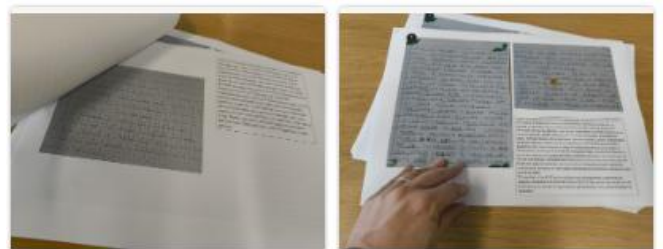


Spanish

Year 8 students have been working with letters from our Argentinian partner school, and the level of excitement in lessons has been great to see. Students have enjoyed reading real responses from students their own age and learning about life and school in Argentina.

During these lessons, our students also explored seasonal foods, comparing what is grown and eaten at different times of the year in both countries. This international contact has helped bring the curriculum to life, building curiosity and global awareness.

It is encouraging to see how this partnership is driving ambition and engagement across the group through an exciting and meaningful curriculum.



Science at Shrewsbury Academy

This week, year 9 students carried out a demanding practical investigation and made it look effortless. Science lessons in the new stem block are often practically based, which students love.

Working carefully, they used buffer solutions to control the pH of a starch solution before adding the enzyme amylase. Iodine was then used to track how quickly the starch broke down, with students timing the point at which the colour change stopped.

This hands-on work helped students clearly understand how enzymes are affected by conditions such as temperature and pH.

The lesson was highly engaging and showed how practical Science builds confidence, curiosity, and strong investigative skills within an ambitious Science curriculum that challenge and inspire learners through real experimentation regularly.

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Travel and Tourism

Travel and Tourism students explored an exciting new part of the curriculum by planning imaginary TikTok videos to promote emerging destinations, including Albania, Georgia and Colombia.

Students researched each country in detail and designed creative content aimed at attracting tourists. They then presented their ideas to the class, explaining how their videos would appeal to different audiences. The lesson developed research, creativity and presentation skills while showing how modern digital platforms are used in the travel and tourism industry today.



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Phone Free Shrewsbury Academy

Following consultation, we will move Shrewsbury Academy to becoming phone free during the school day from **Monday 29 June 2026**. This follows recent government guidance for key stage three and four students. We believe this change will benefit behaviour, learning and, most importantly, your child's wellbeing. We will share more information soon explaining exactly how the system will work.

In brief, students will switch off and hand in mobile phones at the beginning of morning registration. Each student will have an allocated number in their tutor group, along with a secure phone box in their tutor room. Each phone box will then be collected and locked by the Senior Leadership Team and Head of Years, then moved to a locked, secure location with CCTV. Students will receive their phones back at the end of the school day. More details will follow shortly, but we are excited that this will impact positively for all students.

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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 24 March – Celebrate Easter periodic table style. Work in a team to solve puzzles, read and write in the language of chemists. Then 2 weeks off for Easter. **Happy Holidays!**

Tuesday 14 April – "Orbeez" are the bees' knees! Make perfect polymer water beads with IPH.

Tuesday 14 April – More cool chemistry; time for slime with VMO.

Tuesday 21 April – Phony physics: impossible straws, convection snakes and gripping rice. STEM Clubs on a roll!

Tuesday 28 April – Medical madness – build and operate on your own patient (no student will be harmed in this gross and gruesome session!).

Tuesday 5 May – Egg-citing physics including daredevil egg and one in the hand!

Tuesday 12 May – Antigravity Maltasers (if your teacher doesn't eat all the chocolate first)!

Tuesday 19 May – Celebrate the end of half term and aim for the sky withballoon rockets!



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**, leads 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.

SHREWSBURY ACADEMY SPORTS HALL

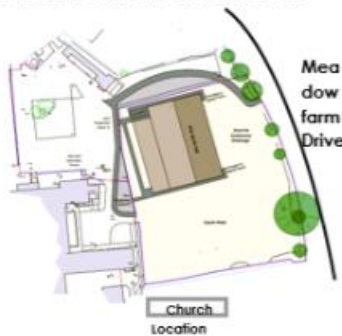


Shrewsbury Academy

We are excited to announce that we have secured funding to build a Sports Hall at Shrewsbury Academy.

This facility would provide a multi-use, four court Sports Hall including basketball, netball, futsal, badminton and cricket nets. The new facility will benefit our students not only in their lessons and but also enable us to increase extra-curricular opportunities for all.

The formal planning permission is currently with Shropshire Council for comment and review.



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