

## Dear Families

As GCSE exam season begins, we recognise this as a significant and often demanding time for our students. Our ambition is clear: to ensure every student feels supported, prepared and confident to achieve their very best. This is made possible through strong collaboration between staff and students, with a shared focus on success and wellbeing. This support continues right the way through the exam season.

We have introduced early morning revision sessions from 8am, where students are welcomed with waffles, pancakes and fresh fruit, creating a calm and positive start to the day. These sessions provide valuable opportunities to revisit key knowledge and work through any last minute questions before exams.

Throughout the day, targeted support sessions are carefully scheduled between exams, allowing students to access guidance from the right staff at the right time. The required specialist teachers are on hand to offer reassurance, clarify misconceptions and support individual needs.

This coordinated approach reflects our commitment as a school community to provide structured, thoughtful support, helping students approach the exam period with confidence, resilience and a strong sense of readiness.

*Jim Taylor*  
Headteacher



## Diary Dates:

Year 7 Parents Evening: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 4pm -6.30pm

Half Term Begins: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 3.10pm.



## Year 7 Film Making

As part of our ambitious Photography GCSE curriculum, students are building strong, skills based portfolios that develop both technical control and creative independence. This week, Year 10 Art students explored still life photography, taking responsibility for planning and composing their own setups before capturing images.

Working with a range of objects, lighting and viewpoints, they considered composition, focus and visual storytelling. The lesson, led by our trainee teacher Miss Crawford, encouraged students to take ownership of their ideas and refine their approach through experimentation. These photographs will then be edited and developed further, ready to be presented in their sketchbooks as part of their coursework.

This process supports students in developing key skills such as critical thinking, decision making and creative risk taking. It reflects our commitment to providing a challenging and engaging curriculum that prepares students for success at GCSE and beyond.



## Geography Practical Field Work

As part of the Key Stage 3 Geography curriculum, students are developing their understanding of weather and how it can vary across different environments. Our students have been taking part in a practical fieldwork investigation, exploring the microclimate around the school site.

Using equipment such as thermometers and anemometers, students are measuring temperature and wind speed in a range of locations. They are making predictions and testing whether their results match their original hypotheses, helping to strengthen their thinking and enquiry skills.

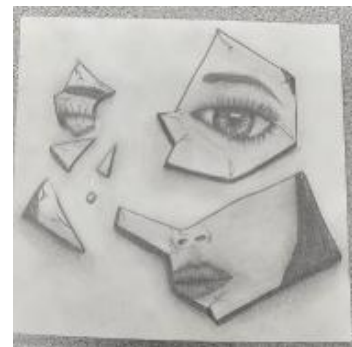
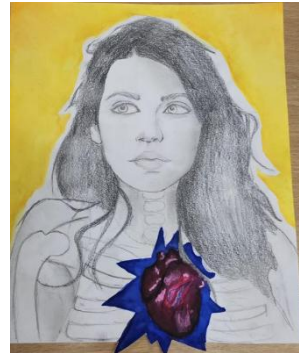
This hands on approach supports the development of key geographical skills, including observation, data collection, and analysis. It also encourages curiosity about how physical conditions can change even within a small area. Fieldwork like this plays an important role in bringing classroom learning to life, while building confidence in working both independently and with others.



## Arts Society Shrewsbury Schools Competition

As part of our ambitious curriculum, we are committed to developing creativity, confidence, and high level skills in our students. The competition and Exhibition, hosted this year by Shrewsbury High School, provides a valuable opportunity to showcase this work. Eleven schools from across Shropshire are taking part, with Year 10 students selected to exhibit pieces in a professional gallery setting. This experience allows students, in their first year of GCSE study, to present their work to a wider audience and have it judged by practicing artists and art lecturers from The Arts Society Shrewsbury.

Through this process, students develop technical skills, independence, and resilience, while gaining insight into real world creative industries.



31 school days left

## 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. We are excited that this will impact positively for all 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.



**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 with .....balloon rockets!



## 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](mailto: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



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.



## Shrewsbury Academy in Our Community

### INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

Qualify as a Primary or Secondary Teacher in 10 months

Achieve Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

**BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE UP TO £31,000**



Email [claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk](mailto:claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk) for more information



### PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Discover the joy of teaching!

Do you know someone in the final 2 years of their degree or completing a masters?

Do they want to earn £1365 in 3 weeks this summer with the Marches Academy Trust?



Email [claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk](mailto:claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk) for more information

Parent Carer Newsletter April: [April Newsletter](#)

Shrewsbury Academy, Corndon Crescent, Shrewsbury SY1 4LL

01743 276700

[admin@shr.mmat.co.uk](mailto:admin@shr.mmat.co.uk)

[www.shrewsburyacademy.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyacademy.co.uk)

