

Monday 18th May 2026

26 School Days Left Until Shrewsbury Academy is a Phone Free School

Dear Families

You have told us that you want your child to have a mobile phone so that you can keep track of them on their journey to and from school. We understand and respect this.

However, in line with national guidance, our school will become a phone-free environment from Monday 29th June, just 26 school days away. The Department for Education guidance is clear that schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day to support a calm and focused learning environment.

From this date, students will bring their phones to school but will hand them in during morning line-up. Phones will be securely stored during the day and safely returned at the end of the school day by tutors.

We are confident this change will have a positive impact. Evidence shows that mobile phones can be a significant distraction, even when not in use, reducing concentration and learning focus. Schools that limit phone use report improved attention, better classroom behaviour, and stronger engagement with learning. This is not optional in school; no students will be permitted to carry mobile phones.

There are also important wellbeing benefits. Research highlights links between excessive smartphone use and increased anxiety, poorer sleep, and exposure to cyberbullying. Reducing phone access during the school day can support healthier social interactions and reduce opportunities for online conflict during school hours.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



Diary Dates:

Half Term Begins:

Friday 22nd May at 3.10pm

Year 7 Progress Evening:

Thursday 4th June 2026



Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh programme is a fantastic opportunity for students to grow beyond the classroom, gaining valuable life skills such as independence, problem-solving, teamwork, and confidence.

This week our students have been preparing for expedition, practicing their skills in putting up tents. These are vital elements of the course and always great fun.

Experiences like this help prepare our students not just for their expeditions, but for future challenges in education, work, and life.

We are proud to see our students' ambition, embracing the experience with determination and enthusiasm, rain or shine!

This year we have our largest ever cohort working towards their bronze award.



Japanese Club

Mr Poole has recently introduced a Japanese Club at school, offering students a valuable opportunity to develop ambition through new and exciting learning experiences.

Within the club, students are introduced to the Japanese language alongside exploring key aspects of Japanese culture, history, and everyday life. This includes traditions, customs, and an understanding of the people and society, helping students to build a broader cultural awareness.

Such experiences play an important role in widening students' perspectives beyond their immediate environment. By engaging with a different language and culture, students are encouraged to become more open minded, curious, and globally aware. This enriching opportunity supports learning beyond the classroom and inspires a deeper interest in the wider world.



Black Belt

At Shrewsbury Academy, we take great pride in celebrating the personal achievements of our students, both in and beyond the classroom.

We are delighted to recognise Abby, who has recently achieved her Black Belt in Taekwondo, an exceptional accomplishment that reflects hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

Achievements like this are a wonderful reminder of the talents and determination within our school community, and we are always proud to share and celebrate these successes. Congratulations to Abby on this fantastic achievement.

We have many sporting clubs and opportunities before the school day, during the day as well as after it. Balancing work and sport is a real positive for many of our students and something we strongly encourage.

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**Just 26
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. [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

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 of our 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

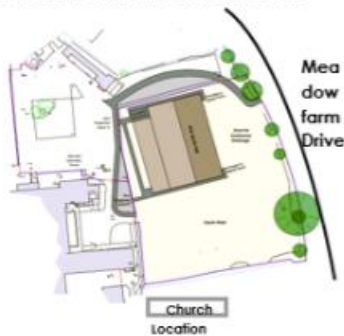


Shrewsbury Academy

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

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