

Dear Families

As we move into the lighter days of late spring, it has been a real pleasure to see the positive energy across the academy. Students continue to show commitment, curiosity, and ambition, both in and beyond the classroom. From strong engagement in morning sport and fitness to high-quality learning in lessons and enrichment clubs, there is a clear focus on wellbeing, resilience, and achievement.

We remain committed to providing opportunities that support both academic success and personal development. Activities such as morning fitness, STEAM Club, and wider enrichment help students build confidence, teamwork, and healthy habits that support mental health as well as learning. As we move towards being a phone free school, you will see increasing amounts of coverage of this in the news. It will become increasingly common for all schools to implement this, the research suggests it's such a positive step to support concentration, wellbeing and reduce incidents of bullying.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Together, we continue to set high expectations and support every student to thrive.

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.



AM Sports Clubs

Morning football and fitness sessions before school continue to be a positive start to the day. Students arrive energized, focused, and ready to learn after moving, stretching, and playing together. Regular physical activity supports physical fitness, improves mood, and strengthens mental health and wellbeing by reducing stress and boosting confidence.

Exercising outdoors in the light spring and early summer sunshine adds another benefit, helping students feel calmer, more alert, and connected to the day ahead. These sessions also build teamwork, resilience, and healthy habits that can last beyond school. We encourage students to take part when possible, wearing suitable kit and bringing water. A short, active start makes a big difference to wellbeing, behaviour, and enjoyment of learning every day.



Science at Shrewsbury Academy

Who knew balloons, straws and string could spark such excitement? In STEAM Club, students explored rocket design by launching balloon-powered rockets the length of the lab and along the STEM Building first floor corridor. Working in teams, they tested different independent variables including balloon size, flight trajectory and string type, learning how small changes can significantly affect performance. The session was filled with curiosity, teamwork and purposeful problem solving, with students confidently predicting, testing and refining their designs.

Curriculum enrichment was strengthened through high-quality scientific discussion. Students linked their practical learning to real-world science by exploring Project Apollo and NASA's recent manned lunar fly past, helping them see how classroom ideas connect to human achievement and ongoing space exploration.

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STEAM Club Continued....

STEAM Club students were joined by Mr Phillips for a hands-on physics challenge exploring why it is impossible to drink water through two straws when one is inside the glass and the other is not. Students learned that for water to move into the mouth, the air pressure outside must be greater than the pressure inside.

When air can enter freely through a second straw, this pressure difference cannot be created, no matter how hard you suck. The session sparked great curiosity and discussion. Students were also introduced to the Institute of Physics "Phony Physics" experiments, many of which can be safely tried at home, including spinning eggs, sewing through ice and the magic balloon.



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 Maltesers (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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