

Dear Families

You may have seen recent national coverage about the move towards phone-free schools. In line with this direction, and ahead of upcoming legal changes, our school will become phone free from 29th June.

From this date, students will hand in their phones at the start of the school day and receive them back at the end. We recognise that many parents want their child to have a phone for safety, tracking and communication when travelling to and from school, and this system supports that need.

To ensure the policy is applied fairly and consistently, detectors will be used to support searches, if necessary, as mobile phones will move onto the prohibited items list during the school day.

This is not a move designed to be difficult. It is about alignment with national expectations and placing students' wellbeing first. We believe the benefits will include improved face-to-face communication, reduced bullying during the day, better focus in lessons and positive impacts on mental health. All schools will be expected to be phone free.

This is a positive step forward for Shrewsbury Academy. Thank you for your support with it.

Jim Taylor
Headteacher



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



Year 7 Film Making

Our work to welcome our current Year 6 students into The Shore this September has begun. Our Year 7 students have stepped up brilliantly, creating a welcome video that showcases not just the building, but the feeling of being part of The Shore.

The Shore is a school within a school - a unique space designed specifically for Year 7 students to thrive in a smaller environment that feels safe and supportive. Alongside this, we have some exciting further improvements planned for September, including the development of a new and engaging curriculum. Year 7 come into the main building for specialist lessons such as science, technology and PE.

Several of our students made their film making debuts, as part of the project, helping to create a professional and informative video that reflects life in The Shore. They approached the opportunity with confidence and professionalism, while also having a great deal of fun.



Darts at Shrewsbury Academy

We are fully immersed in the Darts Tournament currently taking place in school, and it has quickly become a hugely popular and engaging feature of the week. The competition has now progressed to a 301 format, played as best of five legs, raising both the standard of play and the level of challenge for our students.

This week we hosted Rounds 2 and 3, and the tournament has now reached the quarter-final stage, with the final eight students set to compete next week. The competitive element has been a real motivator, with students showing focus, resilience and excellent sportsmanship as they progress through the draw.

While the tournament is an 'informal' activity, it has had a strong and purposeful impact on learning. Students are now responsible for scoring themselves, requiring rapid mental calculations involving subtraction, doubles and trebles. This has created a clear cross-curricular link with maths, particularly around number fluency, accuracy under pressure and strategic thinking.



Science Club

STEM club this week focussed in on plants. Photosynthesis may appear slow to observe in experiments, but it is essential for life on Earth. Through photosynthesis, plants convert light energy into chemical energy, producing the food that supports almost all living organisms and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Understanding photosynthesis, and the factors that affect it, helps explain why some plants grow faster than others.

Key factors include light intensity, carbon dioxide levels, water availability and temperature. For example, fast-growing plants such as sunflowers or bamboo thrive in bright light and warm conditions. In contrast, slow-growing plants like cacti or pine trees are adapted to limited water, low nutrients, or cooler environments.

As every STEM club brings the curriculum to life, many thanks to the team especially Miss Allsop, it's really good science and always fun.



Phone Free Shrewsbury Academy

35 school days left

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 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

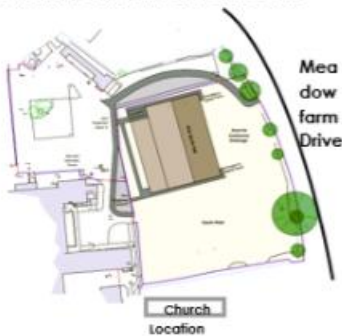


Shrewsbury Academy

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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Shrewsbury Academy, Corndon Crescent, Shrewsbury SY1 4LL

01743 276700

admin@shr.mmat.co.uk

www.shrewsburyacademy.co.uk

