

Shirebrook ACADEMY



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another calendar year has passed at Shirebrook Academy, and we are proud of all of the efforts of our students, staff and wider community in making it yet again a memorable one.

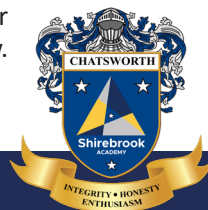
A phenomenal 109, 349 House Points have been awarded; with students rewarded for their excellent efforts in their learning, outstanding attendance and showing our character values of kindness, honesty, integrity, courage and compassion. Students were rewarded as part of our Shirebrook Stars celebration alongside special Year Team assemblies where their contributions are recognised and celebrated. We are incredibly proud of the efforts of our students and maintain our high standards and expectations to ensure that every member of our academy community achieves their best.

Ensuring that our students have access to a diverse and rich curriculum remains a high priority and there have been visits to a range of venues and places including The Thackray Museum with Year 11 students to learn more about the history of medicine, a trip to Chatsworth for our Art and Photography students to learn more about landscape and seasonality in creative works and The Royal Armouries. We have also welcomed Zoolab into our academy so that our students could learn more about rainforest creatures and their adaptations. It was a spectacle to see our young people getting to grips with giant snails, reptiles, insects and lizards.

Our character value of kindness is important to us, and we always look for opportunities to extend this beyond our academy community. Our charity works this year have continued to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Research and 'Building Lives Around Shirebrook Town Centre' (BLAST). Our annual Christmas Fayre was held on Wednesday 17th December with a range of activities and fun for all of the family. Everybody from the Shirebrook Community and beyond were welcomed with proceeds donated to BLAST, the Year 11 prom fund and future fund-raising events.

To contribute further to the work of BLAST and their support of children and families in our community, tutor groups across Years 7-11 have donated items towards the Shirebrook Shoe Box Appeal and decorated distribution boxes. We have also created hampers of goodies that will be delivered to care homes in our area to spread festive cheer and kindness. Thank you to all of our students and families that have donated items to help children, young people and adults in our area experience the spirit of giving this Christmas.

This academic year we have worked more closely with staff and students at Stubbin Wood School, and it has been wonderful to have students from both of our schools attend a number of joint events including our Remembrance Service and our shared Christmas lunch. Such collaboration and appreciation are important in ensuring that our sense of community and purpose continues to grow.



MERRY Christmas TO YOU ALL

Our continued commitment to reading and ensuring that all of our students can read fluently and confidently remains a key focus at our academy. We hold thematic reading weeks each term and promote reading for pleasure through designated reading lessons and tutor periods. A book at Christmas is a special present that supports a child's reading development as well as their creative and imaginative skills and we hope that many of our children experience the gift of reading during the festive period.

We continue to strive hard to ensure that all students attend our academy as regularly as possible, because expected attendance builds learning confidence, community belonging and supports students to thrive. We are delighted that over 400 of our students will be recognised for their attendance this term in our celebration assemblies alongside efforts in learning and behaviour and attitudes.

Thank you for your support as parents/carers in enabling your children to attend our academy each day, on time and wearing our academy uniform. Standards and expectations remain high for our children at Shirebrook Academy and rightly so – they deserve the best. It has been wonderful to receive some of the Christmas Thank Yous that students are sending to staff where they have highlighted how much they enjoy school and which staff support them in achieving their best. It is only through partnership working that we can achieve this, and it is important that we take time to thank each other for our collective contributions which are helping our academy to improve and be a safe and welcoming place where children can learn and flourish.

Shirebrook Academy wishes you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Warmest festive greetings and seasonal wishes,

Andree Burghin

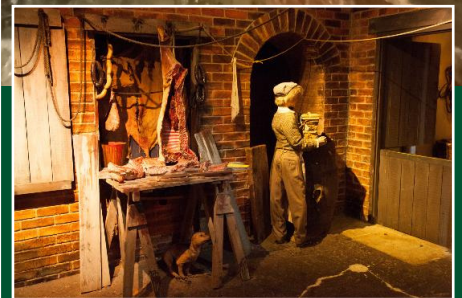
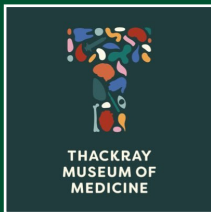
Principal



Humanities...

Y11 - Thackray Medical Museum

GCSE History students in Y11 took a trip to the Thackray Medical Museum and wonderfully engaged with the interactive revision sessions. The first session to visit was 'Disease Street', an interactive exhibition on living conditions in Industrial Leeds. The photo opposite shows student, Matthew Ingleton in an outdoor toilet just next to the area's water pump - a great way to revise the causes of the Cholera Outbreak. We also visited 'The History of Surgery Workshop'. It was a very insightful day and enjoyed by everyone.



Year 9 Explore the Wonders of the Rainforest with ZooLab

Our Year 9 Geography students recently took part in an exciting ZooLab Rainforest Discovery Workshop, bringing their classroom learning to life. The workshops gave students the chance to deepen their understanding of the layers of the rainforest—from the dark forest floor to the bustling canopy above—and explore how different animals have adapted to survive in these unique habitats.

The highlight of the day was meeting some amazing creatures up close! Students had the opportunity to hold and observe a variety of rainforest animals, including snakes, cockroaches, stick insects, a giant African land snail, and a gecko. There was even a chance to get up close and personal with a tarantula—an experience that many students will never forget!

Year 9 students came away with a deeper appreciation for rainforest ecosystems and the importance of protecting them for the future. Well done to all our students for their enthusiasm and courage during this rainforest experience.



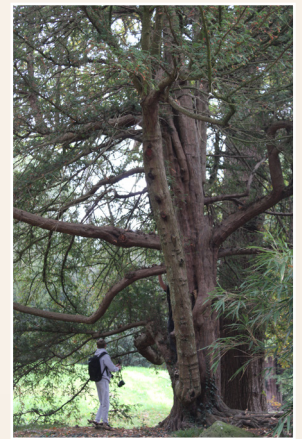
Chatsworth Art & Photography Trip

The Y11 Art and Photography students recently visited Chatsworth as part of their final course work project based on the theme of 'Local Landscapes'.

We began our visit in the fine October sunshine with a tour of the house – taking in the marvellous array of paintings and sculptures in the Cavendish collection. Works included portrait pieces by Rembrandt, Lucien Freud, and an amazing piece of tromp l'oeil by Jan van de Vaardt - a painting of a violin on a flat wooden surface, which gives the illusion of the object hanging on a hook on an old wooden door.

Our party then headed into the landscaped gardens, past the cascade, and into the rockery. Students enjoyed the magnificent views from this location and couldn't believe that the landscape had all been created by human hand. We then ventured through the very dark coal tunnel and up to the maze. Our challenge to get to the centre of the maze was this year reached in time of 1.07 seconds with all 44 students exploring this nature-based puzzle.

A trip to the gravity fed emperor fountain concluded our tour of the grounds. The students made some fantastic sketches and took some incredible photos to be used in their NEA pieces. The day was a great success with all having a taste of arts relationship to history, and its effect on the beautiful Peak District landscape.



Design & Technology

working in partnership
with the Best Food
Forward Programme

We're proud to be prioritising food education at Shirebrook Academy. As a part of this, we are excited to share our successful application to work in partnership with Best Food Forward this academic year.

Best Food Forward explores food education and the whole food system through hands-on learning and cross-curricular links. Using the programme, our pupils will explore where food comes from, how it impacts health, environmental impact and its role in the wider world.

This partnership builds on our existing curriculum, supporting well-being and life skills, and empowering students to make informed choices about food.

We encourage parents and carers to join us on this journey - your support makes a real difference.



How we're enriching our Food Education Provision

We are delighted to announce our partnership with Best Food Forward this academic year!



**#BestFoodForward #FoodEducation
#StudentWellbeing #PositiveFoodChoices
#LearningForLife #ParentEngagement
#SchoolOfArtisanFood #foodlearning**



Inclusion News

Pine Cone - 'The Birdman'

Pine Cone and Thrive students were recently treated to a fascinating live show featuring a collection of rare birds of prey, presented by 'The Birdman', Alan Aimes. During the session, Alan shared captivating facts about the birds' natural habitats, hunting behaviours, and unique adaptations that make them such skilled predators.

Students were thrilled to see the magnificent birds up close and had the chance to ask questions, deepening their understanding of wildlife and conservation. The interactive experience not only complemented their classroom learning but also inspired curiosity and respect for the natural world.



ALAN AMES
BIRDMAN



SEND and Inclusion Parent Information Session

In October, we hosted a session for prospective parents and carers of children interested in joining our wonderful Academy. During the event, the Inclusion Team had the opportunity to showcase and share the incredible range of support they provide to help our students thrive throughout their educational journey.

Inclusion Key Worker Consultation Evening

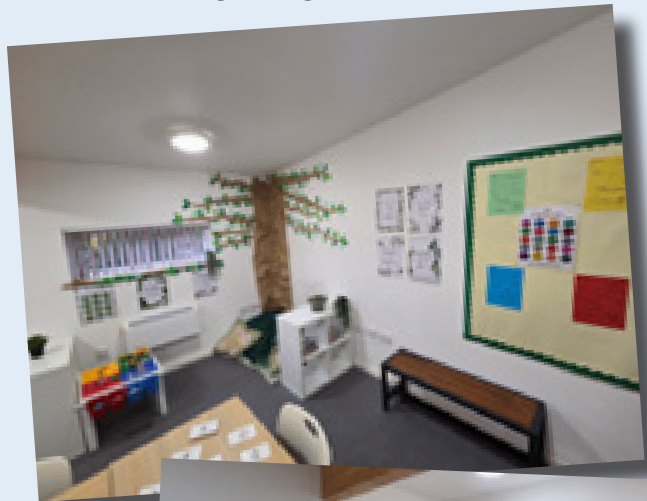
Our first Inclusion Key Worker Consultation Evening on Thursday 6th October was a great success—thank you to all the parents who attended. It was fantastic to see so many families engaging in positive discussions about how we can work together to support every child's learning, progress, and wellbeing.

Autism Workshop

On Thursday 20th November, we were delighted to host an informative and engaging Autism Workshop for parents and carers. The session was very well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many families keen to learn more about how we can work together to support children with autism both at school and at home. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to such a positive and collaborative event.

Pine Cone New Phonics Intervention Room

We're excited to share the development of our new Pine Cone Nurture and Phonics Intervention room; a warm, welcoming environment designed to support children's social, emotional, and literacy development in a calm and nurturing setting.



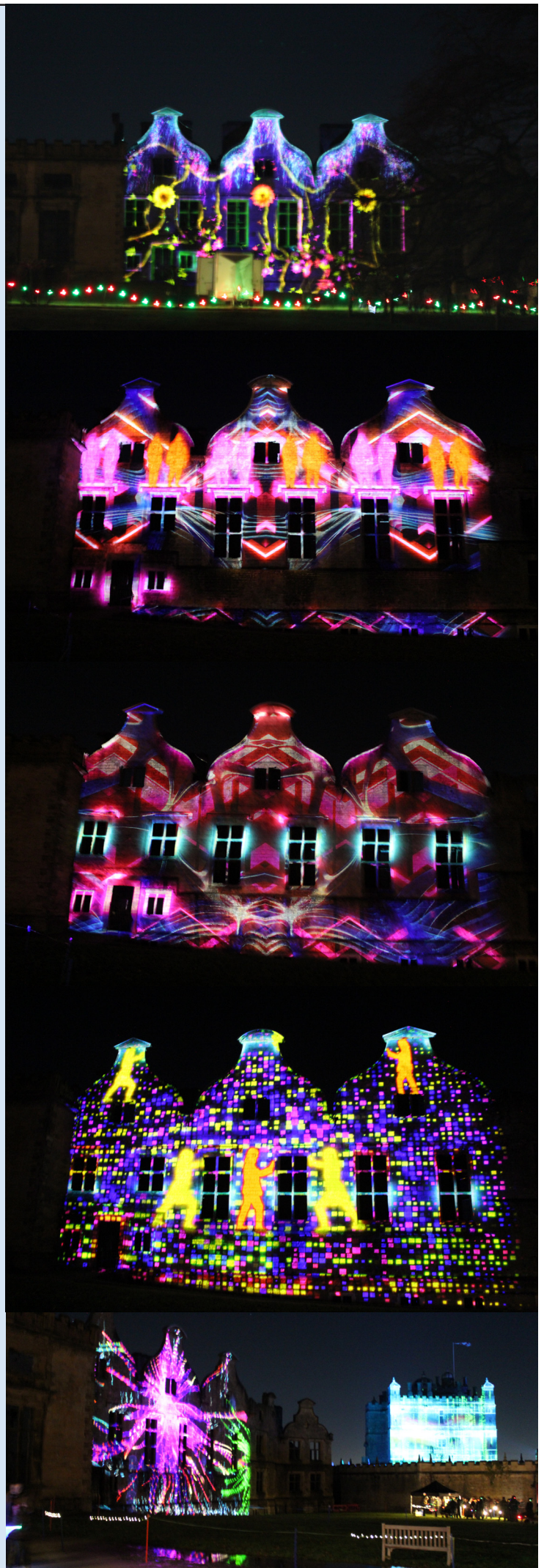
BRIGHT *Winter Nights*

at Bolsover Castle

The culmination of our students works for the 'Hear My Voice' project with Junction Arts happened on November 27th and 28th at Bolsover Castle. It was a fantastic celebration of the work of our Y10 students, who had been working with artists on a light projection piece for 6 weeks in the Autumn term. The project was based around creating a large-scale light projected artwork for the side of Bolsover castle during its annual winter celebrations - and they succeeded in every department. During the preparation our students looked at location and design and completed mark making sessions inspired by the idea of community with artist Lucie Maycock. They used puppetry to consider silhouettes and talked about the technical side of the project with Barret Hodgson, including a day of preparation at the castle. They also looked at movement and created poetry for a sound piece to accompany the display. The display looked incredible in situ and those in attendance marvelled in the sights and sounds in this historic, atmospheric location.

Our students loved working with a variety of artists and enjoyed the whole process of putting together this large-scale projection piece. Maisie Rose-Smith said that "It was great to be a part of the project and the piece looked so bright and colourful on the Friday night". For all of you who attended the event – we thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed the show!

Mr Freer
Head of Arts



MAKE SAVINGS by claiming your FREE SCHOOL



As you probably know, Free School Meal awareness has been increased recently across the media.

Save time and money by claiming your free school meal allowance today. You can get free school meals for your child if you receive one of the listed benefits.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEAL

Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)

Pupils in Reception and KS1 all receive a free hot meal or sandwich, fruit or yoghurt each day and don't need to apply. All you need to do is inform your school that you wish your child to have a daily hot meal.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Pupils may be entitled to a Free School Meal. However, with FSM you will need to apply. The link on this sheet is for your local authority and there is also a link to the Government website about FSM. Your child's school will also have an application form, if you wish to complete the application by hand.

Whether taking advantage of UFSM or FSM, a hot meal (2 choices of main course) or a sandwich, along with a dessert of the day, or fresh fruit or yoghurt and a drink will be the daily choice.

The menus are displayed on the school website and if your child has a food allergy or intolerance, our Catering Manager will discuss the options for your child and accommodate the allergen requirements.

DO YOU RECEIVE ANY OF THESE?

- Child Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income Support
- State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment finished, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week.
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month).

NEED MORE INFO?

Visit...

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

OR ASK IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR
AN FSM APPLICATION FORM.

WWW.MELLORSCATERING.CO.UK

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school **190 days per year**.
The government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least **95%**

Are you doing your bit?

DAYS OFF
COST
GOOD
GRADES

ATTEND
TODAY
ACHIEVE
TOMORROW

Every day counts!

Music Lessons

Does your child have an interest in learning to play a musical instrument?

Here at the academy we have an excellent team of specialist musicians who visit us weekly to provide lessons in brass (trumpet, cornet, horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba), woodwind (flute, clarinet and saxophone), strings (violin and viola), guitar (electric, acoustic and bass) and drum kit.

Learning an instrument is an excellent way to develop self-esteem, resilience, organisation, coordination, thinking skills and problem solving as well presenting the opportunity to make new friends and gain confidence. Once your child has made progress on their instrument they will be invited to join one of the academy's musical ensembles such as Wind Band, Funky Jazz Band, String Orchestra or Choir. They may also have the opportunity to take part in concerts and showcases throughout the year.

All lessons take place during the school day on a rotating timetable to avoid disruption to students' learning.

Lessons are offered at an introductory price for the first six weeks, following this time prices may vary but subsidies are available subject to circumstances.

If your child is interested, have them collect a letter from the music department.



Year Team News

Y7

Starting a new school can be extremely daunting for a young person. Different classes, teachers, students and many other new and exciting things. The challenge of following a timetable around a large building is enough to worry students of any age. We are so proud of how our new Year 7 cohort have applied themselves to these challenges, facing them with a smile on their face and tackling them with great confidence and gusto. It has only been a few months and already you can see how far they have come, and how confident they are becoming.

From setting the standard during school line up (not just at the Academy, but across the whole trust), to greeting staff along the corridors with a nice big 'Salutations', our cohort is shaping and changing the standard for the next few years to come.

You only need to look at the number of positive points awarded to Year 7 students, a whopping 24718 points from September to the end of November, that gives them an incredible 94% ratio. This just re-enforces the incredible effort we are seeing, and we couldn't be happier with this. Not only is this number high, but we are also seeing week on week that students are achieving their 150+ positive badge highlighting their shared contribution to this total. This may be motivated by the knowledge they win a chocolate bar for achieving this, but it seems to be really driving them on!

Several of our Year Group have supported this year with tours of potential staff, guests (including the local MP) and other visitors to the school, the feedback of which has been nothing short of spectacular. Each tour resulted in feedback highlighting how polite, respectful, kind and knowledgeable the students were which is a credit to themselves.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at parents evening, and your support as we move forward for the remainder of the year is much appreciated.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

The Year 7 Team

Y8

Firstly, I would like to welcome Mr Topliss, our Year 8 Pastoral Support Manager, to the year team and thank him for the outstanding support he has provided to the Year 8 cohort during this first term. His dedication and care is greatly appreciated by both staff and students.

Year 8 have made a fantastic start to the new academic year. They are developing into polite, resilient young people, and I am really looking forward to watching them continue to grow over the coming years.

Your positive engagement and consistent effort in learning have resulted in the year group achieving over 17,000 achievement points alone. This is a magnificent accomplishment and clearly demonstrates the hard work and commitment each of you brings to your learning every day. In particular, the values of kindness, integrity, and compassion have been strongly demonstrated across the year group.

This term, many students have proudly represented Year 8 in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including football, cross country, and the school choir. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and passion students show when taking part in activities they love. Keep it up Year 8!

A special congratulations must go to the Year 8 girls' football team, who reached the quarter-finals of the Utility Cup at Dronfield. The team progressed through the competition unbeaten and were only knocked out on penalties, narrowly missing the chance to represent Chesterfield FC in the next round. This was a fantastic achievement and a real credit to the team's determination and teamwork. Fantastic work girls!

Year 8, I am already looking forward to the start of Term 2 in January. I hope you continue to be your brilliant selves and keep striving for success in everything you do. Always remember: be the best version of yourself, and success will follow.

Have a fantastic Christmas Year 8 I wish you and your families a very happy and restful break.



Y9

It has been a pleasure to lead so far this school year with many successes along the way. We currently stand 2nd in house points behind year 7 amassing over 26000 achievement points which is superb, with AFI leading the way in our year group with over 6000. We also have 44 students who are yet to receive a negative and have over 200 achievement points! We are still getting too many negatives however, the year group are aware of this and know what they need to do to improve this, which with hard work and dedication is achievable.

One aspect of the year group that we are extremely proud of is the kindness they show on a daily basis. From an interaction in the corridor asking me how my day is, to their kindness in the classroom across the majority of the subjects. We recently had an email from a member of the English department that stated 'this is why we teach' in relation to the year group and I have also had comments such as 'Y9 are a pleasure to teach' from the PE department. This is excellent to hear as their pastoral leader and I am sure you're happy to hear this too.

During our poppy celebration we laid a wreath that was fully completed, designed, painted and put together by Mrs Loxley and a group of students. A great showing of the kindness we have already mentioned and for such a worthy cause too. It was excellent to witness the wreath being put out, and it now resides in the atrium. The same group have also been making and decorating Christmas decorations for the tree.

We also have some students in our year group representing England at a national level, who are Lillie Mae Peck and Imanie Burdett. Lillie for Youth Coed Dance Advance Team England and Imanie for Team England HipHop, and I know they are working extremely hard alongside their studies to continue to progress in something they love which is extremely important. Further to this, we had Beatrise Birina who was recognised by England basketball and attended a training camp with them!

We have also had students receive dance awards, Liv Shorthose and Mia Conroy have been proud to receive their dance awards along with Amelia Dalby who came to me with 4 gold medals the other week from her gymnastics competition.

As well as this we have the dancers group; Miya, Imanie, Lois, Krystal and Lillie who have performed their Shirebrook's Got Talent dance on two occasions this year. Once to Stubbin Wood which was an amazing display of unity, with the Stubbin Wood students writing them thank you cards immediately after the event and more recently at Shirebrook stars.

We also have Aaron Cann who is going for a black belt and more recently undertook his first tournament which he thoroughly enjoyed. Add to this, our Year 9 boys football team who recently won 6-0 with Daniel Sharrock scoring a hat-trick but what was most pleasing about this fixture was their conduct and sportsmanship. And last but not least, the Y9 leaders who were praised for their kindness, enthusiasm and engagement at recent leadership events. We are extremely proud of them like we are of all of our students in our year group.

As we mentioned before, we truly do value everyone's contribution to this academy and every student can contribute to a positive atmosphere within our year group. This is reflected in our assemblies where students are proud to receive shout outs and student of the week awards.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year and look forward to what 2026 brings. Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 9 team

Y10

I would firstly like to thank every student, parent/carer and staff member for the positive welcome I have received since September. As a member of staff who has worked within the ACET trust for a number of years its been such an encouraging experience in working with students at the academy.

Year 10 students have embraced this community feel through the sports leaders, arts and enterprise groups who have contributed so much through the Autumn term.

The progress made by students has reflected an ever-improving year group with so many house points being awarded we finished 2nd on the school leaderboard only last week. We believe this is linked to the greater application towards learning and students preparing to be what we describe as a team 'year 11 ready'.

I hope this update finds you all well and myself Miss Nussey and Mr O'Reilly wish to thank all of the year 10 tutors who have worked so hard in supporting their groups to achieve so much this term.

A final message from the Year 10 Team, we wish you a truly happy festive break and a fantastic new year where all students will be exploring their work experience opportunities and preparing for the start of year 11.

Y11

Students have made an impressive start to their final GCSE year, demonstrating commitment, resilience and maturity during term 1. A key achievement has been their engagement with compulsory Period 6 sessions, where students have shown real dedication to consolidating knowledge, closing gaps and preparing effectively for upcoming examinations. This commitment was clearly reflected in the way students approached their trial examinations, tackling them with focus and determination and gaining valuable experience to inform their final preparation.

Beyond the classroom, Year 11 have also enjoyed notable sporting success, representing the school with pride and teamwork across a range of fixtures. Their leadership with lower year groups and sense of community have been further evident through successful prom fund raising efforts, showing initiative and collaboration. In addition, the appointment of student ambassadors has highlighted the strong role models within the year group, who are already stepping up to support younger students and the wider school community.

As we close the term, we wish all Year 11 students a very Merry Christmas and a well-earned, restful break. We look forward to welcoming them back refreshed in 2026, ready for the final push towards their GCSE examination



**Congratulations,
Teagan!**

We are absolutely delighted to congratulate Teagan Slaney on successfully passing her British Ice Skating test, a fantastic achievement that now opens the door for her involvement with the Great British squad. This milestone is a true reflection of Teagan's dedication, discipline, and countless hours of hard work both on and off the ice.

Her commitment and perseverance have been inspiring, and this success is richly deserved. We are immensely proud of Teagan and all that she has accomplished so far, and we have no doubt that this is just the beginning of an exciting journey ahead.

We wish Teagan every success as she takes this next step and represent British ice skating — we'll be cheering her on every glide of the way.

The Library - The Heart of Our School

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term, it's a pleasure to share what has been happening in our school library. Often described as the heart of the school, the library has been a warm, vibrant and welcoming space where students can read, study, create, and explore new ideas.

Our library has been alive with activity every day. We host a wide range of lunchtime and after-school events designed to engage students of all ages and interests. From reading groups and creative challenges to quiet study sessions and themed activities, there is always something happening.

Eplatform - Reading Anytime, Anywhere

We are proud to offer Eplatform, an online reading service that the school subscribes to, giving all students free access to hundreds of eBooks and Audiobooks.

Using their school-provided logins, students can read on almost any device. Eplatform has a free downloadable app for phones and iPads, and it can also be accessed on a PC, making reading more flexible and accessible than ever. Whether at home or on the go, students always have a library at their fingertips.

**FREE
BOOKS**  **ePlatform**
for all students and staff!

Log into ePlatform or download the app to access hundreds of free ebooks and audio books.

You can choose any book from those listed.

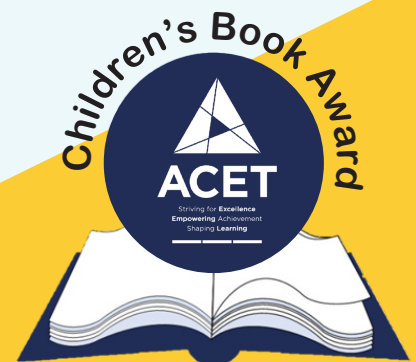
This will be yours for two weeks.
If the book you want is not available, add yourself to the waiting list.

ACET Book Awards - Celebrating Our Top Readers

Our ACBA Reading Pathway students in Years 7, 8 and 9, have all now been introduced to the ACET Book Awards, a year-long reading challenge. The aim is simple: to read as many books as possible throughout the year.

Along the way, students complete creative enrichment tasks for every book they finish. They are encouraged to think outside the box, whether that's through artwork, writing, presentations, or imaginative projects inspired by their reading.

At the end of the year, students involved in the ACET Book Awards are invited to a special presentation day. This celebratory event recognises their hard work and passion for reading, with prizes awarded for the most books read, the best enrichment tasks, and a variety of other achievements.



Excitement in English

This term has been an exciting and productive one in the English Faculty, with every year group producing fantastic work and demonstrating incredible effort. Year 7 began their studies by exploring the origins of storytelling, examining imaginative narratives inspired by myth, legend, and oral tradition. Year 8 delved into rhetoric and war poetry, developing powerful persuasive techniques; many students also wrote and delivered exceptional speeches that showcased confidence and creativity. We are so proud of all students who shared their work.

In Year 9, students explored key extracts from Great Expectations, building strong analytical foundations that

will support their transition into Key Stage 4 next year. Meanwhile, Year 10 have made an impressive start to their GCSE English Literature course, studying the drama text *An Inspector Calls* before moving on to the classic novella *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Finally, Year 11 have shown real dedication as they refine their English Language skills and revisit key literary concepts in preparation for their Trial Exams.

It has been a highly successful term, and the enthusiasm across all year groups promises even greater achievements ahead.



Mathematics

It's been an outstanding term for Shirebrook mathematicians, with students achieving impressive milestones across multiple areas.

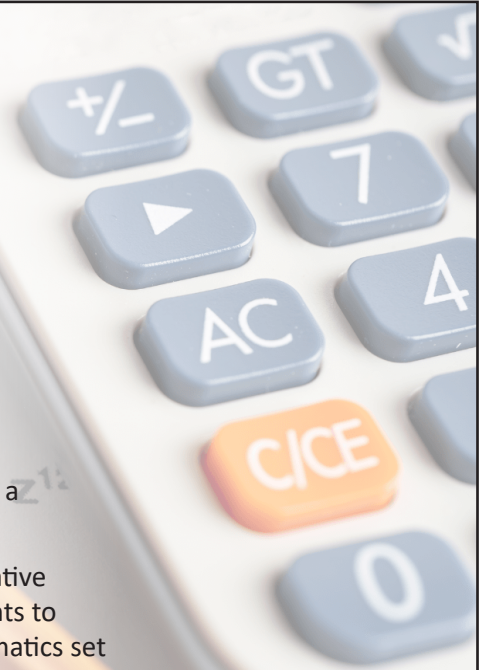
Our students have collectively completed **429,060 Sparx homework questions** - the highest completion rate across ACET Trust. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the dedication and consistency that builds mathematical fluency essential for examination success.

This term launched the **Axiom enrichment programme** for Year 7 and 8 students, introducing problem-solving and logical reasoning beyond the standard curriculum. Students have also been discovering **John Nash**, this half term's featured mathematician, whose ground breaking work in game theory earned him a Nobel Prize.

The popular **Maths Challenge of the Week** continues to engage students with creative problems. This week's festive "Chaotic Christmas Calculator" challenge asks students to decode Mr Nawaz's seasonal calculator phrase. Winners receive a coveted mathematics set and points toward rewards.

Entries can be submitted to mathematics teachers or placed in the Maths Box by Thursday's deadline each week.

Well done to all our mathematicians for their outstanding effort and engagement this term!



Would you like to contribute to our academy community?

Join our Local Governing Body

Governors are volunteers who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. You do not need to be education experts or have formal qualifications. Being a Governor will enable you to contribute to the success of our academy.

'Whatever your professional background, your skills could transform our academy'



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please speak with the principal if you are interested in this exciting role

www.astoncetrust.org

Striving for excellence • Empowering achievement

Computing, Business & Enterprise

The Computing, Business and Enterprise faculty have had a fantastic start to the academic year.

The Creative iMedia students had a wonderful time exploring Yorkshire Wildlife Park and took part in a Branding workshop. The staff at the park were fantastic and explained how they use specific images, typography and consistent colour schemes throughout all of their marketing literature. The skills and insight developed on the day continues to support our Creative iMedia students to complete their coursework task.

Some of our KS4 Enterprise students are busy getting ready for our Christmas fayre where they will bring their business ideas to life. Please come along and support our entrepreneurs to make the event a great success.



Personal Development & Careers

Post 16 Careers Event

This event was Shirebrook Academy's first careers-based activity of the academic year, to allow students and parents to know what options are available to them after Y11. The event was a chance for students to meet and discuss opportunities with local colleges, 6th forms and training and apprenticeship providers including, West Notts College, Chesterfield College, North Notts College All Saints Catholic Voluntary Academy, The Brunt's Academy, Inspire College, Royal Navy, Army, MSE Hiller, University of Derby, St Mary's Catholic High School, Nova 16 North and local football academies. Students attended during the school day and completed a round robin for the first half of the period, followed by a free flow of choice for them to speak with various stands of interest. Students could then return in the evening with their parents/carers of whom also received a presentation detailing the options available for their children. Thank you for your attendance both Post 16 providers and student parents/carers.



MSE Hiller – Made in Chesterfield Trip

A fantastic Engineering visit took place in October at MSE Hiller as part of the Made in Chesterfield event. A group of our Year 11 students had an exciting opportunity to meet employers, learn about how the sciences are applied in the lab, see a range of roles in action in the engineering workshop including Fabrication and Welding, Fitters, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and they were able to meet the Designers too!

This visit allowed the students to see how a variety of careers all work in partnership to make a successful workplace. Engineering is a multi-faceted industry with a wealth of opportunities for future generation employability.

The students discussed how their Post-16 pathways may lead to careers within the industry and engaged in discussions with the employers about the pathways into such careers including A levels, T-Levels, Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

Industry insights like this build fantastic working relationships with local businesses for the academy and raise aspirations. From Mrs Brown and Miss Evans - Thank you MSE Hiller for hosting us and well done to the attending students who were a credit to the academy today!

Y11 - Post 16 Destination Trips

Students have been offered trips and notified of several Post 16 open events to allow them to make informed decisions about their further education establishments. This year so far we have been welcomed by All Saints Catholic Academy, and Chesterfield College to have tours, visit classes, speak with tutors, and take part in taster sessions to gain a greater insight into what each had to offer to shape their future career paths. Students found the visits engaging and informative and it allowed them to make applications towards their preferred places.



Personal Development

A jammed packed morning saw the first PD Day of the academic year in October.

Year 7 investigated Hygiene and Puberty and understood how things may be changing and how to prepare them for it, as well as looking after their own personal and dental hygiene.

Year 8 focussed on Keeping Safe & Crime, some very raw topics covered including Knife Crime and First Aid, Hate Crime, and Gangs which were delivered internally and then Drugs and Alcohol awareness delivered externally by Sarah from CGL (Change, Grow, Live)

Life Choices was the topic for Year 9 to delve into – a mix of external and internal delivery and students engaged with sessions around Contraception, Unplanned Pregnancy, and Respectful Relationships, staff said the lessons were very impactful and generated some really good discussion points.

The Launch!!!! Y10 were introduced to the Work Experience Programme and had opportunities to research and contact potential companies to enquire about placements. We were also lucky to welcome external visitors for DANCOP offering workshops of Routes into Post 16 and AMEY discussing careers in Engineering.

Year 11 continued from their last Y10 PD Day at the next steps in their educational journeys and delved further into Post 16 Options and Careers and their topic for the morning. We had visitors from West Notts College offering their 'College Bingo' session and Chesterfield College giving details on their course that they offer. Study Skills and Artificial Intelligence were also on the Y11 agenda to support their exam preparations.

Y8 – CGL Workshop – Drugs & Alcohol Awareness



Y9 – Contraception Workshop offered by Meg Neill of Derbyshire Sexual Health



Y10 DANCOP – Routes to Post 16, AMEY – Engineering Careers



Y11 – West Notts 'College Bingo' and Y11 Chesterfield College – Course offer.



Careers Reminders



National Careers Service

WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK 13TH - 17TH JULY 2026



Can you support Shirebrook Academy with Work Experience?

Do you own a business and would like to support the future workforce within your industry?

Are you able to offer valuable knowledge and skills to one or several of our Year 10 students in your business during their work experience week **Monday 13th July - Friday 17th July 2026**?

We are looking for businesses within the community and local areas to potentially offer a placement in order to provide a fantastic opportunity and try a career idea, or develop skills and confidence for future progression.

If you feel you could support and offer a placement, please get in touch with **Kelly Brown** - Personal Development & Careers Coordinator



Tel: 01623 742722 • kbrown@shirebrookacademy.org

Y11 Parents/Carers to explore Open Event Opportunities with their Child for different providers of Interest
(Places can also be contacted directly to arrange a visit)

Y11 Applications for Colleges, 6th forms and Training Providers should be made as soon as possible to secure places – (applying for more than one college/course is advisable).

Y11 Seeking Apprenticeships still highly advised to apply for course as well as a parallel plan.

Y10 Work Experience remember to contact employers either by email, phone or face to face to secure your placement.

All students can use the following websites to research careers and sectors:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>
<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors>

Behaviour & Rewards



Throughout this term there have been various opportunities for students to be rewarded for their positive behaviour choices. There have been over 109, 000 House Points issued to Shirebrook students during the first term with every student at Shirebrook having achieved a House Point. The majority of these House Points have been issued for outstanding effort or engagement this alongside the large numbers of house points received for students displaying our character values and traits of success shows how committed Shirebrook students are to their learning and be being the best version of themselves.

A special mention to the following students who are currently leading the way for House points:

Miley	Peters-Moore	10NSM	317
Eric	Chen	10RKE	308
Rio	Scott	9AFI	295
Arlo	Peterson	10CWH	294
Taiwo	Fakoya	9RDA	287
Katelyn	Stevens	10CWH	276
Koby-Jay	Wheat	10LWH	273
Gursahib	Singh	9AMA	269
Darcie	Allen	9AFI	268
Maddison	Tansley	10NSM	265
Imanie	Burdett	9AFI	265

This term we rewarded nearly 50 students who since September have consistently shown the character values of the Academy whilst making certain they are following the traits of success. We hold all our students to a high standard and expectation day to day and the criteria for a Bronze award is no different. All the students being rewarded with a Bronze Star award have:

- Been present 100% of the academic year so far
- Consistently shown compassion, honesty, courage, kindness and/or integrity
- Met the standards and expectations for student behaviour across the academy
- Achieved 100 house points through their outstanding approach to their learning and the effort they have shown in lessons
- Have taken an active role in the life of the Academy through regular participation in extra-curricular activities.

This term we have been rewarding forms with excellent attendance with giving them the choice of the song that plays the Academy out as they leave on a Friday. A special mention to 9JBW who have been top of the attendance charts twice since November.

During the first 3-week Attendance Block before October half term 436 students achieved a 100% streak and were awarded their first attendance badge. We will be looking to reward more students for their 100% attendance streak for the second block that finishes at the end of this term.

Supporting

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

In September, our Year 10 Health & Social Care students organised a Macmillan Bake Sale for our students, raising awareness and support for this incredibly important charity.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who donated cakes, helping make the event a sweet success.

Get baking for next years!

Y10 Health & Social



WE RAISED OVER £200

Let's get physical - News from PE

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting autumn term for our PE department, with students across all year groups taking part in a wide range of fixtures and events. Our teams have been actively involved in Netball, Football, and Handball, competing weekly against local schools in the Bolsover district.

Fixtures Schedule:

Girls' fixtures: Wednesdays

Boys' fixtures: Thursdays

Throughout the term, we have both hosted and travelled to matches against Heritage School, The Bolsover School, Frederick Gents School, and Tibshelf School, providing fantastic opportunities for our students to showcase their skills and sportsmanship.

In addition to the weekly fixtures, we have also enjoyed two rugby taster days. These full-day sessions took place at Tupton RFC, combining expert coaching with competitive games, giving students a real taste of rugby in a professional environment.

Our younger students have also been busy, with two Y7 futsal events for both boys and girls, allowing them to develop teamwork, agility, and ball control in a fast-paced environment.

Across the term, we have participated in over 30 fixtures, with more than 150 students representing the school—a remarkable achievement and testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our young athletes.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their dedication, sportsmanship, and hard work throughout the term, and we look forward to building on this success in the upcoming season. If you want to get involved, please check out the bulletin, see the board outside the PE office or speak with any PE staff!



Our Year 9 and Year 10 Young Leaders have had an outstanding term, volunteering at 9 different events for Key Stage 1, 2, and 3 students across a variety of sports and activities.

Collectively, they have given up over 10 hours of their time, developing important skills such as leadership, teamwork, and organisation. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed—both the SSP Bolsover District staff and staff from the participating schools have praised their professionalism, enthusiasm, and positive impact on the events.

A huge well done to all members of the Leadership Academy at Shirebrook for their commitment and inspiring example to younger students!



PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE KEY DATES
THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR

TERM DATES

JANUARY 2026

- 5 Return to School
- 14 Y11 Art & Photography City Visit
- 20 Y9 The Deep
- 22 Inclusion Parents Evening (School Cloud)
- 26-30 National Storytelling Week
- Y11 Leeds Armouries

FEBRUARY 2026

- 6 ACET Winter Sports Day
- 9 Y9 Consultation Evening / Options
- 9-13 Y11 Trial Speaking Exams
- 11 Bolsover Rowing Finals
- 13 Finish for Half Term
- 23 Return to School
- 24 Y11 Trial Exams Start (All Subjects)

MARCH 2026

- 2 Y7 Lincoln Trip
- 5 World Book Day
- 9 Y9 Holocaust Centre
- 10 Y9 Holocaust Centre
- 11 Y9 School of Artisan Cooking and Food
Personal Development Day
- 16 BTEC Sports / HSC Assessment Day (Y10)
- 17 KS3 Shirebrook Stars
- 18 Rewards Day
Y9 School of Artisan Cooking and Food
- 19 KS4 Shirebrook Stars
- 23 Y10 PSA Drop Down Day
- 25 Y10 Mock Interviews
Y9 School of Artisan Cooking and Food
- 27 Academy Closes for Easter Break



Shirebrook
ACADEMY

ACADEMY UNIFORM



Also available are tracksuit bottoms and skirts in various sizes

Uniform can be ordered and paid for via
Parentpay, at student reception, or direct from
our supply shop by visiting in store or online.

SUPPLY SHOP

The Schoolwear Centre
69A West Gate, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 1RU

Tel: 01623 650782

www.schoolwearsolutions.com



POLITE NOTICE PARENTS

If you need to speak to a particular member of staff and they are unavailable on the telephone, be assured your details will be forwarded on and they will call you as soon as possible. Whilst we appreciate there may be times when you need to see a member of staff regarding a specific issue, we ask that you please be aware that staff at the academy work to a timetable and are often not available. Please do not arrive at the academy without an appointment expecting to see someone.

If you require a face to face meeting, please call our reception on 742722 and we will endeavour to arrange an appointment for you at the earliest convenience to suit both parties.

Thank You

OPENING HOURS

Monday	09:30 - 15:30
Wednesday	09:30 - 15:30
Friday	09:30 - 15:30
Saturday	10:00 - 13:00



Keep up to date with the
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Tel: 01623 742722



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