



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 383

17th December
2021

Ms Webster's End of Term Letter - End of term arrangements

Dear Parent / Carer

Tuesday, 21 December will be a non-uniform day for students, there is no charge for this. Students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm and the school buses will be available at this earlier time. There will be an extended canteen service available at break time for all students. Those entitled to the Free School Meal allowance will be able to access it at break time.

The Autumn Term of 2021 has felt, in many respects, like a huge step back towards normality. We have focused firmly on routines and expectations, and, as always, the school motto, 'Learn, Dream, Achieve,' lies at the heart of everything we do.

One of our priorities this term has been offer students in all year groups a wide range of enrichment opportunities, both within and beyond the school day. Year 7 students have accessed a multitude of lunchtime clubs which contribute to the Sharples Baccalaureate. Many Year 9 students have signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the PE department are reporting record numbers of students attending extra-curricular sessions. We have also hosted our first residential trip of the year, with 150 Year 8 students attending the 'Night at the Museum' experience in Birmingham.

One of this term's highlights was Open Evening, which was incredibly well attended and resulted in fantastic feedback from many of the visiting families. Our current students played a huge part in ensuring that the event was successful through their roles as Subject Ambassadors and Tour Guides, I was incredibly proud of them all. As a result of this event and our extensive transition programme we are very pleased to report that this year we have received almost 800 applications for places at Sharples. Once again, Sharples is significantly oversubscribed.

As we move towards the start of the new term, I want to remind you that we have high standards in relation to appearance at Sharples and the full uniform policy can be accessed on the school website. To maintain our high standards, I would like to remind you that, school trousers should be black, formal and full length. Jeggings, leggings or jean style trousers are not acceptable. In addition, socks should be plain black or white, trainer socks are not allowed. For further details, please refer to our website –<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/policies/>

As we are now in the midst of winter with frequent inclement weather, it is important to note that your child will be outside at some points during the school day. It is therefore recommended that your child has a warm coat and an umbrella with them every day.

For those of you who have consented to your child being part of the on-going Covid home testing programme, we will be providing your child with additional test kits prior to the



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Christmas break. We recommend that you maintain the twice weekly testing routine through the holiday period and that you continue to upload the results using 'TestRegister'. In line with Government guidance, students will also be tested in school when they return for the start of the new term.

On a final note, I hope that you all enjoy a well-earned Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming our students back to school ready for a prompt start to registration at 8.45am on Thursday, 6 January 2022.

Yours faithfully

Ann Webster
Headteacher

[Click here to view the original letter as a PDF.](#)

Reporting an absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

A Christmas Carol Masterclass

To aid with their study of A Christmas Carol, some of our students took part in a masterclass focusing on themes, perceptive ideas and applying these ideas in essay writing. The students were absolutely brilliant and had access to some excellent contextual notes that will no doubt help them with their study now and in Year 11. The students particularly enjoyed exploring the characters of Ignorance and Want and the role they played in Scrooge's transformation. Students then returned to their English lessons with exciting and interesting ideas for their teachers and their peers!

Overall, it was an excellent session and one that Mr Hesford thoroughly enjoyed supervising. Needless to say he was terribly excited for the next session! Well done to everyone who participated, it was a wonderful opportunity.

Term Dates 2022/23

The term dates and other key dates for the academic year 2022/23 can be found on the school website:

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/term-dates/>



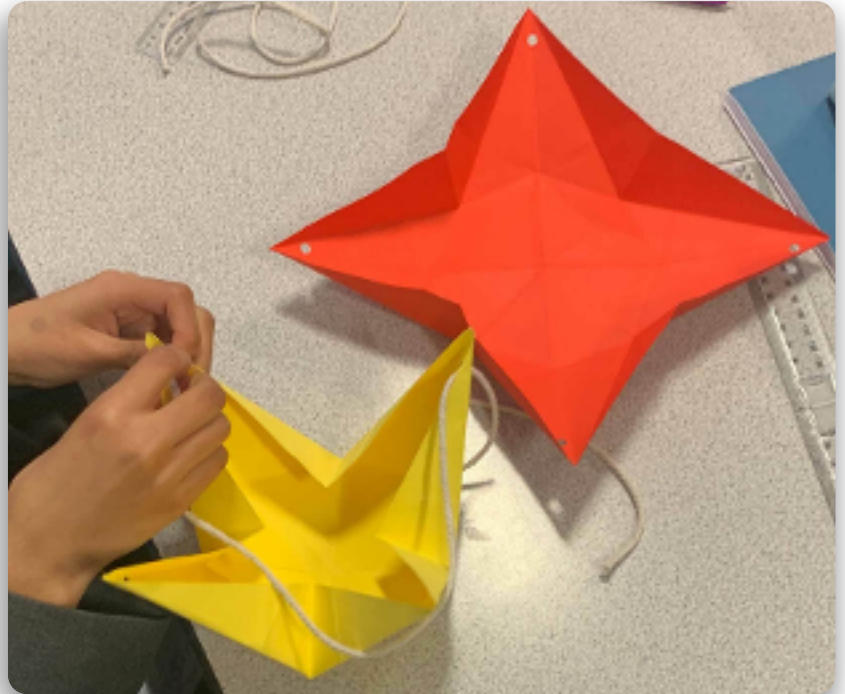


Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Origami Christmas Decoration Designs



Year 7 had a great time in their maths lesson this week, putting their new skills on angles and triangles to good use! During the lesson everyone created a hanging origami Christmas decoration to take home. Well done Year 7!





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Maths PPE Information

Year 10

Year 10 students will complete their PPEs week commencing 10th January. There will be two maths papers - one non-calculator paper (13th Jan) and one calculator paper (14th Jan). These assessments are very important as they will help staff and students to identify where the gaps in learning are so that we can address these in preparation for GCSE.

All Year 10 students will be provided with a revision list and a copy of the "Ready? Set? Go?" mathematics study resource to support them with their independent revision. Teachers will spend time in lessons this week showing students how to use these most effectively. The resource includes cut-out flashcards, key skills revision, command word definitions, and clear sections with 'how to' instructions and practice questions with answers.

Years 7, 8 and 9

Years 7, 8 and 9 will also have Mid Year Assessments in January. These will take place on the following dates:

- Monday 17th January P2/6 - Y7 non-calculator
- Tuesday 18th January P2/5 - Y8 non-calculator
- Tuesday 18th January P4/6 - Y9 non-calculator
- Thursday 20th January P3/6 - Y7 calculator
- Thursday 20th January P2/4 - Y9 calculator
- Friday 21st January P5/6 - 8 calculator

Preparing for your maths assessment?

The best way to revise maths is to practise maths.

Year 10 can use the practice questions in the study resource.

Mathswatch is available to all years and also has practice questions.

Make sure you take time to learn any formulae you need. Start revising early and try to revise little and often.

Revising a little bit every day will help you to remember more than if you do a very long revision session the day before the exam.

Make sure you bring the equipment you need to your exam. You will need a pen, pencil and ruler. You will also need a calculator.

Having a good scientific calculator that you know how to use can make a huge difference to your assessment score.

The school recommended calculator is the Casio Classwiz FX-83GTX for foundation tier students or the Casio Classwiz FX-991EX for higher tier students.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Performing Arts

It has been a very busy term for Performing Arts with rehearsals, performances and theatre trips. The Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Trip was a great opportunity for our students to watch a live show, before their own Performance Evening, especially our Year 10 students who were inspired to further develop their own devised pantomime, using Brechtian techniques. All students (and staff!) enjoyed the experience enormously with lots of audience participation and laughter.

Sleeping Beauty



In October, students were delighted to attend a music trip to the Victoria Hall to watch a mesmerising Concert by Chetham's School of Music. It was a wonderful afternoon of solo and ensemble pieces and students were inspired by the stunning performances. Year 11's Caden said "The professionalism and regal nature of experiencing such high quality classical music live was extremely inspiring to me as a student planning to work in theatre." Maryam added, "The standard of the ensemble was amazing. It gave me goosebumps!"



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Students enjoyed another theatre trip to Bolton School where they watched a compelling performance of Clockwork, performed in the Great Hall. This was an adaptation of and departure from Anthony Burgess' novel, A Clockwork Orange. A senior school production, performed by students from years 10-13, the play focused on what it is like to wish to make a change in a world that is run by adults. Congratulations to all the cast for a bold and thought-provoking piece of theatre.

Our own KS4 Performance Evening took place on 7th December at Sharples Theatre and included some gritty performances, including excerpts from Othello, Metamorphosis, A Doll's House and Blood Brothers. Congratulations and well done to all students who took part, including the cast of Grease who gave us a sneaky preview of next year's school production.



Othello and Grease rehearsals will continue in the new year for our forthcoming school productions in 2022. Watch this space for further details!

Reminder: Don't forget, if you'd like your child to learn a musical instrument or have vocal lessons, please contact a.stevens@sharplesschool.co.uk for further details.

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Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Science Enrichment

Careers in Science Competition

The Year 8 Careers in Science Competition saw some amazing entries, where students were challenged to create a science career profile, with the best profiles being displayed around the science department to raise awareness of the many job opportunities available to our students following a science education. Congratulations to:

1st - Aminah Patel 8H

2nd - Abigaella Nyiraneza 8R

3rd - Leah Slater 8R



Disability History Month

This month is Disability History Month and, after school on Wednesday, our students celebrated with popcorn while enjoying a screening of The Theory of Everything, the Stephen Hawking biopic. Please click the link to watch the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Salz7uGp72c>

Please click the link for more information about Disability History Month:

<https://ukdhm.org/>

See the next page for pictures.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter



Animal Care - Smithills Farm Trip

On Wednesday, 90 of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students visited Smithills Farm to complete part of their Animal Care coursework. The students handled reptiles, chicks and rabbits, watched cows being milked and fed lots of different farm animals whilst learning all about the workings of a dairy farm. Thanks to Miss Fairhurst, Mr Whittle, Mr Wilcox and Miss Mackey for supporting the trip! *Miss S. Booth - KS3 Science Coordinator*





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter



Astronomy - National Space Centre Trip

On Thursday, 30 of our Year 9 and 10 Astronomy students visited the National Space Centre, Leicester, where they ascended the 42 metre, 144 steps rocket tower (before bravely eating lunch beneath it!), explored the exhibition galleries collecting information for use back in the classroom, enjoyed a guided planetarium tour of the night sky and put their theory into practice by participating in a rocket science competition, budgeting for, building and launching their own mini-rockets.

Thanks to Miss Ainsworth and Miss Emmerson for supporting the trip!



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SCHOOL

Newsletter



Do Try This at Home!

Finally, from all of the Science at Sharples team, we hope you have a great break, and if you are looking for something engaging and educational Do Try This at Home is a series of fun Science experiments with short demonstration videos and simple, step-by-step instructions that can be carried out using only household objects:

<https://www.iop.org/explore-physics/at-home#gref>

Mr J. Harding - Science Enrichment Coordinator, Space Education Lead

Year 8 Futsal Tournament

The Year 8 Futsal team took part in a tournament this past Tuesday. Despite results not going their way the team showed great resilience to give it their all until the very end. It was a great learning experience for the team coming up against teams from Thornleigh, Eden & Smithills.

The event was a competitive one and we would like to thank Smithills for hosting.

We will be looking to arrange some Year 8 fixtures upon our return in the new year.

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SCHOOL

Newsletter

English Department's Work of the Week

This term in English we have been studying a range of different texts, developing our analytical skills and creative writing. By using the hyperlinks below, you can see some wonderful examples of the excellent work our students have been working on throughout the term.

In Year 7, students have been working on their creative writing skills and have been planning sentences and structures to write a story titled 'The First Day'. They have also been studying numerous short stories, exploring the imagery created by the writers and the different ways writers hook readers into their writing. Furthermore, Year 7 have also started their study of poetry from other cultures, expanding their knowledge and understanding of other societies. The students have excelled in their first term at Sharples and have done very well. [Click here to view a selection of the best Year 7 work.](#)

In Year 8, students have been developing the creative writing skills that they worked on during Year 7. They have worked hard on writing a guide and making sure this was written in a formal, professional manner. They have also recently completed their study of Blood Brothers and have thoroughly enjoyed looking at different themes across the text. They have also started their study of British Poetry and have shown great enthusiasm for older texts that have shaped the language we use today. [Click here to view a selection of the best Year 8 work.](#)

Year 9 have delved straight into the Victorian Era with their study of Jekyll and Hyde, exploring themes of duality, repression and mystery. They have thoroughly enjoyed looking at the language of the text and how Stevenson engages a reader. Their creative writing skills have been further developed as they have been studying varying fiction and non-fiction texts that relate to the theme of gender. Furthermore, they have developed their poetry skills, now focusing on the theme of conflict. [Click here to view a selection of the best Year 9 work.](#)

Year 10 have developed their literary critic skills, working on their poetry whilst focusing on love and relationships. They have worked hard on making sure they can make links across poems and ensuring they are well equipped to analyse and comment on poetry. They have also studied A Christmas Carol and ensured their annotations are detailed, well developed and linked to the context of the writing. [Click here to view a selection of the best Year 10 work.](#)

Year 11 have worked exceptionally hard this term with mocks exams, revision and essay



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

answers part of their daily routine. All students worked well, developing their writing and analytical skills whilst also ensuring they have revised for their Literature texts. They have also started An Inspector Calls this term, which has taken Year 11 by storm, all students have been engaged, intrigued and thoroughly interested in the narrative and how the characters have been portrayed. Click here to view a selection of the best Year 11 work. Well done to all students, they have worked exceptionally hard and should be immensely proud of their achievements.

Readers of the Week

Year 7: Farah Ahmed Muhumed for being very passionate during his reading of 'Trash'.

Year 8: Darcie Lomax for a dramatic reading of a poem.

Year 9: Max Jameson for excellent reading in English.

Year 10: Mikaeel Atcha for reading A Christmas Carol with passion.

Year 11: Layton Smith for an excellent impression of Mr Birling.

Christmas Photo Competition winners announced

Christmas Photo Competition Winners!

Bright Futures
We are all winners. Together!



★
Darah Morrell
Rudheath Senior Academy
Year 7



★
Aimee Matthews
Sharples School
Year 9



★
Adam Blezard
Delamere School
Rabbit Class



★ Alex Almond, Didsbury CE Primary School
Year 2



★ Jacob Davies, Sharples School
Year 9

We are excited to confirm that Aimee Matthews and Jacob Davies are both Christmas Photo Competition winners!

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SCHOOL

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Mathematician of the month announced



Congratulations to the winners of Novembers Mathematician of the month! These students have been working really hard throughout November and earned themselves a goody bag and a postcard home. Who will be the winners next month...



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SCHOOL

Newsletter

Accelerated Reader Winners



This week in English, 8pEn3 were crowned The Accelerated Reader Winners! They read the most books in their year group and completed the most quizzes this half term and were treated to a party with a movie, pizza, popcorn and chocolates.

The numbers have been reset, so next half term everyone will start on an equal footing. Students are encouraged to start reading in the holidays to help their class win next half term! Well done, everyone!

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GCSE English Language Masterclass



Last week, we had Year 11 students from across the year group participating in the English language masterclasses delivered by Bolton Sixth Form College. Students were able to gain valuable examination tips and explore ways on how to provide critical analysis and evaluation of both fiction and non-fiction texts. The session also proved to be a great reflection point for many of our students as they look forward to their formal GCSE examinations.

All in all, it was a fantastic turn out from our Year 11 students who showed great enthusiasm and engagement during the course of the sessions!

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SCHOOL

Newsletter

A great first term for our netballers!



It has been brilliant to see the number of girls attending netball club since the start of September. Year 8 and Year 9 have made great progress since last year which has been demonstrated through recent results, most notably against Bolton School, Canon Slade, Westhoughton and King's. A mention must also go to our Year 7 squad who have shown great commitment since the start of term and have made improvements each week. Tuesday saw the last training session of 2021 with a Christmas twist and some treats for all of the hard work and dedication the girls have shown over the last few months.

We look forward to plenty more fixtures in the new year! Well done girls!

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SCHOOL

Newsletter

Attendance Figures (13th December - 17th December)

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 95.68%
Year 8 = 95.89%
Year 9 = 91.89%
Year 10 = 93.64%
Year 11 = 92.73%

Best forms this week:

7P = 99.15%
8L = 98.47%
9S = 98.52%
10P = 97.77%
11E = 98.56%

330 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 21st December
- Last day of term
(students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm)

Wednesday 5th January
2022 - Staff Training Day
(school closed to pupils)

Thursday 6th January
2022 - All pupils return to school.

Career of the Week: Interior Designer

Interior designers plan and supervise the layout and decoration of the inside of buildings.

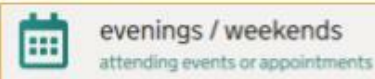
Average Salary:



Typical hours:
(per week)



You could work:



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, college course, an apprenticeship or working towards this role.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and a creative subject.
- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma or 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

Skills required:

- Design skills and knowledge.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Customer service skills.
- The ability to come up with new ways of doing things.
- Knowledge of building and construction.

Relevant Subjects:

- English, Maths, Art, Photography and Graphics.

Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/interior-designer>

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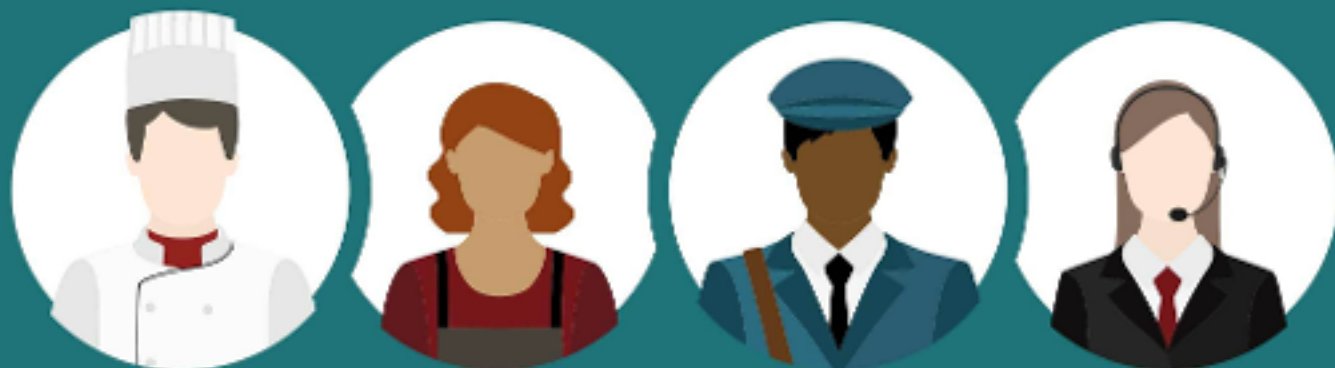
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Work Experience 2022



Our Year 10 students are currently looking for Work Experience placements during the week of 7-11th March. If you, your employer or anyone you may know can source a placement for our students, please contact our Raising Aspirations Lead Mrs N Patel at n.patel1@sharplesschool.co.uk or contact our school on 01204 333253.

We aim to provide our students with the best opportunities in order to prepare them with the correct skills and knowledge needed for the world of work.



Careers &
Enterprise
at Sharples School

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 Raising
Aspirations



A podcast for students,
exploring all things Science,
college, university and careers...

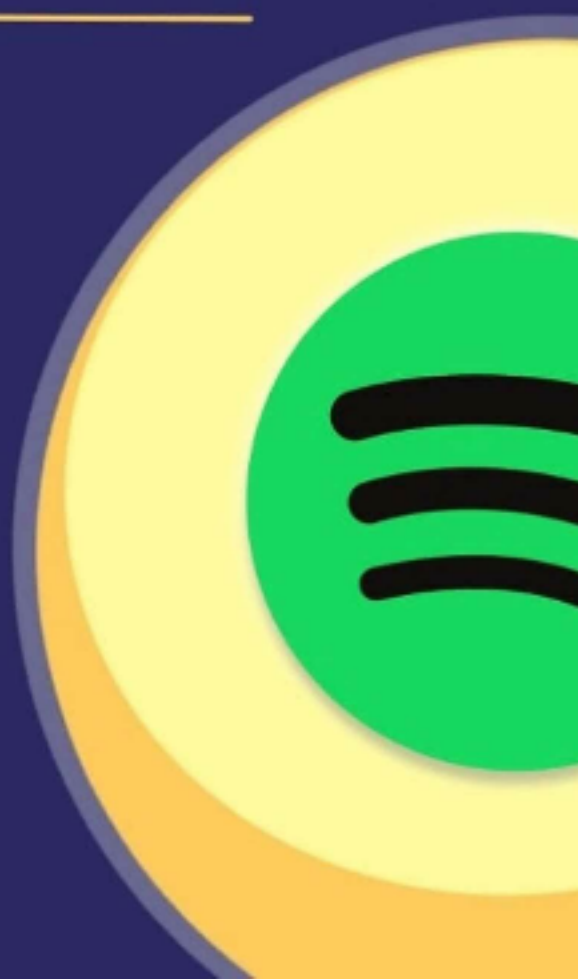
FOR THE LOVE OF THE UNIVERSE

C. Johnson

J. Harding



Stream Series 2
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Give us a listen and get in touch at:
fortheloveoftheuniverse13.8@gmail.com

Mellors

FLEXING OUR MENUS IN challenging TIMES

Like many restaurants and caterers, Mellors local suppliers are experiencing shortages of certain food items from sausages and peas to margarine and cooking oils.

This is due to various pressures in the food chain. These include low numbers of crop pickers in the farms, staff shortages due to Covid, lorry driver shortages both to and from our suppliers and the impact of brexit (remember Brexit?)

WHERE THERE ARE SHORTAGES,
MELLORS WILL SUBSTITUTE WITH OTHER
INGREDIENTS TO ENSURE YOU ALWAYS
GET A FRESH AND HEALTHY LUNCH.

