



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 355
26th March
2021

Ms Webster's End of Spring Term Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

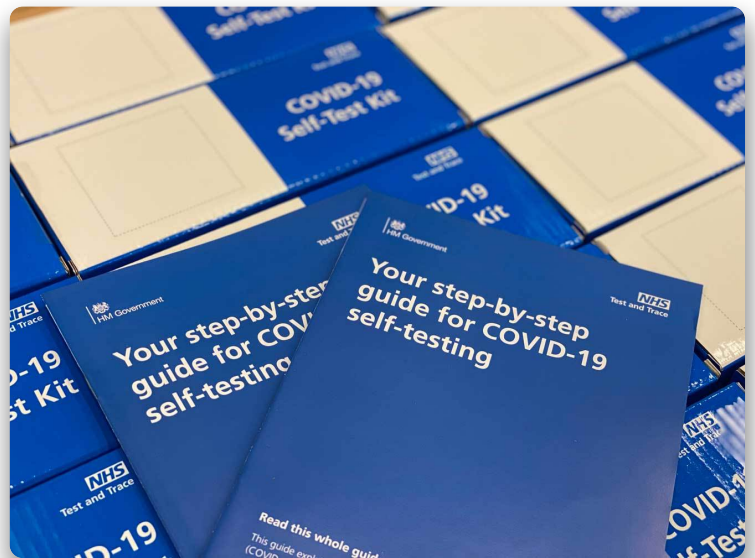
I hope you and your family are well. As we approach the end of this term, I would like to update you on what we have achieved at Sharples despite the many challenges posed by the current national lockdown.

Since I last wrote to you, our students have returned to school and have recommenced face-to-face learning. They have settled back quickly into school routines and positive learning habits. It is great to see Sharples returning to 'business as usual' and demonstrating that it continues to be a vibrant and focused learning community, despite all of the upheavals of the last twelve months.

I have been particularly impressed by the maturity of the students who have been part of our in-school Covid testing programme. Their behaviour in the test centre has been impeccable and has generated positive feedback from both staff and volunteers.

Throughout this week, as students are tested in school for the final time, they will be given two kits, each containing three tests to enable them to test at home. The students should test twice a week over the Easter break and during the first week back at school. Following this, students will be issued with additional kits. All test results must be recorded on the schools Test Register - a link will automatically be sent twice a week (Sunday and Thursday) for students to register the result.

Additional instructions can be found by [clicking here](#).



Since returning to in-school learning, we have been very busy and a look at our school calendar reveals that even in the current circumstances we are offering a varied diet of enrichment opportunities for our students, including a range of in-school clubs. As a Science College we celebrate the annual STEM week and this year has been no exception. We have hosted a range of STEM events for our students including: Observatory Workshops,



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Astronomy Lectures, the Marble Run Challenge, Game Design Workshops and a Maths Virtual Escape Room. As always, I would encourage you to read our weekly newsletter and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with our school events and successes.

One of my recent highlights was the Year 6 Offer Day on 1 March when the Senior Leadership Team made 240 “welcome” phone calls to our new families. Their positive and, at times, emotional feedback underlined how significant the move from primary to secondary school is within the educational journey of our students. Over the coming months, we will put our highly effective transition programme into action to ensure that these new students and their families are warmly welcomed into the Sharples family.

On a final note, we have high standards in relation to appearance at Sharples that we expect all students to adhere to. The full Uniform Policy and details of our expectations linked to shoes, jewellery, hair and make-up can be accessed on the school website <http://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/policies/>.

We finish school for the Easter break at 3.05pm on Friday, 26 March and I hope that all of our students have a safe, enjoyable and restful break. We look forward to welcoming our students back, to school, on Monday 12 April, with a prompt start to registration at 8.45am.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Webster

Headteacher

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

Instructions for both TestRegister and the NHS testing booklet can be found (in the same document) by clicking [here](#).



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

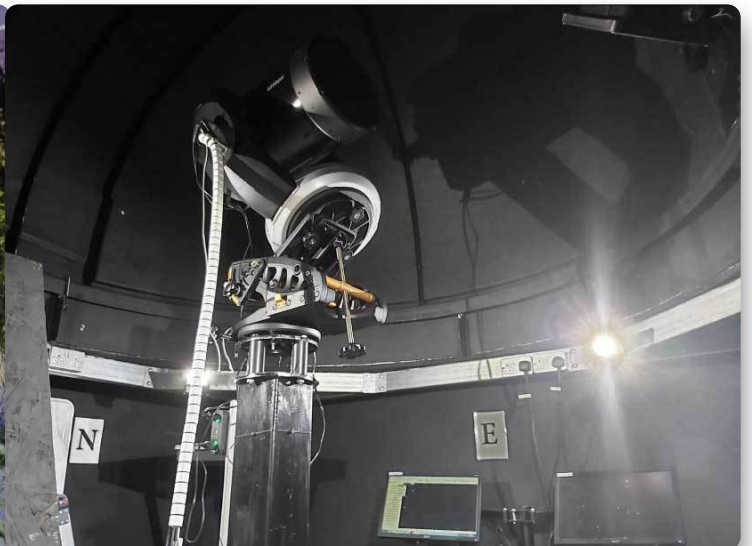
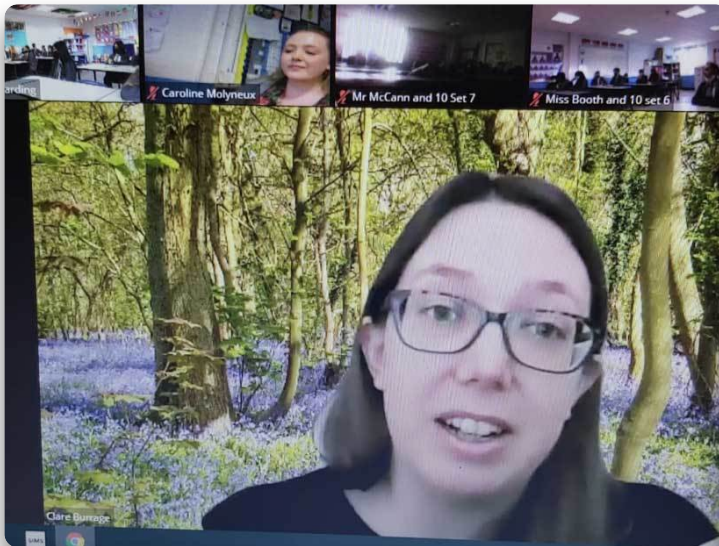
STEM Week 2021 - Part 2

Last week was STEM Week at Sharples and saw the Science team running a series of enrichment events for our students across all year groups each and every day. There was so much activity, we only had space to report on the first part last week, so read on for Part 2!

Year 7 Science Club

Over lunch on Thursday, Miss Dudley and Mr McCann were carrying out exciting practical activities with Year 7, including investigating LEDs, building hovercrafts and attempting an origami challenge! Practical work is a key hands-on skill for our Science students to develop, deepening their knowledge and understanding by enabling them to put their classroom theory into real-world practice.

Astronomy and Astrophysics



On Friday morning, Year 10 had the opportunity in lessons to pose questions to Clare Burrage, Professor of Physics at the University of Nottingham, in a live Q&A session via Zoom (above left). Professor Burrage has been awarded the Maxwell Medal and Prize by the Institute of Physics for her outstanding contributions to the field of dark energy research, trying to understand why the expansion of the universe is accelerating. Thanks to Miss Dudley for hosting. Year 10 also had the opportunity to visit our observatory and use the telescope with Mr Harding in the afternoon (above right).



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Science Museum Virtual Tour

Looking for somewhere to (virtually) visit over Easter? The Science Museum is offering some great resources on its website due to the pandemic causing it to remain closed. They are also offering a virtual tour of the museum and curator gallery guides:

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/virtual-tour-science-museum>

Thanks to Miss Fairhurst for sharing the link.

And thanks again to all the Science teaching and technician team who supported enrichment events for our students to enjoy during STEM Week, giving up their time to cover and deliver successful sessions.

Article by Mr J. Harding - Science Enrichment Coordinator

Further events across the school during the second part of the week included:

Arcade Game Design Workshop

Maths Club Launch

Maths Fest

And finally, Science is not just for the Scientists, we leave you with a musing poem about STEM by Mr Ormsby...

Constellation Prize

The figure on the mountain knew
Far higher than the eagle flew
Beyond the sun and past the light
Were men who crossed the sky by night.

Soon after dusk their fires appeared
Then slowly, once a course was steered
Their caravan set out en masse
To make its empyreal pass.

Like beasts migrating on the plains
Like swarms that form to greet the rains
He found no word for the amount



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Of travellers he sought to count.

A gallery would pass him by
Whose outlines seemed to signify
Proud emblems of a noble clan
Led by an even greater man.

The bearing, always east to west
Suggested they were on a quest
Or maybe searching for a door
They'd passed through in a time before.

And so each night he danced and prayed
Around the fire he had made
In hope his kin might see its glow
Then show him all he wished to know.

So with the last beat from his breast
Great Spirit granted this request
And drew his outline in the sky
That men as he should never die.

Maths Fest!

STEM week concluded with the Year 7 Maths Fest! Students worked in pairs to race around the Year 7 zone, finding and completing a series of challenges and puzzles to try to win the prizes. All students taking part demonstrated fantastic teamwork skills, and it was a close fought competition between the winning teams. Well done to our prize winners Finley Birchall, Ahmed Dawood, Faheemah Patel, Aaminah Patel and Leon Allonby.





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Sharples Stars Winners

During the recent lockdown students were awarded star points for all their efforts at home with distance learning and with extra-curricular activities. This week, in online assemblies, the overall winner in each year group was announced and the head of year entered their form room to present them with their prize, Love to Shop vouchers.

The top 15 Sharples Stars pupils in each year group will also receive a reward activity this week. On Tuesday Year 10 and 11 students received a special breakfast with their year coordinators. Years 7-9 have some chill time sessions planned with snacks, music, board games and Nintendo Switch games.

Well done to all the winners!

Sharples Stars Overall Winners

Brandon Howarth 7R

Sanna Gija 8P1

Khadijah Alli 9S1

Samuel Crompton 10P

Rebecca Brown 11E





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

English Department - Work of the Week

Year 7

Isabel Flanagan has written a brilliant descriptive piece!

The not so normal forest

It was an ordinary day, just like any other, until...



The shimmery sunset had risen, it raised as if angels were carrying it. I was meant to be meeting my friends today and we were going to a forest. A lot of people claim that it is a “haunted” forest, but we don’t believe that, in fact none of us do. I had got all of my stuff and started walking. It was a very bright and warm day.

I could see all of my friends, they all brought snacks and offered me a drink. We investigated it and were telling each other creepy stories about the “haunted” forest. We laughed and laughed, until we heard a noise, but it wasn’t just any noise, it sounded like someone was screaming. Things began to get weird; the sky started raining and it started to get cold. The trees began to shake and the leaves started to slowly fall off the branches. Everything got so intense that a massive tree nearly crushed all of us. I could hear people whisper my name, screams were all around us, wherever we went. It was like demons were watching over us. The deafening screams terrified us as we walked.

We started to run as fast as cheetahs. Suddenly a loud scream traumatized us all! It was almost as if spirits were screaming right against our ears. But luckily, we made it out. It looks like people were right after all, that forest will be haunted forever.



Sharples

SCHOOL

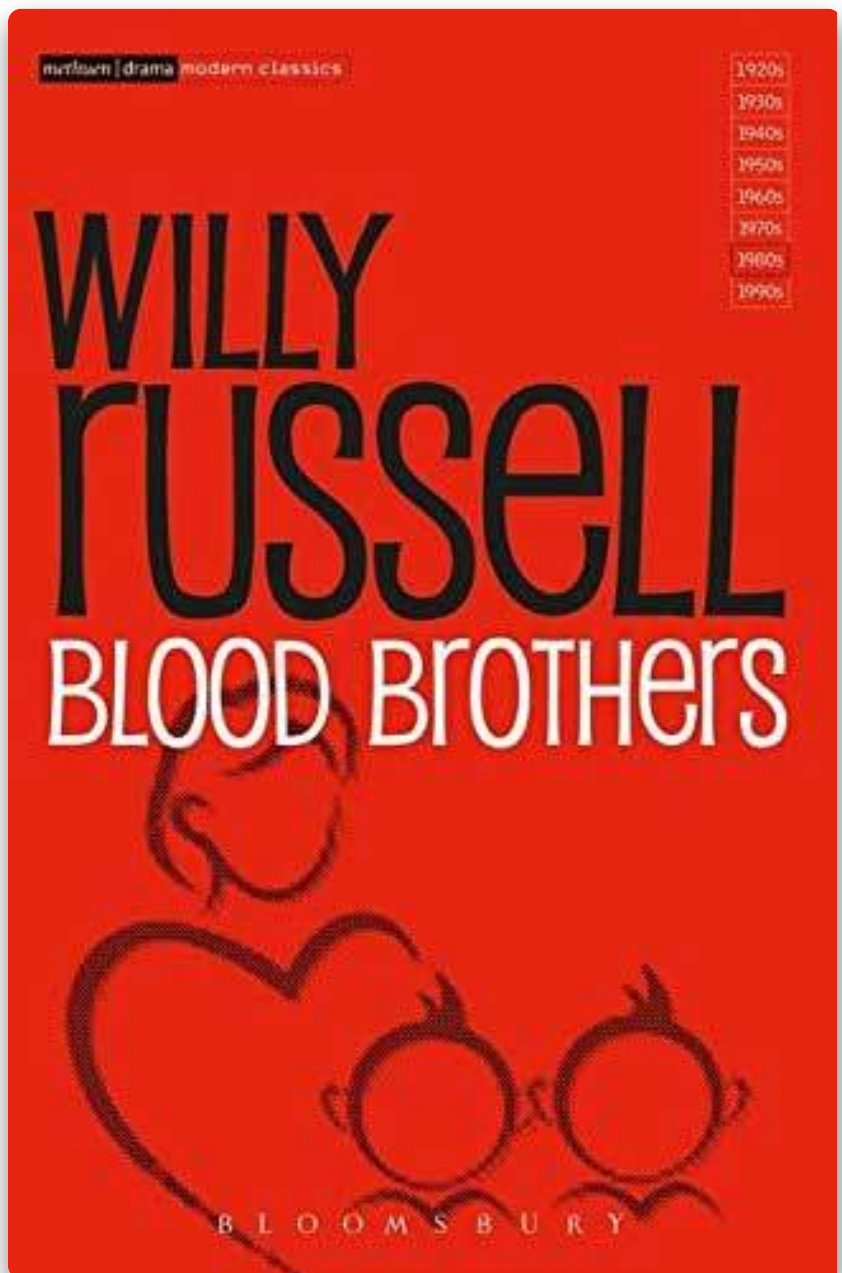
Newsletter

Year 8

Nikita Hayes has written a fantastic diary entry from the point of view of Mickey in Blood Brothers.

Dear diary,

I have finally left that cold, empty cell. I've left but why does it feel like I'm still there? Like I've left a part of me, so crucial that without it, I'm invisible. Nothing. Shouldn't I be happy? Shouldn't I be celebrating? Then why can't I feel anything? If not happy, then guilty. At least something! But no. Nothing. Empty. But maybe it's better off like that. Perhaps I don't deserve any of these things. To feel. To live. To breathe. I mean, who am I anyways? I'm nothing. Nothing but a boy. A Johnstone. Nothing but an existence. As Linda's smile grows when she sees me, my face remains the same. As she puts her loving and meaningful arms around me to hug me, I stand still. She began to talk to me and tell me about how much she missed me and how much she loves me and how excited she is that I'm back. I couldn't say anything back. And me, being the selfish person I am, can't even feel guilty for that. How could she be so happy, when we have nothing to be happy about? I got in my bed and sighed as I took another pill.





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Linda got me a job and a house for me, her and our baby. Linda does it all. Before I left the house to go to work, I began my hunt for my pills.

"What are ya looking for?" she asked me.

A feeling of defence shook throughout my body. It felt as if she was taunting me. She knows I need them, she knows EXACTLY what I'm looking for. Would it make her feel better for me to say it? Is she trying to show off?

"You don't need them Mickey." "Stop taking them Mickey!"

She says they change me...that I'm not myself when I take them. And that's exactly why I take them. So I'm not me. Anything, but not me. I was at work when it was time to take them again. Like an echo, Linda's words rang through my head. My body reached for them, but I fought.

I put the pills down.

- Mickey

Dear diary,

Finally, after a long day at work, I got home. But something was different today. I was kinda excited to see Linda. And also kinda proud of myself for doing something so difficult for me, just for Linda. As I walked in, I saw Mrs Lyons. Oh god. She glanced at me and gestured her head towards the window she was looking through. I walked towards her, unsure and definitely not prepared for what was about to happen.

Of course. It just had to be him.

Edward and Linda kissed.

-Mickey.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Year 9

Here is an outstanding narrative by Fatimah Ismail.

The Wedding

Was it really considered “immoral” to be happy?

Something you must know about my parents is that they're willing to ruin my whole future and get me married to a self-centred moron in order to uphold their “reputation.” Believe me, all that Fabio cared about was his money. How can a man who is so frugal ever keep a woman happy? And that too for the rest of her life?

Maybe I'd gradually come to understand if I had no possible suitor, but that was the problem. My heart belonged to another man and his to mine. Diego was everything I could possibly ask for; kind, compassionate and hard-working. However, my parents would not allow our marriage as he was not (as you would call) rich. I was disgusted that my family would think this way, as long as I had a roof over my head, food and water and a loving





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

husband, what more could matter? They ignored how happy he would make me and instead told me to ignore whatever feelings I had for him. So to them I was just meant to disregard two years of knowing that I had found my soulmate? Two years where every moment we spent together was filled with bliss? Two years of feeling like I actually mattered to someone?

The dreaded day of the wedding arrived, I felt sick to my stomach knowing that I would have to push away Diego for this big-headed fool. I couldn't even muster a smile nor look my parents in the eye after seeing how unbothered they were about my pain. Yes, I wanted a beautiful wedding but the whole aspect of it being 'the best day of my life' was completely thrown away as this was apparently where my future was headed. Fabio looked horrendous in the black tuxedo he'd adorned with diamonds, it was as if my 'to be' husband was a walking disco ball! I felt as if my whole world was falling apart bit by bit, inch by inch and there was nothing I could do to stop it from crumbling.

It was that time, the time to say the feared wedding vows. I needed a moment alone outside before I could go back into that roasting hall. I looked around the grounds of the hall one last time, maybe Diego would come. And there he was, wearing a charcoal black tux and a bowtie. His chocolate brown eyes glowed like pools of honey in the amber sunlight and his gorgeous smile twinkled against its delicate rays. He was waiting for me and for me only. At that moment I knew, I knew that the only way we could ever be happy together was to run. Run away far from here and never return and that's what we decided to do.

Well, maybe not run, but drive out of this place. The breeze felt calming on my face and through my hair as we sped along the motorway. The sun stretched its golden arms once more and smiled down on us. The branches of the leafy green trees swayed slowly against the cool wind. I felt like I was floating and everything in my life was perfect in this moment. It suddenly hit me, we had eloped. I knew I was meant to feel bad but I didn't. Instead, I felt like the whole world revolved around us. I felt euphoric! Side by side, hand in hand, I couldn't wait to explore what the future had in store for us.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Year 10

Leah Jackson has outstandingly annotated the poem "Afternoons."

[Click here to view the PDF.](#)

Year 11

Here is a terrific language analysis answer by Sana Umarji.

Question: What impression do you get of Mariam in this extract?

Initially, Mariam has been portrayed to be courageous and her level of bravery shone through as she became more aggressive and violent when it came to her choosing life or death. However that came with time because of how many "pleading words she cried out" to stop the pain from progressing. The adjective 'pleading' itself conveys the desperation in her voice as her power is quickly degrading as Rasheed engulfs every single piece of her taking her dignity with him as she becomes inferior to him. Whereas, when Mariam set her intentions straight, she started "clawing, digging, pulling, scratching" Rasheed. These verbs convey all acts of hopelessness of Mariam as she is infuriated at letting a patriarchal man abuse her, making her vulnerable to him. As a reader, I interpret the build up to Maryam's bravery slowly overcoming her innocence as she breaks all stereotypical ways of being dealt with in this situation, portraying to me she is able of more.

Moreover, her "chipped nails" signifies everything she has lost mentally over time being under Rasheed's responsibility however also how close she is towards her death if her plan to escape this life will fail. Both her and Laila were "shocked" by what they have overcome and the courage they have created to finally be accountable for their own lives. The prepositional phrase indicates how dumbfounded Mariam is by her own power and bravery. However with this did come the internal monologue of Mariam profound with asking herself if she "has been a deceitful life?" or a "dishonourable woman?". This was Miriam's epiphany as she repeated asking herself rhetorical questions as she may have felt exasperated by all the torment she caused when she was full of rage and anger. I acknowledge that Mariam may feel a bit uneasy with the violence and disobedience some may say, however I believe she shouldn't be questioning what she has committed as her life depended on it. Mariam asking herself if she is a "dishonorable woman" shows the condescending ways Rasheed has



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

worked towards her to make her believe this.

Moving on, Mariam has been conveyed to struggle to “uncurl” her fingers. The verb highlights her desperation for freedom and all the hardship she needs to undergo to ‘uncurl’ from this undignified society to see a new way of life. Mariam “ran down the hallway, she bursted through the front door, crossed the yard... grabbed a shovel” to take revenge back on Rasheed as she has become the more superior one in that moment in time. The simple sentence shows her fast paced thoughts and the rushed decisions signifying her impulsiveness as there is no time to feel any form of guilt or regret as she slowly builds up her bravery. After her attempt on hurting Rasheed failed, she “could not, would not” allow fate to decide what will happen next. The modal verbs show her determination to change her destiny and the power she already has in her to fight for what's right. Personally, I feel like Mariam has been portrayed differently from the beginning of the extract from “pleading” to be set free to then being in charge with making decisions and finally being incontrol with herself and deciding what was right for her all along forecasting her bravery and significance on how many deal with this daily.



Please note: some images are subject to copyright.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Sharples Student Selected for Manchester United

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil Isabel Flanagan who has been selected to be part of the 'Manchester United Girls Player Development Centre'. In addition to playing for her grassroots team, Bolton Lads and Girls Club, Isabel will have the opportunity to train with highly qualified staff at the development centre, with the hope of reaching the elite 'Regional Talent Club'. As a regular member of the football club at Sharples, the PE department have had the opportunity to watch Isabel's skill and confidence grow since the start of term. We are absolutely positive Isabel will be an asset to her new squad.

This is a brilliant achievement by Isabel and the department are looking forward to hearing of Isabel's progress at Manchester United.



PE Department News - Classroom to 5K in PE

This week has been the first in the Classroom to 5K phase, in this week's lessons, students have been completing a task similar to something you would see in orienteering. There have been 16 checkpoints located around the school grounds and students have been tasked with finding each checkpoint. In pupils' second lesson, they have been assigned a country in which they aim to complete as many laps of the course as they can during their lesson, the countries with the most laps have been awarded several reward points.

There has been a real focus this week on mass engagement but also increasing students' social skills after a difficult few months. We have been delighted with the vast majority of students who have fully engaged in the activity and can also appreciate the importance of staying active whilst being social with friends. These lessons will prepare students for PE lessons when we return after the Easter break.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Attendance

Year Groups:

Year 7 - 96.6%

Year 8 - 95.5%

Year 9 - 93.6%

Year 10 - 92.6%

Year 11 - 92.4%

Best forms:

7L - 98.6%

8H - 99.6%

9E & S1 - 97.8%

10L - 100%

11S & S1 96.7%

395 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Date for your Diary

We look forward to welcoming our students back, to school, on Monday 12 April, with a prompt start to registration at 8.45am

Career of the Week: Optometrist

Average Salary:



Typical hours: (per week)



You could work:



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through; a university course or by working towards this role.
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and science.
- 3 A levels, or equivalent, including at least 1 science.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of medicine and dentistry.
- Customer service skills.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- Knowledge of biology.
- Sensitivity and understanding.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- To be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device.

Relevant Subjects:

- English, Maths, Science and Health & Social Care.

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

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharplesSchool.co.uk

Sharples PE presents the return of...

SHARPLES RUNNING CLUB

Sessions for Year 9 students will
be on Thursdays after school with
Mr Hesford & Miss Heaton.



Sharples
S C H O O L



@SharplesPE
@SharplesRunning

STARTING ON MONDAY 22ND
MARCH, SHARPLES PE PRESENT...

CLASSROOM TO 5K



A FUN AND SOCIAL TWIST ON YOUR
USUAL PE LESSONS, THESE
OUTDOOR LESSONS ARE DESIGNED
FOR INTERACTION AND
ENGAGEMENT.

WE STRONGLY SUGGEST WEARING OLDER
TRAINERS THAT MAY GET MUDDY. IT MAY
ALSO BE A GOOD IDEA TO BRING A SPARE
CARRIER BAG.