



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 394
25th March 2022

The Maths Department Celebrates STEM Week



To celebrate STEM week, the Maths department set pupils the challenge of completing a mathematical Scavenger Hunt that they could complete in the home or the local community. Pupils submitted photos or descriptions to meet the criteria such as numbers that represent something else, a group of things too large to be counted, a group of things whose colour, size or shape follow a pattern and a tessellating pattern amongst others. It was a very difficult competition to judge with lots of wonderful entries but after careful consideration our winners are Amaan B, Zak S and Laiba N. Congratulations to all and enjoy your treats!



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The Maths Department Celebrates STEM Week (continued)



STEM week concluded with the Year 7 Maths Fest Final! Students worked in pairs to race around, 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 Holly Mae L, Ahmed M, Aisha A, Aishah A and Kulsoom M.



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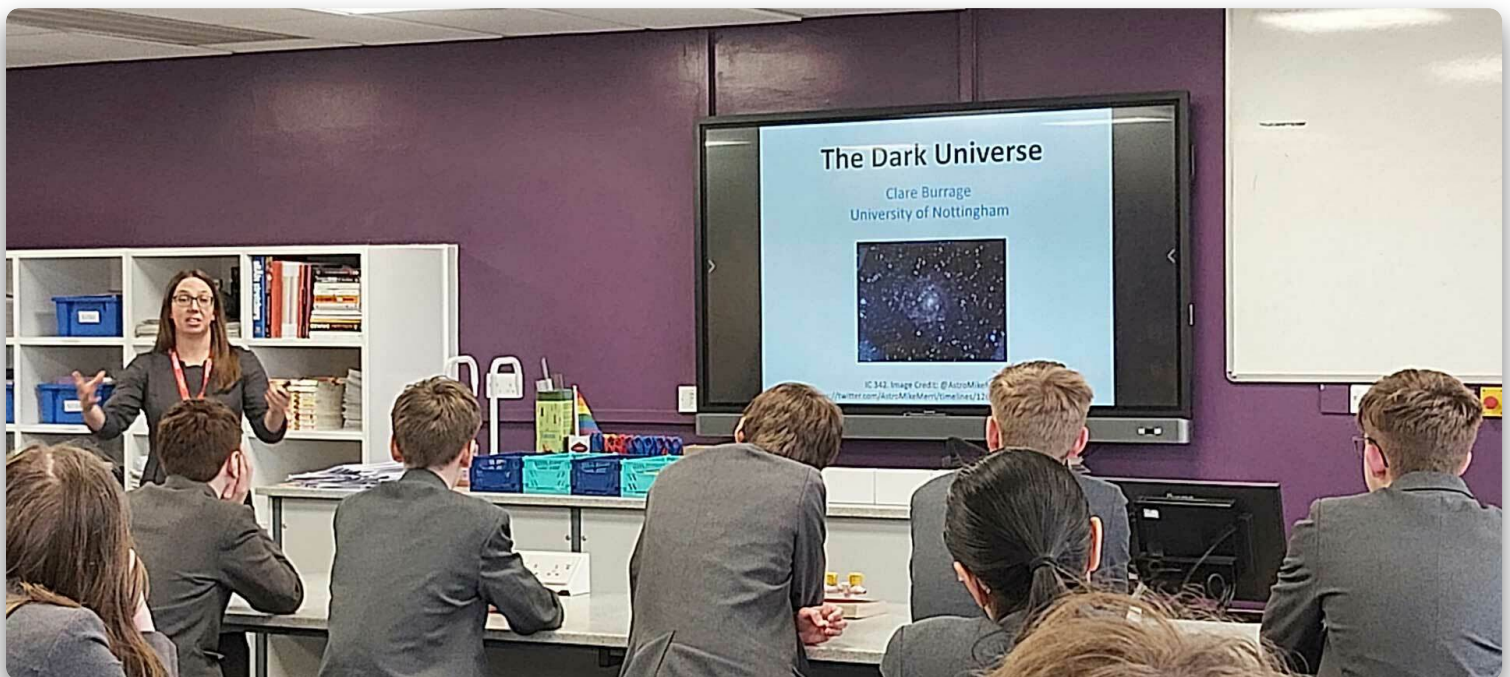
Science Enrichment

STEM Week 2022 - 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!

Cosmology Talk

On Thursday afternoon, our GCSE Astronomy students were attending a talk from Prof. Clare Burrage, University of Nottingham, who explored the dark Universe, energy and matter. Students were also able to ask questions about current developments in Cosmology.



Astrobiology Talk

On Friday, all of our science students who study space were attending a talk from Dr. Pete Higgins, University of Edinburgh, who explored his own academic career path from school through college to university. Students were also able to discuss the habitability of exoplanets and moons (whether or not life could exist on planets outside of our own Solar System, or even on moons within it!).



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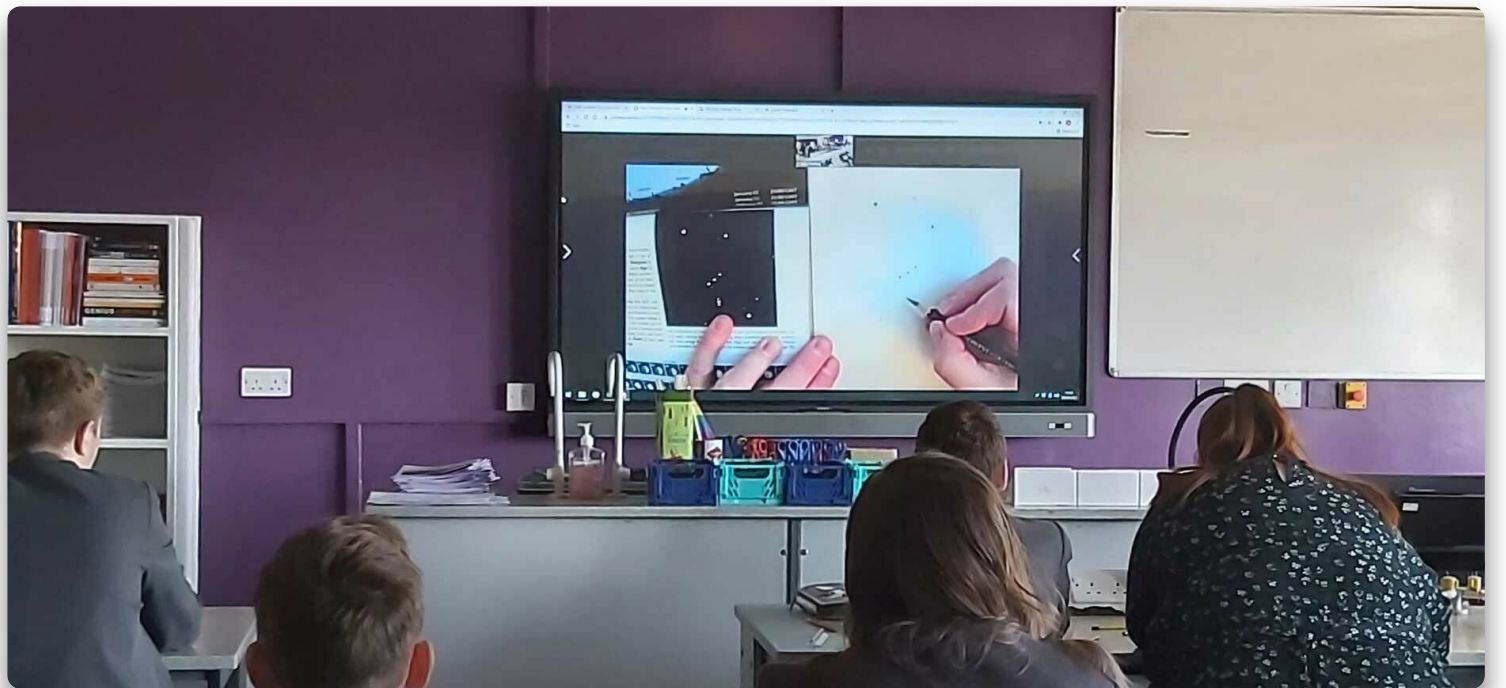
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Astrophotography Sketching Workshop

On Friday morning, our GCSE Astronomy students were attending a hands-on workshop with Mary McIntyre, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, who demonstrated the skills and techniques to sketch constellations and craters.





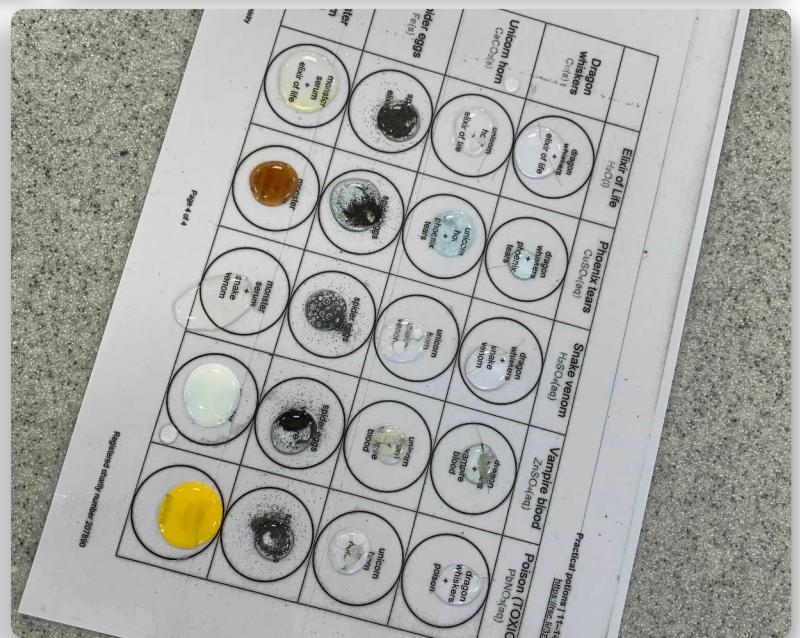
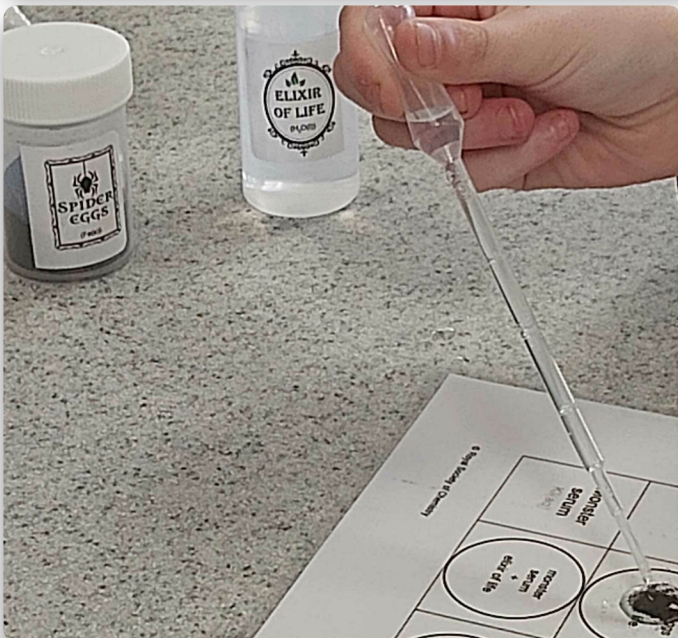
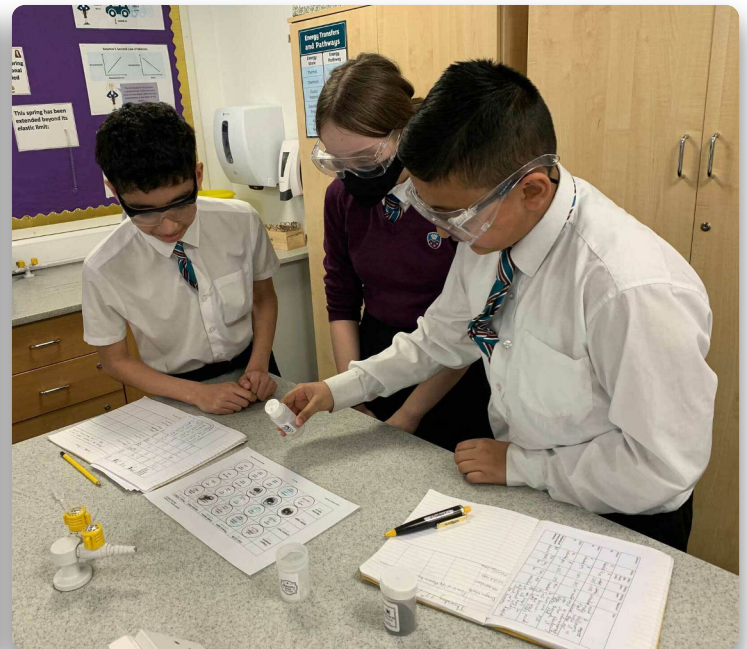
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Practical Potions

All week, Year 8 were attending practical potions with their teachers, putting their knowledge and understanding of chemical reactions into a magical context!



Many thanks again to all the Science teaching and technician team who supported enrichment events for our students to enjoy during STEM Week.

Mr J. Harding - Science Enrichment Coordinator

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Kulsoom has written a great analytical piece of writing on Animal Farm. [Click here to read it.](#)

Year 8

Umaynah B has made an excellent start on her narrative. [Click here to read page one](#) and [here to read page two.](#)

Year 9

Ammarah P has done some brilliant revision on A View from the Bridge. [Click here to read it.](#)

Year 10

Emily W has written a wonderful speech. [Click here to read page one](#) and [here to read page two.](#)

Year 11

Zahra S has made some excellent notes for her revision on violence in the play Romeo and Juliet. [Click here to read page one](#) and [here to read page two.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Zaibaa Darvesh for reading well in Language and Literature lessons.

Year 8

Alisiha Vieira for reading Macbeth well.

Year 9

Amirah Azazy as she's always seen with a new reading book.

Year 10

Joshua Elliott-Clark for reading Romeo and Juliet in an engaging way.

Year 11

Jo Robinson for reading for meaning well.

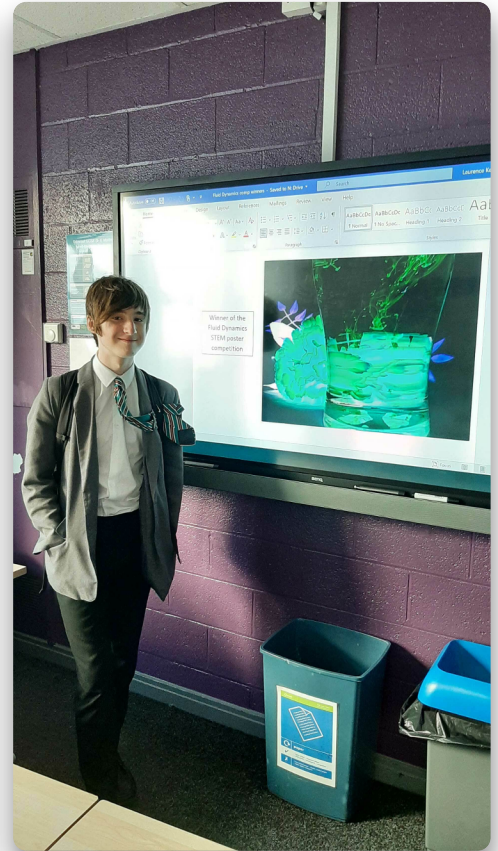
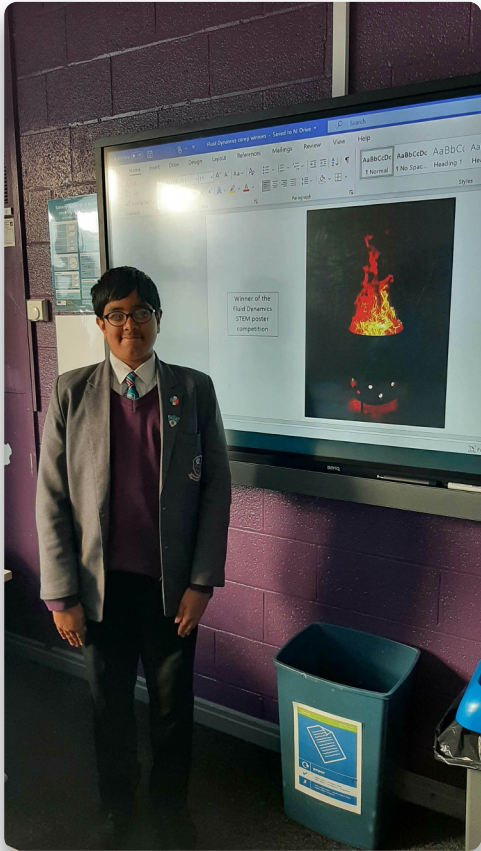


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Fluid Dynamics Photography Competition



As part of STEM we ran a photography competition on the topic of Fluid Dynamics. There were a variety of different ideas and the judging was difficult due to the quality of submissions. The three winners were Elliot Simpson (Year 7), Hatim Kapasi (Year 8) and Jacob Davies (Year 9).

Well done all!

Year 10 7-a-side Fixture

Year 10 took on St Catherines last night in a 7-a-side fixture with an array of goals. St Catherines took the lead early with 2 quick goals but then Josh Baker fired home to kickstart the comeback, Finley Westwood also scored before half time and Sharples went into half time at 5-3. It was a very fast paced game and St Catherines opened the scoring in the second half with Josh Baker firing back. In a close game Sharples came second best as the game ended 7-4.

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Sports Leaders Host Football Festival for Local Primary Schools



Our sports leaders hosted a fantastic event for the local primary schools last week. Since the start of the academic year, over 20 girls have been developing their leadership skills through the 'Game On' project every Thursday after school. They have had the opportunity to gain experience from external coaches who have delivered valuable sessions about the importance of communication, organisation and teamwork. In recent months, the group have had the privilege of putting their training into practice by helping to lead the Panathlon Boccia tournaments at Bolton Arena. These competitions are aimed at young people in the area who have disabilities and special educational needs. As a result of these events being a great success, the girls wanted to deliver their own football sessions to local primary schools. After weeks of planning, the leaders hosted a mini football festival for The Valley, Sharples Primary, High Lawn and St Pauls on Thursday evening. The girls delivered some skill based sessions to over 35 Year 5 pupils before organising a tournament where they officiated all of the games. This was a fantastic event enjoyed by everyone involved. The girls showcased their ability to run and organise a festival, and offer guidance to the primary students about how to improve. It was brilliant to see how everyone's confidence had increased since September; teachers from the primary schools even commented on how well the girls conducted themselves. Well done, girls! A mention must also go to Joseph Webster (Year 9) who gave up his afternoon to be our photographer for the event!

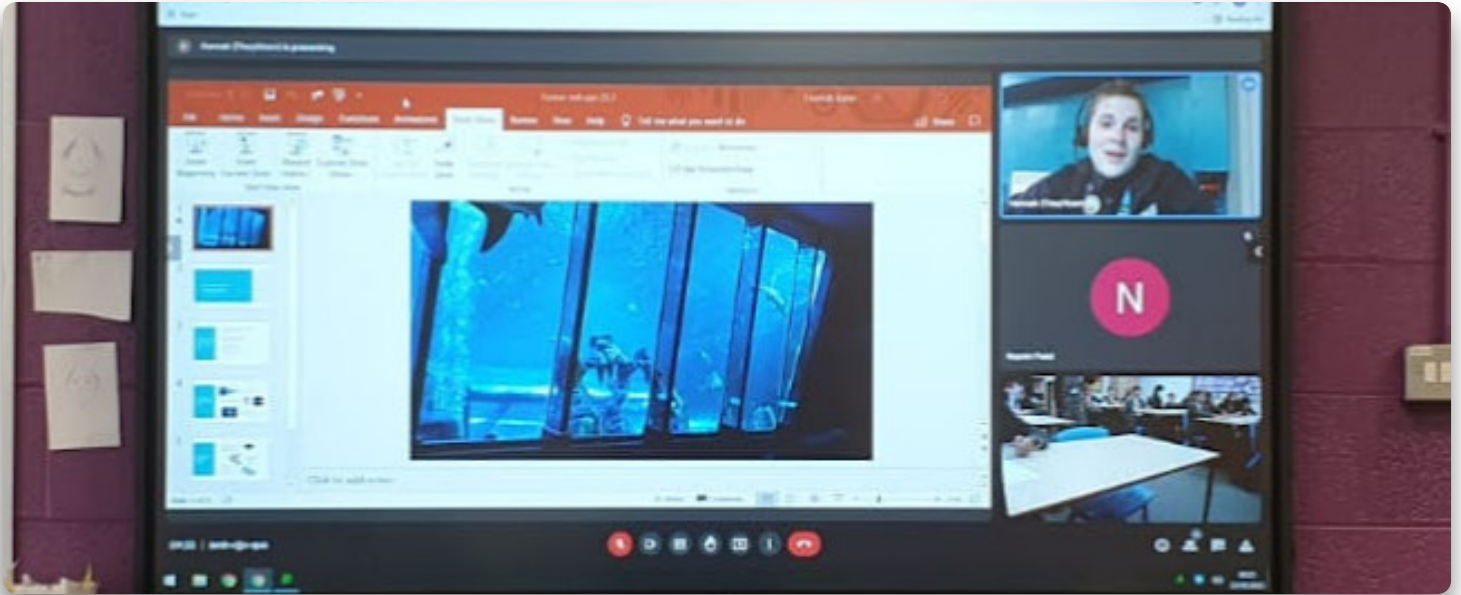


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Year 8 Careers Networking Event



This week our Year 8 students took part in our annual Careers Networking Event.

This virtual event featured guest speakers from the fields of Engineering, Medicine, Marine Care and management, Aviation and Finance who spoke about their individual roles and their own career paths. Students were able to ask questions and were given valuable advice for their future plans.

Year 8 Boys Football

It was a very challenging game for the Year 8 football team in their game versus St Catherines this past Wednesday. It was a game full of encouraging performances throughout from both teams with Sharples being the much better team in the first half, heading into halftime with the lead. St Catherines came out fighting after half time and turned the game on its head; taking the lead midway through the second half. Sharples battled back with 2 goals in 10 minutes to put the game back to 3-3 with a fantastic equaliser scored by Aashan from a long distance free kick.

The game could have gone either way with Harley making some fantastic saves to deny St Catherines a winning goal. In the end the game finished all square with the draw being the fair result in the end, that result makes it 2 games unbeaten for Year 8 which marks a great ending to a good year of football for the team.

Well done to all involved in the team from Mr Charlton!

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Year 7 Netball Tournament



A big well done to the Year 7 netball team who travelled to Bolton School on Tuesday evening to take part in the Bolton Town Tournament. This was their first high school tournament representing Sharples and they did themselves and the school very proud. After being placed in a tough group, the girls had some difficult opening games against Canon Slade and Thornleigh. However, the nerves soon settled and they started to play some good netball against Little Lever and Westhoughton. Although the team didn't make it through the group stages, the girls showcased fantastic teamwork and resilience to keep going against some strong sides. This was a brilliant experience for our Year 7 squad and they are already looking forward to their next fixture. Well done, girls!

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Year 9 Boys Football



Year 9 had their last game of the season, away at St Catherine's Academy, this week. It was always going to be a tough contest against a strong team who boasted a few academy players. Sharples had less of the ball but showed fantastic commitment and kept their shape very well, sticking to their defensive duties. Kyle Wood was superb in goal and put in a man of the match performance whilst Sharples always looked dangerous on the counter attack. It was a thrilling contest in which Sharples came out on top with an impressive 3-2 victory. Haruna was dangerous throughout and scored 2 well deserved goals to seal the win in what really was an excellent team performance.

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Lunch Clubs (April - July)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM & CCH	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - PGR & AHM	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - JBA & AHM	Y7 Football (Big Astro) - CCH & AHM	Y7 & Y8 Football (Big Astro) - AHM & CCH
Rounders (SH/Field) - GBA & SCU	Cricket (SH/Field)- JBA & CCH	Cricket (Field) - CCH & PGR	Cricket (SH/Field)- JBA	Cricket (Field) - JBA
Cricket (Field)- JBA	Yr 7/8 Dodgeball (Upstairs Gym) - SCU/GBA	Just Dance (Sports Hall) - SCU & GBA	Rounders (Field) - SCU & GBA	Rounders (SH/Field) - GBA & SCU



After School Clubs (April - July)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS3 swimming	Yr 7 Football match v St Catherine's (h)	KS3 Swimming Club	Boys Fitness Suite	No clubs
Table Tennis	Yr 8 Football practice	Basketball		
Girls fitness suite	KS3 Fitness Suite	Yr 9/10 Football practice		
Badminton	Yr 7-9 Netball practice	Running Club		

Week beginning 28th March

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Attendance Information

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.

Attendance Data

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 94.89%
Year 8 = 94.70%
Year 9 = 96.22%
Year 10 = 92.16%
Year 11 = 93.20%

Best forms this week:

7P = 100%
8L = 98.16%
9A = 100%
10P = 97.03%
11L = 96.32%

170 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Date for your Diary

Sunday 27th
March - Daylight
Saving Time starts

Wednesday 30th
March - Sharples
Family Meal
(SHARP)

Thursday 31st
March - Sharples
Family Meal (P1
LES1)

Monday 4th to
Monday 18th April
- Easter Holiday

Career of the Week: Architectural Technologist

Architectural technologists manage all stages of the technical design and planning process of building projects.

Average Salary: £ 20,000 (Starter) to £60,000 (Experienced)

Typical hours: 43 to 45 (per week)

You could work: evenings away from home



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, an apprenticeship or working towards the role.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.
- A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship.

Skills required:

- Design skills and knowledge.
- Knowledge of building and construction.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Knowledge of engineering science and technology.
- Maths skills.
- The ability to work well with others.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- Ambition and a desire to succeed.
- The ability to use software packages confidently.

Relevant Subjects:

- Maths, English, Science & Geography.

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



Careers &
Enterprise
at Sharples School

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EASTER BINGO EVENT

At Sharples



Starting from

6:30PM



Wednesday 30 March 2022



£3 tickets for 27 chances
to win Easter prizes

**BINGO, RAFFLE, GAMES,
REFRESHMENTS
FOR SALE AND MUCH MORE...**



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&#*!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



OSCAR

HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media platforms, TikTok can be extremely addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next means it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts is 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something *does* slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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SOURCES: www.tiktok.com



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