



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 398
6th May 2022

Year 9 Seville Trip 2022



Last week, 52 Year 9 students visited our partner school (Punta del Verde) in Seville thanks to the money awarded by the Turing Scheme. This is a government-funded scheme that we applied for in April 2021. It was a jam-packed week of activities, from sight-seeing to bowling, a factory visit and a treasure hunt.

Pupils have been working with their pen pals in Seville since last academic year, and they finally managed to put a face to the name they had been communicating with for so long. The Spanish school gave us a guided tour of the city on the first day, explaining the history behind the street names. Pupils also visited the aquarium, and were thrilled to see sharks and turtles. There were plenty of photo opportunities.



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On the second day, pupils learned about how dried fruits, a popular snack in Seville, are produced and packaged. Their Spanish skills were put to the test as the tour was given exclusively in Spanish. We also visited our partner school and, in the afternoon, we were joined by some of our Spanish pen pals for a memorable game of bowling (pictured below along with the classroom). In addition, when we returned to the hotel, the pupils had the chance to play with a member of the under 16s Real Betis football team, as the Spanish players are educated in our partner school whilst they train and play for the team. Solomon even received a signed shirt and Mudather was pleased as the player “taught us some new skills”.



For our final day, pupils were treated to a treasure hunt in María Luisa park. The park is famous as it is featured in the TV series Game of Thrones and in the Star Wars films. Our Spanish partner school created a map and clues for our pupils to follow, and the pupils were in groups with some of their Spanish penpals. Following this experience, Daniel said:

“My favourite memory was when I went to the park and we got to explore on our own and we made Spanish friends”.

We went on a boat trip in the afternoon and Safa was impressed, saying “we got to see some of the most majestic scenery on the river”. In the evening, pupils experienced a real Spanish tapas restaurant. Despite some apprehension about trying new foods at



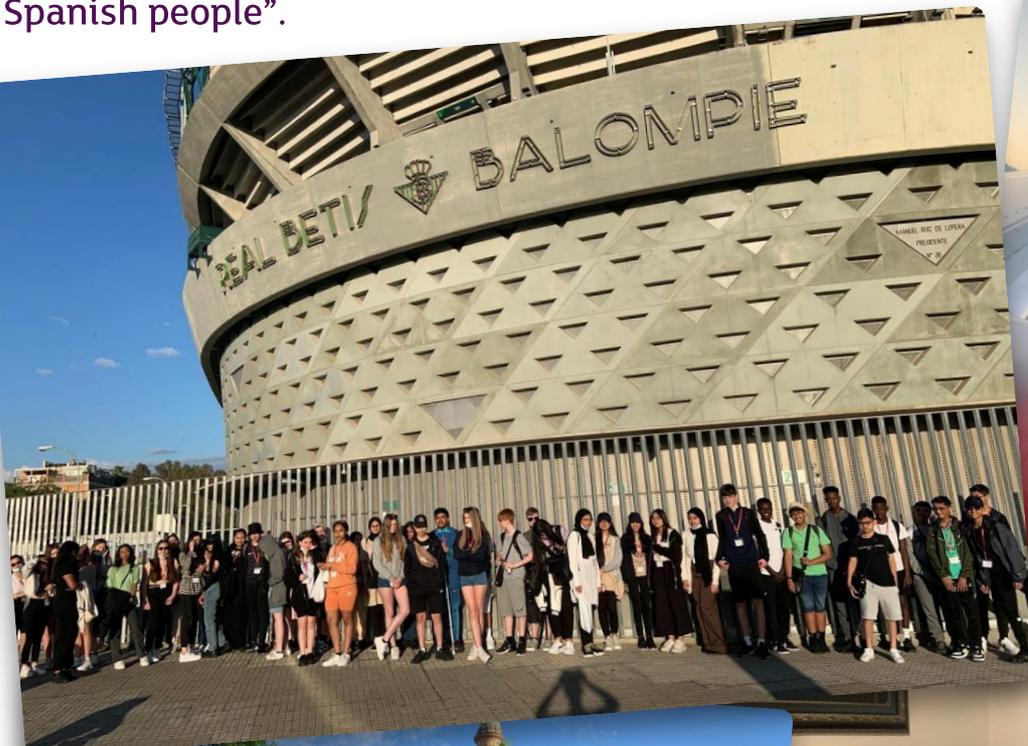
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first, many pupils, such as Aliya, said that their favourite memory was the special tapas meal as “I tried new cultural food”.

We were very fortunate to have all these experiences, facilitated by the brilliant teachers at Punta del Verde. The pupils learned not only about the Spanish language and culture, but they also developed resilience, independence and confidence trying new things and being out of their comfort zone. Talal summarised the experience by saying “It was an unforgettable experience and I would like to keep in touch with the Spanish people”.





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Pupils Progress in Annual Maths Challenge



The Maths department are happy to announce that eight of our Year 9 students have progressed through to the penultimate stage of Edge Hill's University annual Mathematics Challenge. The challenge provides pupils with the opportunity to tackle engaging mathematical activities while developing teamwork and communication skills. Congratulations to the Pi Eaters team - Izzy W, Jo W, Raen H, Jacob D and Josh C and the Pi team - Molly W, Maria S and Kyle G for making it so far. Pupils are now busy working on their entries to see if they make it to the finals to present their solutions to a panel of judges. Good luck!

Science Enrichment - Star Wars Day 2022



Wednesday was Star Wars Day: May the 4th be with you... which saw some of our students exploring Science vs Cinema:

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

Astrophysicist Andy Howell looks at the original Star Wars and how it has inspired real science and technology, along with what might actually be scientifically possible a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Please click the link for more information about Star Wars Day 2022:

<https://www.starwars.com/star-wars-day>

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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
Yr 7 & 8 Swimming Club (SHARP)	Yr 7/8 Football practice	Running club- all years	Rounders all years	No clubs
Girl's Fitness Suite-	Yr 7/8 Netball v Kings (a)	KS3 swimming (PLES1)	Yr10 Sports Studies ALS- N1	
Cricket practice- All Years	Yr 7&8 Aspire 6 a-side tournament @ Ladybridge (2-30pm start)	Basketball practice all years-		

Week beginning 9th May



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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 = 93.38%
Year 8 = 93.35%
Year 9 = 93.41%
Year 10 = 91.35%
Year 11 = 90.86%

Best forms this week:

7R & 7A = 100%
8H = 96.58%
9P = 98.57%
10S1 = 99.29%
11S = 98.73%

139 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Date for your Diary

Friday 13th May to
Sunday 15th May
- Year 10 Silver
Practice Expedition

Monday 16th May
to Friday 24th June
- GCSE Exam
Window

Monday 30th May
to Friday 3rd June
- May Halfterm
Holiday

Career of the Week: Animator

Animators bring drawings and computer generated characters to life on screen.

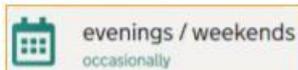
Average Salary:



Typical hours:
(per week)



You could work:



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, as college course, an apprenticeship, working towards this role or specialist courses run by private training providers.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a Level 3 course.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of media production and communication.
- Design skills and knowledge.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- The ability to work well with your hands.
- To be flexible and open to change.
- Knowledge of the fine arts.

Relevant Subjects:

- Design & Technology, Art, Computer Science.

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



Careers &
Enterprise
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.

