



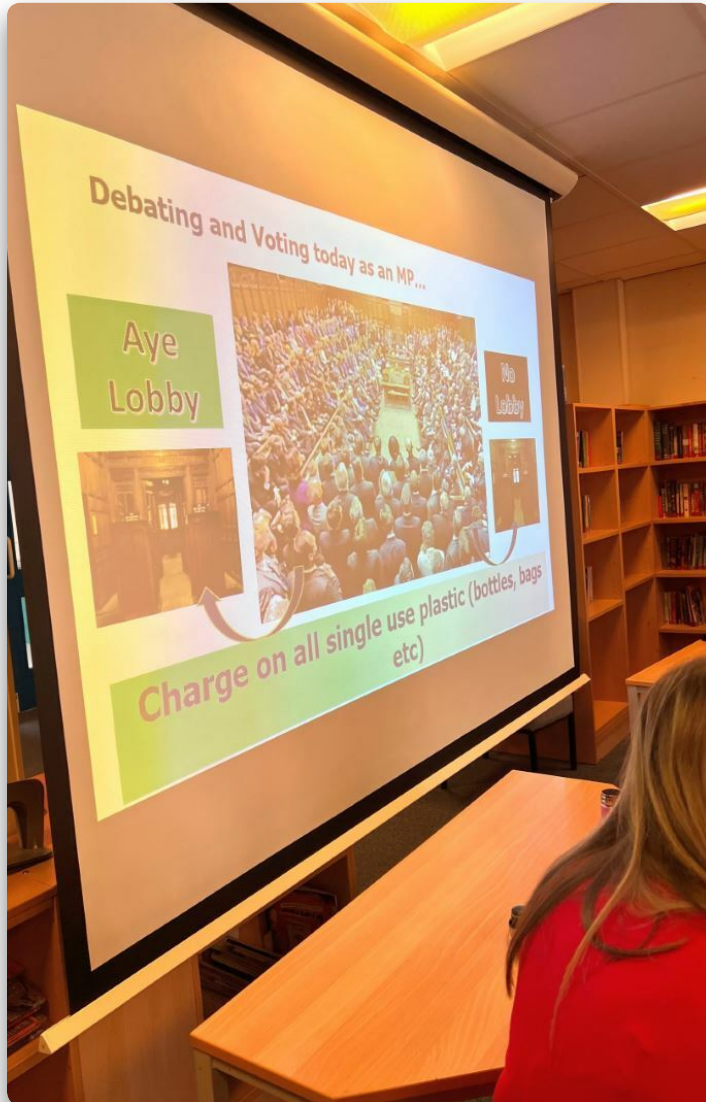
# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

ISSUE 405  
1st July 2022

#### Good to Great Parliament Workshop



On Tuesday, our Good to Great Year 9 pupils took part in a brilliant workshop run by a visitor from parliament. They were introduced to the three key parts of parliament, discussed how parliament works together to pass laws and also engaged in a lively debate. Pupils were given the opportunity to engage in a debate about single use plastic and came up with excellent, convincing arguments on both sides.

Adam Patel stated how 'it gave us a good insight into how the government really works. I learnt how to debate effectively and convey my argument in a persuasive manner. It has opened my eyes to the different opportunities that are available for me in this field going forward.'



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#### Science Enrichment

#### Oaks Primary Year 6 'Escape the Lab!'

On Tuesday, Oaks Primary Year 6 visited Science at Sharples and competed against each other to escape our lab of challenging experimental clues with the most time to spare, practising their core skills along the way. Well done to all of the pupils who entered and managed to re-emerge, but particular congratulations to our prize winners below! In the waiting room, the rest of the group were able to enjoy popcorn and drinks while watching our 3D cinema screening exploring space and under the sea.





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#### Animal Care Dog Visit

On Wednesday, our Year 9 and 10 Animal Care students encountered a dog in class, practising how to safely handle, restrain and groom an animal. Students were delighted with Junior (who belongs to Miss Fairhurst) and, as you can see from the photos, he was more than happy with all of the attention he was receiving!



#### Science Rewards Trip

Last week, a selection of our Year 7 and 8 students visited Salford University for the STEM in Action event with Miss Booth. The students that attended this trip were nominated by their Science teachers for their amazing effort and attitude in lessons



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this year. We attended lectures on wildlife photography, cryogenics and the Science of swimming the channel. The students were brilliantly behaved, asked academic questions and were a credit to Sharples. Well done everyone!



*Mr J. Harding - Science Enrichment Coordinator*

#### **English Department's Readers of the Week**

Year 7

Tom D read the part of Oberon brilliantly.

Year 8

Alishia V for reading The Pearl and projecting well.

Year 9

Josh C for his excellent contribution to reading lessons.

Year 10

Luke B for critically reading parts of Romeo and Juliet well.



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#### Sports Leaders take part in Commonwealth Games Training Day



A big well done to 4 of our sports leaders who took part in the Greater Manchester Schools Commonwealth Games training day at Bolton Arena on Tuesday. This was a celebration inspired by the upcoming Games taking place in Birmingham in a couple months. The girls took part in a variety of activities with other students from across the borough and were inspired by speeches from GB's Nathan Maguire and Stacey Copeland. An amazing opportunity for the students to hear of both their experiences and they even got their hands on a medal from Tokyo 2020!

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#### Sports Report – Year 9 & 10 Bolton Athletics Championships



The weather was very different to last week when Year 9 and 10 travelled to Leverhulme Park to compete in the Bolton Athletics Championships Wednesday. Athletes have been working hard practising after school and all their hard work paid off with many superb performances.

Sharples also managed to bring home a number of medals with some outstanding individual performances. Stand out medal performances were as follows:

Harvey K narrowly missed out on a bronze medal in the 300m but then achieved bronze in the triple jump with a superb jump just under 10 metres. Harvey wasn't the only student to have success in the triple jump as Year 9 student Jayden W won silver.

Abigail A was the stand out performer from the throwing events and won a silver medal



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after being beaten to the gold by the smallest of margins.

In the long distance events, Marcus V was the star performer and made light work of the 1500m race finishing it in an incredible 4 minutes 45 seconds and narrowly missing out on the school record. Marcus trains regularly outside of school and it was evident in his race as he finished a long way ahead of the other competitors.

The star of the day from all schools was Year 9 student Cherie U who continues to make a name for herself, not just in the Borough but nationally. Cherie achieved 3 gold medals on the day in the 100m, 200m and triple jump. Cherie jumped over 14 metres to secure a gold in the triple jump and then breezed to a gold medal in the 100m with a time of 12.11 seconds and broke a school record in the process. Her performance of the day was in the 200m though, which saw her not only gain a gold medal, smash the school record but also break the Town record which has stood since 1979 with an incredible time of 26.2 seconds.





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#### **A Winning Thursday for our Rounders Teams**



A massive well down to both our Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 & 10 rounders teams who faced Bolton St Catherine's in a league match on Thursday afternoon. The Year 7 & 8s dusted themselves down from their last defeat and secured a massive victory, winning 150-65. The team looked very impressive with some excellent batting and fielding from Alishia V!

The Year 9 & 10s also had a fantastic game, securing a win of 131-70. The girls looked comfortable from the start with Grace G bowling and Chloe J at backstop. When it was the teams turn to bat, the girls managed to get into the double figures for rounders!

A big well done to everyone involved! Tournaments for all year groups will take place next week.

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#### Sports Report - Year 7 Cricket Team



Mr Fowlds and Mr Burrows have been running cricket practice every Monday during the Summer term and this week saw the Year 7 team play their first fixture of the season. It was fantastic to see 16 players make the short journey to Thornleigh to participate in the friendly fixture and provide valuable experience for when the team enter cup competitions next year. All students had the opportunity to bat and bowl and Sharples managed to score over 70 runs from their innings. Unfortunately, this didn't prove to be enough as Thornleigh managed to reach the total in their timed innings.

Cricket is currently being taught in lessons and the school are looking for increased interest and attendance to the lunchtime and after school club and hopefully more fixtures for other year groups this term.



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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](mailto: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 = 95.10%  
Year 8 = 94.06%  
Year 9 = 94.57%  
Year 10 = 93.01%

Best forms this week:

7S = 99.21%  
8R = 97.66%  
9A = 99.24%  
10P1 = 100%

99 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

#### Date for your Diary

Saturday 2nd &  
Sunday 3rd July -  
Year 9 Bronze  
Expedition

Tuesday 5th July  
- Year 5 Taster  
day

Thursday 7th  
July & Friday 8th  
July - New Intake  
days

Thursday 14th  
July - Sports Day

#### Children and young people aged 18 years and under who have a positive test result

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days after the day they took the test**, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

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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	Yr 7/8 Rounders tournament @ Harper Green 4-7pm	No clubs
Yr 8/9 Cricket Match v Thornleigh (a)	Yr 9/10 Rounders tournament @ Harper Green 4-7pm	KS3 swimming (PLES1)	KS4 Fitness suite	
		Basketball practice all years		
		Football trip to Old Trafford to watch England		

Week beginning 4th July

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

### DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

### ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

### CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

### EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

### SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

### MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

### DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

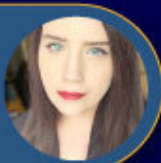
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

### HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

## Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at [gmw3.com](http://gmw3.com): a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.defendyoungminds.com/blog/dangers-of-discord-6-steps-safeguarding-teens-on-popular-chat-app/> | <https://support.discord.com> | <https://endsexploitation.org/articles/discord-is-a-haven-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploitation/> | <https://kasku.com/discord-deleted-thousands-of-violent-extremist-and-crim-184923284>

Our specialist music teachers offer weekly music lessons in your school

## Would you like to play a musical instrument?



You can have instrumental or vocal lessons in school and also hire an instrument by visiting us at:

[www.boltonmusicservice.com/parents-and-pupils](http://www.boltonmusicservice.com/parents-and-pupils)

## Would you like to join a band or choir?

- You can join one or more of our bands, choirs and orchestras at Mere Hall and other venues after school
- You do not need to have lessons with us to be a member of our ensembles
- There is something for everyone and you can start right now



For further information, visit our website or call our team on:

**01204 333533**