



# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

ISSUE 424  
13th January 2023

#### **Letter to Parents Regarding Attendance**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year, it is fantastic to have the students back in school and I would like to take the opportunity to send a reminder about our attendance expectations and our policies and procedures in relation to student absence.

Attendance at school is important and recent research shows pupils with the highest rates of with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage. Missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Sharples we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance; every day and every lesson counts.

Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential. This letter is to remind all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. All schools in the country must follow Department for Education guidance regarding attendance and it clearly states that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. Dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, for safeguarding purposes, it is imperative that you phone school or email [attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk) before 9.30am to inform us.

When absence first becomes a concern, Sharples will send an attendance letter to parents / carers. If absence continues, we will invite you in for a meeting with the school to put an action plan in place to improve attendance.

If there are any issues preventing attendance, please communicate with us.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C.Wood  
Assistant Headteacher

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



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#### Science Enrichment Newsletter

##### Educake

Well done to the Year 11 students who completed their latest Science home learning activity. As the countdown towards GCSEs begins, it is important to make use of the variety of revision opportunities available. Why not try setting yourself a quiz on Educake to support your revision.

A particular congratulations to Humna S, Imaan H and Rachel C, who were the highest achievers on this week's quiz.

##### STEM club



This week in the KS3 science club, pupils were creating slime!! Not any old slime but a



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uniquely blended mix, with dyes used to create a strikingly distasteful colour (as highlighted on the previous page). Pupils worked hard mixing the ingredients to attain the optimum consistency. Hats off to all those who managed to get to grips with the slimy project!

#### **Science career of the week**

This week's career is Radiographer. Radiographers take images of the insides of patients' bodies to diagnose injury or disease. Information about experience opportunities, providers, entry requirements and much more can be found here: [Science career of the Week](#)

Please speak to Mr. Burke, who will provide you with more information about this, or any other, science career.

#### **Space News**

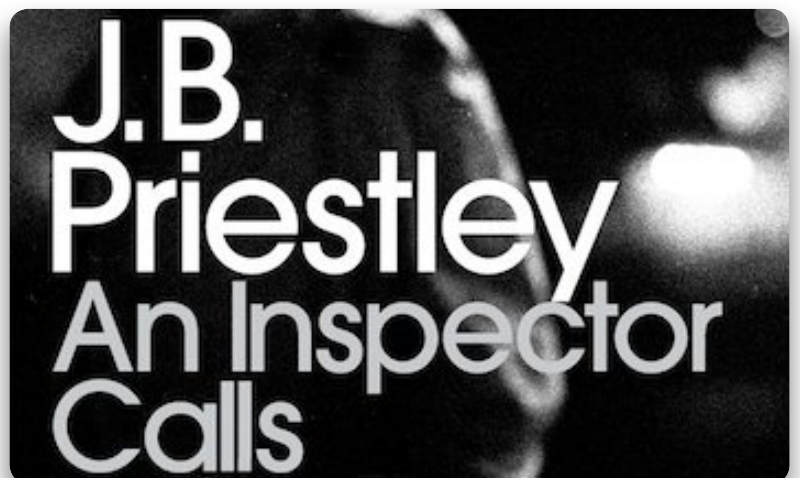
On Monday evening, the first satellite launched from the UK was attempted from Spaceport Cornwall. Unfortunately, the mission did not go as planned as the launcher suffered an anomaly. The failure resulted in the loss of nine satellites. However, the carrier plane and all crew members returned safely.

Before the launch, Ian Annett, deputy CEO of the U.K. Space Agency said, "The space industry is worth around £6.5 billion annually for the U.K. economy. As a country, we build more satellites than anywhere else outside of the U.S. So it helps to develop an end-to-end capability so that we can do everything." Despite this set back, the UK continues to grow as a leading nation in Space science.

*Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator*

#### **An Inspector Calls Live**

On Tuesday evening, 15 of our eager Year 10 students were given the opportunity to go and watch a live performance of An Inspector Calls at The Lowry Theatre. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the twist, turns and even immersivity of the experience. Hailed as the theatrical event of its generation, the performance did not disappoint!



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

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

[www.SharplesSchool.co.uk](http://www.SharplesSchool.co.uk)



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#### Year 9 and 10 Football Team



A combined Year 9 and 10 team (pictured above) travelled to Essa Academy this week for their first game of the year. The team showed no sign of rustiness after the Christmas break and registered an incredible 8-0 win. Sharples were dominant from start to finish in what was a fantastic all round team performance. Aashan S scored 2, Haruna added another 2 goals to his tally for the season, Solomon, Yusuf I, Joe T and David M all scored. On debut for Sharples was David M who had a very good game.

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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 = 96.38%

Year 8 = 94.39%

Year 9 = 95.32%

Year 10 = 93.04%

Year 11 = 92.79%

Best forms this week:

7Ples 4, 7Shar4 & 7Shar5 = 100%

8R = 97.48%

9P = 98.57%

10P1 = 98.57%

11S1 = 100%

240 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

#### Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th  
January to Friday  
27th January:  
Year 9 Exams

W/C Monday 16th  
January: Year 11  
PPEs (English  
Language and  
Literature)

Wednesday 18th  
January: The  
Alchemist Chef  
visit

### Career of the Week: TV or Film Director

*TV and film directors lead the creative and technical production for cinema and television.*

Average Salary: £

Typical hours:  
(per week)   
irregular

You could work:

#### Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, a college course, working towards this role, producing and releasing your own films and 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, including English and Maths.

#### Skills required:

- Knowledge of media production and communication.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- The ability to work well with others.
- Leadership skills.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure.

#### Relevant Subjects:

- English, Maths & Performing Arts.



Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/tv-or-film-director>



# Early Help Parenting Drop-in

For all families with children under 18

We know that being a parent is not always easy and that families need extra support at some stage as children grow up.

Targeted Early Help Workers will be on hand to offer advice and support.

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations and community groups.

Poor school attendance?

Are they being excluded from school?

Are they anxious or struggling with self-esteem?

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour?

Not sure what services there are available that can help to support you?



Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat if you want any advice or information about parenting.

## Drop-in sessions, 10am-1pm

Farnworth King St Centre 14th Jan 4th Feb 25th Feb 18th Mar 15th Apr

Oxford Grove Children Centre 21st Jan 11th Feb 4th Mar 25th Mar 22nd Apr

Tonge Children Centre 28th Jan 18th Feb 11th Mar 1st Apr



**For more information please contact:**

Targeted Early Help Tel: 01204 336215

Email: [earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk)



**Bolton Council**

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**Bolton Council**



# Online safety workshops supporting children and parents

Fortalice are delivering workshops for children and their parents to raise awareness of how to keep safe online. The sessions will be interactive, fun and informative. Children will have the chance to teach their parents what they need to know!

We are offering taster sessions for professionals. You'll have the opportunity to find out what is involved in the workshops. In addition you will develop key knowledge in keeping children safe whilst online. These will be delivered via Zoom.

**Dates:** Wednesday 11th January 2023 9.30am to 11am  
Thursday 19th January 2023 2pm to 3.30pm

## For children and young people:

- Learn how to keep themselves safe whilst online.
- Teach their parents what they need to know.
- Know who you can talk to if worried about something that has happened online.
- Understand the impact of online bullying.



## For parents:

- Know how to ask difficult questions.
- Understand the different social media platforms used by their children.
- Learn how to keep their children safe when online.
- Know how to work with their child when setting boundaries for being online.



To book a workshop for your organisations service users or to book on a taster session please email [allison.wallaceberry@fortalice.co.uk](mailto:allison.wallaceberry@fortalice.co.uk) or phone 07790776343

Bolton Together

Bolton  
Council



# POST-16 INTERVIEWS



Careers &  
Enterprise  
at Sharples School

## PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

Good preparation will make all the difference!

### **MAKE SURE YOU'VE READ ALL ABOUT THE COURSES YOU APPLIED FOR AND THE COLLEGE.**

Interviewers will want you to show that you understand what it involves.

### **RE-READ YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT & APPLICATION FORM.**

Think about how you can build on the examples you included in it. Refer back to this when you answer the questions.

### **THINK ABOUT THE TYPES OF QUESTIONS YOU COULD BE ASKED.**

How would you answer the questions on the right? Practice these at home, make a revision card or some notes on each question in case you forget – have these with you for the interview.

### **WRITE DOWN & REVISE POINTS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Your reasons for choosing the course & the college.

Your most relevant skills & qualities. Give examples of when you have shown these skills.

## A FEW OTHER POINTERS TO REMEMBER!

**MANNERS COST NOTHING** – Be polite to the interviewer!

**QUESTION** – Have a question ready to ask at the end – this may be about other students experiences – what would current students say is the best thing about studying there?

**SHOWCASE YOURSELF** – I know you are fantastic, but they need to know this too! Show your **PASSION** for the course that you will be studying!

If you need help or you are still unsure, message me on MS Teams, or email me – ADD EMAIL

## POTENTIAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

This is the time to showcase yourself!

### **WHY HAVE YOU APPLIED TO US?**

*The interviewers will want to know why you've chosen to study this course at their college:*

Why do you want to study this course?

Why do you want to study at this college, rather than at other ones?

What is it that interests you about this subject?

What are your plans for the future? Do you plan to pursue a related career?

Use the college website to plan around these questions.

### **WHAT MAKES YOU WELL SUITED TO THIS COURSE & THE COLLEGE?**

*This is your opportunity to talk about your relevant skills & experience:*

Why do you think you will suit this course well?

What would you describe as your best qualities?

What achievement are you most proud of?

What do you like or dislike most about school?

Remember to include examples of when you have shown skills in your answers. Work Experience is a really good example.

### **ARE YOU PREPARED?**

*The interviewers will want to establish that you are prepared to start college. Show them you have thought about this.*

Why have you decided to apply to here rather than another route?

What do you hope to go onto after completing your Post 16 studies?

Do you intend to commute to your provider?

How much do you know about what the course involves?

Are you prepared for your exams?

How will you ensure you meet your GCSE targets?



**Make a**

**difference**

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**We need you!**

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Search our vacancies today at

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**greater•jobs**

**Bolton  
Council**

# What does the Council do?



**The Council is at the heart of where we live, work, learn, shop, socialise and exercise.**

We provide a huge range of services to the people of Bolton, helping them start, live and age well, supporting our local businesses and developing the town

We have an enormous range of jobs and endless opportunities for development - a great starting point for your future career, wherever it may take you.

**We employ 3,400 staff in over 500 different roles.**

**Follow us on social media...**

...for news and job opportunities. Many vacancies are added everyday, so if you don't see something today, **look again tomorrow.**



**Bolton Council is recruiting.**

**greater jobs**

Working at Bolton Council offers opportunities at every level, and in a wide range of sectors.

Take a look at the vacancies near you today

QR code

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greater jobs is owned by 12 local authorities and key services within Greater Manchester, advertising all their vacancies in one place.

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Digitalisation

Making a difference to local people

# What's important to us...

Equality, diversity and inclusion

#TeamBolton

Workforce wellbeing

Flexible working

Sustainability



## Accountability

take responsibility for actions, stand by decisions...



## Making a difference

work to a high standard, provide a quality service, keep it simple...



## Honesty and respect

be truthful, open, fair, treat others how you want to be treated...

## Determination

don't give up, remain positive and open to new ideas...



## Working together

share knowledge, support, collaborate for better outcomes...



# Don't just take our word for it!...



**Calum Gaskell,**  
Strategy Delivery Manager  
Joined 2014

## *SO CALUM, WHY DID YOU WANT TO JOIN A COUNCIL?*

After finishing college, I stumbled across an apprenticeship in Digital Media. I didn't know much about the Council, other than they collected my bins, but I found that from marketing and web design to delivering big multi-million-pound projects, the Council had all the ingredients I would need to enable me to develop.

Being Bolton born-and-bred, this was an opportunity to see the difference I was making first-hand, to the town, people and Council itself. Every day is different, I have been able to try new things, meet new people and build skills I might not have done had it not been for working here.

## *CONNIE, TELL US WHY YOU WANTED TO WORK FOR A COUNCIL?*

I wanted to do an apprenticeship in accountancy and, as I had lived here all my life, joining Bolton Council was an easy decision to make. There is a lot of support for studies and lots of additional development opportunities.

I love working here because its for the benefit of the residents, it's a busy environment, with new and interesting topics and tasks each day.

## *WHY SHOULD OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDER A CAREER WITH THE COUNCIL?*

Like many young people, at 18 years old I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but 10 years on I'm doing something completely different but something I massively enjoy, the most important thing in any career choice. Had it not been for the Council giving me various opportunities to try new things and find what I truly had a passion for, I could be stuck doing something I hate.



**Connie McMullen,**  
Group Accountant  
Joined 2012

## *WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDERING A CAREER HERE?*

If you want to become qualified in a profession, whilst also being paid for hands on experience at work, then its ideal.



**Beth Collett,**  
**HR Assistant**  
Joined 2022

**WHY DID YOU WANT TO JOIN BOLTON COUNCIL, BETH?**

Following university, I found a lot of places needed lots of experience before you could get a job with them but Bolton Council has allowed me to transfer my skills in a previous role into an entry-level HR role which I love. I am currently doing CIPD Level 5 at Wigan and Leigh College and wanted to join Bolton as I live locally. I had heard that the benefits and pension are excellent together with the Council being a forward-thinking and inclusive environment, so that really attracted me to work there.

**BLERTA, TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO JOIN BOLTON COUNCIL.**

I started working at Bolton Council on a six-month work placement in the Marketing, Events and Communications team and was gaining lots of different skills during this time. It was my first office job and experiencing a job I had never done before was a challenge!

**WHAT APPRENTICESHIP DID YOU STUDY?**

After work experience, I was encouraged to apply for a Finance and Business Admin apprenticeship.



**Blerta Zhitia,**  
**Administration and Finance Officer**  
Joined 2018

**WHAT WOULD YOU SEE TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDERING WORKING FOR A COUNCIL?**

Bolton Council provide the best experience and are supportive in their approach. They also provide you with self-development by training you for the role you are in. My experience within finance in the team is what helped me choose my path of becoming an accountant. Working for Bolton Council has been and continues to be an amazing experience. It has made me confident and knowledgeable and I have progressed in ways that I would never have thought.



**Leah Aspinall,**  
**Communication and Engagement Support Officer**  
Joined 2021

**WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN BOLTON COUNCIL?**

I heard that councils are likely to have opportunities to progress, which has proved true. I live here, and the idea of working in my own town, where I grew up was a massive factor.

**WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT WORKING HERE?**

The friendly staff and colleagues, working with staff in partner organisations, the development opportunities and the support from managers and other colleagues is great, Bolton Council has helped me gain so much confidence in myself and my job.

**YOUR MESSAGE TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE?**

Bolton is a great place to work with a high potential for progression and other opportunities. If you show interest in what you are doing, you will thrive at Bolton Council and that is the main reason why younger people should consider a career here. Your capabilities will be noticed and valued.

# What we offer...



## A bit more on apprenticeships...

- ✓ Staff opportunities to move careers and across to other roles
- ✓ Trainee roles and career pathways
- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ Graduate careers
- ✓ A whole range of leadership courses and different types of development

- ✓ Learn and train for a specific job, e.g. four days in the role and one day studying at college.
- ✓ Get paid, receive paid holidays and hands-on experience in a real job.
- ✓ By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.
- ✓ Each apprenticeship has a level and an equivalent education level, some are degrees.
- ✓ Start your career path with lots of future potential to progress.



All our apprenticeships are advertised on

**greater•jobs**

**Did you know the Council has over 500 different types of roles, including...**

- Administration
- Cleaning & Catering
- Customer Services
- Education
- Environmental Health
- Finance, Marketing, HR
- IT
- Legal
- Libraries
- Planning & Highways
- Project Management
- Social Care & Social Work
- Sport, Youth & Play
- Transport

# Staff benefits

We offer a variety of different working patterns, part-time hours, flexible working and apprenticeship opportunities in many locations.



## Annual leave

We offer up to 28 days annual leave depending on length of service and contractual hours, plus bank holidays. There is also opportunity to purchase up to five days additional leave each year (pro rata for part time staff).



## Help with travelling to work

Car Lease and Cycle to Work Schemes. Employees can choose to use some of their salary before it's taxed, in exchange for the use of a brand new car or bicycle.



## Car parking passes

Opportunity to purchase a parking space within the town centre at a preferential rate.



## Employee recognition

We acknowledge the commitment of our staff in providing an excellent service. After five years local government service you will receive an additional three days annual leave entitlement. We recognise the achievement of 25 and 40 years long service. We reward our staff with long service with a gift when they retire.

Every year we hold the Bolton's Best Awards to celebrate and reward individuals, teams and projects for the excellent work they do to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Bolton family.



## Health and wellbeing

Your mental and physical wellbeing is a top priority for us. Through our employee support services, assistance programmes and wellbeing interventions, we help to look after your health and wellbeing.



## Work life balance

We have job opportunities which include part time working. We also encourage flexible working, through our flexitime scheme and hybrid arrangements where possible.

We have a range of ways to support staff with family life, including parental leave, carers leave and emergency leave, as well as maternity leave, paternity leave and adoption leave. Staff can also make an application for flexible working, career breaks or a sabbatical.



## Training and development

We provide opportunities to develop your career through our training programmes, extensive online learning courses and apprenticeship opportunities.

Our personal development review process, Insight Exchange, supports your ongoing development in your role.



## Rewards, benefits and discounts

We want to thank our employees for their hard work and commitment by giving them access to a range of exclusive rewards and benefits including gym membership discounts, access to benefits platforms and discounts from local businesses.



## Pension scheme

As an employee you will be able to enrol in a pension scheme. Benefits include tax relief on the contributions you pay, the option to exchange part of your pension for a tax free cash lump sum at retirement, and immediate valuable lump sum life cover.

You can also pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) through our salary sacrifice scheme.



# What our staff say...



**Got a question?...**



Email: [recruitment@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@bolton.gov.uk)

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