

ISSUE 444 30th June 2023

PEARSON NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS The Award for MAKING A DIFFERENCE - SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

SILVER AWARD

Ayesha V Wins the Rotary Young Chef Final



We are pleased to announce that Ayesha V won the Young Chef Rotary District Final. She cooked an array of food, starting with chana chickpea salad, butter chicken and rice for main and finally tres leche milk cake for dessert. All of Ayesha's dishes were packed with flavour and spice and were complemented on several occasions by the judging chefs from The Marriott Hotel.

Ayesha competed in the district final against 8 other pupils who had all gone through 2 other rounds in order to get to the finals.

Ayesha worked very hard preparing all ingredients for the meals with plans and budgeting for the judges' perusal. Ayesha competed against many schools, including schools from across Bolton. We are overjoyed with Ayesha's efforts and want to send her a massive congratulations. She won a £100 Amazon Voucher, two cookbooks by famous chefs. Plus a smart embroidered Chefs Apron which she will use during her time in the Marriott kitchens with the hotel's Executive Head Chef. Ayesha's parents will also be treated to a complimentary dinner for two with leisure club passes to relax in the hotel pool, gym and sauna. What a prize!



Sharples School Newsletter

Spanish Exchange Visit

On Friday 23rd June, pupils from our Spanish partner school, IES Punta del Verde in Seville, came to visit our school. The 16 pupils and their teachers got involved in lessons in the morning, and in the afternoon, joined us on a trip to Smithills Open Farm. We learned all about the wide range of animals on the farm (pictured right) and we were even allowed to hold some of the rabbits and feed some of the alpacas and donkeys. On Friday evening, the Spanish pupils enjoyed fish and chips in Olympus Fish and Chip restaurant and were pleasantly surprised by the British delicacy.



Pupils at Sharples were also invited to accompany the Spanish pupils to Liverpool (pictured below) and the Lake District, and the Year 9 pupils stepped up and became tour guides for the weekend. In Liverpool on Saturday, we visited the Museum of





Liverpool, the Albert Dock and Liverpool One. The Year 9 pupils used their Spanish to communicate key facts and help the Spanish pupils order food at lunch time. On Sunday, our pupils demonstrated their resilience in the long walk between Grasmere and Ambleside, and the Spanish pupils enjoyed the beautiful views.





On Tuesday, the Spanish pupils were welcomed back into classrooms in the morning, and in the afternoon, they were treated to a tour of the observatory, a science escape room and a film in the 3D cinema. To end the exchange, the Spanish pupils enjoyed a cooking lesson (above left), something they do not have in their own school. Working in pairs, they made toad in the hole and apple crumble. Before the final goodbyes, pupils ate this quintessentially British meal together.

The Year 9 pupils from Sharples School became good friends with the Spanish pupils, demonstrating their kindness and hospitality to ensure the Spanish pupils had the very best experience possible. The Spanish teachers were very impressed with the school and very grateful for all the hard work and effort put in by the staff and pupils at Sharples.



Sharples school Newsletter

Performing Arts Department Update

Year 9 Project: Theatre-in-Education

All students in Year 9 took part in a
Theatre-in-Education (T.I.E.) Project
Competition which aimed to educate and
raise awareness about the following topics;
Stranger Danger/Firework Safety/Road Safety.
Their target audience was Year 3 pupils from
local primary schools. There were some
fantastic scripts and puppet designs, as well
as set designs and props. The final
performances were highly effective and
entertaining and they had a clear message.
Student's vocal projection has developed and
improved throughout the project, with several
attempts at accents, further developing their



vocal and characterisation skills. The focus for this project was to use the skills and techniques of theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. Brechtian techniques were clearly evident and effectively demonstrated through each puppet production, focusing on narration in the third person, use of songs and music, use of placards and direct address, breaking the fourth wall.

Year 9 winners from the following categories; scriptwriting, puppet-making and puppet performances and use of Brechtian techniques are Saffiya, Isabelle, Muskan, Keelie, Ayan, Iqra, Jasmine, Grace, Jacob, Olivia and Anna.

Congratulations and very well done to all Year 9 students!

Zumba

Year 7 and Year 8 students have been enjoying Zumba Club on Tuesday lunchtimes. They have learnt the Merengue, Reggaeton, Cumbia and Salsa rhythms. As Performing Arts Ambassadors, they will take part in our upcoming



Creative Arts Day, where pupils will learn Zumba rhythms and Samba drumming through a variety of Arts activities. Our theme this year is Carnival!



Shakespeare Schools Festival - Silver Award



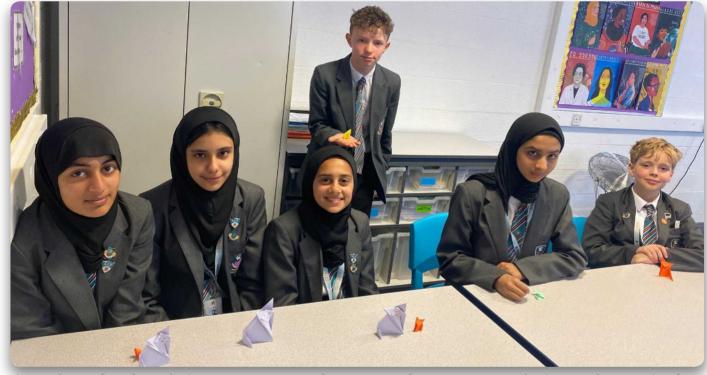
We are also pleased to announce that we are now a Shakespeare 'Silver' School as we have participated in the Festival for five consecutive years. Performances have included Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Henry V, Othello and most recently Twelfth Night. A huge thank you to all of our students who have participated in the Shakespeare Schools Festivals over the years. It's always a rewarding experience where students are able to work with industry professionals and perform in a professional theatre in Manchester. We are really looking forward to our next Shakespeare production, where we hope to achieve 'Gold' School status. Please remember that the Shakespeare Festival is open to all students from all year groups.

The Music Department is busy preparing for our end of year summer concert, on Tuesday 4th July at 7pm. Our summer concert will be performed by students from all year groups and will include performances from our school rock band, our fantastic brass, piano and guitar students and Year 10 students will perform extracts from musical theatre.

Tickets are available from Mr Corrigan (j.corrigan@sharplesschool.co.uk) Please note, tickets are free of charge.



Year 7 Origami Maths Club



During Thursday lunchtimes Year 7 students can demonstrate their mathematical creativity in the origami club (pictured above). Last week they developed hand-eye coordination, sequencing skills and patience to create a fox. We were very impressed with some of the results - take a look below!





Science Enrichment Newsletter

STEM club

This week saw the final formal STEM club of the academic year! Pupils reflected on the different projects completed, with the torch planetarium being a joint favourite, along with making cheese! The planetariums that the pupils started designing in the Autumn, are to be collected by their designers. They were over the moon to take home their stellar designs! Next year, pupils will take greater involvement in the planning of sessions, with Year 10 pupils supporting the club to further develop their leadership skills.

Science Career of the Week

This week's career is 'Nuclear medicine technologist'. Nuclear medicine technologists' are responsible for performing quality assurance on nuclear medicine equipment and also treating patients with radioactive tracers. These tracers aim to target cancerous tissue and spare healthy tissue. 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.

Chester Zoo Trip

On Thursday 29th Miss Booth took the Year 10 animal care class and Year 9 poster competition winners to Chester zoo. The Year 9s were free to explore the zoo all day and the Year 10s attended a workshop on Animal Husbandry (pictured) where they learned about all the factors that are taken into consideration when the keepers are designing enclosures and caring for the animals. They then visited the Sun Bear enclosure before designing their own enclosures for different animal species. Miss Booth would like to say a thank you to Mr Leather for supporting the trip and to all the pupils for their fantastic behaviour on the day.





Space News

Physicists have achieved a remarkable feat by using neutrinos, ghostly subatomic particles, to construct the first image of our galaxy, the Milky Way. Neutrinos, which possess no electric charge and can effortlessly pass through various cosmic obstacles, were combined with a decade's worth of data from the IceCube detector in Antarctica. By employing artificial intelligence, researchers successfully identified high-energy neutrinos originating from within our galaxy and produced an unprecedented image of the Milky Way's plane. This breakthrough not only offers insights into potential sources like remnants of supernovae and collapsed supergiant stars but also paves the way for revolutionary advancements in neutrino astronomy and our understanding of the universe.

Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator

UKMT Junior Challenge and Junior Kangaroo 2023

Earlier this term 125 Year 8 students took part in this year's UKMT Junior Challenge. The UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Congratulations to everyone that took part. 33 students were awarded gold, silver and bronze certificates based on their final score out of 135. These are as follows:

Gold Certificate (score of 82 and above): Hamzah M, Tom M and Syed T.

Silver Certificates (score of 66 and above): Megan P, Brandon G, Owen D and Dan C.

Bronze Certificates (score of 52 and above): Cody E, Kayden L, Aleksandr H, Owais U, Juwairiyah P, Umamah B, Safiyyah I, Zain B, Blake D, Essa M, Hasaan R, Omelkhier B, Rayhan D, Huma L, Kulsoom M, Farrah H, Huzaifa A, Henry R, Ismael I, Muhammad-Khaleel V, Aseoluwa E, Adam P, Abdur-Rahmen A, Zak I, Umar M and Aimee W.

As a result of scoring more than 88 in the Junior Challenge, Hamzah M and Tom M were selected to take part in this year's Junior Kangaroo Challenge. Entry to the Challenge is by invitation only. This is a huge achievement and Hamzah and Tom should be very proud of themselves.

The Junior Kangaroo 2023 took place on June 14th. Tom and Hamzah performed superbly in the challenge and both received certificates of qualification.



English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Idris O has shown excellent persuasive skills in a speech. Click here to view the work.

Year 8

Hamzah M has written an excellent descriptive paragraph. Click here to view the work.

Year 9

Declan H has written a wonderful review. Click here to view the work.

Year 10

Safaa Y has drafted a great start for the opening of her narrative. Click here to view the work.

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Aeeshah B for always reading with enthusiasm and being willing to share ideas clearly.

Year 8

Jemimah S for reading an extract with a clear voice and lots of enthusiasm.

Year 9

Megan E for reading an extract with a clear voice, delivering the writer's tone behind it well.

Year 10

Bethany K for reading an extract and being perceptive when analysing it.



Sharples School Newsletter

KS4 Rounders Team Undefeated In The League



A huge well done to the KS4 rounders team (pictured) who secured a double victory over Ladybridge and Essa on Tuesday night. Up against Essa first, the girls managed an impressive 49-18 win before beating Ladybridge, 41-26. This was the girls last league game of the year and ensured they finished 'League B' winners. Their final outing of the year will be at the KS4 tournament next Tuesday which will be the Y10's last rounders event of their Sharples career! Well done, girls!



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 = 73.93%

Year 8 = 73.91%

Year 9 = 75.07%

Year 10 = 73.92%

Best forms this week:

7Shar2 = 81.57%

8R = 86.27%

9H = 83.39%

10S = 84.50%

34 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1st to Sunday 2nd July: DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition in Clitheroe

Monday 3rd July: Year 10 Runshaw College taster day

Tuesday 4th July: Summer Festival Concert (19:00 – 21:00)

Wednesday 5th July: New intake Day and Evening (16:00 – 19:00)

Career of the Week: Merchant Navy Engineering Officer

They maintain the mechanical and electrical machinery and instruments on board a ship.

Average Salary: 1



Typical hours: (per week)

You could work:





Qualifications:

You can get into this career through an apprenticeship or applying directly.

- GCSE grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) including English, maths, and a science, preferably physics
- 2 or 3 A levels or equivalent qualifications.

Skills required:

- The ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- · To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- Business management skills.
- · Knowledge of engineering science and technology.
- To be able to use a computer & main softwares.

Relevant Subjects:

Science, Engineering, Maths and Geography.

Information sourced from: https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/merchant-navy-engineering-officer





Sharples School Newsletter



PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 & Y10 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y7 Football - Boys & Girls (Big Astro) - AHM & LAL	Rounders- SCU/LAL Y7/8 Football (Big astro)
Boccia (Gym) - LAL	Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL/SCU	Rounders - LAL/SCU	Basketball (SH) - LAL &	АНМ
Yr 9/10 Cricket (Field) -		Yr 7/8 Cricket (Field) -	scu	Yr 9/10 Cricket (Field) -
CCH Rounders - SCU	Yr 7/8 Cricket (Field) - PGR	PGR	Yr 9/10 Cricket (Field) - CCH	ССН



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 Swimming KS3 Cricket match v Ladybridge (a)	Cricket practice- all years Yr 7/8 Football practice KS4 Rounders Tournament @ St James Basketball- all years	No Clubs/fixtures	Department detentions Fitness suite- KS4 KS3 Rounders Tournament @ Harper Green	No clubs/fixtures

Week beginning 3rd July



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

You can have weekly instrumental or vocal lessons from our specialist music teachers in your school and also hire an instrument by visiting us at:

www.boltonmusicservice.com/ parents-and-pupils

YOU CAN ALSO JOIN A BAND, GROUP 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.

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

01204 333533



DON'T BIN IT, DONATE IT



- SHOES
- TRAINERS
- COATS

- BAGS
- P.E. KITS
- SCHOOL SUPPLI
- ALL UNIFORMS STATIONERY

DROP OFF: KINGS CHURCH, THE MILL, BURY RD, BOLTON BL2 6QE



SHARPLES MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENTS PRESENT



A VARIETY OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS
PERFORMANCES

4th JULY, 2023 7PM

SHARPLES THEATRE
Sharples School, Hill Cot Road, Astley Bridge,
Bolton, BL1 8SN

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT NO COST FROM

MRS STEVENS (G67) OR MR CORRIGAN (G66)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Artificial intelligence — particularly in terms of how it generates natural language — has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new Al-based software or adding an Al element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of Al to become especially popular has been the 'Al friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now, numerous apps available with this virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Al chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such Al solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

D@*#/

REDUCED SOCIAL

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. Al misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

Al companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.



Although many are now undeniably advanced, Al-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understandling complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY



Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in Al apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to alscover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring Al chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance — and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

NEW MESSAGE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use Al-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting pienty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to Al chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

Meet Our Expert



RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of Al chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that Al isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.







f /NationalOnlineSafety





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGER DANGER

While young people generally know not to share personal information with strangers, the safety of their home and the distance offered by technology can make them feel more relaxed and uninhibited. Combined with the fact that OmeTV provides a webchat function – and anonymity – it can be an easy way for groomers to gather information, ask to connect on other social media platforms, or potentially request intimate images.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

Unfortunately, there are a lot of users who use OmeTV's webcam feature to expose themselves. While users can swipe to the next call quickly, it's not something that can be filtered out completely – so young people could easily be exposed to highly inappropriate images.

REPORTING DIFFICULTIES

When video calling, the other person's username is often hidden and therefore they can't be blocked or reported. There is a 'Report Abuse' tab at the bottom of the video, but the speed with which calls can swipe past can make it difficult to use this system. There's also little evidence to suggest that offenders are dealt with appropriately (through warnings or account termination, for example).

OmeTV is another app which encourages users to 'make friends from all around the world'. People can search profiles by age and gender and send direct messages or photos. However, the app is primarily used for video calls. When using this feature, users are connected at random, although only their country of origin is shared. People can then either choose to move on to the next chat or can stay in that call for as long as they wish.

AGE VERIFICATION



Although the site states that users must be 18 or over, there's no way to verify this, and it's easy to use an existing Facebook account to log in, or for users to set up a fake account. To access OmeTV, users simply need to press a button confirming they're an adult, which means it's likely many users will claim to be much older than they are

VIDEO RECORDING REC

When young people are chatting live on a webcam, they could be coaxed by others into doing things they don't feel comfortable doing, or persuaded that no harm can come from it. What they don't know is whether the other user is recording them. These videos could then be used to embarrass or blackmail them, or they could be kept by a potential online predator.

LIMITED PARENTAL CONTROLS

OmeTV has very limited parental controls. There is a 'sofe mode', but this is of little practical use given that explicit content isn't filtered out. While the site lists several rules and regulations, there are few apparent ways to enforce them or restrict what users can see or do.



Advice for Parents & Carers

FOLLOW AGE GUIDELINES

OmeTV has an age recommendation of 18 and over, which suggests the developers are aware that it may facilitate adult content. It's important to adhere to the age guidelines and try to restrict access to the app for younger users. If you find it on an under-18's device, talk to them about the potential risks and explain why they probably shouldn't be using it.

6 8

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

M&H*

Maintain communication with your child about online safety and empower them to protect themselves. Simply deleting an app from their device impacts their independence and can cause resentment. Instead, highlight news reports of predators exposing themselves to children on the internet, and discuss what they should do if asked for explicit images.



DISCOURAGE CHATS WITH STRANGERS (Hi;)

Remind your child of the dangers of talking to strangers online. The anonymity OmeTV offers, plus its webchat function, makes it an attractive place for groomers to network and create inappropriate content. Explain that your child may see something which upsets them – and that it's a crime for anyone to expose themselves to a young person online.



ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Regardless of how responsible your child may be, it's essential to use parental controls on their device. It's easy for young people to get lured in by others, feeling they've built up a trusting friendship and being coaxed into doing things they wouldn't normally do. Ensure in-app purchases aren't enabled on their device, and emphasise that they can always talk to you about anything online that worries them.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and oryber safety policies for schools. She has written verious academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and carried bulleting of the second papers and carried behaviour of the second papers.





Source: https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/man-exposes-himself-to-marrero-middle-school-students-in-online-chat-tv-station-reports/articlo_c(0b9p40-0619-6107-aced-61627a1129bb.html
https://www.wtv.com/news/local-news/crime/indy-man-sentenced-to-15-years-for-owning-two-phones-with-nearly-2-000-files-of-children-being-covaally-abused [] https://ome.tv/rules/



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