



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 445
7th July 2023



The Award for
MAKING A DIFFERENCE -
SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

SILVER AWARD

Cherie U - English Schools Athletics Championships

A huge congratulations to Cherie U (Year 10) who competed at the English Schools Athletics Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham over the weekend. Cherie raced in the IG 100m heat on Friday and out of 34 athletes, qualified as the 4th fastest which secured her place in the final on Saturday. Stepping up with the 8 fastest U17 athletes, Cherie ran a brilliant race and finished 4th in the final, 0.03 seconds outside of a medal position! Not letting that deflate her and within the hour of her running in the 100m final, Cherie competed in the 4x100m relay. Going into the 4th leg and home straight, Greater Manchester were placed in 4th position. However, with Cherie on the baton, she managed to quickly catch the 2 athletes in front of her and helped secure Greater Manchester 2nd place! They missed out on 1st place by 0.04 seconds which was won by Middlesex. A fantastic achievement, especially competing as the lower age in the U17 category.



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Flying with Newton's Laws

This article originally appeared on The Eurekas:

<https://theeurekas.co.uk/submissions/runner-up-flying-with-newtons-laws/>

Congratulations to our 2023 runner-up, Khadijah from Sharples High School. Khadijah created a brilliant video to demonstrate Newton's Laws of Motion. Take a look at her entry below:

Behind my passion for engineering, there is a lot of physics to reveal...

Since my sister loves dolls, I created a zipline to send her doll down into a wooden-carved house, from her bedroom window! Attempting using a designed transportation device (which I observed the mass created too much of a resistant force) a range of materials, was also used to find the most effective.

I used plywood to create the product, which transferred different energy stores to the wood eg. cutting the wood- kinetic energy to thermal energy.

The contact between the source and the zipline is connected using satin to generate enough flow before stopping, from a moderate velocity- due to the difference in height.

This also proves Newton's 3 laws of motion:

1. An object will not change its motion unless a force acts on it. The external force applied can be considered to be gravity, which causes the doll to start moving.
2. A force to be equal to mass x acceleration. Acceleration is produced when a force acts as a mass. The greater the mass, the greater the force required.
3. When two objects interact, equal magnitude of forces are applied in opposite directions. As the doll accelerates, an equal force of air resistance opposes.





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Year 7 Vocabulary Bingo



Two weeks ago, we launched an exciting new competition for Year 7s. Our pupils were given a bingo card with 9 words to use verbally or in written form across their lessons. Over 40 of our students managed to complete their cards within the two weeks, with some even managing to do it in 24 hours! Well done to all Year 7s! A huge congratulations to Sofia G and Hassan A who won our end of bingo raffle!

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PE Rewards Celebration



Students have been receiving their invitations to the PE rewards celebration this week, which will be held in school on Wednesday 19th July. The department will be celebrating the success of our sports teams and will also acknowledge some special sporting achievements from outside of school. There has been evidence of this over the last week from some of our students.

Aidan B competed (pictured above) in the British International Open Taekwondo Championship last weekend and took the Silver medal competing against the best fighters in the world, some of which were in a higher weight category.

Oliver M (pictured above) travelled to Durham to compete in a league trampolining competition and qualified for the finals in October and then managed to finish second place in the medal event performing his new and extremely difficult routine.



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KS3 Rounders Tournament



A big well done to our KS3 rounders team (pictured) who took part in the Bolton Schools tournament on Thursday evening. The girls started the tournament strong with a 54-40 victory over Harper Green. However, Kearsley were up next and after only narrowly beating them a couple of weeks ago in the league, the girls knew it would be a tough task. With Sharples winning going into the final 3 balls, Kearsley scored a rounder which concluded the game at 36-30 in their favour. Not letting that deflate them, the girls quickly bounced back and secured a nail biting, 41-40 win over St James's before suffering defeat to Bolton 'B' team. Although the girls displayed some of the best rounders they have played all season, unfortunately, it wasn't enough to see them through to the semi-finals! The KS4 team tournament will take place next Tuesday at Harper Green.

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Bolton Athletics Championships



On a lovely summer's day, Sharples' Year 9 and 10 athletes travelled to Leverhulme Park to compete in the Bolton Athletics Championships. Our athletes have been working hard practising after school and all their hard work paid off with many superb performances. Sharples managed to bring home some medals with many outstanding individual performances. Stand out medal performances were as follows: Joe T won his heat in the 200m and then came 2nd in the final, competing against some incredible athletes. Our next notable performance came from Marcus V who set a new school record that had been in place since 1992! Overall, it was a superb team performance with all students showing real determination and resilience and it was lovely to see students supporting their peers and representing their school with pride.

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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:

7 = 95.77%

8 = 95.14%

9 = 97.65%

10 = 91.99%

Best forms this week:

7Shar4 = 100%

8H = 99.33%

9R = 100%

10S = 98.06%

33 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Monday 10th July:
Year 10 College
Taster Day - Bolton
6th Form College

Tuesday 11th July:
Year 8 Careers Fair

Thursday 13th
July: Sports day

Saturday 15th July
onwards: DofE
Silver Qualifying
Expedition

Monday 17th July
and Tuesday 18th
July : Academic
Achievement
Assemblies

Career of the Week: Merchant Navy Engineering Officer

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

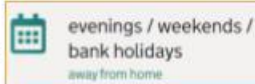
Average Salary:



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>



Careers &
Enterprise
at Sharples School

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PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

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



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 Swimming KS3 Cricket match v Ladybridge (a)	Yr 7/8 Football practice KS4 Rounders Tournament @ Harper Green Basketball- all years Running club- all years	No Clubs/fixtures	Sports day	Rewards trip

Week beginning 10th July



BE CREATIVE

BE INSPIRED

HAVE FUN

**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

**Bolton
Music Service**

Working in Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen

School's Out Take an emotional health check



Head into the summer with a better understanding of your **child's brain development** and their **emotional wellbeing** as you support them into their next new phase.

FACT

Our brains develop most rapidly in childhood shaping our emotional health and wellbeing for the rest of our lives.

HERE FOR YOU

Online courses developed by clinical psychologists can help you to **understand your child, read their behaviour and help them look after their emotional health.**



inourplace.co.uk

Understanding your child online course has been paid for by **Bolton NHS Foundation Trust**, so you can access it **completely free** using the code **RIVINGTON**

Short courses on **Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child or teenager** also included.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI 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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI 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 AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

Do*#!

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

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. AI 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

AI 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.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding 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 CONCERNS

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 AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover 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 AI 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

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty 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 AI 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.

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 AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI 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.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OMETV

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.

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 webcam 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).

AGE VERIFICATION

17+

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

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 'safe 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.

DISCOURAGE CHATS WITH STRANGERS

Remind your child of the dangers of talking to strangers online. The anonymity OmeTV offers, plus its webcam 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.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

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.

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 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.

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Source: https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/man-exposes-himself-to-marrero-middle-school-students-in-online-chat-tv-station-reports/article_6f0b9e40-0819-51b7-aced-6f62af129bb.html
<https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/indy-man-sentenced-to-15-years-for-owning-two-phones-with-nearly-2-000-files-of-children-being-sexually-abused> | <https://ome.tv/rules/>