

Issue 453
13th October 2023

## World Mental Health Day

Thanks to Year 11 student Amirah A who has written the following article about World Mental Health Day.


On World Mental Health Day, our Sharples BeKindToMyMind champions (pictured) collaborated with champions from across schools in Bolton and attended an event around the BeKindToMyMind campaign, hosted by Bolton Youth Council. The event consisted of sharing what every school had internally done to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, allowing every school to take ideas and share their experiences regarding the campaign. Other sessions during the event consisted of learning about mindfulness and positive coping strategies whilst also having the opportunity to ask professionals the questions that young people are concerned about. This event encouraged positive emotional discussions and allowed young people with similar thoughts and ideas regarding mental health to realise change can be made with continuous discussion around mental health, which is what World Mental Health Day was created for.

Mathematician of the Month


Every month a student is nominated from each of the maths classes for Mathematician of the Month. These students are nominated based on their hard work, enthusiasm and efforts within the lesson.

Well done to this month's nominees for a fantastic start to maths lessons this year!

Year 7
Zaibunnisha V
Elsa A
James B
Zeynab Y
Aminah L
Rebecca M
Bilal H P
Afrin S
Zachary W-M

Year 8
Noah P Aaeesha B Adil G Jayden O Amelia T-M Hayden R Zainab K Salahudin A Declan J

Year 9
Leah H Hamza M Dylan F Zak S Oliver M Mai G Sara N Zayba N P Halima P Zain H

Year 10
Adam E Maham M Isabel F Umaynah B Finley B Zaynab N Anaiya F Mischa L Harvey B Daniel W

Year 11
Khadijah P Sanah D Angus L Abdur R K Jawaad A Liam B Amelia P Safa P Julia G Brandon J

# Sharples SC H OO L Newsletter 

## English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week
Year 7
Elsa A has written a lovely nature poem and given a secure explanation. Click here to view the work.

Year 8
Zayn H has written an excellent analysis of key characters in Blood Brothers. Click here to view the work.

Year 9
Hashim C has shown excellent knowledge of what life is like in The Jungle. Click here to view the work.

Year 10
Olivia-Grace E has produced very detailed annotations and a thoughtful essay on poetry. Click here to view the work.

Year 11
Zain C has shown excellent skills in his analysis of a nonfiction article. Click here to view the work.

## Readers of the Week

Year 7
Mariam S for wonderfully reading short stories.

## Year 8

Ruby M as she is always enthusiastic when it comes to reading in class. She has shown a lot of interest in the class read, 'The Giver', and often asks for recommendations to pick up from the library.

Year 9
Sandani G for reading with precision and confidence.
Year 10
Molly H for playing an eerie Jacob Marley.

## Year 11

Talal K for his fantastic effort reading for Mrs Birling. He adapted his tone of voice exceptionally well to match the characteristics of Mrs Birling.

# Sharples $\mathrm{SCHO}^{\mathrm{C}}$ Newsletter 

## Science Enrichment Newsletter Scientists of the Month

The September winners of scientist of the month are as follows:

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Academic | AA: Maryam P | AA: Morgan I | AA: Evie AS |
| achievement: Bilal HP | P: Tia S | P: Elliot N | P: Josh K |
| Progress: Kai K | C: Khadijah M | C: Farrah H | C: Carter L |

Community: Seb W
Well done to all the winners, who receive a goodie bag of scientific treats and a certificate for their achievement portfolios.

## STEM club

This week in the STEM club pupils were building series and parallel circuits! Desperate to have a set of fairy lights designed for the dark months ahead, the teams wanted to understand which circuit design would be optimal. They discovered that adding bulbs in series saw them become collectively dimmer, whilst when combined in parallel, the brightness remained unchanged! Now the teams know exactly how to design their fairy lights!


## Astronomy club

This week, the astronomy club students built Moon models as well as using solar glasses to observe the Sun safely. Remember! Never look directly at the Sun.

## Animal Care talk

On Friday, Animal Aid came in to give a talk to Animal Care students (as pictured on the next page) about the rights of animals and how they are treated by different industries, this is a part of the Animal Care BTEC course and an understanding of the rights of animals is fundamental to all the units we study throughout Year 10 and 11. Thank you to Gary from Animal Aid for delivering an interesting and thought provoking talk.

## Science Career of the Week

This week's career is 'Air traffic controller'. As an air traffic controller, you'll use

highly sophisticated radar and radio communication equipment to communicate advice, information and instructions to pilots. 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.

## Star party

On the 28th October, Sharples Observatory will be hosting a 'Star Party'. This is to mark a partial lunar eclipse, where we will be able to see the shadow of the Earth cast onto the lunar surface. It is also a great opportunity to take a look at a range of objects in the night's sky through our telescopes. More information can be found later in the newsletter.

## Revision Skill of the Week

Revision skill of the week is.. 'Make a revision timetable'. Revision should not be left to chance, your GCSEs are just too important. Instead, creating a revision timetable can ensure your time can be used effectively and all of your subjects will benefit. Knowing exactly what you are going to revise and when alleviates the stress of revision and will make it more enjoyable and efficient.

Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator


## Year 9 Boys Football



Last night our Year 9 boys football team (pictured) took on Essa in the cup. We started a bit slow, easing into the game before Aayan opened the scoring in the first half, shortly followed by a goal from Reece. In the second half the boys stepped it up a gear and showed some really good football as they scored 6 goals in the second half. Aayan was the stand out player, claiming 5 goals and the man of the match. Well done boys, onto the next one!


Greater Manchester Activity Festival


A handful of lucky Year 7s had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Greater Manchester Activity Festival at Graystone Actions Sports Centre in Salford on Tuesday. The day was all about students experiencing new activities to help build confidence, as well as build a positive relationship between physical activity and movement in general. Whilst there, students were able to experience a carousel of new sporting activities including: scooter riding, rock climbing, trampolining and parkour. It was brilliant to see how confidence in the students increased throughout the day. Well done, Year 7 ! More pictures of the festival can be found on the next page.


Greater Manchester Activity Festival


## Year 10 Work Experience

A huge well done to the students who have now secured a placement and handed their forms back in. Any students who have completed their form and handed it back in by Friday 20th October will be receiving a prize! A reminder that our deadline is Tuesday 24th October therefore if you have not yet found a placement, please ensure you do so as soon as possible.

# Sharples $\mathrm{SCHO}^{\mathrm{CH}}$ Newsletter 

## Year 11 Final Netball Tournament

Year 11 took part in their final netball games of their Sharples career on Tuesday evening when they took part in the Bolton Town Tournament at Bolton School. The girls came away with 2 dominant wins against King's and Westhoughton before losing to Turton and Thornleigh by the smallest of margins. Canon Slade came away winners after a close encounter with Bolton School in the final. The girls have been an absolute pleasure to teach over the past 4 years and have been a credit to Sharples, representing the school brilliantly over this period. Well done, girls!


## Maths Competition

Could your design be on the new Maths praise postcard?

Open to all year groups

Prizes available for the best creations!

## Deadline for entries is Wednesday $25^{\text {th }}$ October



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

## nem <br> $\mathrm{SCHOOL}^{\mathrm{C}}$ Newsletter

## The Solstice Prize 2023

## A nature-themed creative writing prize for 7-17 year olds.

The Solstice Writing Prize is a national, annual writing competition for young writers, which invites young people to take a closer look at the natural world, explore their relationship with it, or examine the challenges it faces, and write short stories, poems, and thought-provoking blogs in response.

## Your Entry

- Must relate (as loosely as you like) to nature, the environment, or issues related to climate change
- Must be your own work
- Must be 500 words (for short stories and blogs) or 40 lines (for poems)
- The deadline is $31^{\text {st }}$ October 2023

You must get permission from a parent or guardian and they can submit your entry on the website by searching for
'The Solstice Prize 2023'
or see Miss Hartley in U8 at break or lunch for more information.

First-place winners in each age category will receive $£ 100$ and have their work published in the 2023 Solstice Anthology.

Five Highly Commended runners up per age category will receive goody bags and also have their work published in the online anthology.

## Year 9 Maths Competition

Year 9 have just finished the Similarity unit and now you have the opportunity to put the skills you have learned to the test! Can you use your skills to create a model version of a famous landmark or of your actual or dream house or bedroom? Prizes available for the best creations! Deadline for entries is Tuesday $7^{\text {th }}$ November.


Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN <br> \title{
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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:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Year } 7=95.81 \% \\
& \text { Year } 8=95.77 \% \\
& \text { Year } 9=93.32 \% \\
& \text { Year } 10=93.89 \% \\
& \text { Year } 11=94.36 \%
\end{aligned}
$$

Best forms this week:

$$
\begin{gathered}
7 \text { Shar2 }=98.67 \% \\
8 \text { Ples5 }=100 \% \\
9 P=98.85 \% \\
10 \mathrm{E}=97.87 \% \\
11 \mathrm{P}=99.35 \%
\end{gathered}
$$

## Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14th October: DofE Bronze Introductory Training Walk

Tuesday 17th October: Virtual Careers Workshop with Aldi

Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th October: Year 11 trip to Pompeii

Wednesday $18^{\text {th }}$ and Thursday 19th October: Year 7 CATS tests

698 pupils have achieved $100 \%$ this academic year.


Careers \& Enterprise at Sharples School

## mer <br> Sharples 5 CHOL Newsletter

| WEEK COMMENCING - <br> 11TH <br> SEPTEMBER <br> (圂) Sharples |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term |  |  |  |  |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| tball (Big Astro) - | Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR |  | Y7 Football - (Big Astro) <br> AHM | Y8 Football (Big astro) AHM \& SCU |
| $\text { Netball Yr } 7 / 8(\mathrm{SH})-\mathrm{SCU} 8$ | ${ }^{\text {Y7 Dodgebalal (SH) - LaL }}$ | Y7/Y8 Basketball (Gym) - | KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - <br> \& SCU | Y11 Football (Small stro) - JBA |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Y8 Football (Small Astro) } \\ \text { JBA } \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { LAL } \\ & \text { S4 Boys Fitness Suite - } \\ & \text { PGR } \end{aligned}$ | Y9 Football (Small Astro) - JBA | Y10 Footal (SH) - LaL |
| (sym) -scu | (G32)-AHM |  |  |  |

## WEEK COMMENCING 16th OCTOBER

## PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yr 7/8 Swimming club <br> KS4 Netball | KS3 Netball practice <br> Y7 football v <br> Thornleigh ( h ) <br> Y8 Boys Football practice <br> Y10 Netball @ Bolton School <br> Running Club | Yr 7/8 Swimming club <br> Y10 Football v <br> Little Lever (a) <br> Basketball practice | Y8 Football v Little Lever (h) <br> Y9 Football v Little Lever (h) <br> Y7-10 Netball @ Rivington <br> KS4 boys fitness suite <br> Badminton practice | Department detentions |

- Football and netball fixtures will be arranged throughout the term!


## What Parents \& Carers Need to Know about

# THE DANGERS OF VAPING 

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from $\mathbf{7 . 7 \%}$ in 2022 to $\mathbf{1 1 . 6 \%}$ in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

## WHAT ARE

 THE RISKS?

## NICOTINE ADDICTION

## $+$

Since they were initially developea to heip people
stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquias contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

## POIENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metal such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury - all of which form of tiny shards inside a device's liquic tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

## UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 - and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

## ATTRACTNE PACKAGING

## The packaging of many

 disposable vapes is very appealing to young people irequently echoing the colours and figavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. around vape marketing, and vaping often denicted positively on socing is - which can lead voung people to media - wever canloa goung people ti overlock the possibe harms. vaping and overiook the possible harms.ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being a lithium battery and a chemical environment the ecesystem environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also preaominanty made of course, do not naturally decompose.

## G

## WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemicai vapour which the user inhaies. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

## LACK OF AWARENESS tend to view vapes as harmiess, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. in many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of dadiction: that is the they aren't adequately oware of the adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape. <br> WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria - resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illead chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked - presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

## SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmfil chemicals in a vape troubling. Some vape fuids traces of nuts, which can cause a allergic reaction or andphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging - with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

## VAGUE INGREDIENTS LSTS

 Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potentíal risks.
## Meet Our Expert


#### Abstract

There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.


What parents need to know about Forithite


## BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.

## SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to
everybody and don't require additional mo everybody and don't require additional mo. can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass faster and gain fun in-game items by faster and gain fun in-game items by
completing a host of daily challenges.

## IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.

## CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform
To do this, an Evic Games account must first be To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (whicn is free) and then linked wit. your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together up a whole new world of playing online with friends.

FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?
While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying t does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes currency used in-game is called ' $V$-Bucks' anc can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not
necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.

## IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoony violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit wil want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.

## NOS National Online Safety ${ }^{\circ}$ <br> \#WakeUpWednesday

## BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion
would be capping the spending at around $£ 50$ this is the normal retail price of a game

## TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, taik to friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.

## Meet our expert

## © 10

## op Tips For Parents

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## GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royaie is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good The only real slanterm trangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic strangers offered which wan be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.

## CAN DEVELOP SOME

 IMPORTANT SKILLSIt's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.


## LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

 There's no substitute for sitting downand playing the game yourself to learn
all about it. Fortnite is available for free ail about it. Forthite is avaiable for free
on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your chiliren when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to ' 10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a still, play with your child and still, play with your child and
take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.

## PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF




## Farly Help Parenting Drop-in

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.

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

## Drop-in sessions, 9.30am - 3.30pm

Farnworth King St Centre 16 Sept 7 Oct 28 Oct 18 Nov 9 Dec

Tonge Children Centre 30 Sept 21 Oct 11 Nov 2 Dec

## WRAP UP SHARPLES

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## HELPING TO KEEP PEOPLE OF BOLTON WARM THIS WINTER

Wrap Up is a campaign run by local Rotary Clubs, in partnership with the registered charity Hands On London. Thick warm winter coats donated to Wrap Up are collected by volunteers and each garment is inspected to ensure it is clean and in a good condition to be given away.
Our motto of "Is this coat good enough for you to wear ensures that only good quality coats are distributed to the charitable organisations.
The collected coats are distributed via homeless shelters, refugee centres, organisations supporting the elderly, women's refuges, children's centres and
 other charities helping people in crisis.
We do not give coats direct to families, because we firmly believe that the charitable organisations can identify support and resources to benefit those in need or signpost them to organisations that could help, thereby creating a lasting relationship between those in need and the organisation that could transform their lives.

SO, IF YOU HAVE A THICK WARM WINTER COAT YOU NO LONGER NEED, PLEASE DONATE IT TO OUR WRAP UP CAMPAIGN.

