



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 467
9th February 2024

Trip to MathsCity



50 Year 8 pupils visited MathsCity in Leeds last Friday (as pictured above). The purpose of the centre is to excite and engage everyone with the fascination and power of Mathematics and the pupils got to experience this by exploring a wide variety of interactive exhibits.

Examples included an interactive code-breaking screen, the facility for creating a giant soap bubble that encloses the creator, a hands-on 'traffic jam' game and a triangular mirror 'room' that generated infinite reflections.

The pupils also worked in groups to create a 'Leonardo Dome' – a structure made out of identical pieces of wood that interlock together.

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Poetry Live 2024 Trip



18 Year 10 students enjoyed a trip to the Opera House in Manchester (pictured) for this year's Poetry Live. Poets from the Poetry Anthology, which Year 10 are currently studying, read out their poems and talked about why they wrote the poems. Students also learnt more about the poets' lives and had the chance to ask questions. Students had the opportunity to get some advice from an examiner which will be very useful next year. Unfortunately, they didn't get a chance to give Carol Ann Duffy the onion they brought her as a present!

War of the Words Workshop

Our Year 10 students were provided a fantastic opportunity to take part in the 'War of the Words' workshop. They worked on their presentation skills, public speaking and raising confidence essential for future career aspirations. Our students explored how to look confident, how to adapt tone to suit different audiences, how to react to stress/nerves, and what the ingredients are for a powerful speech.

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Science Enrichment Newsletter

Educake Top Scorers

Well done to all the students who completed their home learning task this week. And a particular congratulations to the following highest achievers.

Year 9: Corey M, Yahya I, Abdullah H, Kiah-Louise D, Abdullateef A 100%

Year 10: Khadijah N, Molly H 97%

Year 11: Mohammed Ayaan A, Yahya D 97%

STEM club

This week in the STEM club pupils were making bath bombs! Using a concoction of citric acid, bicarbonate of soda, dye and fragrance, pupils were able to create unique moulded shapes! The photo shows a small selection of the designs created. Next week pupils will be swabbing around the school to discover the nasty bacteria lurking!

Astronomy Club

Students have been learning how astronomers use radio signals to find possible communications from alien worlds, and how we may be able to send signals to find intelligent life elsewhere in the galaxy!

Article continues...





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RAF/ Royal Navy/ BAE Electricity Roadshow



Students from Year 7 and 8 were treated to an electrifying show all about the shocking power of electricity (as pictured above). Students built giant circuits, learning how different energy resources are used to generate electricity and even feel the mysterious power of electrical currents. It wasn't just students getting involved though, with Mr. Simpson and Mr. Burke also generating their own electricity using pedal power!

Science Career of the Week

This week's career is 'Nuclear medicine technologist'. 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.

Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator

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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 fantastic work in maths lessons!

Year 7

Kiya P
Aminah L
Mason R
Amirah B
Aleena M
Khadijah U
Mo A
Tombo A

Year 8

Fatima A
Sol M
Safa D
Owen L
Zainab K
Miski Abdi A
Ayesha Ali K
Leon L
Nouman I

Year 9

Olivia T
Amrat N
Omelkhier B
Annie H
Rayhan D
Aamina P
Kelsey H
Rayhan D
Skye B
Shaniece C

Year 10

Zaynab M
Elliott E
Riley F
Jacob D
Umar I
Myles B
Maariyah A
Heidi C
Harmain H
Leah S

Year 11

Maria S
Raen H
Angus L
Raza Ahmed A
Aliyah Y
Alfie H
Zainab G
Zayan S
Heidi H
Aimee Rose M

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Raihan G has shown excellent perceptive skills in his analysis of the poem Beowulf. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Meraab Z A has shown excellent effort in her Macbeth work. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Saarah D has put in wonderful effort into her analysis of the poem Refugees. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Tofiqah H S has shown brilliant insight into the poem She Walks in Beauty. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Ruby E has shown excellent knowledge in her revision of An Inspector Calls. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Aasiya B for reading out her brilliant anthem based on Animal Farm.

Year 8

Amaara M for her reading of Lady M.

Year 9

Leah H for clear and fluent reading of our reading text Boys Don't Cry & for continually showing her love of reading.

Year 10

Jamie A for continued enthusiasm to read aloud a part in the play Romeo and Juliet.

Year 11

Ammarah P for reading out her article on tattoos.



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Year 7 Football Tournament



Some of the Year 7 football squad had a fantastic opportunity to attend a football tournament at the iconic Manchester United Cliff training ground. Sharples showed fantastic character competing in all their games and played some lovely football at times. Tom and Lewis made some incredible saves in goal and Alex worked tirelessly in the midfield and was a credit to his team leading by example.

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Double Netball Win vs Rivington



A big well done to our Year 7 and Year 10 netball teams who secured a double victory over Rivington on Tuesday. The Year 10 team were up first and after a dominant first half, the girls had a comfortable lead after 15 minutes. Through some excellent attacking play from Evie A and Rae P, the Year 10s managed an impressive 20-9 victory over their opposition. After watching the Year 10 team dominate, the Year 7 team had a lot to live up to! The girls started well and had a 3 goal lead at the break. The team demonstrated some of the best netball I have seen them play and with some excellent shooting from Millie B, the girls ran away with a 8-1 win! Well done to all involved!

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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

Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 93.50%
Year 8 = 94.40%
Year 9 = 94.12%
Year 10 = 94.16%
Year 11 = 92.70%

Best forms this week:

7Shar5 = 97.37%
8Shar1 = 100%
9L = 98.42%
10P = 97.45%
11S2 = 98.71%

270 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th to
Friday 16th
February: Year 10
Work Experience
Week

Monday 12th to
Friday 16th
February: Year 11
Core PPEs

Monday 12th to
Friday 16th
February: Year 11
Speaking test PPEs

Thursday 15th
February: Year 9
Parents' evening
(16:00 – 19:00)

Career of the Week: Investment analyst

Investment analysts help stock market traders, stockbrokers and fund managers make decisions about investments.

Average Salary: £ £22,000
Starter — £65,000
Experienced

Typical hours:
(per week)  36 to 38
a week

You could work:  evenings / weekends
away from home



Qualifications:

- You can get into this job through a university course, apprenticeship or graduate training scheme.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

Skills required:

- Maths knowledge.
- Knowledge of economics and accounting.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- Ambition and a desire to succeed.
- Persistence and determination.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- The ability to use your judgement and make decisions.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently.

Relevant Subjects:

- Maths, Statistics, Business and Computer Science.

Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/investment-analyst>



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	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y7 Football - (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big astro) AHM
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - SCU & LAL	Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL	Just Dance- all years (SH) - SCU	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Y8 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y7/Y8 Basketball (Gym) - LAL	Y9 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Basketball (SH) - LAL
Boccia (Gym) - SCU & LAL	Sports Studies catch up (G32)- AHM	KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR		
		Y10 Football (Small Astro) - JBA		

WEEK COMMENCING -
12th February



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Yr 7/8 Swimming Club- cancelled	KS4 boys fitness	KS3 Swimming club- cancelled	Parents Evening	No Clubs
KS3 Football @ Kearsley	Y7 football practice	Basketball practice		
KS4 Netball	Yr 8 football practice	Boxing @ Khan's gym		
KS4 Girls Fitness suite	KS3 Netball	Y9 QF v Bolton School (a) 2-30pm KO		

• Other fixtures will be arranged throughout the term!



Calling all Y7-10 amazing mathematicians...

MEM February Half Term Challenge

Deadline Wednesday 28th February

The questions and further details can be found on Student Portal. If you have any questions please speak to Mrs McCawley.



MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION
ON MERSEYSIDE

Supported by

LEVERHULME
TRUST

P. H. HOLT
FOUNDATION



Calling all Year 8 amazing mathematicians...

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Thursday 25th April 2024

If you would like to take part please let your maths teacher know or send an email to Mrs Hart.

Optional lunchtime support session
every Wednesday in U23





LIVE FOR THE MOVEMENT

Sign up today for **FREE**
weekly fitness classes

Calling all girls aged 11-16! Check
out our new **MOVE TOGETHER**
FITNESS CLASSES.

Good for both body and mind
our specially designed classes
will help you to build strength,
confidence and get you moving.
It's the perfect opportunity to
have fun with friends.

MOVE TOGETHER

Join our next class at...

Time: 5pm-6pm

Date: Every Tuesday

Location: ST Pauls Community Centre
Halliwell Road BL18BP

nuffieldhealth.com/movetogether



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

THROUGH THEIR EYES

POETRY COMPETITION FOR **11-18** YEAR-OLDS



WHOSE POINT OF VIEW
WILL **YOU** CHOOSE?

YOU COULD BE PUBLISHED AND EVEN
WIN **£50 AND A TROPHY!**

SEE THIS TEACHER FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Miss Hartley

YOUR ENTRY NEEDS TO BE HANDED IN BY:

16th February

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Critics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

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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