



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 468
16th February 2024

End of Half-Term Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a very busy and productive half term, I want to share with you a few of our many achievements.

In addition to our excellent classroom provision, we have worked hard to ensure that our students have had access to high quality enrichment activities. In January, over 150 Year 7 Students enjoyed our new overnight experience 'Sleep at the Deep', they arrived back very tired but with great memories that will last for a lifetime. Throughout this half term our students have engaged with numerous educational, sporting and cultural opportunities including a Careers Fair for all of our Year 8 students and our annual Work Experience Week for Year 10s.

Next half term will be just as busy as we encourage all of our students to grab every opportunity to live by our motto, 'Learn. Dream. Achieve.' Our Year 11 students will complete their second round of Pre-Public Exams and our Year 9s will be making their GCSE option choices. For all year groups, Sharples offers a vibrant learning environment and I would encourage you to follow Sharples on Twitter and to read our weekly newsletter in order to keep up to date with the numerous opportunities which we provide to support and encourage our learners.

At Sharples we place great importance on both attendance and punctuality. All students are expected to arrive punctually for school in the morning and to arrive punctually for each lesson. A register is taken at the start of the day and during each lesson. Students arriving late are recorded as thus on the register. A twenty-minute lunchtime detention is given for all students who are late to school. This is completed on the same day as the late. If a student is late twice in a week, they receive an afterschool N2 detention, for three lates an N3 extended detention is given.

According to DfE guidelines, registers must be closed after a certain time in the morning. Therefore, if a student arrives after 9.30am, they cannot receive a late mark but have to be marked as absent for the whole morning session. If the lateness is due to a legitimate reason e.g., a medical appointment, the absence can be authorised once a medical note has been received. Otherwise, the session is marked as an unauthorised absence. Please see our website for more information on both our attendance and punctuality policies.

On a final note, I hope that you all enjoy a well-earned half term break and I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school, ready for a prompt start to registration at 8.45am on Monday, 26 February 2024.

Yours faithfully

Ms A Webster
Headteacher

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

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

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www.SharplesSchool.co.uk



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Careers Events at Sharples

Over the past 2 weeks, students at Sharples School have experienced true #SharplesAdvantage and have taken part in a wide range of careers events including the Year 8 Careers Fair, Year 10 Mock Interviews and Year 10 Work Experience.

Careers Fair



On Tuesday 6th February 2024 we invited 25 external visitors into school to celebrate National Apprenticeship week (pictured) and to give our students the opportunity to have a meaningful encounter with an employer/education provider.

Visitors included:

Pilot
MBDA
Quantity Surveyor
Suez Recycling
Arnold Clarke

NHS - Stroke/Neuro
Specialist
Physiotherapist
NHS - Occupational
Therapist

NHS - Midwife
Bolton Council
GMP
And many more!

All students were given the opportunity to speak to the employer/education provider to learn about their role and the pathway taken to commence the career. Student feedback was excellent, and there was a real buzz throughout the event.

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Year 10 Mock Interviews



On Wednesday 7th February 2024 all of Year 10 have taken part in mock interviews (as pictured). The purpose of the interviews was to help the students learn how to answer difficult questions, improve their communication skills, reduce stress before actual job interviews and help boost their confidence.

We welcomed 22 guests who work in a wide range of industries including; Architecture, Accountancy, Medical, Insurance, Property Management, College, Apprenticeships, Publication, Engineering, Software Development, Police and Royal Air Force. Each student was then matched to a career of their interest so that the mock interview was meaningful.

Ahead of the mock interviews, students had a presentation on communication skills and the importance of clear verbal communication, active listening and positive body language. Additionally, students learnt how to write a personalised CV, and how to build evidence to demonstrate personal achievements and successes. All of which has been added to their personal Record of Achievement folder.

On the day, students attended their interview with their Record of Achievement folder and had a 10 minute interview. After the mock interview, each student has been given individualised feedback so that they can reflect on their successes and areas for development.

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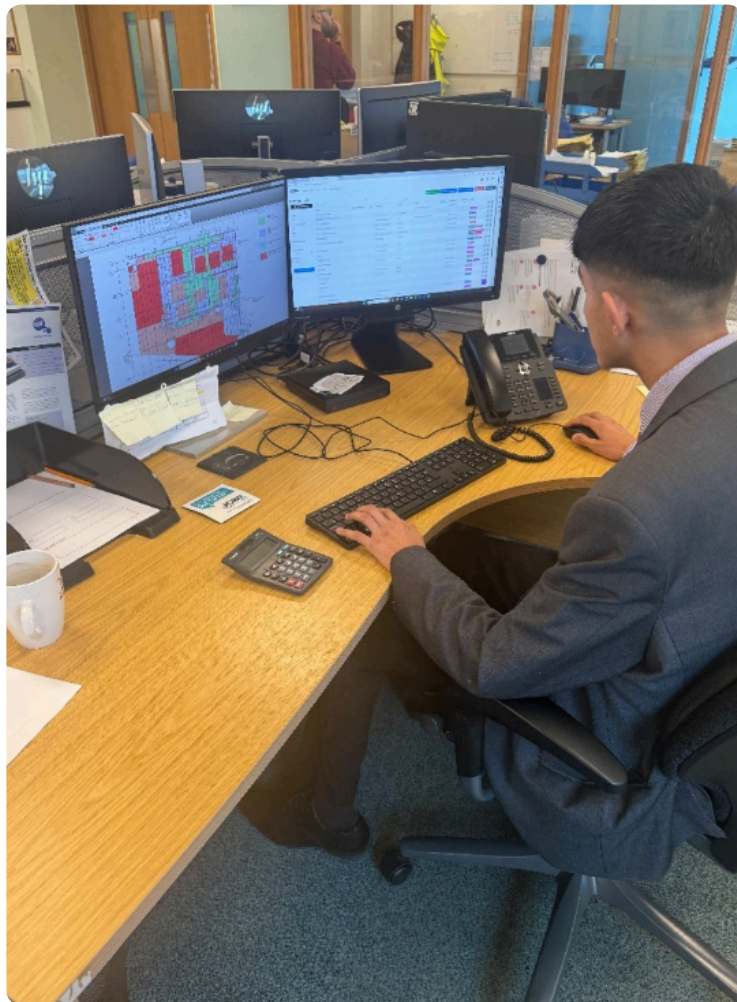


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Year 10 Work Experience



This week we have seen all of our Year 10 students complete their work placement, as pictured above. This has given our students an invaluable opportunity to gain an insight into a potential career and help inform their decision making. Students have also had the opportunity to apply their skills and aptitudes in a professional environment.

Work experience placements have included the following environments:

Healthcare
Accounting
Engineering
Education

Sales
Construction
Hospitality
Local Council

Graphic Design
Publishing
And many more!

The feedback from work placements, and students has been fantastic. Well done to Year 10 for completing your week of work, and thank you to the work placement providers.

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Cambridge University Visit



On Friday 9th February 2024 we took some of our Year 10 students to Cambridge University (pictured) to learn more about universities and the pathway to higher education. Students had a tour of the university, including the campus. Finally students then took part in lectures and workshops for the university teaching staff.

This was a fantastic experience for all those invited.

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English Career of the Week - Stage Manager

Stage managers make sure the sets, equipment and props are ready for the opening of a performance. You can get into this job through a university course, a college course, an apprenticeship or working towards this role

Skills required:

- Business management skills.
- Leadership skills.
- Customer service skills.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure.
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.



More Information:

[Stage manager](#) | [Explore careers](#)

Calling all creative parents, carers, family and friends!

We are looking to put together a community group to support with the props, costumes, make up, lighting and general technical support for our upcoming musical Shrek Jr. The Performing Arts Department is looking to run a series of coffee and creative meetups where the talents of our Sharples community are brought together and then put on stage for our performances.

Please can anyone who feels that they would like to help, email Mrs T. Hamlin (Director of Performing Arts) stating your name, your skills and your connection to Sharples by Friday the 23rd of February.

Contact email address: t.hamlin@sharplesschool.co.uk

This is a great opportunity for us to bring the talents of our wider community into the Performing Arts department to continue our ambition to ensure the inclusivity of theatre for all!

Any questions, please ask!

Thank you in advance for your anticipated involvement.

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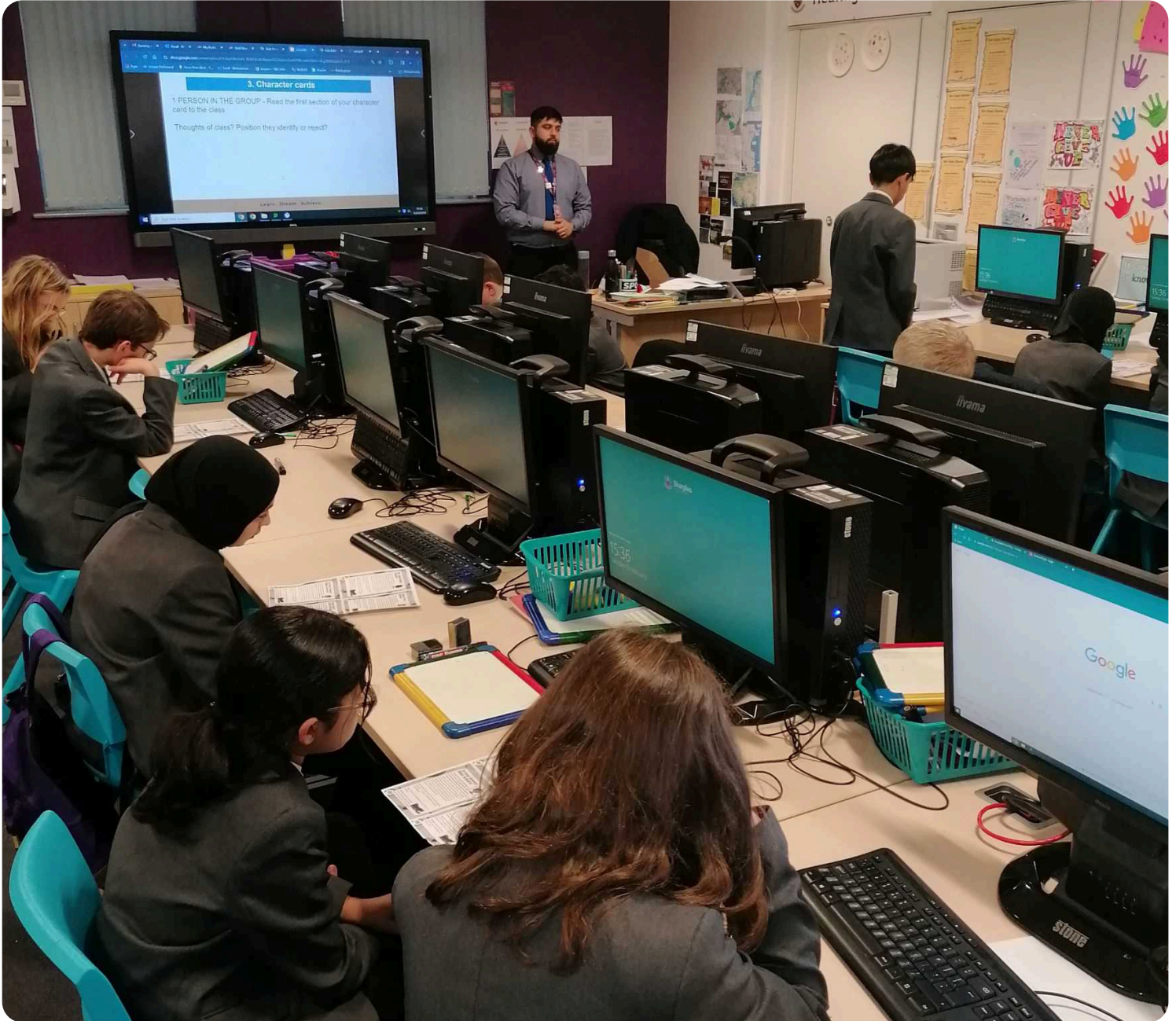


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G2G Computing Event on AI



For the Year 7 G2G Computing event on AI, pictured, there were discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence. Students highlighted its potential to improve efficiency and accuracy in various fields such as healthcare and education, but also raised concerns about job displacement and invasion of privacy. The debate provided an opportunity for students to critically analyse the impact of AI on society and fostered a deeper understanding of this rapidly advancing technology.

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UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge



At the end of January, 27 Year 11 students completed the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The challenge encouraged mathematical reasoning and precision of thought and fluency to make students think. Well done to all our students who took part, but especially to Michael C and Tanky C who have been awarded with the gold certificate and have qualified to take part in the next round of the competition.

Gold certificate winners

Tanky C

Michael C

Silver certificate winners

Mohamed E

Cherie U

Angus L

Joseph W

Sahal P

Izzy W

Abdullahi A

Bronze certificate winners

Owen G

Sanaa G

Raen H

Jacob D

Amreen M

Emaan H A

Amirah A

Sanah D

Sam B

Tom B

Eman I



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The Enterprise Challenge



On the 6th and 8th of February over 120 pupils from Year 8, 9 and 10 took part in The Enterprise Challenge (pictured), a yearly event run by The Princes Trust. The aim of the event is to educate pupils on the concepts of Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, whilst participating in regional competitions and developing skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership. Pupils were asked to develop a pitch for a sustainable business idea, before presenting it as teams, to several volunteers. Once they had presented this idea, the teams then had an opportunity to compete for a place in the finals (to be held at Old Trafford this year) by participating in an online simulation. Throughout both days members from The Princes Trust commented on how fantastic it was to work with pupils from Sharples School, and in particular commented on several pupils' confidence in presenting to audiences. Out of 19 teams across two days, the winning team was Team 6, Zeemal, Fatima, Tofiq, Ibrahim, Adil and Ziyad who now have to wait to find out if they are placed in the top six regionally which will allow them to progress to the national finals. We will discover their fate in early March.

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Be Kind to My Mind Ambassadors Spread Awareness During Children's Mental Health Week



Our Be Kind to My Mind Ambassadors led a series of events and assemblies last week in honour of Children's Mental Health Week. Children's Mental Health Week is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

The ambassadors kicked off the week with a Monday morning announcement explaining the importance of being kind to oneself and others to support mental wellbeing. During lunch periods, Ambassadors ran a series of events from quizzes to yoga sessions.

The highlight of the week was a series of assemblies led by the Be Kind to My Mind team each morning. They shared personal stories and perspectives on maintaining positive mental health in the face of academic, social, and emotional pressures common in high school. Their vulnerability and wisdom inspired many other students to open up about their own challenges.

The ambassadors demonstrated their passion and leadership to plan a fantastic week. Their efforts not only spread awareness but also directly let struggling students know they have support amongst peers and school staff.

Mr Poole
Learning Skills for Life Coordinator

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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, who all scored 100%.

Year 9: Riya P, Mia P, Ryan C, Peter F, Adam P, Leah H, Mariam S, Annie H, Abdullah H, Dylan F, Abdullateef A, Goodness E.

Scientist of the Month

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

Year 7:

Academic achievement: Haziq K

Progress: Elsa G

Community: Shaunna C

Year 8:

AA: Afia Z

P: Ashiyah P

C: Ben L

Year 9:

AA: Josh P

P: Peter F

C: Calista C

Year 10:

AA: Tofiq HS

P: Finley Br

C: Abigaella N

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

STEM Challenge



Year 9 students are invited to enter a STEM Challenge from the Government Science & Engineering department. Students are encouraged to submit a report or poster on how the government could solve a real life problem facing the country. These problems are sustainable food production, humans in space, sustainable transport, or homes of the future. For any information about how to enter, please speak to Mr. Simpson or your science teacher.

Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Janki F has written a fantastic analysis of Old Major's speech in Animal Farm. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Khadijah I has written a phenomenal review of the person she thinks is the most powerful in the world - her mum! [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Dan W has demonstrated a good understanding of the characters in A View from the Bridge. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Josh K and Joe T have written a brilliant match report as part of their work experience placement with Wigan Athletics this week. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Molly W has worked on an excellent article about why Bolton is a great place to visit! [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Zaibunnisha V for being a very confident reader and has been a great volunteer in our reading lessons.

Year 8

Naomi C for her clear and fluent reading of Macbeth.

Year 9

Maya A for amazing reading aloud and projecting her voice.

Year 10

Ibrahim P for always offering to read aloud.

Year 11

Jenna C for a wonderful reading of her analysis of the christmas spirit in A Christmas Carol.



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KS3 Football vs Kearsley



A big well done to our KS3 football team (pictured) who faced Kearsley Academy on Monday night and secured a very impressive win! The girls got off to a fantastic start and were dominant from the first few minutes. A brilliant solo run from her own half saw Hollie K score the first goal of the night. This was the first of many and the girls were confident going into the second half with a 4-0 lead. 3 more goals followed and the girls managed to hold onto a clean sheet as a result of some excellent defending and goal keeping from Ruby M. Goal scorers of the night: Talia D (2), Hollie K (2), Millie B (2) and Scarlett R (1). The girls will take part in the KS3 tournament on the first Thursday back after half term.

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Year 9 Netball vs Ladybridge



After a postponement last week due to the weather, the Year 9 netball team with the help of a few Year 8s (as pictured), faced Ladybridge on Wednesday in a friendly fixture before the town tournament which will take place after half term. The girls had not played a competitive match since before Christmas and during the first quarter, the girls struggled to find a rhythm and Ladybridge capitalised on some missed opportunities. However, going into the third quarter, the girls started to play some good netball and managed to draw the third and win the final quarter, yet this was not enough to come away with the victory and the girls lost out by a 5 goal deficit. The girls will next play at the Year 9 tournament on Tuesday 5th March. Good effort, girls!

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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 19th to
Friday 23rd
February
(inclusive): Half
term holiday

Monday 26th to
Friday 30th
February: Options
taster week

Tuesday 27th
February: (8:30 –
10:00): The
Alchemist visit

Thursday 29th
February: Year 11
Elizabethan
Revision Day in
Manchester

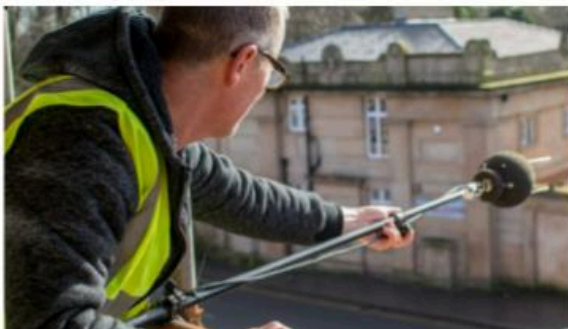
Career of the Week: Acoustics Consultant

Acoustics consultants help manage and control noise and vibrations in homes, workplaces and other environments.

Average Salary: £ £22,000 £35,000
Starter Experienced

Typical hours:
(per week) 39 to 41
variable

You could work: evenings / weekends
away from home



Qualifications:

- You can get into this job through a university course, apprenticeship or working towards this role.
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science
- 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including Maths and Physics.

Skills required:

- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software.
- The ability to work well with others.
- Knowledge of engineering science and technology.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under.
- Customer service skills.
- Knowledge of media production and communication.

Relevant Subjects:

- Maths, Statistics and Engineering.

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



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 -
26th February



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Yr 7/8 Swimming Club	KS4 boys fitness	KS3 Swimming club	Determination Festival P3-P6	Y7 & 8 EverLearner detentions
KS4 Netball	Y7 football practice	Basketball practice	KS3 Football Tournament @ Ladybridge	
	Yr 8 football practice	Boxing @ Khan's gym	KS4 fitness suite	
	KS3 Netball	Y7 football v St Joseph's (a)		
		Y8 football v St Joseph's (a)		

• 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

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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