



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 536
21st November 2025

21-Day Digital Detox: Switching Off to Tune In



Last month, a group of our students took part in a 21-day Digital Detox challenge in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Day.

For 3 weeks, students chose one or more intentional changes to reduce their screen time — such as:

- keeping phones away during mealtimes

- turning off non-essential notifications

- no scrolling in bed

- swapping 30 minutes of social media for exercise, reading, music or a hobby

This wasn't about banning technology, but about being more aware of how and when we use it.

Students recorded their reflections each day in personal “digital detox diaries”. Many noticed improved sleep, better focus and more time for hobbies and real-world connection. Others said they enjoyed the challenge of sticking to a habit and becoming more mindful of their digital choices.

We are extremely proud of everyone who completed the challenge and submitted their diaries. It takes effort and discipline to change habits — even temporarily.

Well done to Emma L (Y7), Elizabeth L (Y7), Fatima B (Y8), Lavina K (Y8), Aminah L (Y9) and Juwairiya P (Y9) for the completion of fantastic diary and had the honour of receiving a reward pack and also the opportunity to sign the heads book of honour (as pictured).

We hope their experience encourages more families to try small, positive digital habits of their own at home.

Less scrolling — more living.



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Newsletter

Winter Concert Tickets on sale now

Pupils are busy rehearsing in the Performing Arts department as they prepare to entertain you with their talents in music, dance and drama at this year's Winter Concert. The concert will take place on Thursday 18th December at 7pm in the theatre. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via the MCAS app. Tickets cost £3 per adult and £1 per child (under 16). There is a limited number of tickets so get yours soon so you don't miss out! Refreshments will be available from the PTA during the event.

 **Sharples**
SCHOOL

Winter Concert

Musical performances from soloists,
ensembles and bands, dances and
drama performances.

Thursday 18th December
7pm

Tickets

Adult : £3 Child (under 16): £1

Tickets can be purchased via MCAS. Tickets will
go on sale from Thursday 20th November.

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GCSE Art Year 10 Workshop



This week, our GCSE Year 10 Fine Art Students attended a workshop at Bolton Sixth Form College in the photography department. They learnt lots of new experimental skills including cyanotypes; a photographic printing process creating blue images using UV light and a chemical reaction, Photograms; a camera-less photographic process and chemigrams, as well as setting up their own compositions for a photoshoot in a studio space. They were also introduced to the various A Level and BTEC creative options that the college run for them to consider studying post 16. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learning the new techniques and are already asking when they can go back again!

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Year 10 Maths visit to PricewaterhouseCoopers



This week, 50 Year 10 students had the fantastic opportunity to spend the day at the PricewaterhouseCoopers offices in Manchester for a New World, New Skills event. The visit offered valuable insight into a range of careers and pathways from professionals working within one of the world's most prestigious accounting firms.

Throughout the day, students took part in a series of interactive activities focused on financial planning, AI and recruitment. These sessions enabled them to develop key employability skills—such as creativity, teamwork and problem-solving—while gaining a clearer understanding of the modern workplace.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left feeling inspired, motivated, and excited about their future career aspirations.



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Sharples Rising Stars - Peri Lessons with Bolton Music Service



This year we have increased our instrumental lesson provision from 8 hours a week to 14 hours a week allowing a further 60 pupils to benefit from the fantastic initiative. In addition to piano, vocal, guitar and drum lessons, we now offer violin, trombone, clarinet, flute (as pictured) and saxophone lessons. All lessons are taught by specialist instrumental teachers through Bolton Music Service. If you would like your child to get involved please sign up by clicking on the following link <https://boltonmusicservice.com/parents-and-pupils/> and following the steps for school music lessons at Sharples.

We look forward to hearing and seeing how our pupils progress their skills throughout the year.

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"I can do Physics!" club - Building Confidence in Physics Through Hands-On Exploration



This week our "I Can Do Physics!" club returned to The Valley Community Primary School for another exciting session, this time exploring electricity and sound using Bumble Beeps.

Huge thanks to our PTA for generously funding the Bumble Beeps; their support has made these hands-on investigations possible.

The Year 1 pupils were fascinated as they discovered how their own hands can conduct electricity, how circuits can change the pitch of a sound, and how covering a light sensor can make their "musical beep" sing lower or higher. The room was once again full of curiosity, joy, and brilliant scientific thinking.

But behind the fun lies a deeper purpose.

Girls remain significantly underrepresented in physics beyond age 16, despite performing just as well as boys at earlier stages. Research shows that girls' confidence in subjects like physics can start declining as early as five and six years old, shaped by subtle messages about who "belongs" in certain subjects.

National initiatives such as the Institute of Physics' Limit Less campaign highlight the importance of giving young children, especially girls, the chance to see physics as creative, accessible, and rooted in everyday life.

The "I Can Do Physics!" club aims to address that gap by pairing Year 10 girls from Sharples School with younger pupils as near-peer role models. Through hands-on activities, collaborative learning, and lots of encouragement, the club helps children build early confidence and positive associations with physics.

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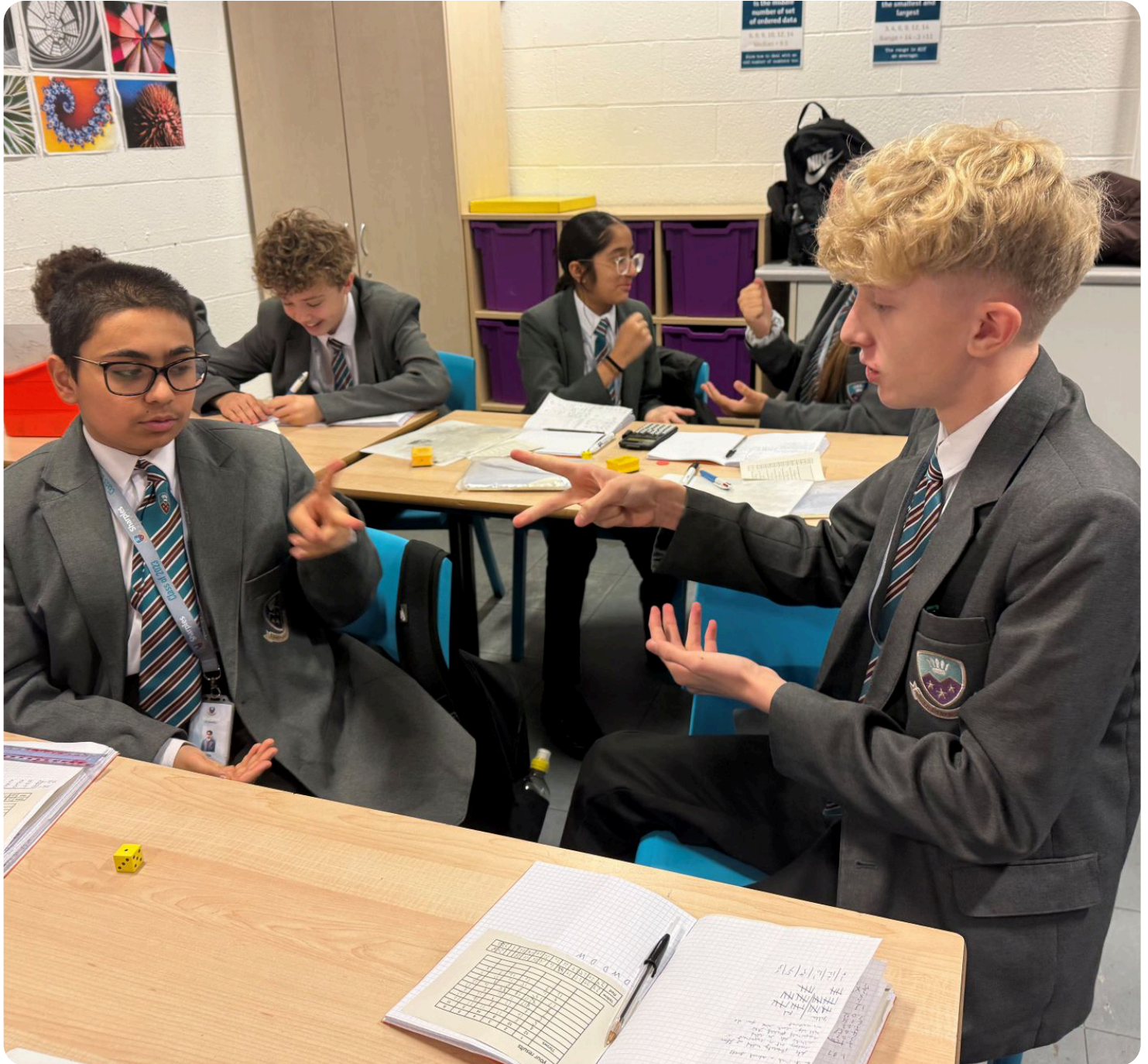


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Exploring Experimental Probability in Year 9 Maths Lessons



This week, our Year 9 students have been conducting a range of experiments to explore experimental probability. In one activity, students paired up to play Rock, Paper, Scissors and compared the expected outcomes of the game with their actual results. This sparked a great discussion about the factors that influence accuracy in experiments and how we can improve the reliability of our findings.

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Aysenur D - for a fantastic score in their knowledge check. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Holly D - for a thoughtful first draft of a diary entry in character, using key sentence structures and similes. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Jack H - for excellent analysis of a poem by Maya Angelou. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Benedict L - for detailed poetry annotations. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Kate G - for an excellent analytical paragraph on An Inspector Calls. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Jack R - For his superb reading of The pieces of Silver.

Year 8

Bryan B for always being a willing reader and getting into character so well (especially in Blood Brothers).

Year 9

Tombo A for always offering to read and projecting his voice really well across the classroom.

Year 10

Ben L for always volunteering to read the part of the ghosts.

Year 11

Fatima GP for always using keywords in her responses.

Sharples Orchestra

The Sharples Orchestra has been working hard since September rehearsing every Tuesday as we prepare for our first performance of this academic year at the Winter Showcase! It has been fantastic to see new Year 7s joining the group as well as students who have recently started instrumental lessons!



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Newsletter

Year 11 Alumni GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition

Year 11 Alumni GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition Thursday 27th November 3:15-4pm Sharples Cafeteria.

THURSDAY 27TH
NOVEMBER
3:15 - 4PM
SHARPLES CAFETERIA

GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition

See last year's GCSE
Art & Photography
work by Year 11 Alumni



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Manchester Derby at The Etihad!



On Saturday, some of our students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Etihad Stadium to watch the Manchester derby between Manchester City and Manchester United in the Women's Super League, made even more special by our incredible front-row seats! The atmosphere was brilliant from the first whistle, and the opening 45 minutes delivered non-stop excitement, with three goals including a stunning strike from Lauren Hemp that had the entire stadium erupting! A great day out!



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Year 10 Sport Leaders Officiate BWFC Tournament



The Bolton PE School and Sport partnership fully funded some of our year 10 students to complete their football referee qualification earlier in the year. The fully qualified students were asked to officiate the biggest Primary tournament in Bolton involving 21 schools and 175 year 5/6 students. The competition was hosted by BWFC at Leverhulme Power League and all matches were officiated by our students. With a huge number of spectators and fierce competition it was a challenging environment for our officials but they showed incredible confidence beyond their years to take control of games and manage the students on the pitch. At first, it may have been a little daunting but it was fantastic to see the students grow in confidence and take charge of the matches. All officials were a credit to themselves and the school and their contribution was greatly appreciated by the tournament organisers.

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Girls Football vs St Joseph's



On Monday night, our KS3 and KS4 football teams faced St Joseph's in freezing conditions in our second league fixture of the campaign. Despite the bitter cold, the girls demonstrated real grit, battling hard against very strong opposition and never letting their energy dip! Their valiant effort was clear from the first whistle to the last, but unfortunately it wasn't enough to secure a victory this time. Special shoutout to Khadija V who flew straight from ALS down to the astro to play in the second half for the KS4 team!

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Year 9 Netball Tournament



The Year 9s were fantastic tonight, delivering a series of strong performances across their fixtures. They opened with a convincing win over Ladybridge before battling hard in two closely contested games, losing 6-3 to St Joeys and 8-5 to Rivington, yet maintaining an excellent standard of play throughout. Grace H netted some absolute screamers, and staff from all opposing schools praised the team's quality and the standout individual performances. Aasia A was superb defensively, and the squad's overall efforts earned them a well-deserved 3rd place finish in the tournament, with Grace narrowly missing out on Player of the Tournament! Well done, girls!

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KS4 Basketball Tournament



Our KS4 basketball team (pictured above) went to Smithills Thursday night for a Bolton tournament, the team were exceptional winning most games convincingly. The only game we lost was against Canon, a formidable side, where we had chances to win but a fantastic 3 pointer sealed the 1 point victory for Canon. Special mention for Sol M, who was by far the player of the tournament. #UpTheSharples

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Wednesday Night Sport!



In freezing conditions on Wednesday night, our Y7 girls football team (pictured above) and Y9 netball squad (pictured below) took on BMGS in a tough double-header. Despite the bitter cold, both teams showed outstanding resilience and determination throughout their matches. The Y7s fought hard in a tightly contested game, ultimately losing 2–1, while the Y9 netball team delivered an impressive performance to secure a well-deserved win. Well done, 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

Year Groups attendance this week:

7 = 94.48%

8 = 90.51%

9 = 92.23%

10 = 91.67%

11 = 90.01%

Best forms this week:

7Ples4 = 100%

8Ples3 = 99.56%

9Shar5 = 96.83%

10Shar5 = 95.17%

11Shar5 = 99.18%

440 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24th

November: Christmas
Cooking Club - Year 7

Monday 24th

November: Year 8
Holocaust workshop

Wednesday 26th

November: Panathlon
Xtend (Multi Sports)
Morning event (09:30 –
11:45)

Wednesday 26th

November: Mock Trail
for Y9 & Y10 (12:00 –
15:00)

Thursday 27th

November: 2025 Year
11 Leavers Awards
Evening (17:00 –
20:00)

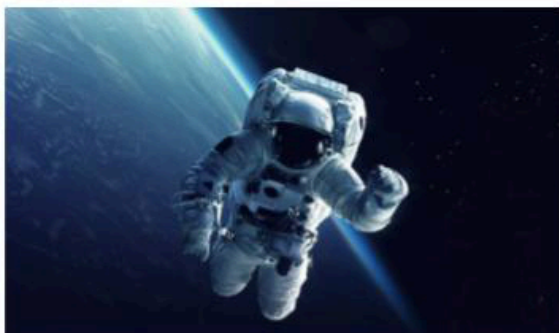
Career of the Week: Astronaut

They study criminal behaviour and the reasons behind it, and help to treat people who have committed offences.

Average Salary: £

Typical hours:
(per week)

You could work:



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

Qualifications:

- A degree and a postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject like:
 - Biology, chemistry or physics
 - Engineering
 - Medicine
 - Aeronautics
 - Mathematics
- GCSE/A level qualifications will depend on the degree entry requirements usually 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent and 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent.

Skills required:

- The ability to use your judgement and make decisions.
- The ability to operate and control equipment.
- Physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace.

Relevant Subjects:

- Science, Engineering, English and Maths.



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	Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM
Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y10 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - LAL	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL/AHM	Just Dance- all years (SH) - LAL/PGR	Basketball (SH) - LAL	Y7 Girls Football (SH) - LAL
	Sports studies catch up/KS3 hmwk- AHM			



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football practice	Y8 Football practice	Y9/10 Football practice	U14 Basketball tournament @ Smithills	Y7 Football v Kearsley (a) Bolton Cup
KS3 boys Swimming Club	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	Basketball- all years	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	
Netball - all years	Running Club- all years	KS3 Girls Swimming	Girls Football- all years	
	Racquets- all years	KS4 Girls Fitness Suite		

Week beginning 24th Nov



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JOIN OUR PTA



We are looking for volunteer parents/guardians to support and strengthen our school.

Through events and meetings, we would like to bring together a community of parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers and staff.

- A great way to meet new people and make connections with other parents.
- Get to know our teachers and staff.
- Help support our students and help create opportunities that will benefit all our pupils.

To get involved email:
pta@sharplesschool.co.uk



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Diversity DAY

Friday 28th November
2025

**DIVERSITY DAY AT
SHARPLES IS ABOUT
CELEBRATING THE
DIVERSE MIX OF
STUDENTS AND STAFF
AT OUR SCHOOL.**

**WEAR CLOTHES
THAT REFLECT
YOUR HERITAGE,
CULTURE OR
UNIQUENESS!**

**THERE WILL BE
DIVERSITY DAY STALLS
AT LUNCHTIME SELLING
FOOD AND CRAFTS
- ALL PROCEEDS TO
OXFAM -
FOR GOOD CAUSES
AROUND THE WORLD.**

NO FLAGS OR SLOGANS PLEASE

FRIDAY

12

DECEMBER

3:15 - 5:30PM

THEATRE

SHARPLES PTA INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE



Sharples
SCHOOL

Christmas Markets!

Xmas Stalls!

Hot Choc! Crêpes!

Penalty shootout vs Santa!

Raffle Prizes!





ENGLISH NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 21TH NOV

Win yourself a cuddly autumn gnome!

DEADLINE: MONDAY

READ a short extract and identify the missing silent letters. Write the words in the box provided, spelt correctly.

Some of the key words are relevant to history,

geography, maths, RE and science.

The sheets can be found in the library: but there's a copy here too.



A FANTASTIC EVENING

We welcomed pupils into the school for a Fantastic Fantasy Evening: they tackled a 'Stranger Things' escape room; built their own marshmallow fantasy worlds; and enjoyed a double screening of Wicked and Stranger Things.



THE SILENT SPOOK

On a dark, cold autumn night, all was quiet in the haunted library. The hour was twelve.

In the freezing temperatures, only one ghostly old knight was frighteningly meandering between the shelves. He had come out of his tomb and left his castle on a shadowy island, to find his missing sword.

All was silent and the spook floated about without a sound. He was numb with cold and his every spooky bone and muscle ached, but he was desperate to know where his ancient wife had gone.

He looked with interest along the shelves, searching for a book about old weapons. At last, he found a reference, written in an old book, to a rusty blade. It had been found under a stone in the cemetery in the local environment.

The ghost shattered the silence with a cackling laugh, guaranteed to spook anyone who heard it! 'Marvellous!' he croaked. 'I have found you at last, after a long night searching!'

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

A FANTASTIC EVENING

COMPETITIONS AND MORE ON
THE NEXT PAGES!





Wicked Reading Challenge

Choose **ONE** of the following challenges:

Challenge 1: Read a book with a witch, demon or sorcerer

Challenge 2: Read a book with revenge or betrayal

Challenge 3: Read a book where the main character has a tragic backstory

Writing challenge: Rewrite part of the story from the point of view of the villains, antiheroes, or morally gray characters.



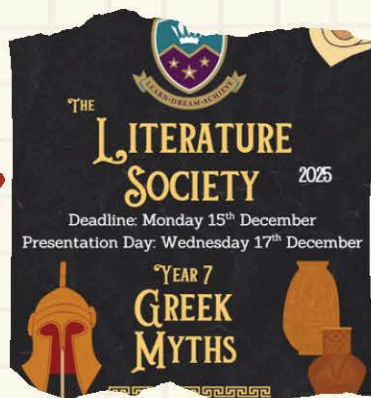
Write a short review of your chosen book

To be in with a chance of winning a trip to go and see the new Wicked movie, complete **BOTH** the Reading and Writing Challenge. Submit your card and handwritten story to Mrs Atherton or Miss

Patel



YEAR 7 LITERATURE SOCIETY: GREEK MYTHS



Less than a month for the end of Lit Soc!

The deadline is 15th December, so make so you complete it and bring it in for the deadline date (though not before that way we know it's completely safe until then).



SHARPLES RADIO

Over the last few weeks, Mrs Smith and The Sharples Radio Team have been researching, recording and editing their first podcast. To find out about this new school radio adventure check out the podcast on the school website.

SHARPLES STUDENT SHOWCASE

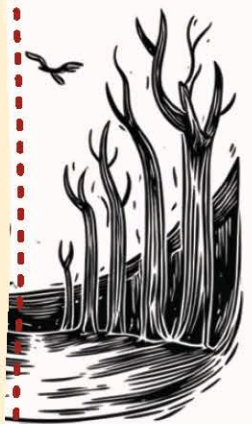
The Forest Of Truth

My feet? Burning. Heart? Pounding. The queen? Don't get me started. She smiles - cruel, composed as my sister falls, executed before me. I'm helpless and I hate it; I scream, beg, break. Then? A portal: I jump. I hear the Forest of Truth whisper, "She's your mother." My real mother. Rage sharpens. Now I return, sword drawn. This time, I chose my sisters and ended her reign of terror. The crown rests heavily on my head, but something's wrong. Blood. My sword. It wasn't a dream.

They say, "She wasn't meant to wake."
Whoops. Now, you'll watch, just like them.

Zunairah CAMBERAW (12)
Sharples School, Bolton

Zunairah C (Y8) had her work published in this year's 'Grim Tales' edition of Young Writers with her tale 'The Forest of Truth'.



WHAT ELSE IS ON?



Anime Club -
Wednesday
lunch in U15



Year 9 and 10 will go on a trip this Wednesday to Bolton Coroners Court, playing the roles of barristers, prosecutors, and witnesses in a mock trial.



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

Optional Maths Homework

Careers Challenge Year 8



- **Design a poster showcasing a career that uses mathematics**
 - **Deadline Friday 9th January**
 - **Reward Points Available!**
- **Speak to Mrs Helm in U27 if you have any questions**

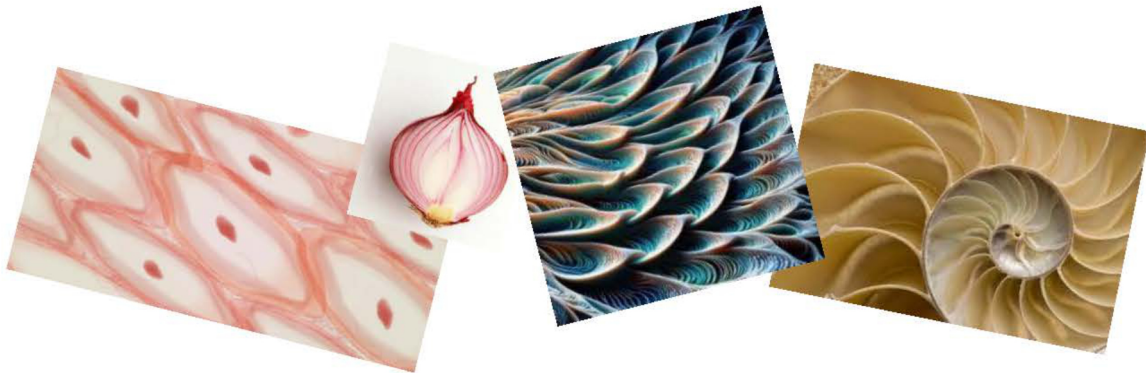
Optional Maths Homework

Challenge Year 7

Wiggly Tessellations

Reward Points Available!

“An international team of mathematicians has discovered a new class of shapes capable of tiling with a minimal amount of sharp corners, which they define as “soft cells.” It’s not so much a discovery, however, as it is a revelation—nature has been using soft cells in organisms for far longer than humans have been aware of them..”



- Create a “soft cell” tessellation, using a shape and colours of your choice.
- Instructions can be found on student portal or speak to Mrs Helm in U27.
- Hand in to your teacher by Friday 9th January.

