



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 541
9th January 2026

New Year Letter - January 2026

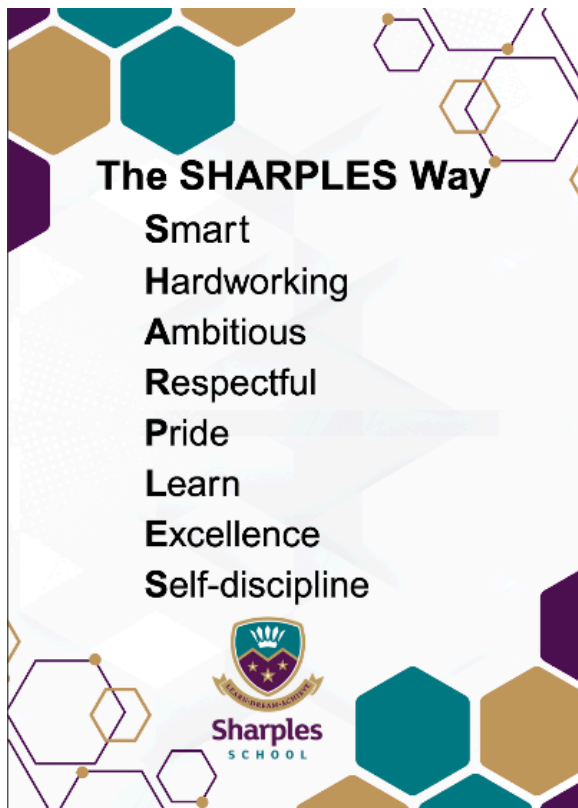
Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to all our families and welcome back to a new term at Sharples.

Following our Staff Training Day this week, I am pleased to report that we have begun introducing some new ideas to ensure that Sharples continues to move forward and provide the very best experience for our students.

Over the break, we have had a new audio system installed across the school. This replaces our traditional school bells, and provides a calm and more informative way of alerting students to lesson changeover and important announcements. It has been positively received by students and we are looking forward to developing its use over the coming months.

Following feedback from both students and staff, we have introduced a clear set of expectations for everyone at Sharples that are easy to follow and enable staff to reward those students who do their very best every day.



The SHARPLES Way will become integral to our Behaviour and Rewards Policy and students have already risen to the high expectations, with over 1000 ACE reward points given out in this first week of term.



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Please support your child to ensure they leave for school with the correct uniform each day. All students should have a blazer and school shoes as per the uniform policy, trainers are not permitted. The only jewellery permitted in school is a plain silver or gold ear stud.

This term we have a number of exciting enrichment activities taking place for students across all year groups including The Y9 and 10 London West End Trip, The Y7 Sleep at The Deep evening, and Year 8 head off to Paris at the end of this term. Year 10 are in the final stages of organising their week long work experience from Monday February 9th and we are looking forward to seeing them thrive in a variety of workplaces.

A reminder that in the coming weeks, both Year 9 and 11 students will sit formal examinations in preparation for their next steps. It is vital that their preparation is focused and thorough. We are supporting students in school and we would advise parents to use the dedicated section of our website for help and advice to support your child at home with the exam preparation:

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/revision-guidance/>

The dates for the exams are:

Year 9 - Monday 12th - Friday 23rd January

Year 11 - Monday 26th January - Wednesday 11th February

Please support your child at home with home learning and study for exams by ensuring a quiet space, free from technology and distractions for them to work and encouraging healthy sleep patterns.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we now have a Breakfast Club from 8am everyday where all students are welcome. Laptops and a wide selection of reading books and board games are available, alongside free toast and a warm, positive start to the day.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Molyneux
Headteacher

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



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Winter Concert



On Thursday 18th December over 50 pupils took to the stage to showcase their talents in music, dance and drama to an audience of nearly 200 people. The fantastic showcase saw pupils from all year groups performing, some for the very first time. For our Year 11s it was the last time they officially get to perform before their GCSE exams start. For our Year 7s, it was the very start of their performing journey. Highlights from the concert included performances from the Sharples Orchestra, (which under the leadership of the fabulous Mrs Keegan, has doubled in size since their last performance in the Summer), the drama group performing an adaptation of A Christmas Carol, 3 dances performances ranging from ballet to Morris dancing and a stunning vocal performances from Cody, Lillie and Lyla. Well done to all who took part and thank you to all who supported the event. Keep an eye out for future concerts from the Performing Arts department in 2026.

There are more pictures of the Winter Concert on the next page.

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

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Sharples Wings Takes Flight

A new Maths club for Year 8 launches next week! Run by Mr Keightley, a former airline pilot, on a Thursday lunchtime and after school. The club aims to engage students with the world of virtual aviation giving them the skills to fly a real aircraft. The program, set to run over 6 weeks, takes budding pilots from zero experience to flying their first solo circuit in a light aeroplane. Using Microsoft Flight Simulator and specialist hardware to replicate real world flight controls.



SHARPLES WINGS



Are you in Year 8 and think you have what it takes to grace the Virtual Skies? Then join us for a taster session in U30, during lunchtime on Thursday 15th January.

December Scientist of the Month

Massive congratulations to the 4 winners of last month's Scientists of the Month.

Year 7 - Sarah-Lily EB - Proactive with catching up on work and great knowledge of human anatomy.

Year 8 - Alisha A - Excellent work ethic throughout the term.

Year 9 - Kiya P - Amazing attitude towards learning.

Year 10 - Hayden R - Phenomenal attitude and work ethic.

Nominees - Yuwain R, Kayla O, Amilah M, Muhammet P, Noah C, Taiba M, Arhaan S, Poppy H, Qasim I, Lavina K, Ellie M, Kobey MW, Noah B, Matilda H, Kyeranne R, Shaunna C, Kaleb C, Zeyad A, Kobe T, Lucas ADM, Anaya U, Dua R, Afia Z and Safiyya K.

Well done for all your hard work and efforts!



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Busy First week back in the Science Department



After a well-deserved Christmas break, our pupils have returned with incredible focus and energy. It has been a busy first week back in the science department:

Year 8 have been hitting the ground running by investigating the physics of Speed.

Year 9 are diving deep into biology, recapping the complex structure of DNA (as pictured above).

Year 10 have stepped up their chemistry game, exploring the factors that influence Rates of Chemical Reactions.

We are so impressed with how quickly everyone has settled back into their learning routines!

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Aaminah Z for her informative and detailed letter. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Zach for his comparison between Shakespearean and Petrarchan sonnets. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Juwairya for their thoughtful diary entry inspired by character experiences in The Jungle. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Nia for their detailed poetry analysis. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Kulsoom P for a fantastic first attempt at an unseen poetry essay. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Freddie W for always volunteering to read which has really improved his fluency and confidence.

Year 8

Hamza C for showing great enthusiasm and desire to read.

Year 9

Khadija M for her passionate and genuine love of reading.

Year 10

Hassan K for always reading his answers out.

Year 11

Gabs M for reading fluently with pace.



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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 = 96.07%

8 = 96.89%

9 = 94.19%

10 = 94.21%

11 = 94.28%

Best forms this week:

7Shar1 = 100%

8Shar1 = 98.82%

9Ples2 = 99.38%

10Ples4 = 97.73%

11Shar5 = 98.90%

304 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th to Friday
23rd January: Year 9
Summative
Assessments

Monday 12th to Friday
16th January: Year 11
speaking PPE

Wednesday 14th
January: Animal Care
Exam

Wednesday 14th
January: Engineering
Exam

Friday 16th January:
Year 8 Hindu Temple
visit

Career of the Week: Counsellor

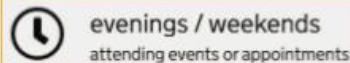
Average Salary:



Typical hours:
(per week)



You could work:



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through; a university course, college course, or training with a counselling organisation.
- 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.
- A degree in any subject for a postgraduate course.

Skills required:

- Counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach.
- Knowledge of psychology.
- The ability to understand people's reactions.
- Active listening skills.
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- Sensitivity and understanding.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.

Relevant Subjects:

- English, Science and Health & Social Care.



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



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	Staff meeting- no clubs	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	PE detentions
KS3 boys Swimming Club	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR		Girls Football- all years	
Netball - all years	Running Club- all years			
	Racquets- all years			

Week beginning 12th Jan

BLACKBURN ROAD A666 TEMPORARY ONE-WAY TRAFFIC & SIDE STREET CLOSURES

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF BOLTON
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 S.14

The Council intends to make an order, operative from 12 January 2026 for 6 weeks approx, the effect of which will be to implement a one-way traffic restriction on Blackburn Road, from Moss Bank Way to Prospect Street to allow resurfacing works to take place. Permitted direction of travel will be northbound.

Diversion routes for southbound traffic will be signed, and the restriction will be implemented in the following phases with a view to minimizing disruption to traffic:

Moss Bank Way – Old Road

Night working (7pm-6am). Alternate route will be Crompton Way, Tonge Moor Road, Folds Road, Turton Street, Kay Street. This phase will involve side street closures of Brierly Street & Newnham Street (Blackburn Road to Holland Street), and Seymour Road (Blackburn Road to Palm Street)

Old Road – Waters Meeting Road

Weekend working (8am-6pm). Alternate route will be Crompton Way, Tonge Moor Road, Folds Road, Turton Street, Kay Street. This phase will involve side street closures of Hartland Court and Greenwood Vale (Blackburn Road to Greenwood Vale South)

Waters Meeting Road – Prospect Street

Off-peak working (9.30am-3pm). Alternate route will be Waters Meeting Road. This phase will involve side street closures of Elmfield Street/Baythorpe Street (Blackburn Road to Back Blackburn Road), Ulleswater Street (Blackburn Road to Back Grasmere Street), Chalfont Street/Draycott Street East/Hibbert Street/Blackbank Street (Blackburn Road to Back Latham Street)

The Order will end after 18 months or on completion of the works whichever first occurs.

Bolton Council. 22 December 2025.
bolton.gov.uk/trafficorders

**CLICK HERE
TO VIEW THE
FULL PDF DOCUMENT
INCLUDING MAPS**



Edge Hill
University

Mathematics Challenge

Year 9 Students

Are you good at solving problems and working as a team? Then this could be the challenge for you.

Create a team of 3-5 members and come along to G22 on a Monday lunch time to enter the Mathematics Challenge.

Speak to your maths teacher or see Mrs McCawley in G22 for more details.