



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 544
30th January 2026

Anne Frank Trust Event in London



Abdoulie in Year 8 has been an Anne Frank Ambassador for several years since primary school.

Abdoulie was recently chosen for an exciting opportunity at the Anne Frank Trust annual lunch in London. Abdoulie recently hosted their Manchester Showcase and did a fantastic job at introducing guests and presenting in front of religious and community leaders as well as those more broadly interested in our work to combat discrimination and prejudice.

Because of this, Abdoulie travelled to London this week to speak on a much larger scale in front of many guests.

We are extremely proud of Abdoulie and his confidence and maturity in this role has been fantastic! Well done Abdoulie!

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January 2026

Sharples Wings Takes Off



The Sharples Wings Flight Simulation Club has officially got underway, with lots of interest from Year 8 students. The club was oversubscribed, and six students were selected for the first group, who have now completed their first sessions. So far, students have been getting familiar with the flight simulator and learning how the aircraft controls work. They have also been exploring the forces involved in flight, such as lift, drag, thrust and weight, as well as the different types of movement — pitch, roll and yaw. These early sessions are helping students build a basic understanding of how aircraft fly before moving on to more hands-on flying in the simulator. For anyone who missed out this time, another intake of the club will be starting in six weeks.

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Sponsored Silence 2026!



We are delighted to share the success of the Sponsored Silence organised by our Student Affairs Committee a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our students and the generosity of everyone who supported them, an incredible £1,182.60 was raised in total. Half of the funds raised will be donated to Bolton Hospice, helping to support their vital work in the local community. We would like to thank everyone who took part, sponsored a student, or contributed in any way to this fantastic fundraising achievement. We are already looking forward to our next event!

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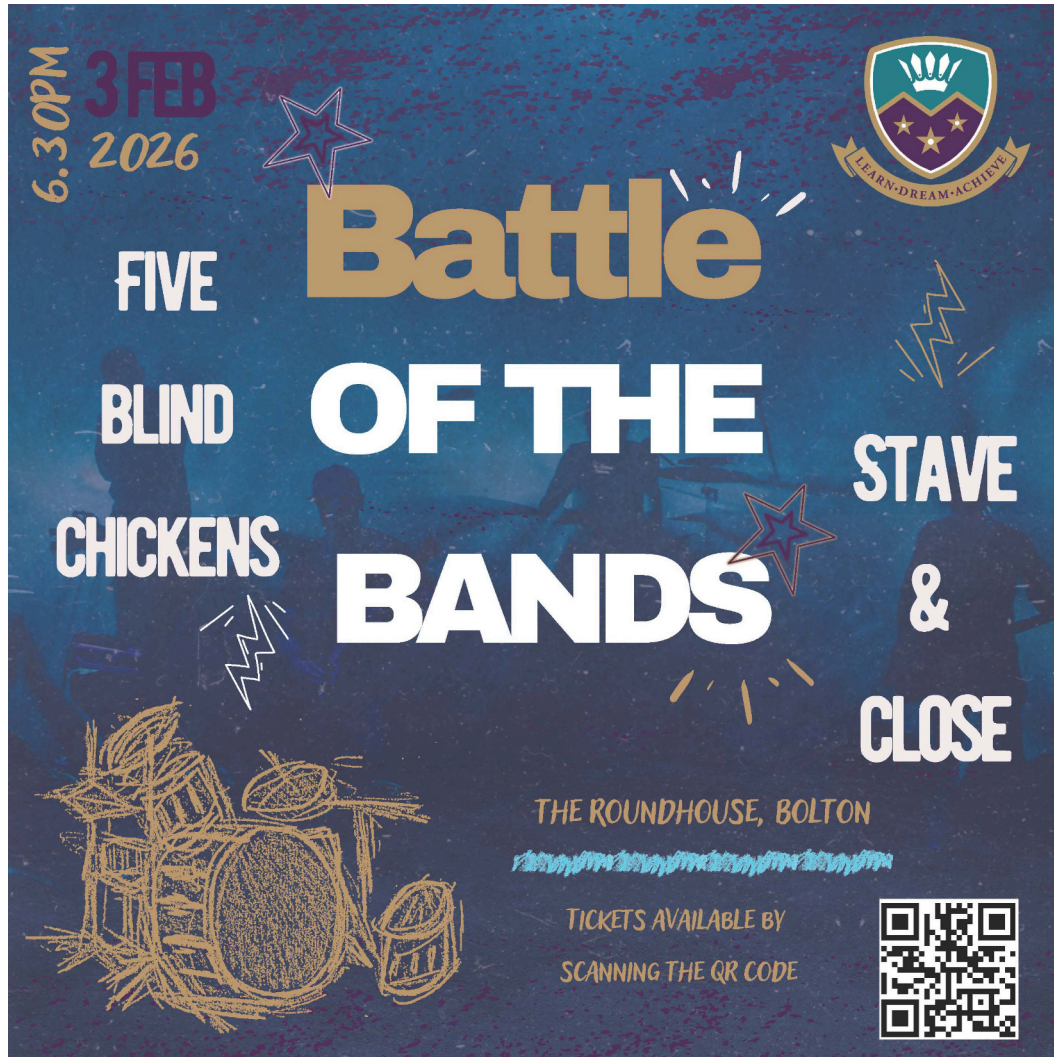


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Battle of the Bands 2026



We are pleased to announce that 2 of our many bands here at Sharples have successfully been selected to perform at the upcoming Battle of the Bands, hosted by Bolton Music Service, at the Roundhouse on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.30pm. 'Five Blind Chickens' (consisting of Lyla, Darcey, Brandon, Evie and Ava) and 'Stave & Close' (consisting of Elliott, Jack, Jayden, James, Owen and Oliver) will compete against 6 other bands from schools across Bolton on the evening. Each band will perform to pieces and will receive some feedback from an industry professional. The successful band on the night will then get the opportunity to represent Bolton in the finals which takes place at 'Band on the Wall' in Manchester on Sunday 1st March. If you would like to support our bands at The Roundhouse, please scan the QR code on the poster to book your tickets. Please note, tickets will not be available on the door - they must be purchased in advance and all under-16s must be accompanied by an adult. We hope both bands enjoy this fantastic experience and wish them every success on the night.

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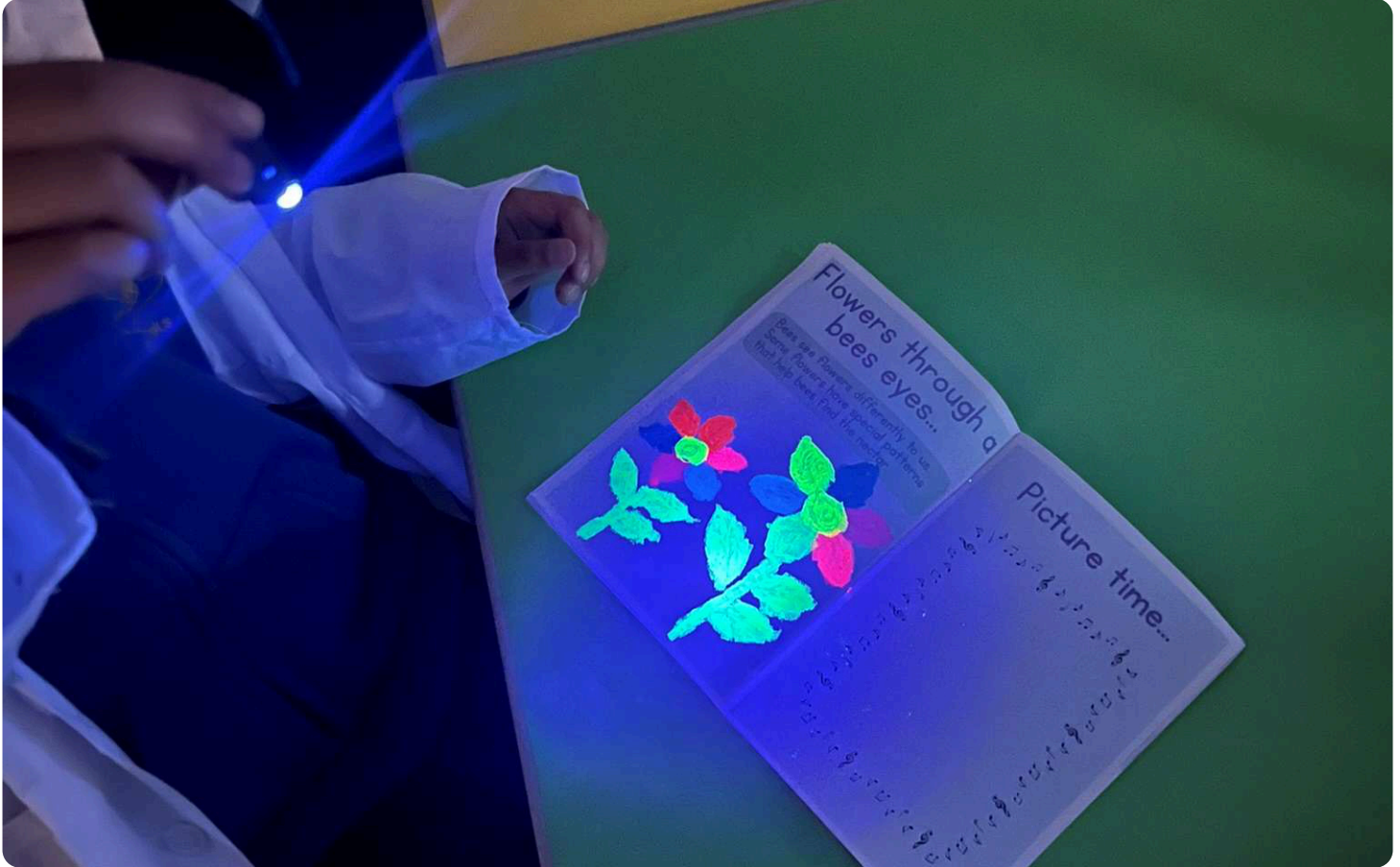


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Physics in Action at The Oaks Primary School



Over the past few weeks, our Year 10 girls have teamed up with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 girls at The Oaks Primary School to explore physics through exciting, hands-on activities as part of the "I Can Do Physics!" club.

Seeing like a bee:

The girls discovered that flowers can look very different to bees than they do to humans. Using UV light, they revealed hidden patterns on flowers (as pictured above), sparking curiosity and lots of thoughtful discussion about how animals see the world.

The egg drop challenge:

This week, they took on an engineering challenge, designing and testing ways to protect an egg from breaking when dropped. They made predictions, tested ideas and improved their designs, showing fantastic problem-solving skills and resilience.

Both sessions were full of curiosity and enthusiasm, capturing the joy of science through creativity, exploration and hands-on learning.



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Interact Workshop



Last Wednesday, our Interact Club had the exciting opportunity to take part in a PeaceJamUK workshop, where students collaborated, shared ideas, and developed creative proposals for meaningful social action projects. Throughout the session, students were encouraged to think critically about global issues and explore innovative ways to make a positive impact both locally and nationally. These ideas will be refined over the coming weeks and proudly presented at a Manchester conference in March, showcasing our students' passion for leadership and positive change!

THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT
Click here to view the PDF

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Sharples Gets Growing



Over the past few weeks, each form has planted a variety of seeds, monitored the emerging seedlings and cared for them as part of our school participation in The Royal Horticultural Society's "Plants for Well Being" pilot project. Students are talking enthusiastically about the activity and enjoying looking how different seeds are growing in their classrooms. Many students have asked to grow more plants and have experienced the benefits to mental health that gardening and observation of nature provide.



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Sharples Alumni Passes Out of the Royal Navy



Congratulations to former Deputy Head Boy Liam, who recently passed out of the Royal Navy. Liam will continue his studies in the navy with a degree and then a Masters in the coming years! Liam has also promised to return to Sharples to talk about his career path and how to get into the Royal Navy. Well done Liam!

If you are a former Sharples student and would like to share your story with us, just get in touch office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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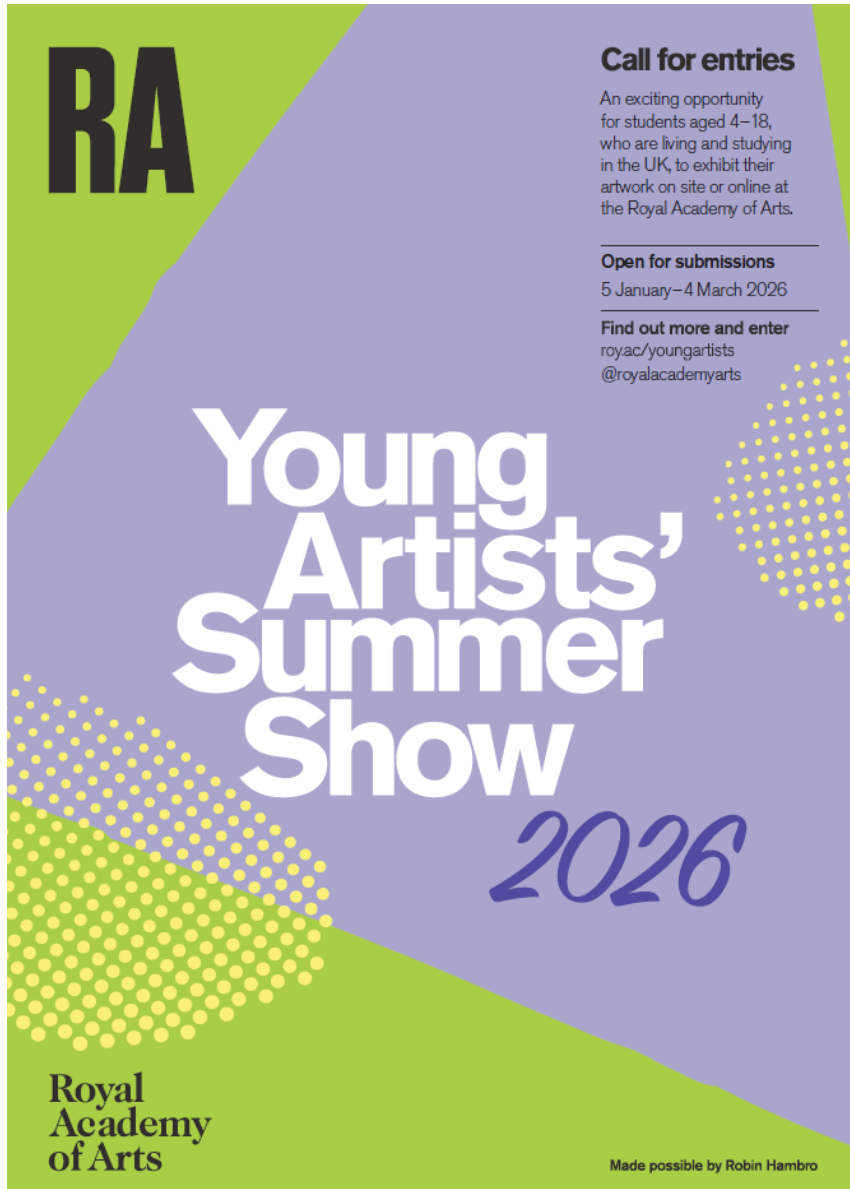


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Call for Entries to the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show 2026



Any theme, any medium/material, any size *

Enter individually or in a pair or group.

Create something new or enter an artwork you've already made.

You can work on your entry at Art Club in G60 on Wednesday lunch times, come at breaks and lunchtimes on Tuesdays and Thursdays or make it at home. You can borrow materials from Art and get help from Mrs Lowe or Mrs Sweeney.

We will submit your artwork for you, please collect an entry form from Mrs Lowe in G60.

*Original Artwork only, no images of other artist's work including disney characters etc, no AI art, appropriate for ages 4 and up.

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Year 8 Form Score a Goal With Tasty Treats

Well done to the Year 8 form Shar2 for winning a whole tub of Tunnock's teacakes!

The students all won the delicious Scottish-made treats for entering a competition targeted at KS3 and engaging in a mini lesson about Burns Night.

Burns Night is celebrated annually on January 25th, to mark one of Scotland's most celebrated poets Robert Burns. People often sing, dance and eat Scottish feasts!

We asked students who their Scottish role model was (past or present) in any field of sport, literature, arts or science etc... The winning form put forward footballer Scott McTominay, an acclaimed Captain for Scotland who began his successful career via the Manchester United Academy.

Other suggested Scottish role-models included (amongst others):

Alexander Fleming - we should look up to him because he made a huge impact on the world of medicine when he created penicillin, which has saved and improved countless lives.

David Tennant - because Dr Who is the most watched show on BBC, with many regarding Mr Tennant as the best doctor and without a doubt one of the best actors in the country.

Gary Anderson - a two-times-winning World Champion darts player who is ranked 6th in the world and is inspiring to many people.

Andrew Robertson - a proud Scottish footballer who helped to win the champions league for Liverpool, as well as playing in the Scotland national team.

Thanks to all the forms that entered.

Sharples Radio - January Podcast

Click the link below to listen to The Sharples Radio January Podcast, featuring: footage from the Sharples Family Meals; an account of the recent sponsored silence; some revision tips for PPEs; and Teacher Quick Fire Questions with Mrs Khan.

[Click here to listen to the January Podcast.](#)



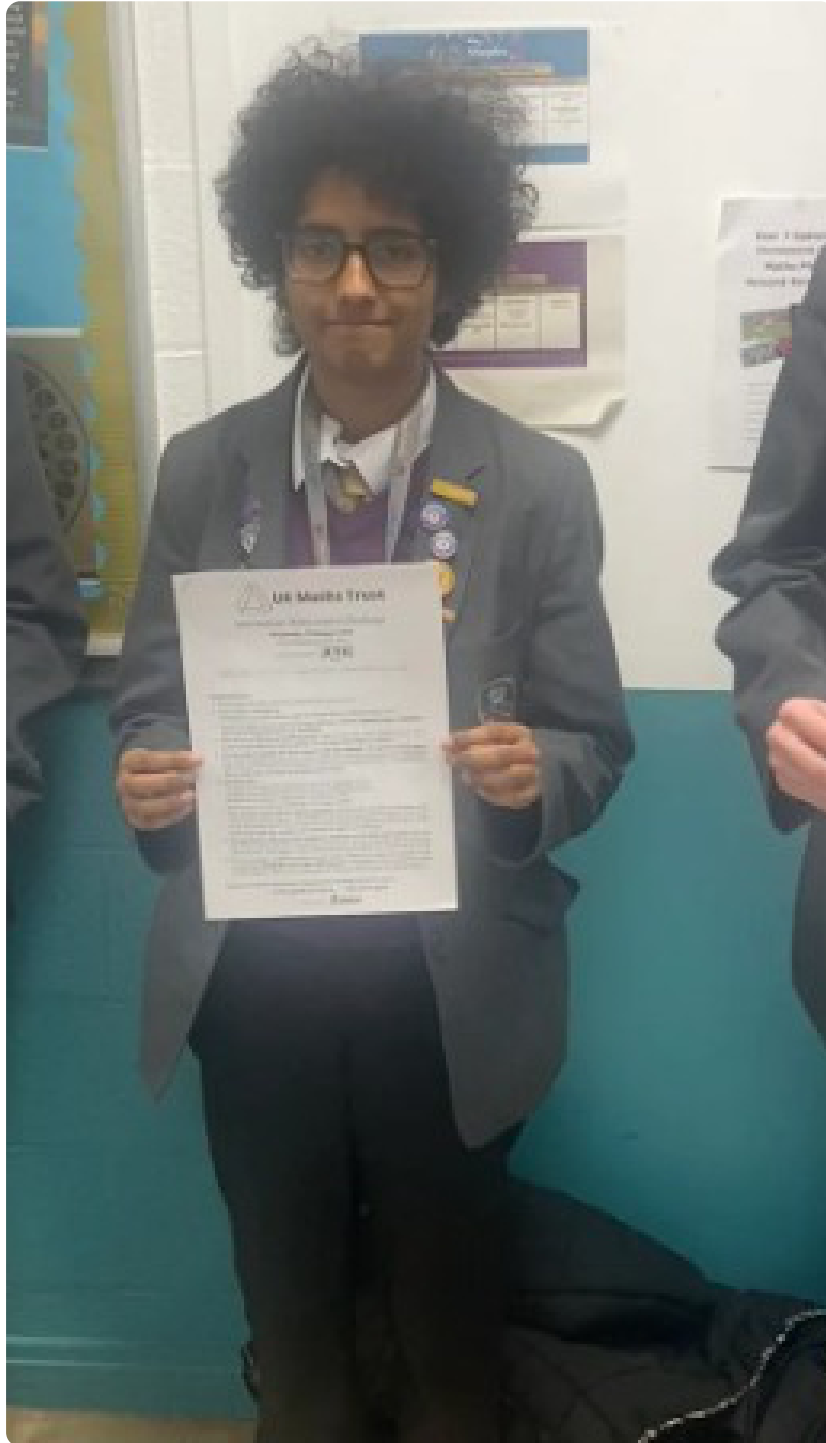


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UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge



This week, five Year 11 students competed in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, testing their problem-solving and reasoning skills. Results will be announced in a couple of weeks, and high scorers will progress to the next round. Good luck!

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Yusuf P for his great poetry analysis. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Sofia Y for a fabulous comparison of sonnets. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Aaima A for her in depth analysis of To Be A Woman. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Sobia H for a fantastic essay. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Zayba J for their brilliant mind map to support their mock revision. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Joey G for always volunteering to read.

Year 8

Avyukt N for reading with lots of enthusiasm and excellent pronunciation of keywords.

Year 9

Metuschel S for reading with confidence, clear pronunciation and making the context more engaging of A View From The Bridge.

Year 10

Lucas R for reading with clarity and confidence.

Year 11

Abdulateef A for reading his answers clearly and confidently.



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Sharples Student plays for Wales



On Wednesday, Sharples student Steven B (pictured above), took part in a regional football game for both North Wales and South Wales! As the goalkeeper, he played 25 minutes in net for North Wales and 25 minutes in net for South Wales, this was made extra difficult as he hadn't met any of his team mates prior to the game. He played amazingly well being vocal, strong, commanding and even saved a penalty. Well done Steven, good luck for the next one!



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Girls Football vs Rivington



It was an exciting start to the week for our girls football teams (pictured above) as they faced Rivington on Monday evening. In a closely contested match, the KS3 team secured a thrilling 3-2 victory, thanks to some brilliant attacking play from Evie M and fantastic saves from Lyla B. Our KS4 team also enjoyed success, claiming a 4-2 win. Excellent midfield performances from Sifan A and Fartun M were key in creating opportunities and controlling the game, leading the team to a well deserved victory. Well done, girls!



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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3rd February:
Owl & Bird of Prey
Sanctuary Turbary
Woods

Tuesday 3rd February
and Wednesday 4th
February: Year 9 and
10 vaccinations

Tuesday 3rd February:
The Roundhouse,
Bolton - Battle of the
Bands (18:30 – 20:30)

Thursday 5th
February: Year 9
fieldwork day (full Year
group)

Thursday 5th
February: Year 9
speaker Quaker

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 = 96.17%
8 = 95.44%
9 = 94.13%
10 = 94.54%
11 = 93.95%

Best forms this week:

7Ples1 = 97.55%
8Ples3 = 97.61%
9Ples4 = 95.54%
10Shar1 = 96.69%
11Ples4 = 97.13%

256 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Career of the Week: Private Practice Accountant

They prepare accounts and tax returns for businesses and individuals.

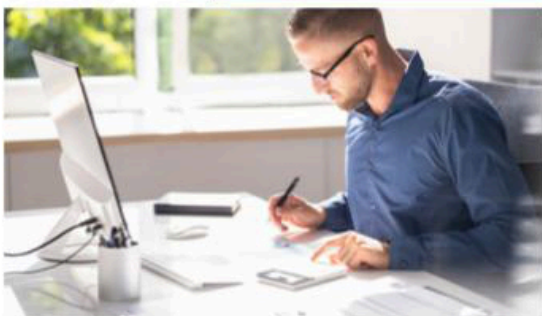
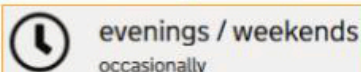
Average Salary:



Typical hours:
(per week)



You could work:



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

Qualifications:

- You could take an accountancy degree and then further professional training to qualify.
- You can get into this job through an accountancy and taxation professional degree apprenticeship.
- 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of economics and accounting
- maths knowledge.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Administration skills.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- The ability to work well with others.
- Ambition and a desire to succeed.
- The ability to use your initiative.

Relevant Subjects:

- Maths, Business Studies, Computer Science



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	KS3 girls Swimming Club	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	PE detentions
KS3 boys Swimming Club	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	Y9/10 Football Practice	Y8 & Y9 Girls football tournament @ Ladybridge	
Netball - all years	Running Club- all years	Y8 football @ Ladybridge (a) TBC	U12 Basketball @ Smithills	
		KS4 Fitness Suite- Girls		
		Y7 & Y9 girls netball v Ladybridge (h)		
		Man City v Newcastle trip		

Week beginning 2nd Feb

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ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 30TH JAN

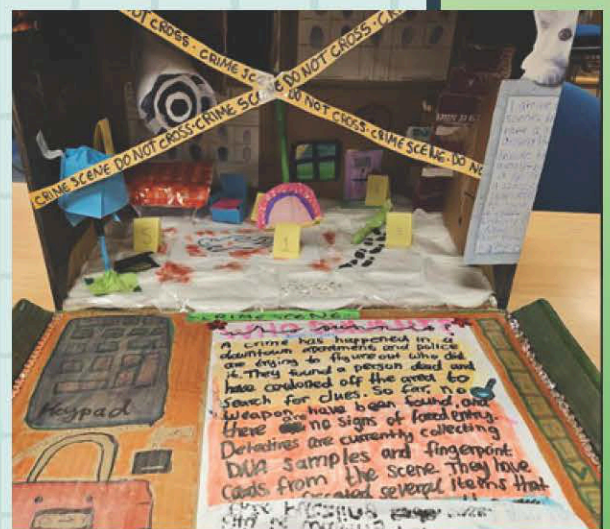


YEAR 8 LITERATURE SOCIETY: DETECTIVES PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday, some creative Year 8 pupils presented their amazing projects for Lit Soc on the theme of Detectives and Mystery.

Well done to all participants for your efforts and congratulations to the winners:

Marcie H
Myesha C
Lavina K



YOUNG POET LAUREATE

National
Literacy
Trust

Change your story

Many pupils submitted their poems for the chance to be crowned Poet Laureate for Bolton.

We wish them the best of luck with the next steps...

National Literacy Trust's Timeline

30 January 2026 – Deadline for Young Poet Laureate submissions

March 2026 - The 120 shortlisted young poets will be announced

20 April to 8 May 2026 - Regional masterclasses and judging panels take place

June 2026 – Announcement and appointment of the 12 Young Poet Laureates

June 2026 to July 2027 – Laureateship: Mentoring programme, publication of anthology, events and celebrations





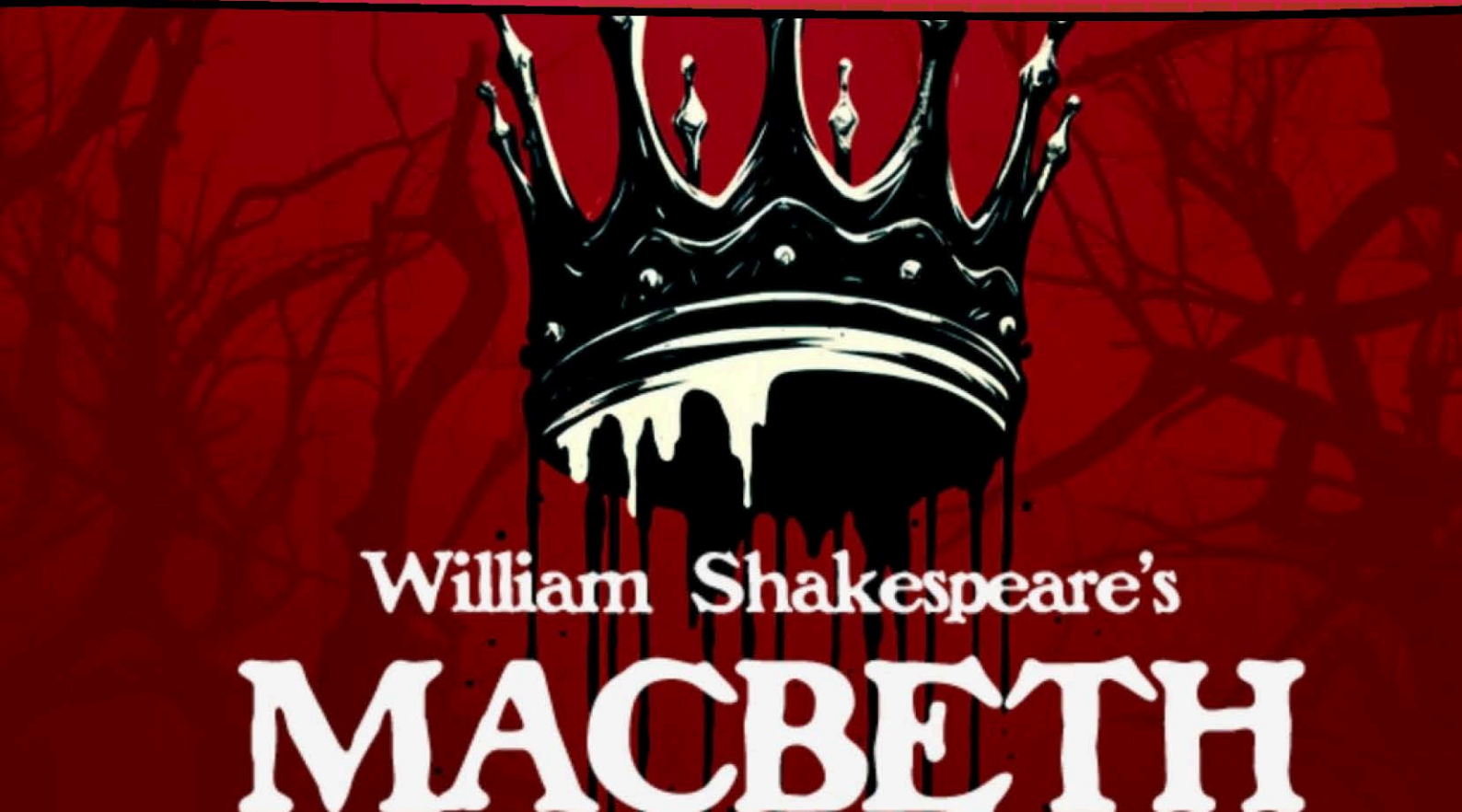
MACBETH THEATRE TRIP



Year 8 have an exciting opportunity
but you must act quick!

Since our pupils are studying Macbeth
this term there will be a trip to
Octagon Theatre to watch the play
live on stage.

There's still some places so act fast!
Get your permission slips in to Mrs
Topham ASAP.



William Shakespeare's
MACBETH

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

Books and Biscuits



Tuesday
Lunchtime
in the library



Anime Club Wednesday
lunch in U15 -

WORD OF THE WEEK

Unanimous

= Agreed upon by everyone involved.

E.g. "The decision was unanimous among the judges."

SHARPLES RADIO

The Sharples Radio team have been busy making monthly podcasts. All podcasts can be found on the Student Voice page of the school website.

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/student-voice/>





Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, we are writing to you with a spirit of community and inclusivity. We understand that for many students, Ramadan is a time of deep spiritual reflection, fasting, and celebration. At Mellors Catering services, (your school lunch provider) we believe that our food provision should adapt to the cultural needs of its community. That is why we are proud to launch this new initiative, to support within the month of Ramadan. Introducing...**Mellors Moonlit Meals.**

Why This is important for your child

Ramadan is a pillar of the Islamic faith, observed by fasting from sunrise to sunset. For observing students, this means missing Mellors standard lunch service.

Fasting requires a nourishing meal (Iftar) to break the fast and replenish energy for the next day. Mellors Moonlit Meals ensures your child receives a healthy, balanced meal to support their concentration, learning, and overall well-being throughout Ramadan.

How It Works

We want to ensure that all children have the fuel they need to learn and thrive.

Mellors Moonlit Meals allows students eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) who are observing Ramadan to use their daily allowance to "purchase" a meal intended for breaking their fast, rather than a lunchtime meal. This ensures your family receives the full value of the FSM benefit, reducing your food costs during this important month.

Not on a Free School Meal? Even if your child is not eligible for FSM, we encourage you to use Mellors Moonlit Meals as a convenient and balanced option!

Your school has carefully selected the following option to best suit our students' needs and facilities:

Mellors Moonlit Meal Bag

The kitchen will prepare a chilled selection of items in a handy 'grab and go' style bag - Ready-to-eat and easy to transport home. Perfect for breaking the fast immediately.

This could include:

- Sandwich
- Fruit Pot OR Homebake
- Bottle of Water



Next Steps: Sign up your Child Today!

To ensure we can accurately plan and prepare these meals for your child, we need to know who will be taking part.

Please complete and return the form available in the canteen or order your lunch in the morning of each day for the Mellors Moonlit Meals scheme.

We look forward to supporting your child and family throughout Ramadan.

Warm regards,
Mellors Catering Services

Scan the QR
code for
delicious
recipes!

SCAN ME!



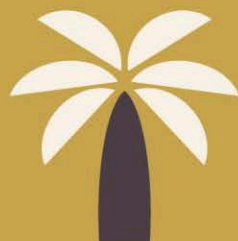
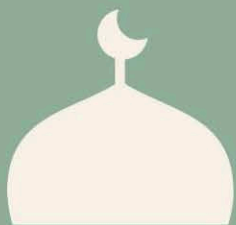
@MellorsCatering



Mellors Catering Services



www.mellorscatering.co.uk





Gallop into the
**LUNAR
NEW YEAR**

Mellors
**FOOD
Happy**

10th February

Coming soon!

We're always looking for ways to make you 'Food Happy'.

Did you know we run special themed meals (at least) every month?

Coming up...

This February, trot on over for some delicious Chinese foods, and learn about new cultures and traditions, as we embrace the Year of the Horse.



Saddle up for our special themed menu!



MENU

5
A DAY

KEY

- 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY

MEAT FREE

CHEF'S CHOICE

Pb

- MEAT-FREE MONDAY

MEAT FREE

- PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	HOMEMADE MEAT & POTATO PIE £1.85	ROAST OF THE DAY £2.10	CRISPY BATTERED FISH & CHIPS £2.10	HOMEMADE VEG MOUSSAKA £1.80	SWEET POTATO ENCHILADAS £1.85
Vegetarian Main Dish	VEG NOODLES £1.80	VEGETARIAN ROAST OF THE DAY £2.10	BHARJI BURGER IN A FOLDED NAAN £1.85	SALSA WEDGES £1.80	PIZZA OF THE DAY £1.50
And there is more	SANDWICH SELECTION £1.45-£1.85 JACKET POTATO & FILLING £1.85 SALAD BOX £1.90	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY
Street Food	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95
Italian Daily Special	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90
Dessert	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p

GRAB SOME STREET FOOD FOR HEALTHY MEALS ON THE GO

