



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 565
11th September 2026

Ms Molyneux's Welcome Back Letter - September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is a real pleasure to welcome all our pupils and families to the start of a new academic year. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break and that our pupils are returning refreshed, enthusiastic and ready for another successful year of learning, dreaming and achieving.

We have already enjoyed a fantastic start to the new academic year, and there is much to celebrate.

We were incredibly proud to celebrate **the record-breaking GCSE results achieved by our Class of 2026**. An outstanding **74% of pupils achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics**, with **87% achieving Grade 4 or above**.

These results are a tremendous achievement for our pupils and reflect their hard work, determination and resilience, alongside the commitment of our staff and the support provided by families. We are delighted to see our pupils' efforts rewarded and to celebrate another exceptional year at Sharples.

We have also been delighted to welcome **our Year 7 pupils** to Sharples through our week-long Summer School programme. This provided pupils with an opportunity to become familiar with our school, meet new friends and begin to develop the confidence and relationships that will help them to thrive.

Last week, our Year 7 pupils spent two further days getting to know the **Sharples Way**, our routines and expectations. They have made an excellent start and are now excited and ready to begin their lessons with confidence this week. We have been particularly impressed by the way they have embraced the opportunities and challenges of secondary school life.

We have also started the year with a very special visit from our **German partner school**. Our visitors will be staying with us throughout this week, experiencing lessons at Sharples and enjoying trips and activities in the evenings with their Sharples friends in Years 9 and 10.

International opportunities such as this are an important part of developing our pupils' confidence, cultural understanding and wider experiences, and we are delighted to strengthen our partnership with our German colleagues and pupils.

Over the summer, we have continued to invest in our school environment and have made some exciting improvements to our facilities.

Our **school library has undergone a complete refurbishment** and is now a welcoming, modern space with comfortable, soft-furnished zones where pupils can relax and enjoy reading. We hope that the new library will become a much-loved part of school life and encourage even more of our pupils to discover the enjoyment and benefits of reading for pleasure.

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We are also delighted that the **Sharples Radio Station is now fully up and running**. Pupils can enjoy a daily lunchtime broadcast featuring music requests, special shoutouts and much more. This is another fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their confidence, creativity and communication skills while contributing to the life of our school.

This week, we will also be introducing the **Yondr Phone Pouch system**.

In line with Department for Education expectations that schools should be **mobile phone-free by default**, every pupil will receive their own personal pouch. Pupils will receive a full briefing about the system through assemblies, including how and when the pouches should be used.

Parents and carers will receive a **separate letter providing full details about the Yondr Phone Pouch system**. We would encourage you to read this carefully and to support us in ensuring that the new arrangements are implemented successfully.

Our aim is to ensure that school remains a place where pupils can focus fully on their learning, develop positive relationships and engage with the people and opportunities around them without the distraction of mobile phones.

Our **Open Evening** will take place on **Thursday 24 September, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm**.

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective families to Sharples and showcasing all that our school has to offer. We would encourage as many of our pupils as possible to volunteer to support the evening and help us to demonstrate what makes Sharples such a special place to learn.

Please note that **school will finish at 2.25pm on Thursday 24th September**. The school buses have been rearranged to accommodate the early finish.

Friday 25th September is a staff Training Day and therefore a non-school day for pupils.

There is a great deal to look forward to this year. We want every pupil to have the opportunity to **Learn, Dream and Achieve** – to make progress in their learning, discover new interests, develop their talents and build the confidence and character they need to succeed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The strongest schools are built on strong partnerships between pupils, parents, staff and the wider community, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year.

We are excited about the opportunities that the new academic year will bring and look forward to another successful and memorable year at Sharples School.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Molyneux, Headteacher

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



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Bolton Young Chef of the Year



At the Bolton Food Festival Sharples student Tabitha won the Young Chef of the Year, and was presented with her award by James Martin!

Tabitha took part in cooking classes each month and even prepared a three course meal at The Albert restaurant for Miss Molyneux and Mrs Waters during the summer holidays!

Congratulations Tabitha, we are very proud of you!

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

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharplesSchool.co.uk



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Library Lock In

The Library is hosting its annual Library Lock In on Friday 18th September after the Fresher's Disco! Students will have the chance to sleep over in school and have a night filled with games, movies, a ghost hunt and plenty of food! Get a letter from Miss Ayub (N6) or Miss Patel (U14).





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Manchester Storm Mascot



This week Sharples student Brooke R was the mascot for the Manchester Storm Ice Hockey homecoming game back to the AO ARENA for the first time in over 20 years.

Brooke currently plays for the Manchester Storm Academy in two teams U14s, and U16s girls team, so as you can probably imagine how big this was for her, she had to do her own rookie lap on the ice in front of around 11,000 people, before all the Manchester Storm players then came out for the warm ups, which she took part in with them. Brooke then stood tall with them on the ice for the national anthem until the first puck drop!

She was super proud to represent Manchester Storm and to play for Manchester Storm Academy which is based in Altrincham. Well done Brooke!





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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.

Appointments in school time: Please provide an appointment card/letter. If your child has a medical appointment and needs to leave early, please can you provide a copy of the appointment card/letter so an exit slip can be issued.

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 this week:

7 = 98.58%

8 = 97.85%

9 = 97.05%

10 = 95.35%

11 = 96.03%

Best forms this week:

7Shar4 = 100%

8Ples3 & 8Ples5 = 100%

9Ples1 = 100%

10Ples1 = 100%

11Ples5 = 99.56%

1105 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Monday 14th to Friday 18th September :
Freshers week

Tuesday 15th and
Wednesday 16th
September: Year 10
Cambridge Trip
(Science)

Wednesday 16th
September: Freshers
Fair (12:55 – 1:35pm)

Friday 18th
September: Freshers
Disco (Year 7) / library
lock in (6:00 – 9:00pm)

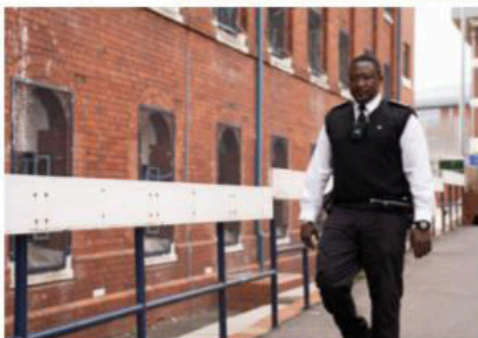
Career of the Week: Probation Officer

Probation officers supervise people serving community and prison sentences and help them to stay away from crime.

Average Salary: £ £28,000 Starter £45,000 Experienced

Typical hours:
(per week) 37 to 40

You could work: evenings / weekends occasionally



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

Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, an apprenticeship, working towards this role or applying directly.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent.
- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.
- A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.

Skills required:

- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail
- Knowledge of psychology

Relevant Subjects:

- English, Maths, Science, Humanities.



**Careers &
Enterprise**
at Sharples School

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

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

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PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM/CCH	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR/LAL	Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM/CCH	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - AHM/CCH	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM/CCH
Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 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) - CCH	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
KS3 boys Swimming Club	Y7 Netball trials	Y10 Football v Ladybridge (a)	Girls Football- all years	Department detentions
Netball - Y8-10	Y8 Football Practice	Y9 Football v Ladybridge (h)	KS4 Fitness Suite	
Y7 Football trials/ practice	KS4 Fitness Suite	KS3 girls Swimming Club	Y7 Football trials	
		KS4 Fitness Suite- Girls		

Week beginning 14th Sept



ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH
SEPTEMBER

WELCOME BACK!

A huge welcome back from all the teaching staff in the English Department. We hope you've had a restful summer and we are looking forward to getting stuck into another term, with lots of new books to pique your interest. There also a multitude of activities and opportunities planned for you, some of which are below...

THE NEW LIBRARY BIG REVEAL!

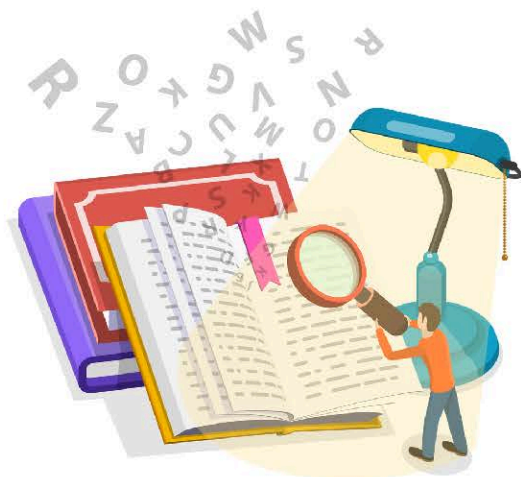
After months of top secret refurbishments, the time has finally arrived! The Sharples library will be unveiled and celebrated in a number of activities next week (w/c September 14th). Expect to see new furniture, comfy seating areas, and a lovely 'chilled' space for some quiet reading. We look forward to welcoming you through the doors!



YEAR 7 LIBRARY
LOCK-IN

Look out for information about what you need to do to get involved in this amazing sleepover! Sleep in the brand new library, watch a movie and hang out with new and familiar friends.

Make a note of the date: Friday 18th
September Ask Miss Patel in U14 for details.



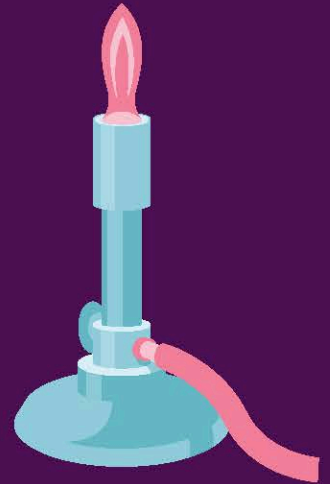


POEM OF THE WEEK

TRANSITION

By Matt Goodfellow

It was brilliant sir
proper good
amazing
we used Bunsen burners
real flames
imagine that, here, sir
you'd be sacked
and the big kids
massive
bigger than you, sir, some of 'em
with moustaches
and the corridor crushes, sir
it's mad
crazy
the size of the sports hall
bigger than our whole school
when you shout, it echoes
and there's showers, sir
and a pool
and we used drills and saws and files and
pliers
and we got lost, sir
loads of us got lost
and I can't believe we'll be there full time in
September
bonkers, sir, proper bonkers when I think
about it



WORD OF THE WEEK

APOPLECTIC

= overcome with anger,
furious

E.g. He was apoplectic
when he found out the
mistake.

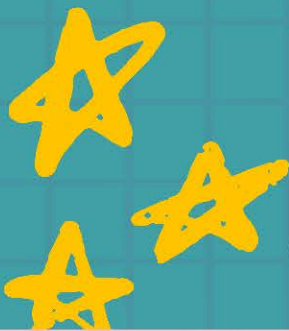


ROALD DAHL'S BIRTHDAY

Roald Dahl was a famous children's author who wrote beloved books like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda* and invented hundreds of playful new words.

Fun Facts About His Life:

- **Tall Nickname:** He was 6 feet 6 inches tall, so his friends in the Royal Air Force called him "Lofty".
- **Wartime Pilot:** He flew fighter planes during World War II and even survived a big crash landing in the desert.
- **Secret Spy:** While working in Washington, D.C., during World War II, he passed secret messages and intelligence to British spies.
- **Chocolate Tester:** When he was a schoolboy, local chocolate makers sent boxes of candy to his school for the children to test. This inspired *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



COMPETITIONS



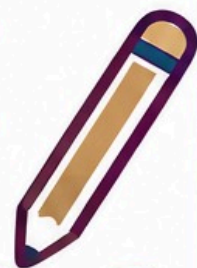
Watch this space for exciting news about the many competitions the English Department organise. Whether you like writing dark and gripping ghost stories, descriptive poems or dramatic adventures, we have a competition for every taste. Some of you might be lucky enough to have your creations published.

In the meantime, if you are in Year 7 and would like to write a short poem about your first experiences of your new school, then please put pen to paper and hand them into Mrs Topham in N1A.

The best ones will be published in a future newsletter.



PUZZLE MASTER



Create Your Own Puzzle!

Create your own Sudoku, logic puzzle, number puzzle or mathematical riddle for someone else to solve. Include the solution.

EXAMPLE

Here is an example of a Sudoku puzzle (which you can use as inspiration):

5	3			7				
6					1	9	5	
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7					2			6
	6					2	8	
	4	1	9				5	
		8				7	9	

This is just an example!

Solution

Here is one possible solution to the puzzle:

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Good luck with your puzzle!



Entries to be handed to your maths teacher by

Friday 6th November



MENU

KEY

5
A DAY

- 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY



- CHEF'S CHOICE

MEAT
FREE

- MEAT-FREE MONDAY



- PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	Chicken Pie served with Mash & Veg - £2.10	Marinated Chicken Wrap - £1.85	Battered Fish and Chips £2.10	Meat or Vegetable Moussaka Served with Salad £2.10	Indian Chicken Curry of The Day £2.10
Vegetarian Main Dish	Italian Pasta Bake Served with Salad £1.85	Veg Noodles £1.85	Cheese Whirl and Beans £2.10	Chickpea & Lentil Dahl £1.85	Tugo Pizza Slice £1.50 Extra Topping £1.85
And There's More...	Panini - £1.95 Sandwich - £1.45-£1.85 Jacket Potato and Filling from - £1.85 Salad box - £2.00 Vegetables of the Day - 42p	Panini - £1.95 Sandwich - £1.45-£1.85 Jacket Potato and Filling from - £1.85 Salad box - £2.00 Vegetables of the Day - 42p	Panini - £1.95 Sandwich - £1.45-£1.85 Jacket Potato and Filling from - £1.85 Salad box - £2.00 Vegetables of the Day - 42p	Panini - £1.95 Sandwich - £1.45-£1.85 Jacket Potato and Filling from - £1.85 Salad box - £2.00 Vegetables of the Day - 42p	Panini - £1.95 Sandwich - £1.45-£1.85 Jacket Potato and Filling from - £1.85 Salad box - £2.00 Vegetables of the Day - 42p
Love Joes	Love Joes Curry & Rice £1.90 Chicken Curry of the Day with Rice £2.10	Love Joes Curry & Rice £1.90 Chicken Curry of the Day with Rice £2.10	Love Joes Curry & Rice £1.90 Chicken Curry of the Day with Rice £2.10	Love Joes Curry & Rice £1.90 Chicken Curry of the Day with Rice £2.10	Love Joes Curry & Rice £1.90 Chicken Curry of the Day with Rice £2.10
Pasta King	Pasta Sauce of the Day with Garlic Bread - £2.10	Pasta Sauce of the Day with Garlic Bread - £2.10	Pasta Sauce of the Day with Garlic Bread - £2.10	Pasta Sauce of the Day with Garlic Bread - £2.10	Pasta Sauce of the Day with Garlic Bread - £2.10
Dessert	Fruit Pots - 55p-90p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding - 90p	Fruit Pots - 55p-90p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding - 90p	Fruit Pots - 55p-90p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding - 90p	Fruit Pots - 55p-90p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding - 90p	Fruit Pots - 55p-90p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding - 90p

GRAB SOME STREET FOOD FOR HEALTHY MEALS ON THE GO





BOLTON UNITED NETBALL



GIRLS AGED
11 - 16



SATURDAYS
10AM - 11AM



SHARPLES SCHOOL
Hill Cot Road, Bolton,
BL1 8SN



6 WEEK BLOCK
PAYMENT



REGISTER USING
LINK BELOW



FOR ANY ENQUIRIES CONTACT

07807 245346





Keeping your family safe from fire

Advice for Parents and Carers

Fire safety starts at home

Most fires in the home can be prevented. Actions such as:



Testing smoke alarms every week, keeping them clean and well maintained

Storing and charging electrical items safely



Talking to children about fire risks can make a significant difference.

Fire safety is not about causing worry; it is about helping families feel prepared and confident about what to do if an emergency occurs. Working smoke alarms are one of the most effective ways to protect your household, and every family should be aware of their escape routes and what to do if an alarm sounds.

Safety actions to protect your home

Many household fires start through everyday activities.

Cooking remains one of the most common causes of accidental fires, particularly when food is left unattended or when cookers and cooking surfaces are used for extra storage, as items left on or near hobs can accidentally catch fire.



Faulty electrical equipment, damaged charging cables and overloaded plug sockets can also present significant risks. Developing safe habits, such as switching appliances off when not in use, avoiding overloading extension leads and keeping flammable materials away from heat sources, can help reduce the likelihood of a fire starting in your home.

As children grow older, they often spend more time independently in their bedrooms and make greater use of technology. It is important for parents and carers to know where devices are being charged and to encourage safe charging habits.

Phones, tablets, laptops and gaming equipment should never be charged under pillows, on beds or beneath blankets where heat can build up. Hair straighteners should be fully switched off after use and allowed to cool safely. It is also worth having conversations about candles, incense burners and any other items that generate heat.



Children are naturally curious and may have questions about fire, fireworks or emergency services. Open and age-appropriate conversations can help them understand both the dangers and the importance of safe behaviour. Encourage children to

tell an adult if they find matches, lighters or damaged electrical items. Explain that smoke can be just as dangerous as flames and that hiding during a fire can make it more difficult for firefighters to help them. Reassure children that knowing what to do in an emergency helps to keep everyone safe.



Creating a family escape plan

Every family should have a simple escape plan. Take time to identify the quickest way out of each room and, where possible, a second route in case the first is blocked. Make sure everyone in the household knows these routes and understands what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Keep exits clear so that everyone can leave quickly in an emergency and ensure keys are stored in a safe but accessible place.

All family members should know where they are kept. Choose a family meeting point outside the home as this helps ensure everyone can be accounted for safely and reduces the risk of anyone re-entering the building. If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999. Teach younger children never to hide during a fire and never to go back inside for toys, pets or belongings.



Your family escape plan should also cover what to do if you cannot leave the property safely. If your escape route is blocked, move to a room with a window if possible and close the door behind you. Use towels, bedding or clothing to block gaps around the door to help prevent smoke entering the room. Open the window, call for help and dial 999 if you can. If you are on an upper floor, do not jump from a window; stay where you are and wait for rescue. If you live in a flat, make sure everyone in the household is familiar with the building's fire safety arrangements, evacuation procedures and escape routes, including the importance of not using lifts during a fire.

Fireworks, Deliberate Fires and Hoax Calls

Some children might not fully understand the consequences of irresponsible behaviour involving fire. Deliberately setting fires, misusing fireworks or making hoax calls to emergency services can place lives at risk and divert valuable resources away from genuine emergencies. Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people understand how these actions can affect individuals, families and communities. Taking opportunities to discuss news stories, local incidents or community events can help reinforce these messages.



Knowing your rights and the support available

Local authorities, housing teams, Citizens Advice, community organisations and charities may be able to assist with a range of issues, including housing conditions, household safety and family wellbeing. Many local Fire and Rescue Services also offer free Home Fire Safety Checks, providing practical advice tailored to individual households and circumstances.

If you rent your home, your landlord has legal responsibilities to help keep you safe. In England, landlords must provide smoke alarms on every storey of a property, ensure gas appliances are checked annually where provided, maintain safe electrical installations and provide appropriate carbon monoxide alarms where required. They should also ensure that escape routes can be used safely at all times.

If you have concerns about fire safety, speak to your landlord or letting agent first. If problems are not resolved, your local council's housing team, Shelter or Citizens Advice may be able to offer support and guidance.

Useful Sources of Support

Further advice and support can be obtained from:

- Your Local Fire and Rescue Service
- Citizens Advice
- Shelter
- GOV.UK

These organisations provide information on home fire safety, housing rights, landlord responsibilities and support for families who may be experiencing difficulties.

Want to find out more?

- www.Pol-Ed.co.uk
- hello@pol-ed.police.uk
- [@Pol.Ed.UK](https://www.instagram.com/Pol.Ed.UK)
- [facebook.com/Pol.Ed.UK](https://www.facebook.com/Pol.Ed.UK)

Created in
collaboration with



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Vision | Openness | Integrity | Compassion | Excellence



Bolton
NHS Foundation Trust

Bolton's Young Person's Drug and Alcohol

Service Drop In:

Thursday's 1pm- 4pm (no appointment needed)

2nd Floor, Lever Chambers, Parallel Reception

27 Ashburner Street, Bolton, BL1 1SQ. 01204 462444

...for a **better** Bolton

