Sharples SCHOOL Newsletter

Issue 571
23rd October 2026

Ms Molyneux's End of Half Term Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term of the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our Sharples family since September and thank you for your continued support.

It has been a busy and rewarding start to the year, with pupils embracing new opportunities, staff working tirelessly to support their progress and our school community continuing to demonstrate the ambition, care and commitment that make Sharples such a special place to learn.

We began the academic year on a real high as we celebrated the record-breaking GCSE results of 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 represent an exceptional achievement for our pupils and reflect their hard work, resilience and determination, alongside the dedication of our staff and the support of families. They also provide an excellent foundation for our current Year 11 pupils as they work towards their own examinations next summer.

One of the highlights of September was welcoming our new Year 7 pupils into the Sharples family. Following their week-long Summer School, they returned for additional transition activities to familiarise themselves with our routines, expectations and the Sharples Way.

It has been wonderful to see them settling into secondary school, developing new friendships and growing in confidence. Moving from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone, and I would like to congratulate our Year 7 pupils on the positive start they have made. We look forward to seeing them flourish over the coming years, taking advantage of the opportunities available to them and discovering their individual talents and ambitions.

September also saw us welcome pupils and colleagues from our German partner school. Our visitors experienced lessons at Sharples and enjoyed activities with their friends in Years 9 and 10. This was followed by a visit from our Romanian partner school just last week. These international partnerships are an important part of our commitment to providing a rich and varied education. They enable pupils to develop cultural awareness, communication skills and an appreciation of different perspectives, while building friendships that extend beyond our school community.

Over the summer, we completed a full refurbishment of our school library, creating a welcoming and modern space with comfortable seating and areas where pupils can relax, read and enjoy books. We want our library to inspire a love of reading and provide pupils with a calm environment in which to explore new interests, broaden their knowledge and develop their imagination.

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Sharples SCHOOL Newsletter

Reading remains fundamental to success across the curriculum, and I hope our pupils make the most of this improved facility.

We have also brought our Sharples Radio Station fully into operation, with daily lunchtime broadcasts featuring music requests, shout-outs and contributions from pupils. Our student radio team has an exciting role to play in developing this provision further, including plans for online broadcasts during the year.

These developments demonstrate our commitment to creating opportunities for pupils to develop their creativity, confidence and communication skills beyond the classroom.

Our Open Evening in September was another important opportunity to showcase the very best of Sharples to prospective pupils and their families. I am grateful to the pupils and staff who helped demonstrate our curriculum, facilities, values and the opportunities available here. The pride our pupils take in their school is something we should never underestimate.

Alongside these achievements, we have continued to establish the high standards and positive routines that underpin successful learning. We expect pupils to work hard, treat others with respect, follow instructions and take responsibility for their actions.

High expectations go hand in hand with care and support. We want Sharples to be a school where every pupil feels safe, valued and encouraged to succeed, and where kindness, resilience and a willingness to learn from mistakes are recognised and celebrated.

As we return after the break, we will continue to focus on excellent teaching, strong learning habits, good attendance and punctuality. Attending school every day, arriving on time, completing home learning and approaching lessons with determination all make a real difference. For our Year 11 pupils, these habits will be especially important as preparations for their GCSE examinations continue with their Pre-Public Exams beginning on Monday 9th November.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment throughout this first half term. Their willingness to go above and beyond for our pupils is central to the success of our school.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support and our pupils for the energy, ambition and individuality they bring to Sharples each day.

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back, refreshed and ready for another successful half term, on Monday 2 November 2026 at 8.45am.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Ms C. Molyneux
Headteacher

Click here to view the original letter as a PDF.

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An Evening with President Barack Obama!



Last Thursday, 15 lucky students enjoyed a truly unforgettable experience as they travelled to the Co-op Live arena in Manchester to attend 'An Evening with President Barack Obama'.

Following a recent oracy competition, in which students were challenged to deliver a speech on the topic 'What Makes a Good Leader?', our deserving winners were rewarded with a meal out and the incredible opportunity to hear from the former President of the United States himself!

From the moment we arrived at the arena, our students were treated like celebrities! Looking incredibly smart in their uniforms, they certainly caught the attention of members of the public, who approached them to ask what had brought them to such a special event. Some of our students even had the confidence to share their winning speeches with those they met!

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Never a school to miss an opportunity, we decided to try our luck and ask a member of staff whether we could take a photograph near the stage. They did one better and gave us our very own escort right down to the front of the arena! Students had the chance to admire the stage up close and capture some brilliant photos.

The event itself was both fascinating and insightful, giving students the rare opportunity to listen to a former world leader share his experiences and reflections. It was a fitting reward for a competition centred around leadership and the power of having a voice.

A fantastic evening, an incredible opportunity and memories that will undoubtedly last a lifetime. Not many people can say they have sat in the same room as a former President of the United States!

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Oracy October: Finding Your Voice and Speaking Up Across Sharples!

Happy Oracy October, Sharples! This month we have been celebrating the power of spoken word, debate, and confident communication across the school. Whether you are presenting in front of your class, debating big ideas, or simply building on a friend's answer in a lesson, learning to express yourself with clarity and confidence is one of the most valuable skills you can build.

The Sharples Way: SPEAK UP

You have probably seen the SPEAK UP framework around school and in your classrooms. It is all about helping every single student speak with authority, confidence, and pride. Here is how you can put it into practice every single day:

S – Stance: Stand or sit tall, showing you are active, engaged, and ready to contribute.
P – Project: Use a clear, audible voice that carries confidently across the room.
E – Eye Contact: Engage meaningfully with your teacher or classmates when speaking and listening.
A – Answer in Full Sentences: Ditch single-word answers in favor of complete, well-thought-out responses.
K – Knowledge: Ground your contributions in key subject vocabulary, facts, and evidence.
U – Understand Others: Listen actively, build respectfully on peers' points, or constructively challenge ideas.
P – Presentational Talk: Adapt your tone, style, and formal language depending on your audience.

Passport to Success: Year 7 Oracy Passports!

A massive shout-out goes to our Year 7s, who have been throwing themselves into their brand-new Oracy Passports! Pupils have been completing mini talk challenges in lessons and form time as they work their way toward earning their Bronze, Silver, and Gold badges.

The enthusiasm from Year 7 in collecting stamps and proudly wearing their giant badges has been fantastic. Keep getting those talk challenges checked off!

Spotlight: Oracy in Action Across Sharples

Check out what you and your classmates have been up to across different subjects this month:

English, Drama & Music: Year 8 explored character motives through hot-seating and paired scene performances of Blood Brothers. Year 9 wrote and performed collaborative ensemble spoken poetry. Drama and Music students stepped into the role of critics, using formal performance language to evaluate musical structures and scenes.

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STEM & Maths: Year 7 scientists tackled spirited debates on renewable energy, while Year 10 evaluated radiation safety risks to refine their persuasive speaking. In Maths, Year 7 took on "Convince Me!" reasoning challenges, and Year 10 tackled complex "Always, Sometimes, Never" algebra prompts.

Humanities, RE & PSHCE: Year 8 History turned classrooms into courtrooms to analyze primary evidence and debate the execution of King Charles I. RE students presented on the Caste System, while Year 11 engaged in formal, evidence-backed debates on UK legislation. In PSHCE, Year 8 debated the real-world impact of voting in a democracy.

Creative Arts, PE & Languages: Art students tackled big conceptual questions like "Does a portrait need to be realistic?", PE classes used structured peer feedback to evaluate swimming stroke mechanics, and MFL students built confidence with daily target-language routines and paired talk starters.

An Unforgettable Trip: Seeing Barack Obama Live!
To celebrate Oracy October with a truly extraordinary event, Year 7 and Year 8 students were challenged to write and deliver a 3-to-5 minute speech on the prompt: What Makes a Good Leader?

The response was overwhelming, with students demonstrating incredible confidence, clarity, and passion. Competition was tough, but 15 winning pupils earned a once-in-a-lifetime prize: a trip to see former US President Barack Obama live at the Co-op Live arena in Manchester!

Our students represented Sharples with total distinction. Their conduct was so impressive that members of the public went out of their way to praise their politeness and articulation. Seeing one of the world's most famous public speakers live in action made for an unforgettable evening and provided our future leaders with inspiration to last a lifetime.

3 Ways to Challenge Yourself!
You don't need a huge stage to practice your public speaking. Try one of these quick challenges in your lessons this week:

1. **Pick One "SPEAK UP" Target:** Focus on one specific area—like **Answering in Full Sentences or Projecting Your Voice**—and aim to hit it every time you speak in class.
2. **Use Sentence Starters:** Raise the quality of your answers using stems like "Building on [Name]'s point, I would add..." or "The evidence suggests that..."
3. **Be an Active Listener:** Focus on what your classmates are saying so you can respectfully build on their ideas or ask a thoughtful follow-up question.

Your voice matters—use it, practice it, and speak up with confidence!

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BHM Rewards Concert



Today, pupils with 95% attendance or above since the start of term were rewarded with a fantastic lunchtime concert to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). The event brought together an incredible mix of musical talent, uplifting performances and infectious energy, creating a thoroughly enjoyable celebration for everyone involved.

The concert featured a brilliant variety of performances. Zachary W-M and Amadou D got the audience moving with their upbeat drumming, while Emma L and Isaac Q showcased their musical talents with jazz- and blues-inspired piano pieces.

Our solo vocalists also delivered some memorable performances, with Daisy singing a Michael Jackson classic, Summer paying tribute to Tina Turner, and Bronte bringing the music of Bob Marley to life. Each performance added something special to an exciting and varied programme.

The energy reached new heights when Cobie brought the house down with his epic dance moves! Meanwhile, the now 30+ strong Sharples Voices delighted the audience with a fantastic selection of classics from Stormzy and The Supremes, demonstrating the power of music to bring people together across generations and genres.

It was wonderful to see so many pupils celebrating music, dance and Black musical heritage while recognising the importance of excellent attendance. The concert was a fitting tribute to the talent, dedication and creativity within our school community.

A huge well done to all the performers and everyone involved in making the event such a success! You certainly gave us a lunchtime to remember!

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Y7 & Y8 Subject Ambassador Breakfast



On Wednesday morning, we hosted our first Subject Ambassador Breakfast meeting for our Y7 and Y8 students. Our ambassadors have already been doing their departments proud by volunteering at our recent open events and demonstrating their enthusiasm and commitment! They are also well on their way to achieving their Sharples Impact Award. This award recognises ambassadors who support at least five subject events throughout the year. A huge well done to all our ambassadors for their hard work so far. We look forward to seeing them continue to make a positive impact across the school!

Gold Tie of the Week - Rahma Salah

Fulfilled her role well since she started and even before she achieved a gold tie she helped with everything to get it. Her hard work should inspire others.

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Drumroots: A Celebration of Rhythm, Dance and Talent!



On Monday 19th October, our Year 8 pupils were treated to an exciting and energetic performance of Drumroots, celebrating the vibrant rhythms and traditions of African music and dance.

Before the performance, our aspiring Year 8 musicians took part in a special djembe drumming masterclass, where they had the opportunity to develop their skills, explore African rhythms and experience the joy of making music together. Some of these talented pupils then took to the stage to perform as part of the concert, showcasing their newly acquired skills and confidence!

We were captivated by the incredible traditional Ghanaian dancing of Fatou Sillah, whose energy and enthusiasm soon had pupils eager to join in and show off their own dance moves. The excitement spread throughout the audience, with plenty of pupils getting up to dance along. Even Mrs Brook and Ms Molyneux joined in, showing Year 8 how it's done and proving that the rhythm really can get everyone moving!

A particular highlight was seeing Junior, Summer and Amadou showcase their impressive drumming talents as they performed solo alongside the ensemble. Their confidence, musicality and enthusiasm were fantastic to see, and they did a brilliant job representing our school.

The Drumroots performance was a wonderful celebration of music, culture and creativity, giving our Year 8 pupils the opportunity to experience new musical traditions, participate in an exciting live performance and, most importantly, have fun together.

A huge well done to all our pupils who took part, and thank you to the Drumroots team for an unforgettable experience!

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Gardening and Eco Club Autumn Update



Last Friday our year 8 gardeners, under the guidance and expertise of Mrs Brown were able to cook the giant pumpkins that they grew from seed, making tasty pumpkin soup. As well as being great fun, this activity helps students to understand food provenance and the environmental conditions required for successful growth. During Thursday's Year 7 Gardening Club, year 7 students were able to sample the soup, along with Miss Molyneux, Mr Savage and Mr McCann.

As Autumn progresses and our RHS "Plants for Wellbeing" sunflowers start to fade, year 8 and 9 gardeners planted purple tulips, alliums and hyacinths in the year 9 raised bed, which will increase spring biodiversity and provide some colour as daylight hours lengthen.

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English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7
Muhammad I - for including dashes in his work to vary punctuation and add information. Click here to view the work.

Year 8
Evan H - for his collaborative scrips on Blood Brothers for Oracy October. Click here to view the work.

Year 9
Habeebah P - independently completed a strong analytical paragraph for poetry. Click here to view the work.

Year 10
Umamah D - demonstrating a clear understanding of Kamikaze with some great annotations. Click here to view the work.

Year 11
Safaa M for her great narrative. Click here to view the work.

Readers of the Week

Year 7
Nicholas C for reading enthusiastically and always trying hard with difficult vocabulary.

Year 8
Rayaan P for his performance of Mrs Johnstone for Oracy October.

Year 9
Lucy H for her brilliant engagement with The Jungle her excitement to read in front of the class.

Year 10
Raihan G for reading clearly with intonation.

Year 11
Amelia T.M for her excellent character reading in An Inspector Calls.

<<< Click here to view the first ever Inclusion Newsletter! >>>

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Maths at Home – Talking About Numbers Together



We would like to encourage our Year 7 and 8 parents and carers to take part in a free NRICH webinar on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 7pm.

Join Liz and Charlie from NRICH for a relaxed and friendly session exploring how everyday conversations, play and curiosity can help children develop confidence and positive attitudes towards maths.

The webinar will share practical ideas to help you support your child's mathematical learning at home, showing that anyone can enjoy talking about numbers, whatever their own experience of maths. No specialist knowledge is needed – just a willingness to have a go!

Please follow the link to register https://nn.typeform.com/to/g9rxl7CT?typeform-source=teams.public.onecdn.static.microsoft

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Y7 secure their place in the semi final of the Bolton Cup



Year 7 travelled to Little Lever in the QF of the Bolton cup this week and the fixture was played in horrendous conditions. It was a real test of character for the team, especially after going in at half time one nil down despite dominating the first half and hitting the crossbar twice after a superb strike from Umar and excellent free kick from Zinedine.

Sharples started the second half brightly and Zinedine levelled from the penalty spot with confidence. He then assisted Mohammed who put Sharples in the league after running in behind and firing into the corner. Sharples then scored an outstanding team goal completing 7 passes from the back and Mohammed rounded the keeper and then squared for Archie to slot into the net. Little Lever pulled one back and then Mohammed broke the offside trap again to round the keeper and score his second goal of the game. Little Lever pulled another goal back with the last kick of the game but it was a great performance from the team and they have now set up a semi final against Bolton School in the next round.

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KS3 Football vs St James's



Our KS3 football team put on a brilliant display against St James's on Monday night, securing an impressive 3–1 victory. A dominant first-half performance saw Sharples take control of the game, heading into half-time with a comfortable 3–0 lead. Imama N (Y8) was outstanding in midfield, controlling the game and helping to drive the team forward. Meanwhile, Rhea M (Y7) produced some brilliant saves to keep St James's at bay and help Sharples secure a well-deserved win. Congratulations to the whole team on a fantastic performance! Well done, girls!

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Year 10 Football Fixture



Our Year 10 boys travelled to Little Lever on Thursday in a league fixture. After a loss in their last game, the lads wanted to put things right by getting 3 points.

We started strong, taking the lead after some intense pressure on the backline forcing a mistake which Isa capitalised on. In the second half Little Lever equalised but this sparked a new flame in our Sharples team as they went on to score 2 more goals putting the game to bed. Goals came from Isa, again, with a great worked goal and then Lewis showed instinctive prowess as he followed up a shot to tap one in. After a fantastic performance we secured 3 points and Isa took home the MoM. Well done lads, onto the next one! #UpTheSharples

Sharples SCHOOL Newsletter

Champions League Trip



On Tuesday evening, our Y10 & Y11 Sports Studies students enjoyed an exciting trip to the Etihad Stadium to watch a Champions League clash between Manchester City and AEK Athens. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved, with the chance to see world-class players up close and take in the atmosphere of a top level European fixture.

A highlight for many was witnessing Phil Foden make the scoresheet in style with a hat-trick. The match finished with Manchester City securing an impressive 5–1 victory.

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KS4 Football vs Bolton School



Our KS4 football team travelled to Bolton School on Thursday, putting in a valiant effort despite a 3–1 defeat.

There were promising passages of play, giving the team plenty of positives to take into their next fixture. Imama N had another fantastic game in the middle of the park, while Amara H scored a great goal from a corner. Well done, girls!

Sharples SCHOOL Newsletter

Y10 Netball vs St James's



Our Y10 netball team enjoyed a brilliant victory on Thursday night, delivering a dominant performance to secure an impressive 18–7 win over St James's. Well done to everyone involved on a fantastic result!

Year 11 Bolton Cup Fixture

On Wednesday our Year 11 boys football team went to Kings Academy for the first round of the Bolton Cup. The conditions were horrendous, to say the least, as rain poured down the boys started quick taking the lead from a fantastic bit of football finished off by Lewis F. As we entered the second half in the lead the weather maintained and it became a real test of character for our boys, showing grit and determination Sharples doubled their lead with a nicely placed penalty, from captain Hayden R. Kings managed to pull one back but Alfie L soon crushed their hopes of progressing with a great bit of play followed by a brilliant strike catching the keeper off guard.

Well done boys, onto the next round we go! #UpTheSharples

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 23 to Thursday 29 October: Year 11 Spain Trip

Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October: Half Term

Monday 2 November to Thursday 5 November: Y8 SAC Interviews

Monday 2 November: Diwali Music Concert (Y7-Y10 11:15am – 3:15pm)

Monday 2 November: Year 7 Maths Whodunnit (3:15 – 5:15pm)

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 (previous week's)

Year Groups attendance this week:	Best forms this week:
7 = 97.38%	7Shar5 = 99.31%
8 = 96.21%	8Ples3 & 8Shar1 = 100%
9 = 96.31%%	9Ples3 = 99.62%
10 = 95.96%	10Ples2 = 98.72%
11 = 95.99%	11Ples5 = 100%

724 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Career of the Week: Solutions Architect

Solution architects lead teams that create new computer systems for clients.

Average Salary: £36,000 (Starter) – £85,000 (Experienced)

Typical hours: (per week) 37 to 40

You could work: evenings occasionally



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course, an apprenticeship or applying directly.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software.
- Maths knowledge.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- Knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses.
- Persistence and determination.
- Ambition and a desire to succeed.
- To be flexible and open to change.
- Knowledge of systems analysis and development.

Relevant Subjects:

- Maths, Business Studies and Computer Science.

Information sourced from:https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/solutions-architect

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



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 boys Swimming Club Netball practice- all years Y7 Football Practice	Y8 Football Practice KS4 Fitness Suite Running Club- all years	Y8 Football v Smithills (a) Bolton Cup Y9/10 Football Practice KS3 girls Swimming Club KS4 Fitness Suite- Girls Only	Girls Football- all years KS4 Fitness Suite	PE detentions

Week beginning 2nd Nov

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INTRODUCING...

THE SHARPLES BOOK-FACE CHALLENGE

Choose a book you've read and redesign its front cover in a brand-new style. Write 2–3 sentences explaining how your new look will attract a different audience.

Winners will be invited to a trip to Waterstones!

HAND YOUR DESIGNS TO MISS PATEL (U14)

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

COMING AFTER HALF TERM

STUDENT · AFFAIRS · COMMITTEE · AT SHARPLES SCHOOL

LEARN · DREAM · ACHIEVE

COMING AFTER HALF TERM

SHARPLES SUGGEST IT

Your ideas. Our school. Better together.

Got an idea to make Sharples even better?

Share your suggestions, improvements and new ideas using our idea suggestion form.

IMPROVE FACILITIES

SUGGEST NEW IDEAS



SHARE YOUR OPINION

HELP MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE

It will be sent out via email each half term.

Every idea matters • Student Affairs Committee

Sharples SCHOOL

PRESENTS

A Winter Showcase

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

IN THE THEATRE — 7PM

PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:
SHARPLES VOICES, BAND PERFORMANCES, SOLOISTS, MUSICAL THEATRE & DANCE

TICKETS

£3 PER ADULT AND £1 PER CHILD (UNDER 16)

AVAILABLE ON MCAS FROM 2ND NOVEMBER.

ADVENT ORIGAMI CLUB

Create your own advent calendar using origami!

A bit of crafty fun to get into the festive spirit.



Tuesdays at lunchtime

U27

All are welcome – it's just a bit of crafty fun!

Maths DEPARTMENT

Sharples SCHOOL

ALTIUS • ORA • MENTIS

CALLING ALL CODEBREAKERS AND FUTURE CYBER SECURITY EXPERTS



Take part in the University of Southampton NATIONAL CIPHER CHALLENGE!

- Enter as a team or an individual
- Weekly challenges
- U30 Friday lunchtimes, starting 23rd October
- Prizes available



If you would like to register, contact Mrs Hall by email or in U30.

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

THE LITERATURE SOCIETY

YEAR 7 MYTHS AND LEGENDS





On Thursday 22nd October, as part of Sharples Literature Society 2026-27, Y7 students presented their marvellous mythology projects. **Congratulations to the winners, who will officially be announced** in this newsletter after Half Term, along with photos.



The standard, as per usual, was exemplary. There were 3D models of Pandora's Box, PowerPoints of Robin Hood, the underworld of Hades, a collage of Loch Ness Monster "sightings", models of Japanese mythology, and presentations on Roman twins Romulus and Remus.





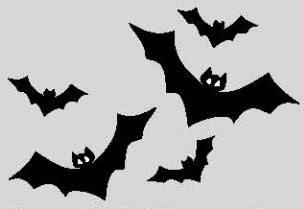
WELL DONE TO EVERYONE who volunteered their time and created so many wonderful projects. You should all be extremely proud



First place moves on to the next round near the the end of the academic year, against winners of each year group. And your families can come see you go head to head against the other projects.



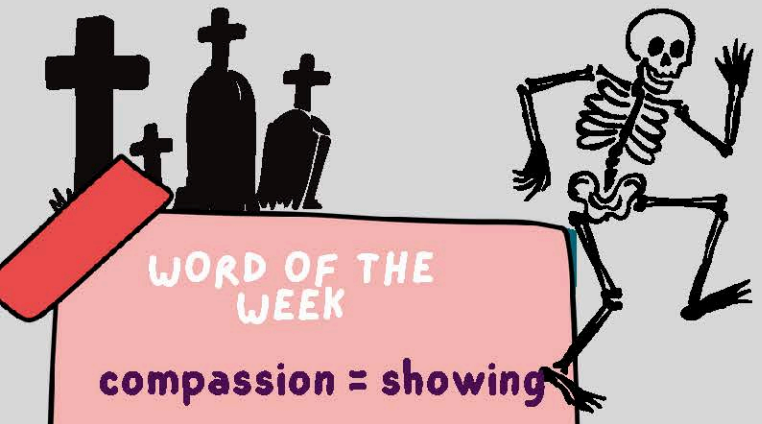
POEM OF THE WEEK



The Visitor

By Ian Serraillier

A crumbling churchyard, the sea and the moon;
The waves had gouged out grave and bone;
A man was walking, late and alone…
He saw a skeleton on the ground;
A ring on a bony finger he found.
He ran home to his wife and gave her the ring.
"Oh, where did you get it?" He said not a thing.
"It's the loveliest ring in the world," she said,
As it glowed on her finger. They slipped off to bed.
At midnight they woke. In the dark outside,
"Give me my ring!" a chill voice cried.



"What was that, William? What did it say?"
"Don't' worry, my dear. It'll soon go away."
"I'm coming!" A skeleton opened the door.
"Give me my ring!" It was crossing the floor.
"What was that, William? What did it say?"
"Don't' worry, my dear. It'll soon go away."
"I'm reaching you now! I'm climbing the bed."
The wife pulled the sheet right over her head.
It was torn from her grasp and tossed in the air:
"I'll drag you out of bed by the hair!"
"What was that, William? What did it say?"
"Throw the ring through the window! THROW IT AWAY!"
She threw it. The skeleton leapt from the sill,
Scooped up the ring and clattered downhill,
Fainter… and fainter… Then all was still.

WORD OF THE WEEK

compassion = showing sympathy and concern for others

"The compassionate student helped his friends."

"The Visitor" by Ian Serraillier is a classic, suspenseful poem that is widely read during the Halloween season. It tells the eerie tale of a man who takes a ring from a skeleton in a graveyard, only for the skeleton to follow him home to claim it back.

YOUR OWN POEMS

LAST MONTH was National Poetry Day and some of you enjoyed creating your own poems in the library. Here are a few below. Two acrostic poems continue the Halloween theme, and one below gives us some food for thought about how we view ourselves.

Horrible terrifying screams
As a loud thud descends down
Lonely
Library and darkness settle
Over the
Weekend
Events reoccur, the
End is
Near

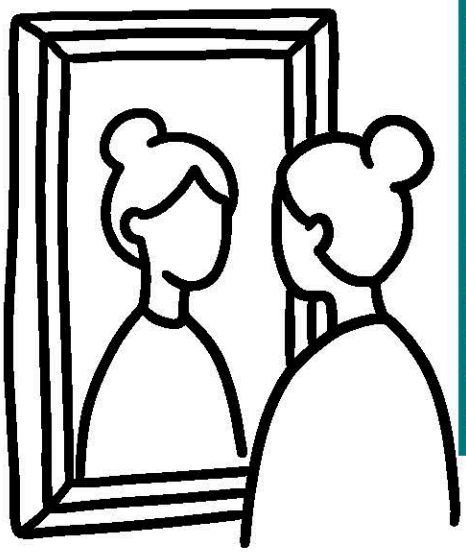


By Sofia in 7P3

Haunted house
All nighters
Limbs of
Lonely skeletons
Owls hoot and you say your prayers
Witches roam the land
Evil vampires laugh
Eerie silence, deafening scare
Never cross a werewolf's path



By Libby and Felicity in 8P3



As we come to the end of a busy half-term during Kindness Week, the poem (right) is an important message for all of us about our own self-esteem and self-worth.

Mirror

Never trust a mirror,
for a mirror always lies,
it makes you think that all your worth,
can only be seen from the outside.
Never trust a mirror,
it only shows you what's skin deep.
You can't see how your eyelids flutter,
when your drifting off to sleep,
it doesn't show you what the world sees,
when you're only being you,
or how your eyes just light up,
when you're loving what you do.
It doesn't capture when you're smiling,
where no one else can see,
and your reflection cannot tell you
everything you mean.
Never trust a mirror,
For it only shows your skin,
And if you think that it dictates your worth,
It's time you looked within.

By Nadia , Yr 9

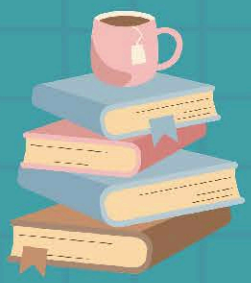
More of your poetic creations will be published next time...

WHAT'S ON



Books and Biscuits

Tuesday
Lunchtime
in the library





Anime Club Wednesday
lunch in U15 -



WEDNESDAY:

DISNEY CLUB

Y7-8

Trivia Fridays in the library!
Test your knowledge for fun

EVERY WEEK IN THE LIBRARY AT LUNCHTIME



SHARPLES RADIO

Check out the latest Sharples Radio Podcast on the Student Voice area of our school website.

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

YEAR 11

MATHS ENRICHMENT

TACKLE TRICKY PROBLEMS TO PREPARE FOR THE UKMT INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE!

WHEN: THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES
WHERE: U31
STARTING: THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

DEVELOP LOGIC, STRATEGY, & THINKING SKILLS!





UKMT INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE
WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2027

Sharples SCHOOL

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

STORE-CUPBOARD SUPER-FAST RECIPE

Jamie Oliver's Tinned Sardine Puttanesca

A rich, Mediterranean pasta dish leveraging sustainable tinned fish and pantry essentials for a complete meal in under 15 minutes.

PREP TIME	COOK TIME	SERVINGS	COST / PORTION
5 Mins	10 Mins	2 People	~£1.00

Ingredients

- **150g–200g** Spaghetti or linguiine
- **1 tin (120g)** Sardines in olive oil
- **2 cloves** Garlic, thinly sliced
- **½ tsp** Dried chili flakes
- **1 tbsp** Capers, drained
- **50g** Black or green olives, pitted & torn
- **1 tin (400g)** Chopped tomatoes
- **Small handful** Fresh flat-leaf parsley (optional)
- **To taste** Salt & freshly ground black pepper

Flavor & Budget Hack

Don't throw away the oil from the sardine tin! Pouring it into the pan to fry your garlic and chili gives you deep, rich flavor without needing to use extra olive oil.

Method

1. **Cook the Pasta:** Bring a large pan of salted water to a rolling boil. Add the spaghetti and cook according to packet instructions until *al dente*.
2. **Build the Flavor Base:** Drain the oil from the sardine tin directly into a pan over medium heat. Add the sliced garlic, chili flakes, capers, and pitted olives. Sauté for **1–2 minutes** until sizzling and fragrant.
3. **Add the Fish:** Flake the sardine fillets directly into the pan, breaking them up gently with a wooden spoon so they begin to melt into the hot oil.
4. **Simmer Sauce:** Pour in the tinned tomatoes, season with a small pinch of salt and pepper, and simmer gently for **5 to 6 minutes** until thickened.
5. **Toss & Serve:** Reserve a splash of pasta cooking water, then drain the spaghetti. Toss the pasta into the sauce with a drop of cooking water for a glossy finish. Top with parsley and serve immediately.

BACC CLUBS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Latin Club *HAV - AS*	**Books & Biscuits** *NTO - Library*	**Disney Club** *HPA - Library*	**Creative RE** *PMC - U32*	**LGBTQ Club** *HAV - U51*
Recycled Art *JLO - G60*	**Running Club** *MHT - AS*	**Anime Club** *SHU - U15*	**Gardening Club** *CFI/JBI - U47*	**Sharples Arrows** *OJE/DSI - U35*
Calculated Colouring *LDA - G16*	**3D Printing** *HGL - G59*	**Youth Speaks** *ACH/IHA - U15*	**Sharples Synth Orchestra** *AKE - M1*	**Cooking Club** *MBR - G83*
Card Games *KMC - G46*	**Music Club** *CAB - M2*	**Antarctica Flag Competition** *CGR - U38*	**Christmas Choir** *CAB - M2*	**Chess Club** *KMC - G46*
Sharples Techies *THA - G67*	**Sharples Voices** *AKE - M1*	**Musical Theatre (Y8)** *CAB - M2*	**Basketball** *LAL - SH*	**Sharples Stars** *THA - G67*
Polyglot Club *SBH - N10*	**Dodgeball Club** *CCH - SH*	**Sharples Voices** *AKE - AS*	**Seussical Rehearsals** *CAB - AS*	**Calm Creative** *RQU - N11*
Sharples Symphony *AKE/CAB - M1*	**Seussical Rehearsals** *CAB - AS*	**Just Dance** *LAL - SH*	**Football (Y8)** *AHM - Astro*	**Concert Rehearsals** *CAB/AKE - M1*

Mellors

MENU

KEY
- 5 A DAY - 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
- CHEF'S CHOICE
- MEAT FREE - MEAT-FREE MONDAY
- PB - 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

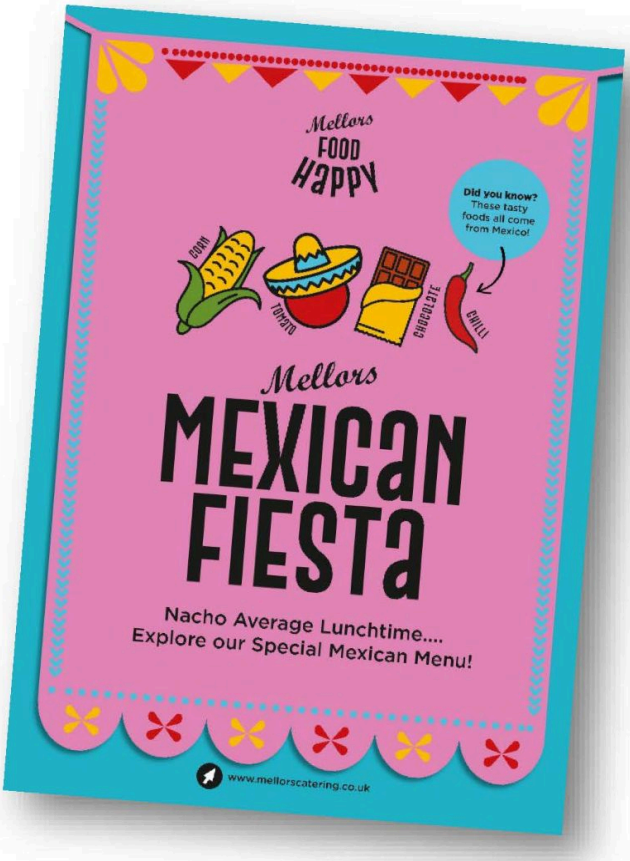


Mellors

MEXICAN FIESTA 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...

Step into the heart of Mexico with our brilliant and bold Mexican Fiesta Menu!

Mellors FOOD Happy

Join the party – this November!

www.mellorscatering.co.uk

Sharples SCHOOL

LEARN · DREAM · ACHIEVE

CALCULATED COLOURING CLUB

Monday Lunchtime

G16

For Year 7

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

SHARPLES SCHOOL

Learn, Dream and Achieve.

HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE NIGHT

Stay safe. Show respect. Make positive choices.

A reminder for parents and carers: please talk to your child about staying safe and behaving responsibly this Halloween and Bonfire Night.

1 Know their plans

Agree where your child is going, who they will be with and when they will be home. Make sure you can contact each other.

2 Choose safer celebrations

Go to organised events. Fireworks can cause life-changing injuries. Under-18s must not buy or possess adult fireworks in public. Never throw or set off fireworks in streets or public places.

3 Keep costumes away from flames

Check children's costumes for a UKCA or CE mark. This does not mean they are fireproof. Keep all costumes away from candles and naked flames; use battery-operated lights in pumpkins.

4 Respect people and emergency services

Talk about the consequences of deliberate fires, vandalism, firework misuse and attacks on emergency workers. These can lead to police involvement. Hoax 999 calls and damage to fire engines can delay help and put lives at risk.

#BangOutOfOrder Help keep our community safe.

Safety advice and event information: **manchesterfire.gov.uk** | Resources: **StayWise.co.uk**

Based on Bolton Youth Justice Service Prevention Team's Safer Schools Update, October 2026. Firework wording checked against GOV.UK.

Bolton Together

Registered Charity in England and Wales (1163466)



Your Mind Matters

TALK. EXPLORE. TAKE ACTION.

FEEL BETTER.
FIND SUPPORT.
BE YOU.

Support for your emotional health and wellbeing in Bolton

IThrive

Support for how you feel

If you're between 5 and 19 (or up to 25 if you have SEND), IThrive can help. We offer a range of emotional health and wellbeing support, including 1:1 support and counselling.

Self-refer today, or ask a trusted adult to refer you (with your consent)

IThrive Plus

Drop-in. Talk. Get Support

If you're between 11 and 19 (or 25 with SEND) we have our IThrive Plus drop-ins, hosted by trusted providers across Bolton, offer a safe, friendly and welcoming space to talk about how you're feeling, get advice and find the right support for you.

Find your nearest drop-in session

Navigators

Neurodiversity Support

If you're between 5 and 19 (or 25 with SEND) our Navigators help you understand and explore neurodiversity, including ADHD and autism. They can offer information and guidance to help you find the right support for you.

Get in touch and take the next step

Understand yourself better

Build your confidence

Connect with people who get it

Feel more in control

Your choice. Your support. Your way.

A stronger Bolton. Together.

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO REFER

ithrive@boltontogether.org.uk

boltontogether.org.uk

https://bolton-together.org.uk/ithrive-7-19-years-referral-form/

BOLTON UNITED HUB
UNITE • IGNITE • CREATE

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