



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT VOICES



**MAY EDITION**

**EDITOR: KHADIJA MOOSA**

**CO-EDITOR: AALIYAH ISSAK**

**WRITERS: SAFFIYAH PATEL**

SAFIYA IBRAHIM

GRACE BONNER

UMAYMAH PATEL

MAARIYAH MATADAR

SUMMER DOUGHERTY

**FEATURING NEW SECTIONS, CHALLENGES,  
ARTICLES AND MORE!**



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

---

## EDITOR'S NOTE

---

Hello Readers! Welcome to the May edition of the Sharples Spotlight, another brilliant compilation of articles for your enjoyment! Before I let you go I'd like to bring your attention to the fact that this month the Spotlight has a new editor. My name is Khadija and you probably already recognise my name because I've been the co-editor of the Spotlight since February last year, but this month I'm leading the team. This shouldn't affect the quality of articles or involve any major changes to the Spotlight as of now. In fact, you probably won't even notice the difference but I thought I should bring the change to your attention anyway.

I'd also like to appeal to you all to join our brilliant team. We are in huge need of writers so if you or someone you know is interested I urge you to contact me at [23moosak@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:23moosak@sharplesschool.co.uk). This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your creativity, improve your skills and it looks great on Gold Tie and college applications in the future. We love seeing new passion and interests expressed every month. Articles can even be submitted anonymously for those of you who prefer to play your role in the background. We meet every Thursday in T2, so get yourself down, we can't wait to see you there! Who knows, perhaps you could be in my position next year. Next month, we will be combining the June and July editions, so we'll need lots of writers to help document the busy last half term. All work can also be submitted to me by email, we love to see 'one-off-articles' from outside of the team. This opportunity is for everyone, whether you enjoy writing or not.

Thank you to all of our readers, you are instrumental in the success of the Spotlight and we love hearing from you. Don't forget to fill out our feedback survey so we know exactly what you want to see from us. Speaking of feedback, the result for your favourite April article is on page 5, make sure to submit your votes for this month quickly!

Finally, Happy May and a belated Eid Mubarak to everyone celebrating. Also, a huge well done to all Year 11s completing their GCSEs, we're rooting for you! I can't wait to see what the last half term of school holds for all of us. Make the most of it and happy reading!

*BY KHADIJA MOOSA - EDITOR*



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

## THANK YOU TO AMAARA MANGERA



This month is weird for me. For you readers it probably doesn't seem much different but for me, I'm devastated to be editing this month's edition without my good friend Amaara Mangera.

Since February last year she's been the boss behind this whole operation, but this month, I've taken over. Although I'm delighted to be the new editor of the Spotlight, it feels weird to not have someone to turn to when I'm not sure about something and not having my inbox filled with way too many back and forth emails.

The Canva document feels emptier without her (we do all our editing on Canva) Although I'm incredibly grateful to be working with Aaliya Issak from now on, Amaara and I had a good flow going on and constant communication. Yes, we frequently get mad at each other but at the end of the day there aren't many people in the world I'd rather share this role with.

Over the past year, I've watched, learned and taken advice from her. She led the team confidently and took all the stress on her own shoulders. I do wonder how she managed to get people to meetings because everyone seemed to disappear with her. Anyway, Amaara was very dedicated. She would be editing at 22:30 even after a busy day, the night before Spotlight release. In retrospect, I don't know many students busier than her, from events at school, leadership positions, after school commitments such as Scouts and karate, I've always admired her time management.

Now this was quite difficult for me to write, because it was quite sappy, but I think it is important to celebrate her hard work over many months, and I know the whole team is grateful for her. I hope I can live up to her and on behalf of the Spotlight team and readers I'd like to wish her all the best in her GCSE year.





# THANK YOU

TO OUR FAVOURITE EDITOR....



*Amaara Mangerera*

FEB 2025-MARCH 2026





# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

---

## TOTM- MR STUDDART!

Welcome to this month's TOTM edition, starring Mr Studdart, a huge favourite amongst the students. From Belgium to Southport, hospitality jobs to the front of our classroom, Mr Studdart has taken quite an unexpected journey to join us here at Sharples. At 30 years old, he's already lived in multiple towns and cities, worked in more jobs than most of us will in a lifetime and discovered a passion for teaching that he never expected.

Now living in Southport, definitely not in Bolton (as he likes to clarify), the fact that he drives all that way on the daily, shows real dedication. He didn't start out planning to be a teacher. Actually he didn't care enough about school then to pursue a job in it. In fact, 5 years ago he had never taught a lesson in his life. At just 19, he moved to Newcastle and worked in phone sales after spending years doing all kinds of catering jobs imaginable - pubs, restaurants, bars, cafes, you name it.

Everything changed the day his friend applied to Edgehill University, where he then decided to apply as well and chose to major in history. 4 years later, he graduated with a first class degree (the highest academic grade he could achieve). His biggest inspiration was his older sister, who happened to be a history teacher as well. She even did a placement at his high school, which he recalls to be "very awkward". However, it was this that sparked his love for teaching, making her one of his biggest role models.

After trying a few schools closer to home, which weren't the best fit, he joined our school in 2022 as Mrs Solomons' maternity cover, and he's been loving it here ever since. He enjoys teaching his Y10 class as they keep him on his toes, but his heart belongs to 9S1, who he proudly calls his favourite class.

Outside the classroom, he has many interests. He's a big gamer - his favourite game being League of Legends, which he knows sounds a bit "nerdy" - and a huge football fan, who proudly supports Liverpool. In 2023, he added a new member to his family: Bobby, a maltese dog, who has quickly become his and his partner's pride and joy. His dad served in the army, which explains his fascination with war, conflict and military history; his favourite unit being 'The Cold War'.

From Belgium to Southport, from catering shifts to classrooms, from awkward placements to favourite classes, his journey shows the best teachers don't always start out planning to teach. Sometimes they can just find their way and stumble upon an unexpected opportunity while doing so.

*BY UMAHYMAH PATEL AND MAARIYAH MATADAR*

---

**THE RESULTS ARE IN...**  
YOUR FAVOURITE ARTICLE IN APRIL WAS-  
**THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS!**

WELL DONE  
CIARA CLARKSON!



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

## LEGALLY BLONDE

Taking part in Legally Blonde at Sharples School has honestly been one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. From the very first rehearsal to the final bows, the entire process was full of laughter, chaos, talent, teamwork, and so much pink. Every single person involved — cast, teachers and backstage teams worked unbelievably hard to make this show what it became, and the result was absolutely incredible.

The rehearsal process itself was genuinely amazing. Somehow, even after long rehearsals, stressful costume changes, and endless choreography run-throughs, everyone still managed to keep the energy high and make every rehearsal something to look forward to. We became such a close company, and you could really feel that friendship and support on stage every night.

The performances themselves were electric. Elle Woods was brought to life brilliantly by Ava Tramontana, who completely owned the stage with confidence, humour, vocals, and endless energy. James Burke was phenomenal as Emmett, bringing so much warmth and sincerity to the role that it is impossible not to root for him from start to finish. Together, they were such a strong partnership on stage that it is no surprise they won the “Future Star of the West End” award at cast awards.

Evie Whitehead absolutely stole scenes as Vivienne Kensington with a performance full of petty brilliance and stage presence that had the audience hooked every second she was on stage. Her performance was so memorable that she deservedly won the “Shining Star” award. Jack Hornby perfectly captured Warner’s charm and ego and had the audience stunned by raw talent when he sang the solo number, "Serious." Jack was a key staple to the show and he really deserved his final bow.

Idris Oriola brought so much power and confidence to Callahan, while Ruby Makin was incredible as Brooke, somehow managing to sing, dance, and skip rope like it was effortless. Scarlett gave an iconic performance as Chutney, Dylan Raja brought endless laughs and charisma as Kyle, and Lucas Melo was brilliant as Dewey. Isabelle Sweeney also did a lovely job as Paulette on Night 2.





# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

As for me — playing Paulette Bonafonté was genuinely a dream role and it's safe to say that I was definitely a major fan favourite. I had the absolute best time performing as the amazing Grace Bonner version of Paulette (yes, I'm hyping myself up a little because honestly, Paulette deserves it). The friendships, laughs, and ridiculous moments backstage made every performance even more special.

One of the biggest highlights of the entire show was definitely “Bend and Snap,” which completely brought the house down every single night and deservedly won Best Song at cast awards. The audience reactions during that number were unforgettable.

Speaking of cast awards — they were iconic. Me and Dylan winning Best Duo was honestly one of the best moments of the night, and the awards overall were full of inside jokes, chaos, and cheering. In what may genuinely be one of my proudest moments, I also secretly went behind the staff's backs and printed awards for the teachers and staff members as a surprise, because after everything they did for us during the production, they absolutely deserved recognition too.



The wrap party afterwards was the perfect ending to the entire experience. There was karaoke, pizza, endless programme signing, and everyone singing musical theatre songs at the top of their lungs. Highlights included performances of Seventeen, For Good, and Ex-Wives, which quickly turned into full cast singalongs. It was chaotic in the best possible way and such a perfect celebration of everything we had achieved together.

Looking back now, Legally Blonde was so much more than just a school production. It was months of hard work, friendships, memories, laughter, and people supporting each other to create something really special. I could not be prouder of every single member of the cast and crew for what we accomplished together.

Thank you to Mrs Brook, Mrs Keegan and Mrs Thompson for all your work and for the great Wrap Party!

To everyone involved: you were absolutely incredible. What a show!

*BY GRACE BONNER*





# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Every May, millions across the UK unite for Mental Health Awareness Week - a nationwide campaign devoted to improving our understanding of mental wellbeing. Running from May 11th to 17th, the week is more than just a series of events; it's a movement that brings together people from all walks of life to talk openly about mental health, reduce stigma, and encourage positive action.

### What Is Mental Health Awareness Week?

Mental Health Awareness Week is organized by the Mental Health Foundation, a charity that has spent over twenty-five years leading the charge in mental health advocacy, research, and prevention. The week serves as a reminder that mental health is just as important as physical health. It's an opportunity to educate communities, support those struggling, and inspire change - both big and small.

### Why Does Mental Health Matter?

Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act. It influences our relationships, academic performance, and daily life. According to recent statistics, around one in five adults in the UK experience a common mental health problem such as anxiety or depression. Among young people aged 16-24, the numbers are even higher, with stress from school, social media, and the pressures of growing up all contributing to the issue. Poor mental health contributes to millions of lost workdays each year and can have a profound impact on families and friendships.



### Breaking the Stigma

One of the primary goals of Mental Health Awareness Week is to break down the stigma that still surrounds mental health issues. Many people feel embarrassed or afraid to talk about their struggles, which can prevent them from seeking help. By encouraging open conversations in schools, workplaces, and at home, the campaign helps people realise they are not alone and that support is available.

### This Year's Theme: Action

The theme for 2026 is 'Action' - a call for everyone to move beyond awareness and take real steps to improve mental health. The Mental Health Foundation emphasises that change starts with small actions - checking in on a friend, reaching out for help when you need it, or simply listening without judgment. Schools are encouraged to hold assemblies, host workshops, and provide resources so students feel empowered to support themselves and others.



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

---

## **Looking After Your Own Mental Health**

Self-care is crucial for maintaining good mental health. This includes getting enough sleep, eating well, staying active, and making time to relax. If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's important to talk to someone you trust. Whether it's a friend, family member, teacher, or counselor, there is always someone to share your worries with. There are also plenty of resources and helplines available online for confidential and anonymous support, such as Kooth and Be Kind To My Mind.

## **The Power of Community**

Mental Health Awareness Week shows that, by working together, we can create a more supportive and understanding society. Whether you're directly affected by mental health challenges or know someone who is, taking action - no matter how small - helps build hope and resilience for everyone.

For more information on how to get involved or where to seek help, visit the Mental Health Foundation's website. Remember: everyone has a part to play in making mental health a priority, not just during Awareness Week, but during every single day of the year.

*BY SAFIYA IBRAHIM*

---

# JOKES COLUMN

**Did you hear about the stolen dog collar?** Police are looking for leads.

**Have you ever heard of "quiet tennis?"** It's the same as regular tennis but without the racket.

**Why should you borrow money from pessimists?** They never expect to get it back.

**What did the duck say to the waiter when he brought the check?** "Put it on my bill."

**Why did the guy get fired from the calendar factory?** He took a day off.



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

---

## FUTURE HONOURS AWARDS

Towards the end of last month, many Year 10 students across Greater Manchester including some of our own attended the final session of the Future Honours programme, which has been ongoing for the past 6 months. Throughout the programme, I worked in the Marvellous Medics strand, where we explored different areas of medicine, science, and healthcare through a range of exciting practicals and activities.

One of the highlights of the programme was taking part in a heart dissection. It was fascinating to see the different parts of the heart up close and learn how each section works together to keep the body functioning. We also carried out experiments involving maggots, which showed us how they can be used in forensic science and determine how long a body has been dead for. These activities gave us a real insight into the world of science and made it feel much more hands on and interesting.

The final session was especially exciting because we visited the University of Lancaster. During the trip, we were given a full tour of the university and had the chance to see lecture halls, study spaces, and other facilities. It was inspiring to experience what university life could be like in the future and helped many of us start thinking more seriously about our future careers and education.

At the end of the day, we attended an awards ceremony where everyone received certificates and awards for completing the programme. It felt rewarding to look back on everything we had achieved over the six months and celebrate it together. The atmosphere was positive, and it was great to see how much confidence and knowledge everyone had gained.

Overall, this programme has been an amazing opportunity. I have learned so much about science, medicine, and teamwork, while also building new skills and meeting new people. The experience has made me even more interested in pursuing a career in healthcare in the future. I would highly recommend taking part in programmes like this to anyone who gets the opportunity, as it is both enjoyable and inspiring.

*BY SAFFIYAH PATEL*

---

## SHARPCHELLA

Last Friday, the Silver and Purple ties, along with subject ambassadors were invited to the canteen and Year 11 zone for a concert.

There were lots of Sharples bands performing like Stave and Close, CanTastic, 6 Blind Chickens and On the Edge, along with many others. All of the bands were incredibly impressive and with their experience, were getting an abundance of cheering and support.



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

Amazingly, we had a major pop-star named Charlie Aky who performed covers of lots of pop and alternative songs like 'Beautiful Things' by Benson Boone and 'Wonderwall' by Oasis. This amazing singer and guitarist is from Leeds and writes his own songs for a living. Many of the students liked his covers and music as they had done research on him before the show.

Whilst everyone was performing, inside, a lot of face painting, tattooing and eating was happening by all of the students and staff who was there. We even had a student doing face paint for cheaper outside of the building. The temporary lasted for a long time, with some even lasting the weekend. There was an ice cream van selling ice-creams, ice-lollies and iced frappes between the prices of £1.50 and £2.50.

Overall, everyone who went and took part, whether that being the performers or the people who went for fun, all had a spectacular time and we cannot wait for next year!



*BY SUMMER DOUGHERTY*



# THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

---

## GUESS THE FLAG!

ANSWERS IN SURVEY



# The Sharples Spotlight

VOL. 15, NO. 8



MOST WANTED NOW

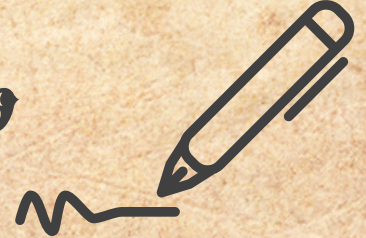


2025/2026



## WRITERS,

## YOU ARE



# WANTED



**Do YOU :**

- ★ Want to show off your skills?
- ★ Love taking opportunities?
- ★ Enjoy being creative?

If YES, then why don't you join  
our writers, here at **The**  
**Sharples Spotlight ?**



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT :

**23MOOSAK@SHARPLESSCHOOL.CO.UK**