



THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

FOR THE STUDENTS, BY THE STUDENTS



ARTISTS:
MYESHA CHOUDHURY

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

SEPTEMBER EDITION

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THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back readers to The Sharples Spotlight! I hope you've all had a brilliant start to the year and are ready to '*Learn, Dream and Achieve*'. For those of you new here The Sharples Spotlight is our very own, exclusive magazine, '*by the students, for the students*'. Created by students, written by students, edited by the students, for the students. This year we're ready to provide you with another huge selection of articles, artwork, puzzles and much more!

Before I let you go and read, I'd also like to appeal to you all to join our brilliant team. We are in great need of writers so if you or someone you know is interested contact me at 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. 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. This could be the perfect opportunity for you this year. If you're going in Year 10 it's time to think about a Gold Tie, and for everyone else this looks great on SAC, Silver Tie, Interact and even ambassador applications.

This month we have multiple articles by our new Y7s. I'm looking forward to seeing their progression in skill in the next year and I ask that if you know any of them you compliment their article because they've worked really well and to a tight deadline this month.

We have a brilliant range of articles for you this month from a recount of Y7's first few weeks all the way to a new poetry column.

Thank you for all your support, I'd love more feedback from YOU so if you do have a thought drop me an email, I'd love to hear it.

- KHADIJA MOOSA - EDITOR

The Sharples Spotlight

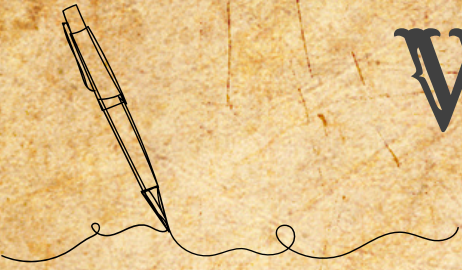
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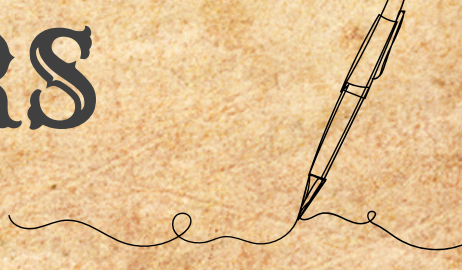
MOST WANTED NOW



2025/2026



WRITERS



YOU ARE



WANTED



Do YOU :

- ★ Love creative writing
- ★ Want to try something new
- ★ Show of your skills

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



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A WRITER, SEND AN EMAIL
TO,

23MOOSAK@SHARPLESSCHOOL.CO.UK

COMPETITION!



Write an article
about a hobby or
interest you have!

WINNER GETS
50 REWARD
POINTS!

TOP ENTRIES WILL BE
FEATURED IN ONE OF
THE SHARPLES
SPOTLIGHT EDITIONS
THIS YEAR.

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:
23moosak@sharplesschool.co.uk



THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

FRESHERS FAIR & DISCO

The Fresher's Disco and Sleepover was an exciting event filled with fun, laughter and unforgettable memories! Students had the chance to meet new people, make friends and enjoy an evening packed with activities. It was a brilliant way to welcome everyone into the new school year and give students the opportunity to spend time together outside of the normal school day.

The disco was full of energy, with everyone dancing and enjoying the music. There were lots of smiles and laughter as students showed off their best dance moves and enjoyed spending time together. The atmosphere was lively and exciting, with students singing along to songs, dancing with their friends and getting involved in the fun.

One of the best parts of the disco was seeing everyone come together. Students who may not have known each other very well had the chance to talk, have fun and make new friendships. The event created a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where everyone could feel included and enjoy themselves. There were plenty of memorable moments throughout the evening. From funny dance moves to laughing with friends, there was never a dull moment! Everyone had the opportunity to let loose, enjoy the music and make the most of the evening. The disco was a great chance to take a break from schoolwork and simply have fun.

After the disco, the excitement continued with the sleepover. Students got to relax, chat with their friends and enjoy spending time together outside of the usual school day. It was a brilliant opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better and create new friendships. The sleepover was filled with conversations, laughter and plenty of fun. Students could spend time with their friends, share stories and enjoy activities together. It was a great experience because everyone was able to make memories that they could look back on and remember.



Events like the Fresher's Disco and Sleepover are also a great way to help students feel more connected to their school community. Meeting new people and spending time with others can help students feel more comfortable and confident, especially at the beginning of a new school year.

Overall, the Fresher's Disco and Sleepover was a fantastic experience and a great way to start the new school year. It was an evening full of fun, friendship and memories that students will remember for a long time! From dancing at the disco to laughing with friends at the sleepover, there were so many special moments throughout the event.

-AAMINAH PATEL



WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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CAMBRIDGE 2026

On the second week back at school, 45 pupils in Year 10 went to Cambridge for an overnight school trip. In the two days we did many physics and general science related activities.

Day one was mainly a travelling day, we left at 9.30 and began on our three hour journey to Cambridge. When we arrived, our first stop was the Museum of Zoology where we did a scavenger hunt through the museum which continued into Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences.

After our Museum scavenger hunt we took a leisurely walk over to Isaac Newton's tree where he first discovered gravity.

Ready for an ice cream break we headed down to a small ice creamery which just so happened to be right next to the Secret of Life Plaque - where the discovery of DNA was announced. Two famous landmarks in one day. How cool is that!



We then headed back to the Cambridge dorms and finally had our tea which was well deserved after our long day of walking. One of my favourite parts of the trip was the late night quiz that we did. We worked in teams and answered questions about science, Cambridge and music and put everyone in a good mood before we were sent to bed at 10.30

After our breakfast in the morning, we headed down to the billion pound building, Cavendish Labs, we did a series of 20 workshops to do with physics and had some insight to what scholars of Cambridge actually do and what projects they are currently working on.



One of my favourites was the Dominoes workshop which surprisingly was not about pizza! It was about the secrets behind who prints the labels e.g. the sell by date on everything you own. It was really interesting to think that there are actually people who print the labels on our things and the work that goes into developing the labels.

Finally we collected our stuff from the dorms and headed back on the coach. Although the traffic kept us behind by two hours!

So that was our incredible Cambridge trip that gave insight on the life studying at Cambridge and career choices that people may come back to in the future!

-PHOEBE BATES



THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

TOTM- MRS HALL

This month, we're getting to know one of the newest members of the Sharples team, our new Maths teacher, MRS HALL!

Originally born and bred in Bury, she doesn't have far to travel. Her daily journey takes just 20 minutes, which is definitely a pretty decent commute compared to some teachers. Her journey into teaching Maths wasn't exactly planned from the start. When she was younger, she dreamed of becoming a vet, however as she got older, her career plans changed, and she decided she wanted to go into accountancy. After doing some work experience in an office, she quickly discovered that sitting behind a desk all day wasn't for her. Thankfully for us, she found her way to Maths instead.

At college, she studied A-level Maths, Chemistry and Psychology, before heading to university in Sheffield to complete a degree in Maths. Since then, she has taught at four different schools, but when asked about them, there was only one clear answer: "Sharples is the best!"

We also attempted to discover the answer to one of the most important questions known to students: Who is her favourite class? Unfortunately, she refused to reveal it. So, for now, the mystery continues, but we'll let you know if we manage to crack the case.

Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, describing herself as an outdoorsy person. So when she's not explaining algebra, equations and everything in between, you might find her enjoying paddle boarding.

Mrs Hall and her husband are also kept pretty busy at home, as they have two daughters, aged 15 and 12, and both of them play basketball. In fact, basketball has become a big part of family life, with plenty of time spent travelling to different games and competitions. Her eldest daughter has even played for the England national basketball team in Rome & Portugal, definitely an impressive achievement!

So, while teaching Maths might involve plenty of numbers, equations and problem-solving, it sounds like there's just as much going on outside the classroom. Between family time, travelling to basketball games and enjoying the outdoors, Mrs Hall certainly has a busy schedule!

-MAARIYAH MATADAR AND
UMAYMAH PATEL



THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

A Y7s ACCOUNT OF THEIR FIRST WEEK

New lessons, new beginnings.

Year 7 has meant getting used to new routines, and new subjects. From remembering which books and equipment to bring to finding the right classroom, there has been plenty to learn! Students are becoming more familiar with their routines each week.

Break and Lunch

Break and lunchtime have been another important part of settling in. They give students a chance to relax, catch up with friends and chill before the next lesson. Students also need to learn how to use their lanyards and have to start getting used to using them and learning how they fit in during everyday life and school life. Whether it is meeting friends, grabbing something to eat or enjoying the huge selection of clubs, break and lunch have quickly become one of the most important parts of the Y7 experience, not only because of it being a time to reunite with their friends after a few periods, but also so they can make new friends and form new connections.

Looking forward to school?

Although the first few weeks have brought plenty of changes, Y7s are becoming more independent everyday. There are still a lot of more opportunities to look forward to from new subjects to school events and trips, and more to get involved in the Sharples community.

Tie ceremony.

One of the most memorable moments of settling in is the tie ceremony, as it was a chance for students to celebrate becoming part of the Sharples community. It was great coming in earlier than the other year groups so we could get settled in. I really enjoyed Dream day, where we discussed all our goals and future career ideas.



-SAFAA KHANNAT



ARTWORK BY PIPPA MODS



THE SHARPLES SPOTLIGHT

REVISION TIPS!

Revision - a word that is notoriously followed by eye-rolls, sighs and the sudden urge to create aesthetic flashcards you'll never use. Let's face it: most of us hate revision. We don't have much time, or much patience, or the energy to sit down after a long, boring day to bore ourselves with even more algebra (Sorry, Maths teachers.)

That's because we don't know how to revise. We end up reading the same sentence over and over again and wonder why nothing makes sense. As a year 11 student myself, it's hard to find time to revise when I have so many other things like homework to do. However, not all hope is lost - with a few simple strategies, revision feels less like a chore and more like a productive, even satisfying session. Whether you're a year 7 hoping to start your time at Sharples positively, or you're a year 11 trying to get more Science done, there's always a routine that works for you.

CREATING AND KEEPING A SCHEDULE

Some people struggle to follow a rigid schedule, but making a schedule doesn't mean planning every second of your life; it's about giving yourself structure so you don't end up revising at midnight with a half-eaten packet of crisps. One thing that helps me is time blocking - create flexible "blocks" of time you can slot in whenever you're free. Maybe you've got 30 minutes before dinner? That's a perfect block for a quick review session. Or an hour on the weekend? Slot in a bigger block for practice questions. The best part is, you're in control - you can move these blocks around depending on your day.

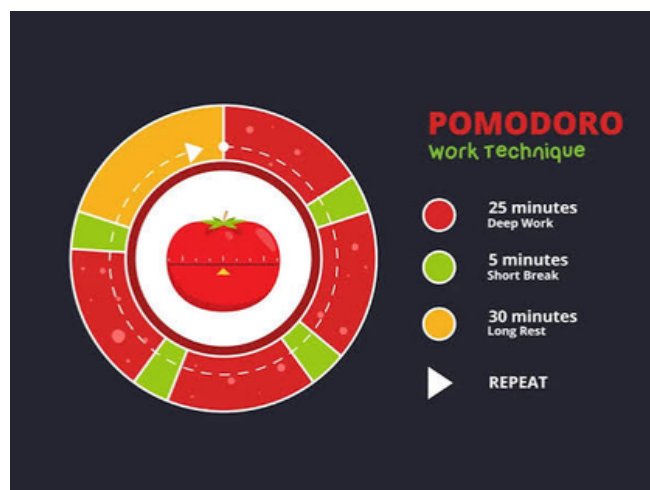
It can get really hard to follow a schedule, or stay motivated to keep doing revision everyday. Reward yourself between sessions, with a snack or something. Some revision websites have point systems, where you can get little rewards for completing sessions. Even though you don't earn anything real (except good marks on your next test, of course), your brain releases dopamine when you earn badges, or streaks, or move up the leaderboard. This creates more motivation over time to improve and revise more.

REVISION

Sitting down and reading a page over and over, or watching a video once, isn't going to help you revise. Here are some of my favourite techniques.

POMODORO METHOD:

Pomodoro is a time management method, in which you focus on work during 25-minute intervals, or pomodoros, and 5-minute breaks in between. I really like this method and recommend this technique if you can't focus for long periods of time, or if you don't have much time left to revise. You can use different apps and websites that make pomodoro timers for you (My personal favourite is Flocus), and if 25 minutes isn't enough or is too long, you can always change it yourself!





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FLASHCARDS & NOTES: Flashcards and notes can be a great way to revise! Flashcards are great for spaced-repetition learning - research shows that spaced repetition can increase retention rates by up to 50%. However, these can be time-consuming to make and can't really be used for complex concepts - especially if your main focus is making them aesthetic and not usable. When making flashcards, first concentrate on what you're going to put on them - lines and lines of information aren't going to be easy to remember, and at that point you could make a notepad instead. One thing I really like to do is to turn my flashcards into knowledge organisers; each card is a topic (or area of focus, if the topic is too big), I'll add a title, then key information in boxes with subheadings and little doodles to help me remember. This makes it really easy, right before an exam, to quickly look at a lot of notes on one card, rather than reading loads and loads, or flicking through a lot of flashcards.

REVIEWING PAST PAPERS: Past papers can help you understand the exam format - they provide you with the structure of the test and the types of questions that will come. Sometimes, questions from previous papers can resurface in newer tests, so it's good to be prepared! Timing yourself on the paper can also help improve time management per question, so that during the real exam you are less likely to run out of time. Reviewing past papers can even improve exam performance by up to 20%. Completing past papers can take a lot of time, so aim to do a realistic amount (maybe one or two) per week. You can split them up into blocks to tackle every day or do them on weekends, when you have more time.

Effective revision isn't just about the quantity of time spent, but the quality of your study methods. Combining different techniques can make your revision more engaging and productive! Try not to leave your revision too late, as this can limit your retention and can lead to high levels of stress and anxiety.

JOKES COLUMN

What do you do with a dead scientist? Beryllium- Mr Simpson	Why are teddy bears never hungry? Because they're always stuffed
How do you tell if a vampire is sick? See if he is coffin.	Why did the math book look so sad? Because of all its problems!

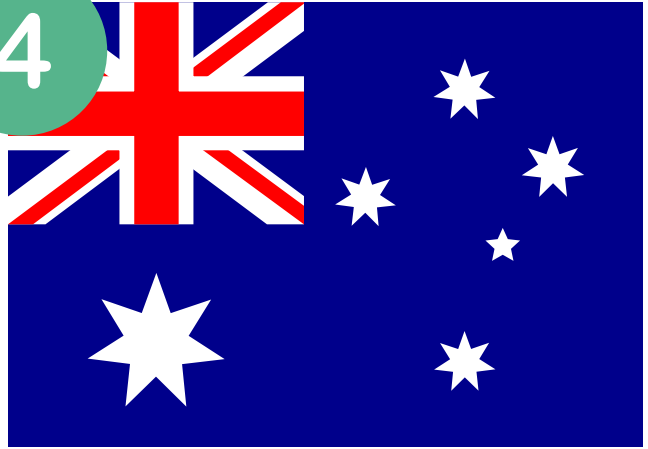
GUESS THE COUNTRY:

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM

1



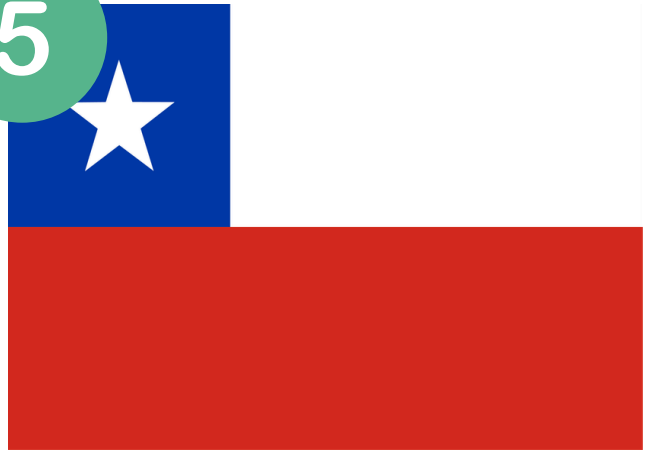
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2



5



3



6



1. Macedonia 2. Australia 3. Palestine 4. Chile 5. Austria 6. Ethiopia

