



## *Shipston High School Newsletter: September 2023*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the summer, and that your children are refreshed and ready for learning at Shipston High School. Term has begun well as students return and our new year 7 are especially welcome.

### **New staff**

This September we welcome new staff to the school, all of whom bring energy, experience and expertise.

Mrs K. Wright	Senior leader for Pastoral teaching Business Studies
Mrs. M. Webster	Child protection officer
Ms C. Daubney	Head teacher's PA and office manager
Miss. C. Mansfield	English
Mr. T. Brogan	Maths
Mrs. A. Freeman	Maths
Mrs. F. Reader	Science
Mr. M. Shaw	Science
Mrs. J. Woods	Science
Mr. J. Davies	History
Mr. C. Day	PE
Mrs S. Beatty	Technology

All new staff are most welcome and will be excellent additions to the school team.

Parents will be aware from press coverage that teacher recruitment is a national challenge, and we are therefore fortunate to have a strong staff team for the new academic year.

## **Exam results**

The school has enjoyed hugely impressive GCSE results this summer, with the year 11 students performing extremely well following several years of pandemic disruption.

Nationally, GCSE results for 2023 have been marked in line with pre-pandemic standards. At Shipston High School, top grades have been secured across the subject range. Progress has been excellent, with students often exceeding their expected outcomes. I would like to congratulate all the young people, and thank staff and parents for all of their work and support.

These results demonstrate our expectation that all students work hard and achieve well across the school. Students have performed extremely well, and we wish them well in future endeavours.

## **Year 11**

Our year 11 students are now focussed on their final year of study. Full GCSE examinations are planned for spring 2023, which is little more than two terms away. Students should continue to work with staff in preparation for those examinations, trusting the guidance they receive from a skilled and experienced teaching team. Year 11 students always start the term with real focus, and I am sure this cohort will maintain this commitment throughout the year.

Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September will see all year 11 students have an individual meeting with senior and pastoral staff to review progress and set the agenda for year 11 study. These conversations will occur during the school day, and will be motivating and study focussed.

## **Site development**

Families will be aware of the excellent news that Shipston High School has been awarded improvement and expansion investment worth over £10 million. The school is grateful to Warwickshire County Council for this fantastic opportunity. Work has now begun on the school site, which will eventually provide improved facilities for all students, including spaces for sport, science and technology.

We will keep families informed regarding the progress of the project and relevant practical information as we maintain safe and effective school operation throughout the construction period.

## **Site access**

Shipston High School hosts 600 students, and is a busy site. We therefore ask that parents do not come onto the school site at the start or end of the school day unless by prior arrangement. When attending for an appointment, please arrive at the main reception

located in our newest building at the top of the drive. If you are visiting by car, please note that we have very limited parking on site; please only use the marked parking spaces along the drive and behind the maths classrooms.

At the close of the school day, the school driveway is very busy with pupils and buses. Parents should not drive onto the school site at this time, and we ask that any parents meeting children in person wait near to the school gate by Hay Meadow rather than coming onto the drive. This is enormously helpful in managing a safe and orderly departure for all pupils.

### **Contacting school**

You are welcome to contact the school at any time with your enquiries. In order to help you to get the most informed response, please note that questions regarding learning are best directed to the appropriate head of department. Pastoral or general questions should be directed to the relevant form tutor or head of house. You will appreciate that staff are usually teaching classes, so please telephone the school to arrange a suitable time for your enquiry to be addressed. Please do not come into school in the expectation of speaking to staff without an appointment, as colleagues are unlikely to be available without prior arrangement. Where a meeting is necessary, appointments can be scheduled. Please contact the school office who will make the necessary arrangements.

### **Ofsted**

The school was inspected by Ofsted in July 2023. The report is due for publication in September and we will share this with families as soon as Ofsted make it available. Initial feedback is very positive for the school, and we look forward to sharing this with you as soon as we are permitted.

### **Forthcoming events**

Year 7 and Year 10 pupils will have formal photographs taken in school on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

We have two upcoming events for prospective parents for 2024:

- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September between 9 and 10.30am - as this is during the school day, we will require parents to book in to this event by contacting the school, ideally limited to one adult and one child.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October between 6pm and 8pm – many students volunteer to assist with this evening, and we will provide more details nearer to the event.

Year 7 parents will receive communication in October regarding how children have settled in their first few weeks in the school. However, please do contact the school at any time if you have questions regarding your child.

All families will receive school reports as the year proceeds. We are planning to further improve the format of our written reports this year as we know the value of effective communication regarding academic progress.

All students know that the hard work starts straight away, and I am pleased to state that the term has begun with real focus thanks to the excellent attitude of our young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Saunders', with a stylized, flowing script.

G. Saunders