



Shipston High School Newsletter: March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are already fast approaching the end of the spring term on 22nd March, and students are looking forward to a well-earned Easter holiday. This term has been shorter than usual, just ten weeks, but students have, once again, been exceptionally focussed. I am pleased to inform you that the last day of term will conclude at 12.30pm, enabling a prompt start to the students' holiday. Please find some useful reminders and updates in this newsletter.

Term dates

Please note the forthcoming term dates:

Friday 22nd March 2024: Break up for Easter holiday at 12.30pm

Monday 8th April: term begins, all students return for 8.35am

Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday, school closed to students

Friday 24th May: Break up for half term at 3.10pm

Monday 3rd June: term begins, all students return for 8.35am

Friday 28th June: Inset day for staff training, school closed to students

Friday 19th July: Break up for summer holiday

Year 11

Year 11 students continue to prepare for their GCSEs, with the first written examinations in May; some practical examinations will occur sooner. Year 11 students are working hard and are being supported by staff at this crucial time, with a set of core mock exams completed in early March.

The work over these next two months is important. Full commitment to study from the students is essential. The Easter break will be a welcome chance to rest, but do please help your children to schedule some essential revision in the holiday. Staff are ready to advise pupils and parents on revision if you have any questions. The hard work from students now really is worthwhile, and we wish all of year 11 well at this time.

Year 9 Options

Year 9 pupils are beginning the process of selecting options subjects for study in years 10 and 11. I trust that the options booklet and options activities held in April provide all the information you need, but do contact the school if you have further queries. Students are well supported in school to help them select good and informed preferences for their interests and ambitions.

Charity Event: Comic Relief

Shipston High School will support the Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day' fundraising activity on **Friday 15th March**. This is a really good cause so it will be great to support the charity on a day when the whole country will be getting involved.

Students are invited to wear one item of red clothing in return for donating to the charity. This is not a non-uniform day, so please wear your red garment in addition to the usual school uniform. Red noses are welcome too! We will not be collecting cash in school for this event. Should anyone wish to make a donation to the charity, this can be done by following the link below. It would be lovely to see as many people involved as possible bringing some colour to the day. Both the wearing of red and the charity donation are of course entirely optional.

[Shipston High School Warwickshire is fundraising for Comic Relief \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/shipston-high-school-warwickshire)

School Uniform

Throughout this term, I have been very impressed by how smart students have looked in their school uniforms. Standards of uniform and behaviour are regularly complimented by visitors to the school; well done to all pupils for maintaining these impressive standards. As school resumes after the Easter break, we will expect all students to continue in full and correct uniform.

Please consult the uniform guide on the school website. This link takes you to the relevant page, with uniform information a short scroll down: [School Uniform | Shipston High School](#)

Thank you for your support for our school uniform and the positive and professional learning environment this encourages.

Staffing update

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Kerri Hewitt to the school, who will join us as Head of Maths after Easter. Mrs Hewitt is an experienced teacher and department leader who will bring energy and a passion for Maths to her classroom and the department curriculum. Mrs Hewitt will take over classes previously taught by Mrs Willans, who has now left the school.

Mrs Freeman, who has been guiding the maths team, will now focus on teaching maths and leading intervention and support for students across the school.

I am also pleased to inform you that Miss Whitworth will take on a Deputy Head teacher role from April, leading the school's work on academic standards and culture. This is a new role further developing the work of the school in creating a positive and welcoming ethos in which students can learn and enjoy their lessons.

Year 7 Admissions

Families awaiting a secondary school place for children currently in year 6 should have received notification from the local authority of their allocated school place for year 7, September 2024. Many families with children already in the school will have received places, and we very much appreciate the ongoing relationship between the school and families. We will contact you soon to ensure confirmation of the school place with you, and to let you know about how we will stay in touch between now and the children starting in September. If you have any questions about new starters, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

School communication

Shipston High School is keen to further develop our communication with families. Mr Larkin, Deputy Head teacher for the curriculum, is focussed on reviewing reporting students' progress and other information as effectively as possible with families. He will share more on this work in due course.

As a school, we are keen to create greater links with families via a parents' association, sometimes called a PTA. If you would be interested in being part of a group of parents' leading and shaping an association for the school, please get in touch with Charlotte Daubney expressing your interest, and we will then arrange a meeting.

Thank you for all of your support for the school, and I wish you a restful Easter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Saunders', written on a light blue grid background.

G. Saunders