



Shipston High School Newsletter: December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Shipston High School is approaching the end of the Autumn term. As always, this has been a very busy term, and students have worked extremely well across the school. I would like to thank everyone involved with Shipston High School for their support and take this opportunity to share some useful updates.

Term dates:

Friday 20th December 2024 – school breaks up for Christmas. 12.30p.m. departure

Monday 6th January 2024 – Term begins: INSET day for staff – closed to pupils

Tuesday 7th January 2024 – Pupils return: 8.35 a.m. start for all pupils as usual

Christmas Activities

As we approach the end of term, Shipston High School students will be involved in a range of Christmas activities.

This year the school will support the annual 'Christmas jumper day' on Thursday 12th December. This is not a non-uniform day, so please wear your jumper in addition to the usual school uniform. We will not be collecting cash in school for this event. Should anyone wish to donate to the charity promoting the event, Save The Children, please do so via this link:

[Christmas Jumper Day 2024 | Save the Children UK](#),

Both the wearing of Christmas jumpers and the charity donation are of course entirely optional.

The PE Department will again be holding the annual Santa Dash, which will take place during their PE lesson in the final weeks of term. This will be an inter-house event and will be an opportunity for students to wear festive items or costume if they so choose.

Christmas lunch will be served to those students that have booked via Parentpay on Thursday 19th December, the canteen will also provide a selection of baguettes students who have opted not to have Christmas lunch. For Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December students may

wear a festive accessory such as a jumper, Santa hat, tinsel etc. in addition to their usual school uniform.

School breaks up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December. Following a long term of hard work from all students, I am pleased to confirm that the last Friday will be a shorter day for students, with a departure time of 12.30pm. Students should travel straight home after school, and bus operators will confirm their collection times soon; we will update you in advance of 20th December.

Year 11 Mock exam results

Year 11 students have been working hard on mock exams this term, and they will receive their mock exam results on Wednesday 18th December. The main purpose of these exams is diagnostic. Pupils learn which questions they are answering well, along with identifying any areas still to be improved. As they sit mock exams in December 2024, pupils will still have things to learn before the final exams begin in May 2025 and we expect pupils to achieve a higher grade in their real GCSEs than the grade attained from mock exams.

On the results day, staff will guide students through the process and advise on how to build on these mock results towards even greater success in the final summer exams.

Pupils always respond well to the mock grades, being rightly proud of meeting or exceeding target grades in many cases. Where grades need to improve, staff and pupils will work together closely to secure progress. Year 11 know that the GCSE exams begin in May, and therefore the few remaining months in school are crucial to securing the skills and knowledge necessary to gain the highest grades possible. I have no doubt that all year 11 students will continue to work with impressive commitment.

Attending School

This time of year can bring seasonal illness, and we appreciate families informing the school when children are unwell and unable to attend. If your child is unable to attend, please report this to us. Details of how to do this are on our website:

<https://shipstonhigh.co.uk/information/attendance-and-absence/>

The school is guided by government publications on attendance, and interested families can read department for Education guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

There is also useful guidance on common medical situations available from the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for your support with attendance, which we know is important to us all, students, families and school staff.

Punctuality

Thank you for ensuring that students are in school on time and ready to learn. Being punctual sets students up for a calm and effective day of learning, and establishes good habits for life and employment.

Students should be in school ready for a prompt arrival at morning registration in form rooms at 8.35am. Being on the school site by 8.30am is advisable, and students will be marked as late if arriving after 8.35am.

Staff news

Christmas sees us saying farewell to Mrs Beatty, our Head of Academic Standards for years 9 & 10 and teacher of Design and Technology. Mrs Beatty will be very much missed by all, and we wish her well for the future. We will share news on colleagues joining the school in the new year.

Winter weather

Winter can of course bring adverse weather conditions. Our preference is to maintain normal school opening through the year, but inclement weather can sometimes affect school opening times. Please note the following information regarding our procedures in the event of challenging conditions:

Advance notice of a School Closure

In order to avoid students and parents having to make unnecessary journeys to school, as far as possible we will always try to give parents as much advance notice as we can of a school closure. At the latest this will be by 7.00 a.m. on the day, but if we have sufficient cause to be concerned, we will try to issue the information the evening before any planned closure. Parents will be able to obtain information about a closure by:

- Consulting our school website www.shipstonhigh.co.uk
This is the quickest way to be informed.
- Following the school on X / Twitter (@shipstonhigh)
- Consulting the Warwickshire County Council website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures
This page contains a list of all schools in Warwickshire which are closed or planning to close.
- The local authority has taken responsibility for passing on information about school closures to the radio stations so we have no information about how early in the day the information will be broadcast.

Forced closure of the school during the school day

If it becomes necessary to close the school during the school day then we will operate the following contingency measures:

Once the decision has been made to close the school the information will again be placed on the School and County websites. Students will be informed of the decision. The school will then arrange contact with parents to seek permission for each child to leave the school site or to arrange collection. Pupils without parental permission to leave the site will continue to be supervised in school.

Please note that under no circumstances should students contact parents to seek permission to go home or leave the school site without the permission of a member of staff.

Please note that while we will do our best to contact the various bus and taxi operators that service the school it may not be possible for them to adjust their times because of other commitments. If it looks likely because of road conditions that they will be unable to collect students at the end of school we will do our best to inform parents. Also, there may be circumstances when the school decides to remain open but, because of local conditions, parents wish to collect students early. In this case we ask that parents refrain from telephoning school to obtain permission to collect their children and instead report to Reception and a member of staff will collect students from their classes.

Finally, may I ask you only to telephone the school regarding weather as a last resort as our switchboard is quickly overwhelmed which then causes problems when we need to make and receive urgent calls.

Please note that these arrangements apply with immediate effect. However, we very much hope to avoid any weather related closure.

School Website

The school website is a really useful source of information for parents. The site holds lots of relevant information on all aspects of school life and is always worth checking before phoning with an enquiry as it may save you some time. The site links to our X page which is where we now post up to date news about events and activities. Please follow the X page and check in with the daily updates along with enjoying the full website:

[Shipston High School | A school offering an outstanding education](#)

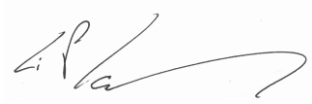
Thank you

Thank you very much for all of your ongoing support this term. It has been a busy term for everyone, yet students remain energetic and positive. Your role in this is really valued, and we appreciate your actions in supporting students into school, smartly dressed and ready for learning. Thank you too for the kind feedback we receive; I know just how much staff value

your thoughtful comments. On behalf of all of us at Shipston High School, I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a restful New Year.

With all good wishes,

G. Saunders

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Saunders', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Headteacher