



## *Shipston High School Newsletter: February 2026*

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Updates to Our Teaching Team**

As we continue through the school year, we would like to share some updates about changes within our staffing team. Our school community thrives because of the wonderful people who support, guide, and inspire our students every day, and it is important to keep you informed as we evolve and grow.

As I write this, our Head Teacher interviews are taking place, and we hope to be in a position to share news of an appointment early next week.

We begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to the staff members who will be moving on to new opportunities. Their commitment and contribution to our students' learning and wellbeing have been greatly valued, and they will be missed by colleagues and families alike. We wish them every success and happiness in their next chapter.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome new staff joining our team. Each brings fresh ideas, experience, and enthusiasm, and we are confident they will quickly become an important part of our school community. We look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students.

Change is a natural part of school life, and with it comes the chance to strengthen and grow. Thank you for your continued support as we ensure the very best experience for all our young people.

### **Staffing updates:**

Mrs Lawrence will be handing over her role as Second in English to Mr Cox, who joins us with great enthusiasm for supporting our students' progress in the subject. He will be starting later this year.

In our SEND team, Mrs Bradley will be moving on, and we are delighted to welcome Miss Shuker, who will be taking on the important role of SENDCO.

Miss Gayle will be joining us in September and will take over from Mr Groom. We currently have an advert out for a fixed term cover up until this time.

With Mrs Jones having now left the school, Mrs Watkins, an experienced MFL teacher, will take on the fixed-term cover for her classes.

We would also like to extend our best wishes to Mrs Hewitt, who will soon be starting her maternity leave. During this time, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Hemmings, who will be joining us as our new

permanent Head of Maths after Easter. When Mrs Hewitt returns she will resume her position as Associate Assistant Head of Maths.

Finally, Mrs Freeman, who is currently on maternity leave, is being covered by Mr Jupp, who has settled in well and is already making a positive impact.

### **Pastoral update**

As we continue to strengthen the support we offer our students, we have a number of updates within our pastoral team to share. First, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Miss Fisher, who has been a dedicated and compassionate Child Protection Officer during her time with us. Her commitment to the wellbeing of our young people has been deeply valued, and she will be greatly missed by staff, students, and families alike.

Alongside this, several members of our pastoral staff have taken on new roles to ensure we continue to provide the highest level of care and guidance for our students. These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining a strong, supportive, and responsive pastoral system.

At Shipston High School, our team of Heads of Academic Standards (HoAS) plays a vital role in supporting students' academic progress and learning behaviour across each year group. The HoAS structure has been refreshed to ensure the very best support for our students, with several talented colleagues stepping into new posts and bringing fresh energy, expertise, and continuity to the team. Each HoAS will work closely with their year group to monitor progress, build strong learning habits, and help students develop the resilience they need to be successful. As always, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers, maintaining open communication and ensuring every child is supported to achieve their potential.

### **Mrs R Arkell - Standards Lead**

I will no longer be Head of Year 11, instead in my new role as Standards Lead, I will be working closely with staff, students, and families to ensure every young person is supported to meet—and exceed—the high academic expectations we set at Shipston High School. My focus is on helping students take ownership of their learning, develop resilience when things feel challenging, and build the confidence to strive for their personal best.

I am really looking forward to working with your children in this new capacity. They are brilliant and it is a privilege to support them as they continue to grow, mature, and prepare for the exciting opportunities ahead. Together, we will make sure they feel guided, encouraged, and empowered every step of the way.

## **Head of Academic Standards update:**

### **Year 7 – Mrs V Hall (New in Post)**

As Head of Academic Standards for Year 7, Mrs Hall will be supporting our newest students as they continue with their exciting transition into secondary school. Her focus is on helping students develop strong learning habits, positive routines, and the confidence to thrive academically from the very start of their journey.

Mrs Hall is looking forward to getting to know each student, celebrating their successes, and helping them settle into life at Shipston High School with ambition and enthusiasm.

Mrs Hall will be handing over her Year 10 tutor group to Mrs J Peebles.

### **Year 8 – Mr J Phillips**

As Head of Academic Standards for Year 8, Mr Phillips will continue working with students at this key stage in their development, ensuring they continue to build resilience, independence, and a strong attitude toward learning.

He is committed to supporting students as they begin to challenge themselves more deeply, strengthening both their academic progress and their confidence as young learners.

### **Year 9 – Mrs K Costello (New in Post)**

As Head of Academic Standards for Year 9, Mrs Costello will be guiding students through an important year as they prepare for their pathway choices and take greater ownership of their learning.

Mrs Costello is committed to supporting all students, including those with SEN and emotional needs. Mrs Costello believes every child deserves to feel safe, understood, and valued at school. She plans to work closely with staff and parents to ensure the right support is in place so that every student can grow in confidence, achieve their potential, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

Mrs Costello will be handing over her tutor group to Mr P Delicata

### **Year 10 – Mr L Jelley**

As Head of Academic Standards for Year 10, Mr Jelley will continue to support students as they progress through their GCSE courses. His role focuses on ensuring students develop strong study habits, engage positively with their subjects, and maintain the drive needed for long-term success.

He looks forward to continuing to support students through this crucial stage and helping them realise their academic potential.

### **Year 11 – Mr J Phillips (New in Post)**

As Head of Academic Standards for Year 11, Mr Phillips will be working closely with our students as they approach their final, most important year at Shipston High School. His aim is to support them in staying focused, managing pressure effectively, and striving for excellence in their GCSE outcomes.

He is committed to encouraging every student to take ownership of their goals, build resilience, and feel fully supported throughout their final year.

As a team of Heads of Academic Standards, we are all greatly looking forward to working cohesively with your children and with you as parents and carers. Strong communication and collaboration lie at the heart of what we do, and we are committed to ensuring every young person at Shipston High School is supported, challenged, and encouraged to achieve their very best. Together, we will help our students grow in confidence, take ownership of their learning, and feel proud of the progress they make throughout their time with us.

Best Wishes

Handwritten signatures of Mrs Allworth and Mr Larkin.

Mrs Allworth and Mr Larkin

Acting Headteachers