# SHIREBROOK ACADEMY



Preparations are well under way for the Namibia 2016 expedition students, who depart for their trip of a lifetime in just a matter of weeks, on 19th July!

In April, the five lucky Year 10 participants took part in a really successful teambuilding training weekend. They joined forces with students from three other North Derbyshire schools who will be joining them on their adventure. Students will live for the entirety of their two-week stay in tents, so in preparation, pupils from Shirebrook Academy, Stubbin Wood School, Heritage High School, Tibshelf School and Frederick Gent School camped out on two cold evenings at Drumhill Scout Camp, and learned how to stay safe and what to do in case they come face to face with a wild animal.

Devon Evans, 10SA, said: 'The course was amazing. I enjoyed every second of it and I learned new things and new skills. The whole thing made me realise how much of a determined girl I am. I bonded with people I didn't think I would and had a really good time"

In addition to this, students also attended a 'choir practice' on Saturday 14th May, where they learnt three songs ready to perform to the children in the Namibian school in Anixab in July. Singing is a big part of their life, and it will be great for us to share this passion with them. The three songs chosen were 'Sing' (Gary Barlow and the Commonwealth Choir), 'I wish I was a Punk Rocker' (Sandi Thom) and 'Happy' (Pharrell Williams). Students performed brilliantly, and once nerves had been overcome, the whole cohort of 30 students sounded like a professional choir in the space of just five hours! Megan Humphries, 10ME, said: 'It truly made me realise anything is possible if you put your mind to it and give it a try!'



Pictured are the five soloists (L-R: Molly Drew, Lauren Sabin, Lewis Salter, Lorna Sykes, Tameika Roberts)

There will be a flash-mob performance of all three songs at Tesco in Chesterfield on Saturday 28th May at 12:30. All supporters are welcome!

Fundraising continues as the students push towards £10,000. If anybody is in a position to contribute to our fundraising in any way at all, please contact

JEdwards3@shirebrookacademy.org



Pictured are; Cain Smith, Ben Bingley, Trafford Kirby, Layton Jones, Aaron Widdowson, Emily Ward, Alex Stimpson, Braden Bailey, Lauren Hughes, Keanan Burns, Connor Downes, Paris Kuncyusz, Tilley Walker, Tyler Joyce, Stanley Harris, Jake Scarboro, Freya Slaney, Teri Collier, Fraser Spizer-Howarth, Bethany Lewis, Teghan Oakley, Emmie Lynch, Lucy Radford, Owen Scott, Matthew Lloyd, Damien Daws, Megan Oscroft, Kenzie Kirby, Sam Bamforth, Reece Saxton



The event took place as part of the orchestra's 4 Stages mini-tour, which also took in Eckington School, Sutton Community School and Mansfield Create Theatre and was jointly organised by First Art and Orchestras Live.

The concert saw the talented students perform their own compositions, which were created through a series of workshops with musicians from the Camerata and esteemed composer Laura Bowler, as well as a host of well-known classical pieces including Verdi's La Donna E Mobile, Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty Waltz and Mambo from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story.

And now Adam Case, head of music at the school, said he hopes the experience – which follows a performance with the Halle' Orchestra two years ago – will inspire the pupils to explore, and hopefully develop a love for, classical music. He said: "It was wonderful seeing the look on the students' faces as they performed their pieces alongside musicians of such calibre and the audience of parents and members the community were equally moved by the experience, particularly the opening of the programme, which was Mozart's powerful Marriage of Figaro.

"The musicians made an incredible beautiful sound in the atrium, which felt like it was designed to host concerts.

"It would be great if, after that experience, the students looked beyond the musical mainstream and went onto explore to more classical music. As a teacher, it's our job to open students up to new avenues of experience and there are so many beautiful pieces of music for them to discover."

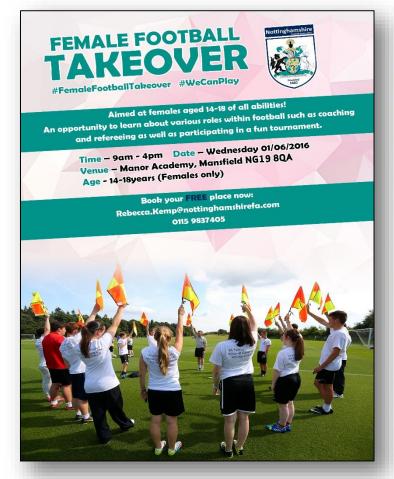
NATIONAL ENTERPRISE Challenge

As part of the STREET curriculum the whole of Year 7 took part in the National Enterprise Challenge. Their task was to design a unique outdoor activity for Kingswood Activity Centre in a day.

Groups competed against each other and worked with representatives from the NEC and STREET staff.

The winning group were from 7JD with their idea for 'Crazy Bowling'. They will travel to Doncaster Race course to compete against other schools and present their idea to a panel of celebrities.







Commencing at 7pm

Tickets £10 and £8 concessions

available from Shirebrook Leisure Centre, Shirebrook Town Council and

Bolsover District Council Contact Centres at Shirebrook, Bolsover, Clowne and South Normanton

#### Ticket Hotline 01246 242424

A debit card charge of 50p per ticket will apply when bought over the phone through the ticket hotline.

For more information contact: events@shirebrooktowncouncil.gov.uk

## NOTTS COUNTY

STARS TALK UP LEARNING A LANGUAGE



Two professional footballers from Notts County took time out from training to talk to pupils about their careers and oversee a match when they took part in an event designed to highlight the importance of learning languages.

Magpies defender Mawouma Amevor and winger Genaro Schnijders took on the role of managers for the game, which was played on the 3G pitch at the Academy.

The players were invited to the school as part of events for its annual Language Week, where lessons across the curriculum are given over to explore how learning a foreign language can open up employment and life opportunities.

The school has hosted a series of visits from Notts County overseas players down the years and Mawouna, who was born in the Netherlands and plays international football for Togo, and Genaro – who also hails from the Netherlands but represents Surinam – agreed to attend this time round.

During their visit they spoke about how knowing how to speak a foreign language has helped them to communicate with teammates from other nationalities in the dressing room and also settle in when living in another country.

They then pitted their wits against each other by managing the sides in a bumper football game featuring around 50 pupils, even taking to the pitch themselves to show off their skills.

James Edwards, Head of Modern Foreign Languages at the Academy – and a Magpies season ticket holder - said: "We would like to thank Mawouna and Genaro for giving up their time to join us for Languages Week.

"Their presence added an extra dimension to our week and they were absolutely brilliant with the students.

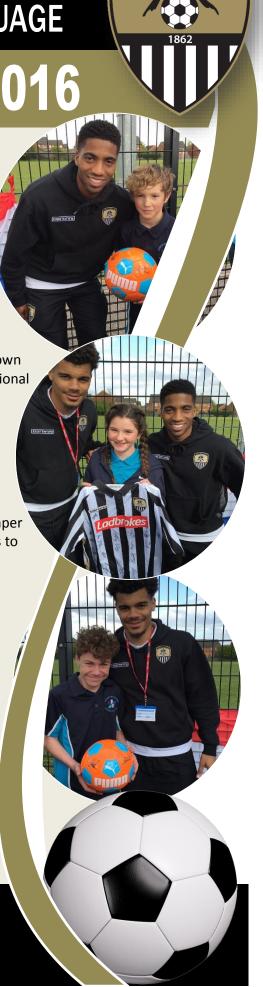
"An important part of languages week is showing students how modern languages can link to real life and can create opportunities, and Genaro and Mawouna helped us to put our message across."

Other former Notts County players who have attended the school for previous Language Week events include Polish goalkeeper Bartosz Bialkowski, German goalkeeper Fabian Spiess and Irish striker Ronan Murray.

Students also took part in a host of other events as part of Language Week, including a French cooking session and some Italian-inspired painting.



Pictured are: Notts County players Mawouma Amevor and winger Genaro Schnijders presenting footballs to Harvey Crew and Ryley Shorthose and a signed shirt to Billie Vernon.



## Y11 PROM COMMITTEE .... thank you



Members of the prom committee for 2016 gathered to say a big thank you to Trevor Bailey from FR Monkhouse, School wear suppliers. Monkhouse have been the uniform supplier to the academy for a number of years now and have generously sponsored the trophies, sashes and the disco for the evening at this year's leavers' prom. Students said it was a huge help to their fundraising efforts and wanted to thank Trevor personally.

MONKHOUSE ESTABLISHED 1938

Shirebrook Academy Ambassadors arranged two events in April and May involving Stubbin Wood students. The first was a fantastic pool party with Music.

Shania Burns and Kane Darby ably supported the students in the pool, while Libby Parker was the DJ. Everyone had a 'splashing' time.

The second was a 3 team, 5 a-side football tournament arranged by Liam Deneley, Warren Squires, Jamie Bullars, Cameron Hawley, Pristina Mathurin, Kane Darby and Shania Burns. The Ambassadors arranged a brilliantly energetic afternoon and everyone had great fun. The afternoon ended with requests to do it again the week after.

Overall, two superb student orchestrated events.

Pictured with Trevor Bailey from FR Monkhouse are; Cat Gibson, James Murphy, Megan Kelly, Ellie Locke and Beth Lyons

### AMBASSADORS ARRANGE SPORTING FUN



Pictured are; Shirebrook Academy Ambassadors and Stubbin Wood Students with their medals



A series of visits to local Universities as part of our programme to inspire students to consider this option for the future.

Thirty five Y11 students and their parents attended the Sheffield University Achievement Awards recently. The awards were given to students who met targets set at the start of Y10, to achieve 93% attendance, 95% punctuality, achieve a successful work experience placement, and attend a post-16 event. The evening was a great celebration of their hard work and commitment with inspirational speeches and a presentation of awards in the style of a graduation ceremony. Two students, Beth Lyons and Gareth Davis were presented with special 'Achiever of the Year' awards which gives them the opportunity for a work placement with Lloyds Bank during the summer.

Also as part of the Achievement Awards, Y10 students Owen Cogbill and Lorna Sykes were nominated as Y10 Achievers of the Year, and have been invited to attend a residential at the University in July.

Well done to all students involved.

Y12 ASPIRE students attended a UCAS fair at Derby University, gathering information from lots of universities to help with their decisions for next year.

Sixteen Y7 students and parents attended a Family Evening at Sheffield Hallam University, designed to give everyone a taster of Higher Education life. It's never too early to start learning about the opportunities available in Higher Education, and parents particularly appreciated the update about

student finance.

Thirty Y8 students also visited the University of Sheffield, along with students from Heritage and Brookfield secondary schools. Activities helped students to think about how their subject interests could lead to a wide range of degree and career options for the future.

The HEPP 'Higher Education
Outreach Bus' visited school – kitted out
with the latest technology for
students to research their options
and learn more about university life.
Fifty seven students visited the
bus over lunchtime and Y12 and
Y9 students attended workshops.



## BARCELONA 2016



It was a late Friday evening as students slowly gathered together half-asleep, half-excited for the adventure that we were about to embark upon. The bus drove 31 students and 4 staff members to Gatwick airport for our early morning departure to Barcelona. For some students this was their first experience at an airport. We arrived in Barcelona to be greeted by sun, sea and Spaniards, Perfecto! After dropping off our luggage we headed out to explore beautiful Barca.

First stop, "L'Aquarium Barcelona". En route to the Aquarium we managed to see the beautiful marina, housing grand yachts and boats, but no sign of any celebs!

We then headed to El Fresco for our first taste of Spanish culture and food before finishing the evening at "La Rambla", the famous shopping street. Here students got to experience the crazy life of the Spanish street with a variety of street statues, traditional Spanish foods and of course, the famous McDonalds before returning to the hotel for some much needed sleep.

On day two there was a buzz in the air as many students (and staff!) were very excited to visit Barcelona Football Club's Stadium "Camp Nou". We had an incredible tour visiting the changing rooms & viewing the winning trophies but the main highlight had to be walking out and viewing the outstanding pitch.

Students posed as celebrities and visited the shop to buy souvenirs to take back to England.

Our second visit of the day was to one of the most famous places in Barcelona, constructed by Antoni Gaudi himself: Park Guell. The famous mosaic tiles are a special feature to this city and seeing them up close was fabulous, especially in the glorious sunshine. We even got to visit Gaudi's house, which was a shade of pink!

As evening arrived it meant two things: Flamenco and tapas. A chance for the students to experience a traditional Spanish dancing show and eat one of Spain's renowned delicacies. The guitar played, the Spanish singing began and off went the dancer. Even some students joined in with the singing: who knew Connor and Neve were Spanish singers in the making. Even Mr Edwards sang along to a Spanish tune

"tomatetomatetomatetomatetomatom". The food arrived consisting of Patatas Bravas (typical potato dish with garlic mayo), jamón serrano, paella con pescado (fish paella), ensalada (salad), tortilla española (Spanish omelette). The majority of students tried the Spanish food and were quite surprised to enjoy it.

To finish the night, we returned to La Rambla where students could continue shopping for souvenirs.



Day three consisted of another exciting day in the sunshine as we headed to the theme park "Portaventura" to ride the highest Rollercoaster in Europe. The weather was perfect and excitement and laughter filled the air as students ventured out to ride the "Shambhala" and "Dragon Khan", two of the biggest rollercoasters in Europe. The group fully enjoyed the trip and it was great to see students having so much fun.

Hard Rock Café, located on the historical square of Plaza Catalunya was our next stop. It was a treat to experience such creative cuisine and to view the world-famous music memorabilia.

We completed a great day with a trip to the bowling alley and the arcades before returning back to the hotel for our final night's stay in Barcelona.

Our final day in such a stunning city but still many more activities in place. After checkout, we headed for Parc de Montjuic to ride the cable cars. We took a trip up the mountain and took in a clear, panoramic view of the entire city, which included seeing La Sagrada Familia (famous cathedral). Many selfies were taken with the use of new selfie sticks purchased at the top of the mountain.

Soon after, we headed down the mountain to visit one of Barcelona's most popular tourist attractions and Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece "La Sagrada Família". We toured round the spectacular building and we even went up the towers. However the wobbly walk back down the spiral staircase was a struggle.

Just before we departed we came across our final experience of Spanish cuisine. Located opposite our hotel, we visited a mini churros stall which was full of a range of Spanish sweets. Churros are a famous doughnut-like dessert, filled with Nutella chocolate. iQué delicioso! Some students even bought custard filled churros, which didn't meet their high expectations (all of the chocolate ones had been purchased!)

We headed to the airport, with very sad faces and said a big 'Adiós' to the fabulous city of Barcelona.

Safe to say what a fantastic few days and definitely

A TRIP TO REMEMBER





shortage of mud! The one question raised at the end was, "Can we do it again next year?"

The total amount raised is yet to be confirmed but is expected to be in the region of £1500.



Well done everyone!



## **Governor Briefing**



On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Shirebrook Academy were once again our generous host to Governors and Headteachers across North Derbyshire. Derbyshire Sport, the Youth Sport Trust and John Barker ran the evening which briefed Governors around OFSTED and the Sport Premium requirements. As a result of this evening several primary PE coordinators are now meeting with Governors to talk about their P.E. and Sport Premium action plan. This is a great way for schools to showcase the impact the Premium is having on their pupils.



## DIARY DATES

#### **MAY 2016**

17 GCSE Exams Begin

27 Finish for Half Term

#### **JUNE 2016**

6 Return to School

24 GCSE Exams Finish

27-30 PE Week

28 Super Learning Day

29 Sports Day

#### **JULY 2016**

1 Y11 Prom

2 Family Fun Day

6 Target Review Day

11-22 Y10 Work Experience

15 Super Learning Day

20 Whole School Activity Day

22 Shirebrook's Got Talent

22 Finish for Summer Holidays

#### **AUGUST 2016**

25 GCSE Results Day

## POLITE NOTICE TO PARENTS

If you need to speak to a particular member of staff and they are unavailable on the telephone, be assured your details will be forwarded on and they will call you as soon as possible. Whilst we appreciate there may be times when you need to see a member of staff regarding a specific issue, we ask that you please be aware that staff at the academy work to a timetable and are often not available. Please do not arrive at the academy without an appointment expecting to see someone. If you require a face to face meeting, please call our reception on 742722 and we will endeavour to arrange an appointment for you at the earliest convenience to suit both parties.

Thank you



## NEW LOOK NEWS

There are so many exciting things happening at Shirebrook Academy that we have increased the frequency of our newsletters from once a term to once a month. That way the stories should be more up to date and relevant.

We are also conscious that many people do their reading on screen rather than in print so we will be emailing the newsletter and putting it on our web site but only printing a small number of copies for visitors to school. If you would like a hard copy do call into school to collect one or ask your son or daughter to collect one from student reception.

#### Educating the 'whole person'

At Shirebrook Academy we believe strongly that education is about much more than passing exams, as important as they are. We want to inspire our young people and open their minds.

The range of events and activities in this newsletter reflect our commitment to giving our students experience of the world beyond Shirebrook. From Namibia to Barcelona, from Notts County to Manchester United, from University visits to charity events, from classical music to enterprise events, our young people have the world at their feet, all they have to do is seize those opportunities.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our news and thank you for your continued support, individuals can accomplish a lot but team work is the only route to real success.

Best wishes

Mark Cottingham
Principal