



Onwards and upwards as we celebrate

STUDENT SUCCESS

Examination results day is always a nervous one for staff and students alike as we wait to find out the results of our hard work. This year was an unusual one because the measures used by government to assess a school's effectiveness have been changed and it was difficult at first how to compare 2016 results with previous years.

Progress 8 is the new measure by which the Government measure a school's effectiveness.

It is calculated by giving each subject taken by students a set score and then comparing the total with a projected figure that pupils would have been expected to achieve, based on their scores in their Year Six SATs exams.

The idea is to show how much the school helps pupils of all abilities to improve their academic performance and make progress, rather than simply judging schools based on the final exam grades.

A "0" score would indicate that pupils have achieved grades that would have been predicted before they even started secondary school – anything above zero indicates that the school has helped its students perform better than predicted.

Our figure for 2016 is -0.09 with confidence intervals of +0.1 and -0.28, which puts us broadly in line with national average.

However, the figure for students who have achieved A* to C grades in both English and Maths at the first attempt at 35% is below our expectations, despite being an improvement on the 29% achieved in the same measure in 2015.

That should not detract from all the hard work that staff and students have shown throughout the year and the excellent results achieved in many subjects by many students.

In the majority of subjects our results improved on our 2015 outcomes. We were particularly pleased that more students achieved at least one A* or A this year – up to 46% from 28% in 2015 – while the percentage getting three or more A* or A grades leapt from 10% to 18%.

There are many positives for us to reflect on and a lot of work to do to keep improving our students' skills, knowledge and understanding to make sure they achieve the best exam results possible. We have a host of changes planned for the new school year to improve standards further and the new year has already got off to a great start.

Mark Cottingham

Principal - Shirebrook Academy



Among the highest achieving students were:

Gareth Davis 12 GCSEs, 2A*, 1A, 7Bs, 2Cs

Liam Deneley 12 GCSEs, 4As, 8 Bs,

Cameron Hawley 11 GCSEs, 1A*, 3As, 7 Bs,

Ellie-Jae Locke 11 GCSEs, 1A*, 3As, 6Bs, 1C

George McDonnell 11 GCSEs, 3cs, 4bs, 3as

and A* in Spanish almost full marks

Albert Mezanec 10 GCSEs C+ including A* in Photography (Albert is from Lithuania & only arrived here about 5yrs ago)

Alyssia Middleton 10 GCSEs C+ including A in PE and Distinction* in Dance despite breaking her ankle in trampoline training just before the exams

Libby Parker 12 GCSEs, 1A*, 6As, 5Bs

Ebonnie Plant 12 GCSEs, 1A*, 3As, 3Bs, 3Cs

Morgan Powell 12 GCSEs, 1A*, 3As, 3Bs, 3Cs

Beth Wells 12 GCSEs, 7As, 3Bs, 2Cs

Kelsey Wilson 11 GCSEs, 2A*, 4As, 4Bs, 1C

Victoria Yeh 13 GCSEs, 1A** (Further Maths), 9 A*, 3As



NAMIBIA

A life changing experience



Exhausted, travel-worn and ready to see friends and family again after our two week expedition to Namibia in July 2016, we arrived back at Heathrow at 7:00am on Monday 1st August 2016, with memories to last a lifetime, knowing we had made a difference to the children of the Abraham Gariseb school, as well as the local community of the Soris Soris region of Namibia. Our experiences over the two week expedition were, quite simply, life-changing and ones which we will never forget. Experiences which not only enhanced the lives of the people we worked with, but also changed our own lives – very much for the better!

Our first encounter with the children at the Abraham Gariseb School was an undoubted highlight, as was our three day experience working in this fantastic, remote school. After 36 hours of travelling, we were mobbed by the children, who greeted us with such joy, happiness and genuine excitement to see us and work with us during our stay in Namibia.

The one kilometre trek each morning to the school from our base camp was well worth it, to see the difference we were making to the lives of the students there, and of course not to mention our morning sightings of elephants, which offered a truly magical experience. One afternoon towards the end of the expedition, we were even taken out to see a family of giraffes which had made their way towards our base camp for the night – an incredible memory to be so close to such animals in the wild. Our first day in the school included an incredible performance of some traditional Namibian songs from the children, as part of their welcome ceremony for us – followed by some songs from our own students for our Namibian friends.

Our time in school saw us work with children ranging from pre-school age through to 16 year olds – all of whom wanted to learn and were engaged and enthused by our presence in their remote community. The most special, life-changing thing we were able to pass on to the students was vital first-aid and life-support training, which our students delivered expertly, following some rigorous training days with Claire from East Midlands

Ambulance Service and Terence and Egon from the Eagle Christian Ambulance Service in Namibia.

We left the school for our three day desert-trek knowing in our hearts that we had made a difference and provided the local community with some vital life-changing skills, which will save lives, and indeed already has. It was also very special to be able to donate some of the dresses made by Shirebrook Academy students to the children, as part of the Dress a Girl around the World project!

Our time in school, interspersed with a training trek and evening at a remote satellite camp, was followed by a trek through the vast Namib Desert, along the Ugab river-bed. Tents folded up, day-bags packed with water, snacks, sun-cream and hats (as well as cameras to capture some unforgettable moments!), we set off on our trek each morning in groups, in the blistering heat of the Namibian sunshine. Gruelling and exhausting, but we developed resilience, confidence and an appreciation for the basic things in life, as we made our way through the dusty terrain with our peers and new-found friends, sharing feelings, but also appreciating some time alone with our thoughts in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

Before we knew it, our time in Namibia had come to an end – our unforgettable evenings together under the breath-taking Namibian stars, around the camp-fire, had come to an end. Our final night, at the Erindi Game Reserve, was the perfect setting to end our expedition – not only was it an opportunity to have our first shower for two weeks (pure bliss!), but the sight of hippopotami, elephants and crocodiles at the vast watering hole as the sun was setting (and again when it was rising) reminded us of how far we had come over the two weeks, and how many memories we had to bring home with us to Shirebrook.

The Eagle Christian Ambulance Service of Namibia is fundraising to buy some life-saving medical equipment to continue to fantastic work we started out there. If you are in a position to support in any way, please visit the following link:
<https://www.youcaring.com/eagle-christian-ambulance-charity-namibia-627461>





Alex Sunderland

Namibia was an unbelievable experience – meeting the children who were less fortunate than us was truly life-changing. It made us realise how much we take for granted in our own lives.



Devon Evans

My time in Namibia was extraordinary. Every second over there was a privilege; it has made me reflect on my everyday lifestyle and has changed me mentally and emotionally as a person. The trip has made me think about my future career. The highlight of the experience was meeting the children who were inspiring. The whole breath taking scenery was amazing. I would love to return to this beautiful place to make a difference.



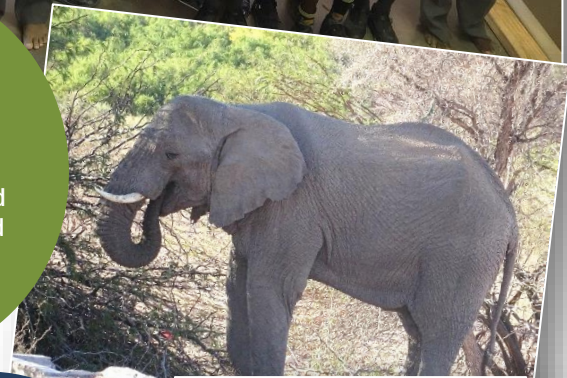
Katy Peake

My experience in Namibia was inspirational. The fact that we got to spend time with children who have nothing but they are still running around laughing has made me realise how much I take for granted.



Megan Humphries

My experience in Namibia was breath taking, every single step of this experience has truly opened my eyes. The children were amazing and so enthusiastic and really pushed me to become the best I can be. Everyone was so welcoming and full of happiness which made me extremely proud to be part of it all. I'm so happy to have been part of this experience and I will remember it for the rest of my life



Lorna Sykes

Going to Namibia was the best thing I have ever done – I enjoyed every minute. From the moment the plane landed, everything we saw was brand new. The wildlife in its natural habitat, camping in a tent, eating different food – I loved every second. Everything we did made me realise something, such as how we take our families for granted, for example. One of my favourite moments was when we sat on a little rocky mountain and watched 17 elephants drink from the waterhole while the sun was setting, as well as going in to the school and hearing the children sing.



Thank you to anyone who was able to support us with our fund-raising mission – it would not have been possible without your support and kindness along the way. We have come back changed individuals, and have benefitted so much from this once in a lifetime experience.

If anyone would like to find out more about our experiences in Namibia, please contact James Edwards at JEdwards3@shirebrookacademy.org



WHY IS MATHS IMPORTANT?

YEAR 10 VISIT
ArdaghGroup



Why is Maths important? How will Maths be used in the workplace?

These common questions were answered for a group of Y10 students during a visit to Ardagh, a manufacturing business in Sutton in Ashfield. Students had a tour of the factory to see high-speed, precision processes in action, then had a go at collecting and analysing data. Many businesses use statistical analysis to improve efficiency, and the activity helped to highlight the relevance of GCSE work to these tasks.

Alex Sunderland said;
"I had never thought about this kind of work before, it's not what I expected"

Thanks to the staff at Ardagh for hosting the visit, we hope to visit again this year.



HIGH ACHIEVERS

YEAR 7

Year 7 High Achievers have been finding out how a healthy lifestyle can help you achieve your best at school. Here are some of the most important things they found out.....

Feeling good about yourself

Positive thinking can boost self-esteem. Be positive by saying things like 'I can do it'

Relationships with others

Over 3.2 million people are bullied each year. If you are being bullied it can take over your thoughts and affect your schoolwork. Tell an adult, work with others and you can get bullying to stop.

Healthy Eating

A balanced diet with plenty of fruit, vegetables and protein can make you strong and healthy, which makes it easier to concentrate at school. Did you know oily fish and Broccoli contain Vitamin K which can help improve your brainpower?

Drugs and Alcohol

Drinking can turn into an addiction and lead to illnesses such as liver disease. Smoking can lead to cravings which will affect your concentration in class.

Sleep

Research shows that 85% of teenagers don't get enough sleep - lack of sleep can make you clumsy and forgetful. You should be aiming for 8.5 hour per night - things that can help you sleep include exercise, reading at bedtime, and turning off your phone!

Stress

If you feel stressed, it will be hard to concentrate and hard to keep working when things get difficult. Try and work out what is making you stressed, and ask for help - spend time with friends and family to help you relax Exercise and fitness - Teenagers should get at least 30 minutes of exercise a day. Exercise can help boost your energy levels to perform better in your lessons.

Students used these websites to find their facts - check them out yourself for more information....

www.nhs.uk
www.youngminds.org.uk
www.netdoctor.co.uk
www.nhs.uk/Change4Life

At Shirebrook Academy we think Health and other Personal Development topics are an essential part of the curriculum, to help students achieve their best at school and prepare for adult life. With this in mind we are adding 'Personal Development Lessons' to the timetable for Y8 and Y9 from September. These lessons will develop learning from STREET, Personal Development Days and other Personal Development opportunities throughout school life. The key skills we will be focusing on are:

"Skills to be a better learner", "Skills to be Safe and Healthy", "Skills to be a good Citizen" and "Skills to be Employable".



Please contact Tracy Horton at the Academy if you would like more information about Super Learning Lessons.



Y9 and Y10 students in textiles have started the year off with a bin bag challenge.

Their challenge is to use 2 bin liners, scissors, pins and the sewing machine to create a garment. They all did fantastically

Well Done!



CAREERS EVENING



SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER

6.00pm-7.30pm

What options are available to your son/daughter after Year 11 and 6th Form?

Information about 6th Form & Chesterfield College at Shirebrook Academy with general careers advice from our careers advisors:
Danielle Evans
Tracy Horton

Talk starts at 6pm and includes words from Mr McGuinness (HOY) and an introduction to progression options and opportunities.

Meet local colleges & training providers, including;

- Chesterfield College
- West Notts. College
- Army Recruitment
- University of Derby
- Babington Business College
- Chameleon Constructionand many more!

CAREERS

01623
742722

www.shirebrookacademy.org

GCSE GEOGRAPHERS VISIT BAKEWELL



This month saw a group of Year 11 Geographers visit the picturesque town of Bakewell. The aim of the visit was to complete fieldwork towards their controlled assessment and for many of them it was their first visit. The students completed traffic counts, people counts, litter surveys, environmental quality surveys and questionnaires in order to find out if the town is well managed against the impacts of tourism. The students' behaviour was exemplary and they embraced the opportunity to talk to people who were visiting the town and record the relevant data for their coursework.

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



BLACK DYKE BAND

in concert at
Shirebrook Academy School
with
Shirebrook Miners Welfare Band

Saturday 15 October 2016
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

Tickets available from Shirebrook Academy reception

1 in 25 children born in the UK are born with some kind of genetic disorder. Genetic Disorders UK has a vision to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by genetic disorders. There are over half a million children living with a genetic disorder in the UK today. Jeans for Genes day is a great way of not only raising awareness but it also helps raise funds in order to change the world for children born with such conditions.

Shirebrook Academy are proud supporters of this cause and held our Jeans for Genes day on Thursday 22nd September. Staff and students alike became denim devils for the day and helped raise vital funds.



**WE RAISED
ALMOST
£700**

www.geneticdisordersuk.org



TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL



**“Chelsea’s
Choice”**

**THURSDAY
13th OCTOBER
7.00 – 8.00pm**

“Chelsea's Choice” is a very powerful play about Child Sexual Exploitation. It raises important issues about internet use, healthy relationships and the grooming process.

All Parents, Carers, local Primary School staff and groups within the community are invited to attend.

To secure a booking please visit the school website www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk and book your **FREE** seats.

Y5/6 OPEN EVENING

An exciting evening of events

Our recent Y5 & Y6 open evening was a huge success with a great turnout from across the local area.

Every department welcomed prospective pupils and their parents with a range of interactive and exciting activities ranging from food tasting in the Foreign Languages department to an enchanted fairy tale world in our English department. In the Science department Mr Morley demonstrated the flammable effects of methane... on his head! Mr Morley is fine though because the heat generated from the reaction has travelled away from his head and it was the methane that was burning not his head.



September Sport

At the Academy



Pictured are the Y8 boys rugby team who took part in an event at Ashfield School. They participated in coaching sessions and a number of short games. The boys performed excellently throughout.

September has seen a busy start for the PE department with plenty of fixtures taking place.

The first week of fixtures saw matches in football, rugby and netball.

The fixtures were kicked off by the Y8 and Y11 football teams who hosted Fredrick Gents.

Both games finished with close score lines, with the teams being separated by one goal in each game.

The Y11 boys started their new year with a 3-2 win. The academy took a comfortable 2-0 lead in to half time with goals from Brandon Clarke and Josh Bondzie, before being pegged back to 2-2 during the second half. The Academy did however manage to steal the victory with the winning goal scored by Tommy Jacques.

The Y8 boys were on the wrong end of a close score line, losing 4-3 in a closely contested game.

Both sides played with passion, commitment and never gave up trying to the final whistle. Shirebrook went 3-0 down early on. They managed to claw two great goals back through Shae Ingham and the first half finished 3-2.

Freddie Gents scored early on in the second half to go 4-2 up. Shirebrook then responded through a brilliant free kick from George Smith Grout to get within a goal with 10 minutes to play.

In the final minutes, Shirebrook searched for an equaliser rattling the bar and then having a shot cleared off the line! But it just wasn't to be Shirebrook's day and Fredrick Gents held on to win the game 4-3.

The following night saw the Y7 girls' football team host the Bolsover district tournament, which included Shirebrook, Tibshelf, Bolsover, Heritage and Fredrick Gents.

The girls performed fantastically well winning 3 games and losing just 1 (to the tournament winners, Fredrick Gents). The standout player for the team was Georgie Shaw.

The Y10/11 girl's netball teams were also in action, hosting a 3 team tournament, including Shirebrook, Fredrick Gents and Heritage. The girls beat Fredrick Gents 10-6 and drew with Heritage 4-4, finishing the tournament as winners!

Following on from their winning fixture on Tuesday evening, the Y11 boys took part in the Bolsover District tournament on Thursday evening. Unfortunately the boys weren't as successful as they had been on earlier in the week, drawing 2 and losing 2 of their 4 games.

With a busy line up of fixtures ahead, see next month's newsletter for more PE updates.



COMING SOON

Festive fun for all the family

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 11am - 3pm

Visit Santa in his grotto, enjoy festive treats and visit the many stalls.



SENCo at Shirebrook Academy

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Cartledge left us at the end of the summer term for pastures new. I have taken over the role of SENCo at Shirebrook Academy. I am responsible for the day-to-day running of SEN/D policy and co-ordinating specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN/D, including those who have Education Health Care Plans or Statements or simply those students who may require some additional support through our SEN/D Support at the Academy. In order to ensure this support meets your child's needs, I work closely with staff, parents and carers, and other agencies to create a tailor made support package.

I work alongside the Principal and Governing Body in determining the strategic development of SEN/D policy and provision in the school in order to raise the achievement of children with SEN/D.

Should you find yourself faced with a situation that causes concern in any way regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence at the Academy.

Mr Jeremy Beecham

Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Duke of Edinburgh *trip to* WALES

The Duke of Edinburgh team went away for a training weekend on the 23rd September for 2 nights in North Wales. Students tested their navigational ability to the maximum as they challenged themselves to find the most difficult of check points using a variety of different methods and skills ready for their expedition next year. Even though the weather was windy a great time was had by all. Thank you to the staff, Mrs McBroom and Mr Grainger for giving up their weekend and to the students who did not get lost.



ROW^{TO} RIO



BOLSOVER DISTRICT
School Sport Partnership

A stunning 43 secondary, primary, junior, infant and special schools from across Bolsover District took part in the Bolsover District School Sport Partnership's Row to Rio challenge. Craig Barnes, the School Sport Partnership's Physical Activity Development Officer delivered the rowing machines to each school every other day. Each school had to complete a minimum of 136 miles if we were to collectively row to Copacabana!

Every school was successful in engaging all of their pupils, teaching staff and parents, and in total the District rowed 7234 miles! The five secondary schools competed against each other to see who could row the most miles between 8am and 4pm across two days. Shirebrook Academy won the Row to Rio competition with an astonishing 502km! Louise Hawker (head of the PE department) summed up the positive reaction to this initiative:

'Row to Rio was a fantastic event which we coincided with our annual PE week, which this year was based around the Rio Olympics. The event was a great opportunity for all students and staff to get involved in an Olympic discipline. The students demonstrated their competitive spirit against fellow Bolsover schools and it produced a real sense of cohesion between the year groups. There was also an added Geography lesson hidden within the check points of the Row to Rio route. The event was even sweeter when Shirebrook were announced as the secondary winners.'



Community Action Project



A group of 15 Y9 students were trained in 3 different chair based games, Boccia, Curling and Skittles. Students then delivered 6 hour long sessions at a day centre in the village working with different elderly residents, chatting and helping them complete the games. One student commented; *"I think the experience of going to the day centre was amazing because it really built my confidence with communicating with older people."*

Thank you to all students who were involved in the project.

DIARY DATES



OCTOBER 2016

- 10 Y7 Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs)
- 12 Y11 Parents Evening
- 14 Y7 Visit to Rufford Abbey Country Park
- 18 Celebration of Success Evening
- 19 Personal Development Day.
Shirebrook Stars 2.30pm
- 21 Rewards day. FINISH FOR HALF TERM
- 31 Students back to school

NOVEMBER 2016

- 04 Y7 visit to Leeds Armouries (not all of Y7)
- 08 Y11 Careers Evening
- 10 Ex-Y11 Presentation Evening
- 18 Y7 visit to Leeds Armouries (not all of Y7)
- 24-25 Arts trip to London
- 28 Target Review Day Y7-11

DECEMBER 2016

- 03 Winter Wonderland
- 06 Y10 Clothes Show visit. Y9 Big Event
- 08 Y10 Mock Interviews. Challenge Day
- 09 Y7 Holy Cross Church. Carols in the Marketplace.
- 09 District Cross Country
- 13 Christmas Cabaret
- 14 Shirebrook Stars 2.30pm
- 15 Rewards Day
- 16 School Panto. Students leave at 12.40
END OF TERM

JANUARY 2017

- 03 Students back in School. Compulsory Period 7 Y11
- 09 Mock Exams Start
- 12 GCSE Art Exam Visit
- 31 Personal Development Day

FEBRUARY 2017

- 01 Y10 Parents Evening
- 01 Gallery and City visit Arts warm up.
- 03 Y9 Exams start
- 09 FINISH FOR HALF TERM
- 10 Inset Day
- 20 Students back in school
- 21 Y7 & 11 Photos. Paris trip Parents Evening.

MARCH 2017

- 02 Y7 Derby Open Centre
- 03 Y7 Holy Cross Church
- 06 Y11 Mock Exams
- 08 Y9 Options Evening
- 21-24 School Production (evenings)
- 27 Y10 & 11 Macbeth Performance
- 28 Target Review Day
- 29.03– 02.04 Paris Trip
- 31 Rewards Day Years 7-10

APRIL 2017

- 03 PE Practical Exam
- 04 PE practical Exam
- 05 Shirebrook Stars 2.30pm
Gym and Dance Display
- 07 FINISH FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 24 Students back in school. Y7 & 8 exams start

MAY 2017

- 01 Bank holiday
- 03 Y10 Geography trip to Holderness
- 04 Y10 Geography trip to Holderness
- 08 Y10 Mock Exams all week
- 09 Y9 Mock Exams Start
- 15 GCSEs Begin
- 19 Rewards day Y7-10
- 24 Shirebrook Stars 2.30pm
- 26 FINISH FOR HALF TERM

JUNE 2017

- 05 Students back in school
- 08– 09 PE Residential
- 21 Sports Day WHOLE SCHOOL
- 23 Y11 Prom
- 28 GCSE Exams Finish
- 30 Rewards Day Y7-10

JULY 2017

- 01 Family Fun Day
- 05 Target Review Day
- 06 Shirebrook Stars Challenge Day
- 07 – 09 Y10 PE Residential
- 10 Y10 Work Experience for 2 weeks
- 10 Y6 Induction Day/Evening
- 11 Y6 Lea Green Trip
- 12 Y6 early transition
- 13 Y7 Residential Trip
- 14 Personal Development Day Y7-9
- 21 Shirebrook's Got Talent.
FINISH FOR SUMMER BREAK 12.40

AUGUST 2017

- 24 GCSE results Day

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE KEY DATES THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR