



Shirebrook Celebrates



Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

The Academy feels like a very exciting place to be this term. One of the causes of excitement is the speedy progress of the new building. It once seemed like a distant dream, however, the huge structure seems to grow every day and it is a reality now for all of us – we are going to have a new school! The other area of excitement has been the fantastic exam results this summer.

Shirebrook is now the second highest achieving school in the Bolsover and Staveley area. **79% of our students gained 5 or more A*-C passes and 55% of them did so with Maths and English. 100% of students gained 5 or more A*-G passes.** We have become one of the most improved schools in Derbyshire and we have one of the highest percentages nationally for the progress our students make. I have already been asked to speak about our success at a conference in London attended by the Permanent Secretary for Education. I have no doubt we will be asked to share our good practice at other events.

I am immensely proud of the staff and students. Shirebrook Academy has a real community feel to it and students have a sense of belonging.

All of the surveys we do with students show that they are on the whole happy at school and enjoy attending. The fantastic improvement in attendance this year also shows

that students enjoy school. The staff are over the moon with the results and feel that their hard work and commitment is really paying off.

We are now looking to the present Year 11 and preparing them for final exams. They have already taken a number of GCSE's and we are very pleased with their results. We are confident that we will make further improvements next summer.

One of the nicest things that happened last year was the community fun day. We are very keen to be part of the community of Shirebrook and think we have a lot to offer and vice versa. We are hosting a 'Winter Wonderland' event in late November and would love as many of you to join us as possible. We continue to develop our community nights and would like to welcome as many parents as possible on these nights.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers for their support last year, it made our first year of opening such a huge success.

Julie Bloor



Celebration of Success for Shirebrook Academy



September drew to a close on a high for the staff and students of Shirebrook Academy as they joined together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in the past year. The evening was a true celebration of success, a fantastic first year with much to celebrate, in particular the outstanding examination results with 79% of students gaining 5 or more A*-C grades, and 55% of students achieving 5 or more A* - C grades including English and Mathematics, a true reflection of the hard work, commitment and dedication of staff and students alike.

The evening was attended by Mr Reg Tooth, Chair of Governors who opened the ceremony with a welcome speech and Mr Frank Lord, Chairman of Derbyshire Education Business Partnership, who presented the awards. Frank has received National recognition from parliament, media and the world of business for his contribution to employee development, business excellence and education.



The celebration of success evening was a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the varied talents of our students but also a chance for a great community occasion with parents and carers proudly sat together to share the success.



Sports Personality of the Year

It is true to say that Shirebrook Academy has many academic achievements to shout about but we also have a star in the making.

Mason Bennett, a talented year 11 student with a natural flare for football has been handpicked by professional talent scouts to represent his country.

Mason made his debut for England U16 in the Victory Shield against Northern Ireland at the B2Net Stadium in Chesterfield earlier this month.

Mason won our award for "Sports Personality of the Year". This award was given for not only outstanding sporting ability but also outstanding commitment, focus and maturity in both sporting and academic work. Mason is described as the perfect role model for other students. Upon receiving his award, Mason made a hasty exit as his presence was requested at the Derbyshire Sports Awards ceremony held at Pride Park in Derby where he had been nominated for yet another award.



The Community Service award

Working with the community and giving something back is something our students can be proud of and "The Community Service Award" celebrates just that. The award was given to Luke Walker, Ricky Clark and Jaidon Allan, three boys who worked tirelessly to develop the grounds of a local care home and two local primary schools.

The difference they have made to the three venues has been incredible, turning bland, empty spaces into bright and vibrant areas to be used by the community. The input from the boys particularly at the care home has been invaluable. Whilst working alongside the residents with care and compassion, they have developed a sensory garden which is now enjoyed by all.



Above picture courtesy of The Mansfield Chad

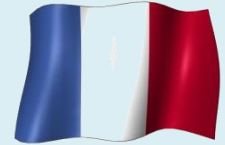
Shirebrook Academy is at the heart of the local community and takes pride in bringing the people of Shirebrook together to indulge in the common purpose it stands for, the education and welfare of all its students.

Without a doubt this last year and the first as Shirebrook Academy has been filled with incredible achievements and special occasions that will long be remembered.

We really do have a lot to be proud of and we are certain that the success stories will continue to grow as will we.

Congratulations to everyone!





European Languages Week

Monday 26th - Friday 30th September

Shirebrook Academy celebrated European Week of Languages, during which a whole host of activities and events were arranged by the Modern Languages department. Each day had a specific theme.

Monday saw the Academy turn Italian for the day with Italian food on offer in the diner and a chance for students to learn some Italian at lunch time.

Tuesday was Greek day! At lunchtime Mr. Edwards and Mr. Kelly held a Greek dancing session which was supported by students and a number of staff members as well.



After-school there was a French crepe making session with Miss Staniforth which was attended by 20 students and five further staff members.



A fantastic time was had by all, and SLT even had the chance to taste the students' creations as orders were placed, with Rachel Brewin and Demi Bispham running tirelessly back and forth from T-Block to C-Block!

Wednesday was French day and boasted the showpiece event of the week - French Food Tasting. This event was attended by two professional footballers from Notts County - Hamza Bencherif (French speaker) and Cristian Montaña (Spanish speaker). The stars took the time to talk to staff and students, pose for photographs and sign hundreds of autographs, as well as encouraging students to try the French food on offer! Students thoroughly enjoyed this event and the sight of C2B full to the rafters was hugely pleasing!





Thursday, German was celebrated with some German food on offer in the diner and a chance to learn some basic German at lunchtime. After-school there was a showing of **Shrek: The Final Chapter** in French with English subtitles, including pain au chocolat and popcorn to add to the atmosphere.

Friday the final day of the week saw the Academy celebrate the Spanish language, with Spanish food on offer in the diner, a showing of Friends in Spanish and Spanish Food tasting taking place in C2B.

Here is what some students had to say:

Rachel Brewin (Year 8)

This week I went to Crepe Making and I really enjoyed it because it was fun and we also had something else to do apart from sitting in the house! We also watched Shrek the movie in French which was different! This week we also met two footballers called Hamza Bencherif and Cristian Montano. We got to take pictures of them and with them! I think that everyone enjoyed this week - I have really enjoyed it as it was something different - I think we should do it again!

Demi Bispham (Year 8)

European Languages Week was an amazing idea! People could take part in a range of language classes and meet two famous footballers who spoke Spanish and French, which was a privilege to do. We also saw a couple of movies and there was also a session giving us the chance to make crepes which was great! Overall it has been an immense week full of unusual but fun things. I would love to do something similar in the future - it was a great way of learning!

Thanks

Alex Peake (Year 8)

In Languages Week I went to every event - learning Italian, Greek dancing, learning German and French and Spanish food tasting. My favourite activity was Greek dancing and French food tasting. My favourite food was the tarte au chocolat (chocolate tart) and the pain au chocolat. We also watched Shrek in French which was awesome, and an episode of Friends in Spanish which was really funny!



Thanks must go out to all students and staff who took part and helped to make the week a huge success!



Summer School

Shirebrook Academy hosted a summer school for year 6 students joining the Academy in September. The event was a wonderful success and students and staff really enjoyed themselves.

The students participated in some fantastic science activities, including the screaming jelly babies experiment, and all went home with their own popping candy created in the newly refurbished science labs!

All the students also visited the French Cafe set up by Mr Edwards and Mr Stafford and were able to order a wide variety of delicacies such as croissants, brioche, pate and French cheeses.

In physical education students played crazy catch and volley ball and had a fantastic time working up a sweat!

Ben Henderson said 'I have loved all the activities today and can't wait to start in September'.

The summer school will now become an annual event at the Academy.



Shirebrook Academy in London

30 students from Shirebrook Academy spent two fantastic sunny days on an arts tour of London. During their two day visit they managed to explore the Tate Modern with its vast collection of modern art, the National Gallery and the Egyptian section of the British Museum.

The adventure was complete with a night time theatre visit to see the Lion King in the West End. They were also given free time to explore the sights and sounds of Covent Garden and Oxford street.

A fantastic time was had by all!

Year 6 Open Evening

In September we had our Year 6 Open Evening giving parents of all children in Year 6 the opportunity to come along and chat to staff, see images of the new school building and find out what makes our academy so special and one of the most improved schools in Derbyshire.



During the evening the Year 6 children were given the opportunity to enter a competition. They had to identify the 10 major organs of the body.

**The winner was George Bray
of Park Road Juniors
who got all 10
correct.**



Masterclasses prove just the business

More than 25 students at Shirebrook Academy were introduced to different aspects of business when bosses at Vision West Notts staged a Business Studies masterclass.

Groups took turns to learn about branding and advertising from the college's director of marketing and learner engagement Louise Knott, and employee relations matters from human resources director Tracey Thompson.

The sessions, on Tuesday 27 September, were held to mark national Colleges Week (26 September to 2 October). Backed by hundreds of colleges across the country, this year's theme was 'Connecting with Communities'.

Fifteen-year-old Corey King said: "I learned about marketing and how companies use advertising and other ways to publicise their business." Fellow student Bridie Widdowson, 16, said: "The sessions opened my eyes to different elements of business and what's involved in running an organisation."



Pictured above with Louise Knott (back, centre) and Tracey Thompson (back, right) are pupils (from left) Zi Qing Chen, 14, Bridie Widdowson, 16, Olivia Lucas, 15, Joshua O' Callaghan, 15, and Corey King, 15.



BTEC Art Mural

A local renowned artist Pete Barber, is currently working with all BTEC art students developing ideas for a large mural to be spray painted onto some of the hoardings around the new build of the Academy. All students have come up with individual ideas, after which some good visuals were chosen to be developed to make the whole design work together. After half term, you may notice work in progress as gangs of spray painters start work outside! The theme is 'cut outs and white'.

Bowmer & Kirkland have very kindly offered to fund this project, for which we are very grateful.

Shirebrook's Got Even More Talent

On the final day of term, Thursday 21 July 2011, Shirebrook Academy hosted its second 'Shirebrook's Got Talent' extravaganza and this year the event was bigger than ever!

The show spectacular kicked off with a dazzling performance from Gareth Hand on the keyboard, (trainee school librarian,) which set a high musical standard for the rest of the performance. Following this, Brogan Bown, one of the previous year's dancing legends, performed his eclectic rendition of Irish dancing/head banging to a drum solo.

Once again, Brogan's unique style brought the house down and revved up the audience for the new acts who were all Key stage 3 students.

This year, singing was at the forefront of the competition with numerous duets and solos from a number of students whilst 8BH led the way in terms of dancing with a form performance to J-Lo's 'Get on the Floor'. The dance incorporated street moves and acrobatics including several excellent cartwheels from Miss Holmes and a 'Dirty Dancing' style lift from Jonathan Huckle and Charlie-Jo Bearder.

There was also a very different performance from Lauren Topham in Year 7 who used her skills in art to do caricatures of staff as animals! The judges this year, suitably groomed, suited and booted were Mrs Bloor (Academy Principal) Miss Gemma Ramsden (Teacher of English who left in the summer) and Mr Burton (teacher of ICT who retired in the summer.)

As in the previous year, the judges were forthright, brutally honest and extremely open in their opinions on the acts and this helped to excite the audience even more.

The judges' selection for the top three were 8BH, Beth Owen who sang Rihanna's 'California King Bed' and Ellie Edson and Daniella Welch who were pitch perfect in their duet of Pixie Lott's 'Mama Do' showing style and confidence beyond their years.

After each of the acts performed again, it was up to the judges to decide and choose the winner- which was the soulful Ellie and Danniella.

Once again, it was an excellent, celebratory end to the year and was another triumph for BranWard productions!



Football Crazy!



What an achievement for Shirebrook Academy students!

In what must be a first for Derbyshire football and any Derbyshire School, Shirebrook Academy now have NINE representatives in the Year 10 and 11 Derbyshire School football squads for the 2011-12 season.

In Year 11, Jamie York, Brad Richards and Mark Staniforth were selected alongside previous Derbyshire U15 players Mason Bennett and Billy Simpson. Only a week later the five players were joined by four of their fellow Year 10 peers when Joe Cheeseman, Scott Patterson, Bradley Drew and Nathan Clarke were also all selected for the U15 squad.

This fantastic achievement is testament to the high quality football at Shirebrook Academy, especially in Year 10 and 11 where the Academy are the reigning League Champions in the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Competitions.

Brace for Bennett

On Wednesday 12th October 2011, Shirebrook Academy, the whole community, and the whole world witnessed a truly spectacular display of football, and the name everyone was talking about was a 15 year old boy from Langwith, Mason Bennett.

Mason, a Year 11 student at Shirebrook Academy made his debut appearance for England U16s in the Victory Shield against Northern Ireland, at Chesterfield FC's B2Net Stadium, and what a debut it was! Not content with being the star of the show, cheered at every touch from the 4,000 strong crowd, the majority of whom were from Shirebrook, Mason scored two goals, helped set up another and got man of the match in a 3-1 England win.

Encouraged by approximately 250 fellow students, 300 local supporters and another 3500 fans, Mason took the field to rapturous applause in the famous Number 10 shirt. Mason, who has already represented and scored for his Country at U17 level, was certainly the star of the show. From his first touch, he led the attack for England, demonstrating his excellent pace and strength against the terrified Irish defense. His first major impact was to use another of his attributes, his creativity to thread the ball through to his strike partner who duly obliged with a neat finish to make it one nil.

The second half started with the score at one all after the Irish equalised deep into first half injury time, but within ten minutes of the restart Mason made a major impact again by scoring a brace to put the result beyond any doubt. Mason's goals were a case of right place at the right time, but neat finishes demonstrated his killer instinct in front of goal, and made him the talking point of the game.

The match was also shown live on Sky Sports, and the reception he got from the commentators and studio pundits highlighted what a performance it was. A wave and a clap to the travelling spectators from Shirebrook summed up Mason's appreciation for his support, and there was no hiding the delight from his proud teachers, and fellow students at the final whistle.





Y7 Boys football

The year 7 boys played in their first football tournament for Shirebrook Academy and made a fantastic start. The 9 a-side football tournament in which 9 teams entered was hosted by Bolsover School on their fantastic outdoor facility. Despite the cold weather everyone had a fantastic time and the two Shirebrook teams that entered gave some great team performances. In the initial group stages both teams were unbeaten with Shirebrook A drawing their first two matches and winning their last game on penalties and Shirebrook B drawing two of their games and winning their third 2-1 with goals from Jamie Bullars and Ethan Latkowski.

In the second round teams were grouped in order of league finish from the first round, meaning that both Shirebrook Academy teams were in the same group along with Fredrick Gents School playing for first, second and third position. The first game played was between Shirebrook A and Fredrick Gent A; Shirebrook played some fantastic football and came out 1-0 winners. The second game was between Shirebrook B and Fredrick Gent A, despite the great performance Shirebrook were kept to a 0-0 draw setting up for a great final game between both

Shirebrook teams. The final game was played in great spirits and both teams gave outstanding performances, however the glory belonged to Shirebrook A with CJ Preston scoring the first early in the game and Declan Nicol scoring a second later on securing the game for Shirebrook A and making them overall winners of the tournament.

Overall Shirebrook Academy had a very successful tournament walking away with first and second position, which being their debut appearance for Shirebrook Academy is a great achievement, so a big well done to the Y7 boys.

Overall positions

1. Shirebrook A
2. Shirebrook B
3. Fredrick Gent A
4. Heritage
5. Tibshelf B
6. Tibshelf A
7. Fredrick Gent B
8. Bolsover A
9. Bolsover B

Sporting Success Stories



The 2011/2012 year has got off to a great sporting start with Shirebrook Academy students leading the way with sporting success in the district.

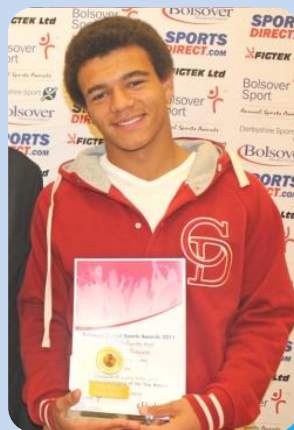
On Friday 23rd September the Academy celebrated as our students were invited to attend the Bolsover District Sports Awards 2011.

Jade Humphries was nominated for 'Junior Sports Woman of the Year' for showing great determination and an outstanding level of personal achievement at regional and national level Kickboxing.

On Saturday 24th September, **Liam Adams** took part in a Karate tournament in Grimsby. Liam entered Points Fighting, and after several bouts achieved first place. A fantastic result!

Mason Bennett won

'Junior Sportsman of the Year' for his achievements in Football. Mason received the award in light of his success over the last year. Mason has signed a 5 year contact with Derby County FC, had a call up for England and scored during his debut.



Jarod Collier

won the 'Junior Disabled Sportsman of the Year' for his outstanding level of personal achievement and motivation in football with Shirebrook Rangers.



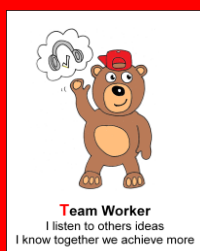
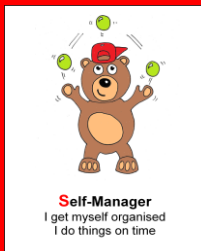
Humanities

Are you Street?

In September we weren't sure what would happen in Humanities on a Thursday, all day seemed too much!! But we have done loads of different things – putting up tents, finding out how I learn, a cyber bullying campaign, tasting different foods, getting to know ourselves, school and form, building our confidence, cooking on a stove, working in teams, managing our time on tasks and investigating a murder mystery.

This is in STREET, a new project developed by Mrs Crosby and Mrs Newton just for us at Shirebrook Academy. While we're doing all these different things there are 6 bears to help us!!

By Macy Kissane 7SI



Here's what we thought of school from our first day in STREET

Shirebrook Academy

Shirebrook Academy is the best,
And we do lots of tests,
Shirebrook Academy is all we need,
The teachers help us read,
Our head of year is Mr Freer,
And he helps us through every year.

By Josh, Macy and James 7SI

Shirebrook Academy

Shirebrook Academy is the best, even though the building is a mess.
But the teachers meet the test,
Teachers are full of fun
And if you are good you get it done,
The uniform is so cool
So let's celebrate the new school!!

By Brad, Nell and Victoria 7SI

Day 1 – Working together to meet the challenge!

STREET Week 1 – by Kellsie 7SI

Getting to know myself and my form

Today we did confidence games and I stood up in front of the class and did a speech about me. I worked with Aaron and Jordon. I learnt how to make an atlas stand and meet a new challenge. I also learnt how to work better in a team and complete a task.

From today I will look forward to Thursday's and work better in a team.

I thought my first day in STREET was - Excellent!



Day 2

Presenting how we learn.

STREET Week 2 – by Libby 7SI

How do I learn?

Today I discovered my learning style is VAK – all of them. I like to learn in a variety of ways. We also talked about how emotions can affect our learning. I learnt that I am VAK, I like to see, do and listen. I also like to fiddle lots!

From today I will make sure I think about how I learn and also make sure I get a good night's sleep!



Day 3

Tasting the food.

STREET Week 3 – by Rebecca 7SI

Healthy Living

Today we tried lots of different cereals in the morning and I discovered I don't like muesli. I learnt that it is important to eat breakfast as it starts your body and sets you up for the day. I also learnt that it is ok to go to fast food shops sometimes!

From today I will try different foods at different times and always eat breakfast!



Day 4

Tackling the tents and investigating a murder mystery

STREET Week 4 – by Brad and Neil 7SI

There's no "I" in team

Today we looked at what makes a good team, like a football team. We went onto the field and put up a tent and made hot dogs. In the afternoon we worked in teams and solved a murder mystery. I learnt that it is important to work in a team so that we can get the job done. We didn't win but we didn't argue either.

From today I will always work in a team and not leave anyone out.



Day 5

Photo Stories

STREET Week 5 – by Josh 7SI

Building good relationships

Today we thought about what makes a good friend and a bad friend. We saw how bullying can affect people and produced a piece of artwork on how to stop bullying. Today I learnt what qualities make a good friend and I hope I am one. I also learnt how to prevent bullying and protect myself online.

From today I will be a good friend and not get involved in bullying.



The best is yet to come as STREET really gets going!

A Memorable Occasion



Our own Mrs Walters and Mr Hand joined their fellow Thoresby Colliery band members on September 11th and played at the memorial service for the families and friends of those who lost their life in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The service was held in Grosvenor square (a large memorial garden outside the American Embassy in central London) and was attended by many dignitaries including HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, Boris Johnson, David Cameron, Nick Clegg, Dame Judi Dench and the American Ambassador. The band played all the music for the service which was aired live in BBC1 with a running commentary by David Dimbleby.

Festival of the environment

15 Year 7 students spent a fun filled two days working with an artist to produce Musical instruments.

They interviewed local residents and travelled the surrounding area to collect and record the sights and sounds of Shirebrook. They then worked together to produce contemporary instruments which reflect the sounds of the Landscape.

Their fantastic work was showcased at the festival of the environment at Creswell Crags.



High Adventure

On Friday October 7 2011 seventeen students and four members of staff from Shirebrook Academy attended a physical education residential at High Adventure in Derbyshire Dales.

All the students and staff had an amazing time and enjoyed every minute of their time spent there. Everyone in the group had the chance to participate in archery on the first evening and on the second evening they had to navigate their way around an amazing underground man made labyrinth. During the days of the weekend the students were split into groups and spent hours working on their rock climbing or mountain biking skills in an attempt to get an assessment level to help with their GCSE grade overall.

Everyone put maximum effort into everything they did and it paid off as the grades that were gained were excellent. Everyone left with a sense of achievement having learned many new skills throughout the time spent at High Adventure.

All the students who attended High Adventure should be very proud of themselves and walk with their head held high! Also all the students would like to say a massive thank you to all of the staff who supervised them during the week including the High Adventure staff and the academy staff but a special thank you has to

go to Mrs Bloor, the principal for giving us the opportunity and for helping with the funding of the weekend.



Important Dates & Forthcoming Events

15 November 6pm - 7pm

Ex Y11 GCSE Certificate Evening

26 November - 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Winter Wonderland Event

1 December - **Target Review Day**

1 December - **Post-16 Parents Evening**

6 December - **Christmas Concert**

15 December 11.30am

Carols in the Market Place

16 December - **Last day of term**

4 January - **School re-opens**