



## Exciting Times Ahead.

Exciting things are happening at Shirebrook! No one can have failed to notice the impressive progress the new building is making and I know the whole community is really looking forward to the opening. Hopefully everyone is also aware of how fantastic our results were this year. Year 11 made us really proud and put Shirebrook Academy on the map as the highest achieving school in the Bolsover and Staveley area!! An impressive 97% of our students gained 5A\*-C passes and 65% of them did so with maths and English. What I was really proud of was that EVERY student at the Academy left with at least 5 passes at A\*-G. We work hard to ensure that all students, regardless of how academic or not they are leave with qualifications that will help them in their future careers. It was lovely to reward so many of our ex-Y11's at our annual 'Celebration of Success'. I am also delighted that so many ex-Y11's have chosen to come back into school, volunteering and working to support younger students at the Academy. They are excellent role models.

The opening of the new build will be an exciting event for the whole community. We are told that things are on target and we very much hope to open after the Easter break. We are planning a range of events to showcase the new build to everyone in the community. We want

to make the first day for students really special and we are planning a community evening on May 8<sup>th</sup> (4-7 p.m.) when everyone in the community will be welcomed for a look around (one for the diary). The new building will not only be much more comfortable but it will also have far better, more accessible facilities inside and out. The full sized 3G floodlit pitch will be the only one of its type for miles around and will hopefully support Shirebrook Rangers in their training of Shirebrook youngsters. The vision for the new build is that it will be open from early in the morning for students to come in and have breakfast or finish homework until late at night. We hope to be open to the community in the evenings and to run educational classes, be a facility that people can book and run events such as film nights and sporting clubs. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and I hope to see lots of you at our Winter Wonderland event on Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> (our last community event in the old building!)

*Julie Bloor*

Principal,  
Shirebrook Academy



# Sports Day Report

By Leanne Tonks and Lisa Scutt

On June 27 2012 Shirebrook Academy held their annual sports day and for the second time in two years the venue was Moorways stadium in Derby. It was an early start for the PE staff and year 11 and 12 leaders at the Moorways stadium as they went about setting up all the equipment for the upcoming excitement. The rest of the staff and students were back at school putting on the various brightly coloured t-shirts to represent their allocated continents, which turned out to be a massive boost to the fantastic atmosphere of the day. Each form group made banners and bunting to show the support and team spirit for the competitors in their teams. As the staff and students travelled to the Moorways stadium for what was an amazing day the atmosphere began to build with each continent chanting and singing along the journey.

As the buses arrived in the car park of the Stadium you could feel the tension of the competition starting to build. Each form was then lead towards the track ready for what was an awesome opening ceremony that ended with the students stood in a human montage of the Olympic rings in the centre of the track. As the continents then walked around the track and into the stands the anxiety of the competitors began to show.

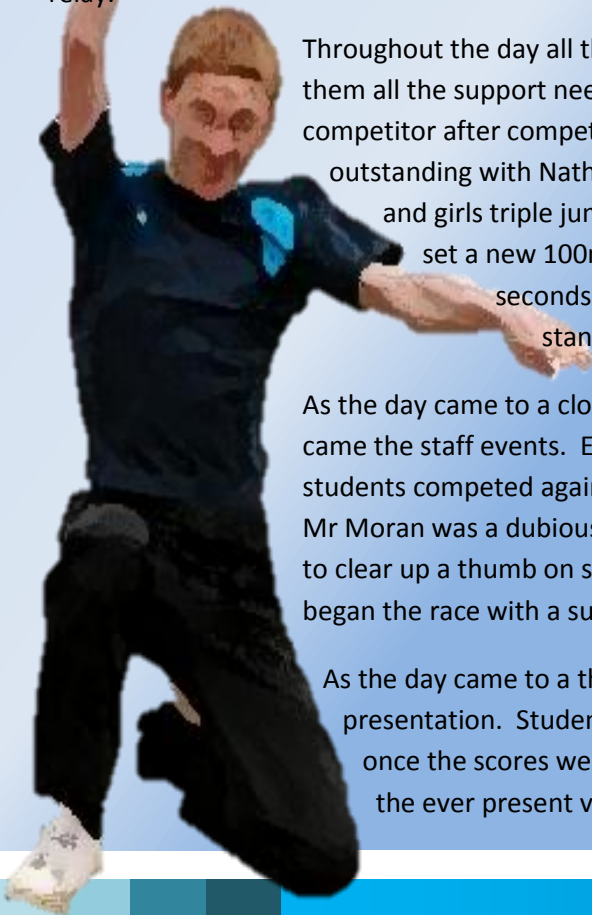
The day was topped off by the fact that Stubbin Wood school were able to join Shirebrook Academy for the day. The Stubbin Wood athletes competed in a range of track and field events with the pinnacle of their events being the relay. The stands rocked with the screams and cheers as the Stubbin Wood athletes completed their relay.



Throughout the day all the students were cheering their continent and competitors to give them all the support needed to pull through their events. School records tumbled as competitor after competitor excelled at their chosen events. Some of the records were outstanding with Nathan Clarke and Kirstie Morton setting the new record for year 10 boys and girls triple jump with jumps of 11.37m and 9.90m respectively. Bradley Drew also set a new 100m record for the year 10 boys winning the race with a time of 11.92 seconds. Sixteen records fell on the day demonstrating the outstanding standard of the students on the day.

As the day came to a close the students couldn't be sent home without a laugh! So along came the staff events. Each department, the post 16 students and the previous year 11 students competed against each other in the three legged race and the egg and spoon race. Mr Moran was a dubious winner of the egg and spoon race with a stewards inquiry needed to clear up a thumb on spoon incident and the pairing of Brya Holloway and Ashleigh Everett began the race with a super start and maintained their lead to win the race comfortably.

As the day came to a thrilling end it was time for the closing ceremony finishing with the presentation. Students and staff were eager to find out who the final winners were and once the scores were collated and the tension had built the results were announced by the ever present voice of Mr Edwards over the PA system.







The year 7 winners were 7SD with an amazing performance, the year 8 results were a close call as two forms came joint 1<sup>st</sup> which were the forms of 8JO and 8NH, same again with year 9 as there was 1 point separating the winners and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, but managing to scrape the 1 point were forms 9AC and 9CS. Last but not least were year 10, their events were close all day but the one form that managed to pull through with outstanding performances was 10LH who were crowned champions for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Finally, the overall continent winners for the 2nd year running were Australasia.

*"Every year since I have been at the school, sports day has just got better and better! I didn't think it could get much better but it just did! Well done to all concerned". T. Croft*

*"It's a super show of what Shirebrook Academy students and staff can do working together". L. Smalley*

*"It's a great chance for the students to bond together, not just as a form, but as a school. A great day for everyone, enjoyed by all." J. Moran*

*"Sports Day brings all the students and staff together- it showcases our talent and shows what makes the academy so great! It's a day of celebration!" L. Ward*

# Thank You

Overall a big thank you goes out to all students taking part and attending the day, to the staff that brought the students to the event and who took on roles that they wouldn't normally do and also a big thank you to the Post 16 students that organised the event and the previous year 11 students that came along to help.







## Y9 visit Nottingham Trent University.

Students in Year 9 had the opportunity to visit a local university campus and find out about Higher Education during a recent visit to Nottingham Trent University. Hosted in the impressive new facilities in Nottingham, students worked with university undergraduates on a number of activities – a tour of the campus, information about how to get into university, and lots of discussion about student life. The day ended with students giving some excellent presentations in the lecture theatre to show what they had learnt (including a ‘high school musical’ style dance performance!). Staff and undergraduates at Nottingham Trent University commented on the fantastic behaviour and attitude of our students – well done!

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Shirebrook Academy students enjoyed going out on work experience for two weeks in July. Placements varied from restaurants and shops to construction and engineering with students travelling as far afield as London and Portsmouth.

Staff from the academy visited students whilst on placement, one member of staff who visited Leah Cooper had this to say; “I have visited Leah this afternoon on her work experience at the CHAD as an assistant journalist. Leah has impressed them with her ideas, dedication and writing skills, so much so that they have published an article of hers in the CHAD. For those that teach Leah you will know how much progress she has made in Year 10 and she is absolutely thrilled!”



*Amy Chawner at Bellissimo Hairdressers*



*Dylan Holland at Willow Tree Farm*

**Big thanks to all the employers who were able to offer placements to our students!**



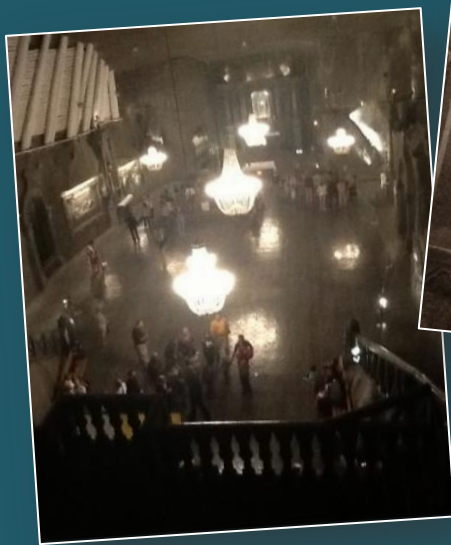
## Krakow

For the third year running the humanities department at Shirebrook Academy have lead a residential for GCSE students to Krakow, Poland. The main aims of this trip are to visit Auschwitz, Schindler's Factory, the Jewish Ghetto and Weisciz Salt Mines.

When visiting the Salt Mines, students could not resist licking the walls to see if they were salt and were awed by the level of details within the cathedral, though no one volunteered to stay underground for four weeks like the miners had.

The trip to Auschwitz was met with a level of respect and understanding when shown the details of the final Holocaust. This reinforced their learning at GCSE and should remind them that '*history once forgotten is doomed to be repeated*'.

The staff and students together enjoyed the vibrancy and culture of Krakow and were luckily enough to see the Jazz festival with street parades and open air concerts.



## Bakewell Show

Several of our students artwork made it into the final of the mural competition and was produced as a large scale piece of work in the Bakewell Show back in August. This work was done with teachers Mr Rob Atkin and Mr Jonathan Fullwood.

This is a major win for the academy of which we are extremely proud; so a big well done to the following students

**Chloe Frew  
Natalie Toon  
Britany Stubbs  
Jordan Taylor  
Kelsey Wilson  
Bradley Dunstan  
Bridie Shorthose  
Chloe Ford  
Jordan Wilkinson  
Lauren Topham  
Connor Kirk  
Callum Gregory**

*Each student won VIP family tickets to the show and a picnic lunch! Students were invited with their parents to the official unveiling in July.*

*Well Done!*

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Shirebrook Academy is proud to announce that they have been re-credited with the International School Award for the next 3 years. The award is for the range of international work taking place in and around the school, helping students to learn about the wider world and appreciate different cultures.

### **Activities in the past year have included:**

- Languages Week.
- Olympic themed sports activities.
- Y7 Street Curriculum.
- Trips to the Holocaust Centre, Derby Open Centre, and Krakow.
- Citizenship themed super learning days.

International Links with schools in Sudan and Nigeria were formed as part of a Connecting Classrooms project with Stubbin Wood and Brookfield Primary schools.



**INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL AWARD**  
2012-2015

# Community Fun Day

## Peppa Pig and quad bikes help Shirebrook Academy put on a great day of summer fun

Quad bike rides and children's TV star Peppa Pig's attempts at zumba were just two of the highlights as more than 1,000 people attended Shirebrook Academy's community fun day back in July.

The event, which was staged at the academy also saw visitors enjoy craft stalls, a bouncy castle, music and sports demonstrations, as well as visits from charities and community groups.





The fun day was originally intended to take place outside on the school field, but all but a few events were brought inside because of the threat of rain. However, when the showers did arrive, they failed to dampen enthusiasm for the free event, which was hailed as a great success.



Julie Bloor said: "We started the event last year as a way to help us put the school at the heart of the community and we were delighted to see so many people turning out to support us once again. We were certainly helped by some lovely sunny weather in the morning, and although we had to dodge some showers in the afternoon, everyone was kept busy right through the day. The quad bikes on the tennis courts were particularly popular, while Peppa Pig went down extremely well too."



*"The sight of Peppa Pig on stage doing some Zumba moves will certainly live long in the memory."*





# Summer School

## Head of Year report

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July sixty eight Year 6 students from Park Junior School joined the Academy for a two week transition programme. The purpose of the programme was to integrate students into Academy life and ease any fears they may have about starting Secondary School. Additionally, three students not due to attend the Academy in September joined the future Year 7, taking part in all planned activities. The transition programme was conveniently timetabled to coincide with the absence of Year 10 students on work experience and the departure of Year 11.

In line with the Park Junior pastoral structure students were registered during the Academy registration periods by a member of SLT, their future Head of Year and a Year 7 tutor. This allowed students to establish early relationships with staff and have a familiar face for when they started in September. Students were given daily updates and information regarding the programme whilst also allowing the students to become accustomed to Academy timings and day to day procedures.

A personalised curriculum was adopted where students experienced a range of activities throughout the course of the two weeks. All activities had a fun element; however, learning was at the forefront. Subject teaching staff delivered sessions, with teaching assistant support where necessary. Park Junior School had provided the Academy with relevant information regarding students learning needs, this proved very useful.

One of the highlights of the week was the trip to Derbyshire County Council's Lea Green. This was the first opportunity students had to get to know their form tutors. Park students were transported by the Academy, meeting the other primary schools at Lea Green in the morning.

Six Year 9 Academy helpers also came along, attaching themselves to a tutor group each to facilitate and help out throughout the day. Assembled as a year group for the first time it was a great opportunity for students to enjoy themselves and start to build relationships with other students and staff. Form tutors completed all the activities with the students, finding it a very productive and worthwhile day. Even miserable weather failed to dampen student' experiences and everyone had a fantastic day.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July saw the Academy host the entire future Year 7 cohort in the Year 6 induction day. Activities were led by form tutors for the majority of the day with the day ending with a parents evening to give information for the forthcoming year. Following an introduction from Mr Gilbert, Mrs Bloor and the Head of Year parents had the opportunity to meet their child's tutor and ask any questions that may have arisen. On Thursday of week one, Park students were placed back into their pastoral groups to take part in a "Humanities day" very similar to the STREET curriculum they experience when in Year 7. Students showed their creative side, impressing staff with the way they embraced the tasks given to them.

The culmination of the week was another trip, this time to Clumber Park. Park students were accompanied by members of staff including the head of year to take part in a number of outdoor adventurous activities that once again built relationships, reinforced Academy expectations and allowed students to feel comfortable in the presence of the Academy staff. Clumber Park staff commented on how well behaved and motivated students were, once again in the rain!





After an action packed first week, students returned to the Academy looking forward to the week ahead. The second week saw students take part in PE, Music, Art, literacy and one of the Academy's "super learning day's". The super learning day was an all-day event that took place in the school hall. Tutors worked with their form group to design and construct their own new school building, considering aspects such as facilities, rules, uniform, classroom layout and motto's. The Academy's senior leadership team were invited to judge student designs with prizes awarded for the best.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July the Park students spent their last day with us as year 6 students. In the morning Park primary teachers came in to give students their SATs results, this was a lovely gesture and almost a "passing of the flame" moment in their transition from primary to secondary school. Students then spent the remainder of the morning using the Academy iPads to create videos to summarise their experiences in the transition programme. Students were given creative license and free roam of the Academy to produce the videos. The week had a fantastic ending with students having front row seats to watch "Shirebrook's got talent". Park students were willing audience members getting fully involved in the event.

Throughout the course of the two weeks Park students were outstanding in everything they did. Behaviour and attendance were superb throughout the week with no issues arising. Park students interacted superbly with the Key stage 3 students who were very accommodating and welcoming to the Year 6's, helping out when they could and pointing students in the right direction when required. The two week programme was superb in allowing the Park students to familiarise themselves with the Academy environment and make a fantastic start to Year 7. More than anything the programme filled students with confidence and put to bed any fears they had about starting at Shirebrook Academy. Since returning in September Park students have stood out in the first week back as leaders in their tutor groups, full of confidence and as if they are already well established Shirebrook Academy students.

**N McGuinness** (*Head of Year 7*)

## Student Views...

**By Laura Kay 7CB**

First, I think the transition is a great experience and opportunity. It helped me to get ready for Year 7 but also because I felt nervous at first it helped me to be more confident. We took part in a competition where we had to create a new school featuring uniform, building and other details. We did all different lessons which were all fun. 'Shirebrook's Got Talent' took part on the last day and pupils from the Academy were dancing, singing and performing magic. Even some of the teachers showed what they are made of!

In the programme we went on two trips. On the second day we went to Lea Green where we spent the day with our form for Year 7. Our form tutor joined us in every activity, my experience was the best. The second trip was to Clumber Park for the day where we learnt many things including about insects and how and where to find them. Mr McGuinness and Mr Gilbert did a game of football, rounders and quick cricket. We even went on the adventure park.

If you get the chance I would recommend you do it, it is a once in a lifetime experience!

**By Dana O'Donnell 7CT**

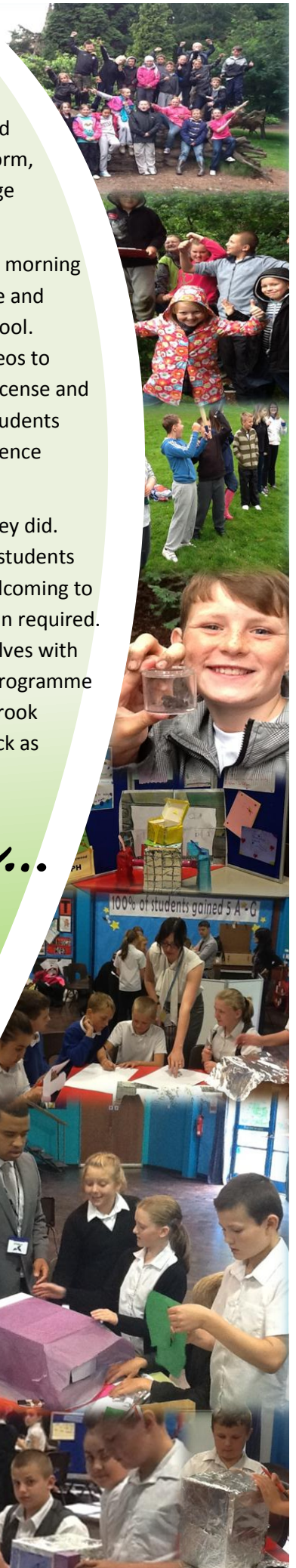
Lea Green was fun because we made a den. I saw a big spider as big as your fist. At Clumber Park we played a game and found some interesting features. Music was good because the teachers were nice to us.

Science was really fun because Mr Foster is funny. He tried to set £10 on fire and made us laugh by saying our names funny. The teachers were helpful to us and made us laugh so much. We got to make our way round the school, it was hard at the beginning but we found the way.

Physical Education was good because you get to do fun things like play Simon Said. Art was good because you get to make pretty pictures like taking your shoe off and drawing it and shading and adding detail. I loved the whole experience.

**The Trips**

Lea Green was amazing because I got to see all my form for the first time. At Clumber park it got slippery and people fell over but it was still fun. We did an insect safari, rounders and orienteering.



# Shirebrook Academy Summer School

## *success on an 'Olympic' scale!*

Shirebrook Academy held two Summer schools during the six weeks' holiday, both based on the London 2012 Olympics and the Olympic and Paralympic values.

The first Summer school (from Monday 23 July to Friday 27 July) was open to all Year 6 students from local feeder primaries and a total of 80 students attended. Transport was provided for those students who required it and a lunch was given each day- which was very well received by students and staff alike!

Lessons based on the Olympic/Paralympic values (Courage, Equality, Friendship, Inspiration, Determination, Respect and Excellence) were delivered by Academy staff and incorporated tasks that enabled students to develop these qualities and to produce creative work for the Summer school showcase held on the Friday afternoon.

After each session, students were provided with a wristband stating the Olympic value they had earned and completed a journal which enabled them to reflect on their learning.

Students were also provided with four novels linked to the 2012 Olympics to read during the week and to develop reading skills at home and in form time when in Year 7 plus a water bottle, bag and stationery set, to ensure that they received true 'star' treatment and to prepare them for future learning.

On the Wednesday, students were provided with a "Bushcraft" experience at Sherwood Pines led by Karina Thornton, Ranger at Sherwood Pines. Students spent their morning pond dipping for 'river beasts', orienteering to develop their teamwork skills and testing their agility on the Adventure playground.

After a picnic lunch, students were then divided into four groups and tried their hands at fire-lighting, shelter building, Rounders and football matches and creative artwork using forest debris and natural materials.

It was a superb day thoroughly enjoyed by students and it really helped to build relationships and enable students to develop their teamwork skills and Olympic values even further.

Friday's Celebration showcase allowed students to present their work to each other and to their parents and for staff to reward prizes to those students who had most demonstrated the Olympic values; winners were given a copy of the Guinness Book of Olympic Records 2012.

From 20-24 August, Shirebrook Academy hosted its second Summer school-this time a Sports School run by PLT sports, Physical education teacher Alex Marsh, and technician Tiffany Musgrove and supported by other Shirebrook Academy staff.

The 'Sports School' allowed students to experience eight different sports over the week with activities such as Handball, Netball, Kickboxing and Athletics being on offer. Students received a water bottle and a certificate for each sport they participated in which they could then add to their Shirebrook Academy Record of Achievement portfolio. Students selected as being 'the best' in the sport, were awarded a medal by PLT staff and given a round of applause by their Peers!!

The week finished with sporting activities delivered by Alex Marsh and Tiffany Musgrove and the Celebration showcase at the end of the week, highlighted the Sports school's success and the students' enjoyment, in a film created by Corey Rodgers and Adam Parsons (ex Year 11 students).

Overall, the two Summer schools, a new venture for Shirebrook Academy, were both highly received by the students, staff and parents and were two enjoyable, rewarding weeks from start to finish. Ultimately, they were a great way of ensuring the seamless transition of Year 6 students into the Shirebrook Academy 'way of life' in preparation for starting in September-the Summer schools were truly an 'Olympic' success!!





# A NEW ERA BEGINS...

On Thursday 27th September the Year 7 football team made their sporting debut v Tibshelf away. With players still learning names and getting used to the attacking style of play insisted on by coach Mr McGuinness it was apparent there were teething problems to the new era. Shirebrook quickly went down with a couple of counter attacking goals scored by a talented Tibshelf front line. After some inspired substitutions and good organisation from defenders Lawson Widdowson and Jake Carrington the ship soon began to steady, however a further two goals were conceded meaning the team went in 4-0 down at half time.

Following a lengthy half time discussion and players reflecting on their first half performance Shirebrook came out the traps like the proverbial whippet chasing the rabbit. Within 10 minutes captain Brandon Clarke had made a fantastic blind side run on the shoulder of the Tibshelf Centre Back to go through one on one with the keeper. Staring into the whites of his eyes he kept his cool to delightfully roll the ball into the back of the net to make it 4-1. Shirebrook could smell blood and were determined to put the first half drubbing behind them, riding their luck at times the Year 7's pushed and pushed until pressure took its toll and Aaron Widdowson scored with a bullet header from a Brandon Clarke corner.

Final score was 4-2 but overall a pleasing performance with Shirebrook technically winning the second half 2-0. Training and reflection will only make the team stronger and with time the team will gel to become an undoubted force within Derbyshire.



# Duke of Edinburgh

On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September a select group of Duke of Edinburgh students attended a day at Lea Green development centre.

The morning started early with some very tired looking faces, all huddled together to stay warm. Chrissie our instructor arranged for a well needed cup of tea to get the group going.

After our safety talk the group was kitted up and were lead out to the TEAM SWING. Everybody stood speechless not knowing what was going to happen.

Keagan Dockwray (Y11) and Mr Anthony (science technician) stepped up first, being hoisted high into the air by the rest of the group. The countdown 3, 2, 1, the anticipation, the screams they headed towards the ground at a hurtling speed and back up again, held on only by their harnesses. The group then all had a go to experience the team swing.

The group then moved onto the next activity which was known as the high ropes, this involved working in groups of four to balance on a tall narrow platform which was done with ease well almost!! Chloe Ford (AKA spidergirl) jumped for the trapeze bar several times and looked at ease as she balanced on the poles and the ropes. The course pushed the students to their extremes ensuring they all communicated with each other and helped each other if they got stuck half way up the pole!!

Lunch time and peace and quiet!! As the students filled up on a variety of foods provided, a quick pitstop before the next activity.

The day was finished off during a GPS orienteering task finding clues to complete the murder mystery. A tired looking bunch then made their way home. A good day enjoyed by all!!



# Celebrating Sporting Achievements

## Shirebrook Academy students are recognised for their sporting achievements

Shirebrook Academy students of the past, present and future came together to celebrate their efforts and commitments to sport at the Bolsover Sports Awards held at Shirebrook Leisure Centre back in September.

Casey Rossiter (post 16) was reorganised for her commitment to dance leadership; Katie Heaps (Y10) was awarded for her success in designing the winning torch for the Shirebrook Cluster in the design a torch competition; Natalia Rea (post 16) came runner up in the 'Sports Woman of the year' category; Luke Widdowson (Y10), Andrew Bingley (Y9), Jordan Lowe (Y9) and Tony Walters (Y10) were awarded for their success as part of the Shirebrook Academy and Tibshelf School Sports Hall Athletics Plus Team who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Derbyshire School Games.

We would like to congratulate our 'School-Club-Links' clubs, Shirebrook Judo Club and Shirebrook Bowls Club who received their Clubmark awards and other local, Shirebrook successes including Jim Clarke (Service to sport nomination); Lee Walters (Community Coach of the year nomination); and Connor Emery (Junior Sportsman of the year nomination) for their nominations.

Finally, the night was topped off as Model Village School were awarded Champion school winners and Shirebrook Academy 2012 leaver and star Mason Bennett was awarded Sportsperson of the year 2012.





# Sporting News...

## 'Inspire a Generation' –

### The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games inspired Shirebrook Academy students!

At the end of the summer term, Brya Le Holloway (post 16), Ashleigh Everett (post 16), Megan Dillon (post 16) and Jade Humphries (Y11) made their way to Old Trafford, Manchester to watch USA v Korea in the Olympic Women's Football Competition. The USA team were dominant and came to the game with confidence which ultimately led them to a 1-0 win and eventually a gold medal at the Games. Megan Dillon said "it was a great experience; it has really made me think about looking at going to the States for a Soccer Scholarship once I have finished my course".



After an amazing summer of sport four Academy students returned to school from their summer holidays knowing that they had been selected to go to the Paralympic games as a reward for their efforts in PE throughout 2011/12. Awake at the crack of dawn, Molly Attenborough, Reece Saxton, Macauley Carrington and Joshua Hewitt found themselves on their way to the Olympic Park and Stadium to watch Paralympic Athletics. They witnessed GB athletes, Hannah Cockroft qualify for the T34 200m final, Beverly Jones grab gold in the discus throw and caught a glimpse of Oscar Pistorius as he collected his Gold medal for the 4x100 relay. Molly Attenborough said "I have been waiting all summer for today! It was amazing! We were really close to the blind long jump competition. The athletes are really skilful; their coach had to communicate to them by clapping and shouting signals so they knew when to do their take off. It was a real challenge for the crowd as we all had to be silent when the athletes were taking their jumps, I have never seen 80,000 go silent and then raw with cheers once the athletes had finished their jumps, brilliant!"





# Shirebrook Cluster School Sports

*Shirebrook Schools  
take a clean sweep!*

## Football Festival

Competitions and festivals are organised throughout the year for students in Y1 to Y6. This year's calendar kicked off at Model Village Primary School on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September when teams from Model Village Primary, Brookfield Primary and Whaley Thorns came together to take part in the Y5/6 Cluster Football competition. Despite the wind and rain students played some excellent football. The competition was officiated by Shirebrook Academy students Nathan Clarke (Y11), Elliott Edmunds (Y10) and Scott Patterson (Y10).

## Celebrations

Students at Shirebrook Primary Schools are celebrating as they become Bolsover District champions!

Congratulations to Brookfield Primary School who won the Small Schools Mini Soccer Competition and Model Village Primary School who took two trophies home when they won both the Large Schools and Girls Mini Soccer competitions! Well done!

## Tag Rugby Festival

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October saw Year 5 and 6 students from Anthony Bek and Model Village go head to head for a place in the Bolsover District final. After an end to end game with both teams playing fantastic tag rugby the game had to be decided by 'Golden Try'. Anthony Bek scored first and will represent the Shirebrook Cluster at the district final. Well done to both teams and good luck to Anthony Bek in the final!

## Football Plus Festival

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, eleven Year 12 students from Shirebrook Academy planned and organised a Football Plus festival at Brookfield Primary School. Forty students from Years 3-6 attended the afternoon. Students from Brookfield, Whaley Thorns and Stubbin Wood Schools all took part in an afternoon of skills and drills before having a small sided game and a penalty shoot-out! The afternoon was enjoyed by all!

## KS1 Gymnastics Festival

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, sixty KS1 students from Whaley Thorns, Model Village, Brookfield and Stubbin Wood Schools attended an afternoon of Gymnastics activities at Shirebrook Academy. After a thorough warm up, students made their way around four activity stations each focusing on a different component of gymnastics. Students perfected their balances, travelling and jumping skills before demonstrating their 'presenting' position.

## *Legacy Leaders*

Shirebrook Academy has a great reputation for nurturing good sports and dance leaders, some of whom are already out in the community supporting and volunteering at local clubs. Last year the 'Flames' leader project provided a variety of opportunities for Y9 Literacy, Arts and Sport Leaders to develop their leadership skills around the theme of the 2012 Olympics, as a continuation of the project the PE department are pleased to announce the 'Legacy Leaders' project. Fifteen Y9 students have been selected to form the '2012 legacy leaders' group. These students will get the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a variety of sporting opportunities over the next year. In partnership with the Bolsover and District School Sports Partnership and Bolsover District Council students will receive high quality training and have access to a range of sport specific leadership training. Watch this space for updates over the year!





# THE ACADEMY AND THE COMMUNITY

## It's back, and better than ever!

Shirebrook Academy is delighted to open its doors to the community each Wednesday evening by offering fantastic activities for all the family!

For a limited time all the activities are **FREE** of charge and include—

**Film Club**—showing the latest family films

*Check the Academy website for the feature film of the week*

**Table Tennis Club**—fun for all the family

**Belly Dancing for beginners**

**Multi Sports Club**—all your favourite activities

**Polish Language class** (6pm-7pm)

### *Come along and have a go!*

*All children under the age of 8 must be supervised.*

*There is no requirement to book,  
however places at each session are limited  
in number so please arrive early*



Contact person: Andy Gilbert

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 5.00pm-6.30pm

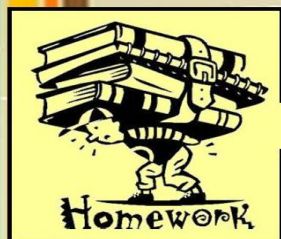
All the activities take place in various locations at

Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook NG20 8QF Tel: 01623742722

Email: [a.gilbert@ShirebrookAcademy.org](mailto:a.gilbert@ShirebrookAcademy.org) Website: [www.shirebrookacademy.org](http://www.shirebrookacademy.org)



Academy Community Evening



## If it's becoming back breaking?

# WHY DO IT AT HOME?

Get the support **YOU** need with **YOUR** homework or coursework every Wednesday

**3.15-4.30pm**

Years 7, 8 and 9—Library

Years 10 and 11—H3

Transport home may be provided

Leave your evenings free to do the things you enjoy!



## WHY DO IT AT HOME CLUB?

Since June the Why Do It At Home Club has gone from strength to strength. We now regularly have over 20 students attending each week from Year Groups 7, 8 and 9. The students enjoy receiving the help they need while working in the relaxing environment of the library. Students can feel safe staying after school because transport home is provided and they can also enjoy a drink and a snack. I have been totally overwhelmed by the success and also the support from staff and students and look forward to continuing our success in the new academy.



# THE ACADEMY AND THE COMMUNITY

## SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

Common Lane, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG20 8QF



*Will be transformed into a*  
**Winter Wonderland**  
**Saturday 8 December**

**1pm-5pm**

Petting  
Zoo

Fun &  
Games

Santa's  
Grotto

Yuletide  
Refreshments

Seasonal  
Stalls

For more information see our website  
[www.shirebrookacademy.org](http://www.shirebrookacademy.org)

Common Lane, Shirebrook,  
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG20 8QF

Telephone **01623 742722**

email: [a.gilbert@shirebrookacademy.org](mailto:a.gilbert@shirebrookacademy.org)



'Are you a  
community  
group  
looking for  
somewhere to  
have meetings  
or fancy a  
game of  
Badminton?'

Shirebrook  
Academy  
has a variety  
of facilities  
available for  
hire including  
the Hall,  
the studio,  
gyms and  
tennis  
courts!

For enquiries  
& bookings,  
call

**01623**

**748313**

# Telephone 01623 742722



# Languages Week 2012

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012



*Shirebrook Academy celebrated Languages Week, 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 (Spaghetti Bolognese, pizza and tiramisu), and a chance for students to learn some Italian in their language lessons. Lunchtime's Italian art session gave students the opportunity to produce their own version of a famous Italian painting, with James Russell (9JK) being crowned the winner with his 'Mana Lisa', taking home a £10 Amazon voucher, and Abbie Topham (7RW) and Ellie Hughes (8SD) taking second and third prizes of a £5 Amazon voucher and Ferrero Rocher respectively. After-school there was an Italian pizza making session with Miss Staniforth, which was well attended by 20 students and a number of staff as well!



**Tuesday** was Russian day – a new introduction for 2012! As well as having a chance to try some Russian food in the diner at lunch-time (Mushroom stroganoff, chicken Kiev and shokoladniy tort), a Russian doll racing event was staged by Mrs. Booth, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Edwards! The winning entrant was Rebecca Smith (7CB) who assembled her Russian doll in a record quick time of 9.87 seconds! Her prize was her own Russian doll! Unfortunately for Mrs. Booth, staff were not eligible to enter the competition – otherwise her lightning sharp time of 8 SECONDS would have seen her crowned champion! Also on this day, Year 7 student Sarah Robottom was crowned winner of the Languages Week Logo competition – her design will be used to advertise next year's Languages Week events, and she took away a Eurovision CD and Amazon voucher as a prize! Students also learnt some basic Russian and tasted Ukrainian sweets in their MFL lessons!



**Wednesday** was aimed at valuing the contribution which our Polish students and Polish residents make to the Academy and the community, as we celebrated 'Polish day'! The day started off with a Languages Week quiz, which saw 8SD crowned as overall winners. Lunchtime saw hundreds of students flock to C2B to meet Polish professional footballer Bartosz Bialkowski. Bartosz kindly took time out of his busy training schedule to be a part of our day, and took the time to talk to staff and students, pose for photographs and sign hundreds of autographs – some students even tried to speak Polish with him. The day was particularly memorable for our Polish students, who met Bartosz on his arrival and posed for photographs for a number of local newspapers. The event was also attended by three members of the Polish community, who brought speciality Polish dishes in to the Academy for students to try as they queued to meet Bartosz. Plates were empty by the end of lunchtime – the Polish food had clearly gone down well with staff and students alike!



Massive thanks go to Bartosz and members of the Polish community for giving up their time to be a part of Languages Week.



**Thursday** saw the Academy celebrate the language which the majority of its students learn – French! The day started with a game of ‘pétanque’ in T2M – representatives from each form in the Academy battled it out to be crowned winner, but eventually Matthew Bullars (11MF), Perry Russell (10LS), Molly Attenborough (9SR) and Levi Johnson (7RW) carried away the prize of a stylish French beret to wear for the day, and a French pin badge. Lunchtime saw the arrival of two very special guests. **Stéphane Luiggi and Frederick Loliott** (*owners of the French Living restaurant in Nottingham*) visited the academy to perform a live cooking demonstration and wowed students with their culinary expertise.

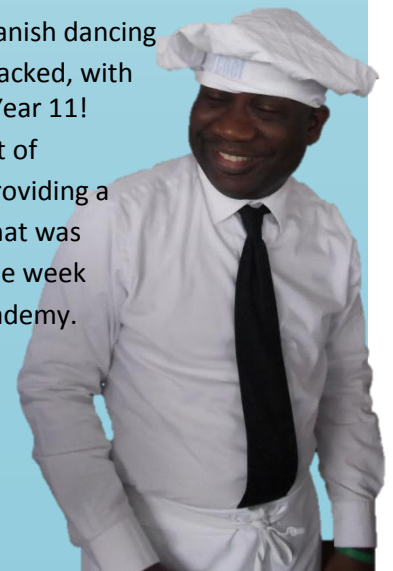
Traditional home-made mayonnaise with French bread, a vegetable ragout and eggs mimosa was created within a 30 minute time frame! **Stéphane and Frederick** then invited Year 9 students Thom Robinson and McKenzie Smith, as well as Mr. Moran and Mrs. Mehrotra-Hughes on to the stage to perform a live cook-off! The close of the event saw students flock to the front to sample what had been created, leaving very little left by the end of lunch time! Huge thanks go to **Stéphane and Frederick** for agreeing to be such a big part of our week, and for travelling from Nottingham to be with us – they would love to see you at French Living in the near future [www.frenchliving.co.uk](http://www.frenchliving.co.uk)

**Friday** the final day of the week was dedicated to celebrating the Spanish language and culture! Paella was served in the diner, and the final tutor based activity saw students try to guess the names of Spanish speaking celebrities whose faces had been blurred out – the prize on offer for four lucky tutor sets, was a traditional Piñata (a donkey stuffed with toys, sweets and other goodies!). The winning tutor sets were – 8JM, 9BG, 10LS and 11LH.

The final lunch time activity of the week saw students flock to the hall to take part in a Spanish dancing session led by Mrs. Booth, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Edwards. It was fantastic to see the hall so packed, with equal numbers of boys and girls, ranging from Year 7 to Year 11!

Some of the moves on show were nothing short of

SPECTACULAR, providing a fitting end to what was a very memorable week at Shirebrook Academy.





# Languages Week 2012

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## What the students had to say...

### Kinga Rudnicka (Year 7):

On Wednesday I was happy because footballer Bartosz Bialkowski came and I liked having pictures with him! We had a very happy day with him!



### Katie Salmon (Year 10):

Crepe making had to be one of the best events of the week – Charlotte (Atkin) only just managed to eat one, but I ate three! Also, Spanish dancing was hilarious! I must say, Jonathan (Huckle) is a pretty good dancer, and once we got the hang of things we were like professionals!



### Alex Peake (Year 9):

I went to every event during Languages Week and again they were all fantastic! My favourite was the Russian doll racing – I got a time of 11.49 seconds! I also went to the pizza and crepe making – it was great but challenging – I burnt one crepe!

### Thom Robinson (Year 9):

The European Week of Languages was really good because of the different activities! Monday was Italian day, which was my favourite day because of how funny it was to paint the Mona Lisa, and I also enjoyed Russian doll racing!



Special thanks go out to all staff and students for their enthusiasm and efforts towards making the week a huge success - roll on 2013!





## London Residential

Over 40 students from years 9 - 11 made the 200 mile journey to London last month for the annual two-day Arts Residential trip.

Their busy schedule included spending an evening watching a performance of the 'world, renowned' stage show 'Warhorse', as well as visiting the Tate Modern Art Gallery. They also spent a morning at the British Music Experience at the O2 Arena and experienced a close-up of the 'London Eye' plus busking and street art on the South Bank, and more improvised street entertainment in Covent Garden.

The students also managed to cram in two hours doing some early Christmas shopping on some of the capital's most famous high streets, had a guided tour of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane - the world's oldest theatre - including a sneak viewing of the Royal Box. They also experienced a tour of London's best known tourist attractions and enjoyed a three course meal in a West End French Restaurant. A fun time was had by all!

## October Arts Showcase

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October our BTEC Performing Arts students organised and orchestrated an exciting extravaganza of music and drama in our October Showcase. The students performed a series of short plays - including a hilarious sketch about two goldfish in a bowl by Kelsey Clark and Courtney Johnstone-Staley. Other highlights included Mckinley Burdett singing and playing his arrangement of the Gershwin standard 'Summertime' and Beth Owen singing Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep' with Georgina Mae Hall. The evening was well attended by a very appreciative and supportive audience of parents and careers.

**We are all looking forward to the next evening of performances at the Christmas Cabaret on the 6th December.**





# Yorkshire Sculpture Park

## Y9- Art & Literacy visit

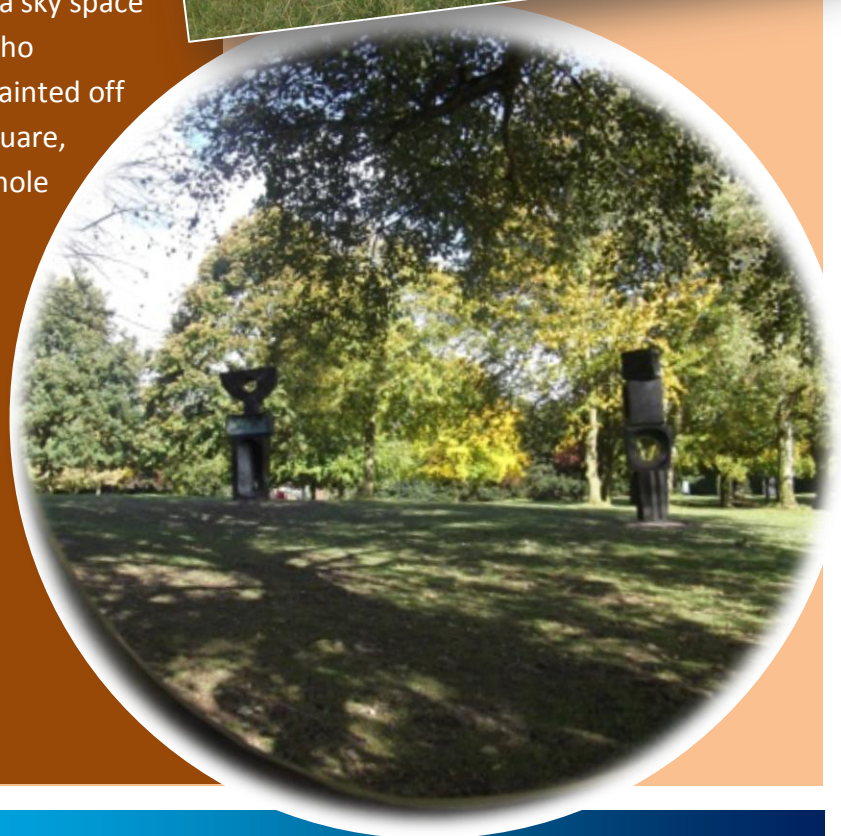
Year 9 students visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield, Yorkshire. on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> October; a world renowned open air Art Gallery space with a number of exhibition spaces set in mature park land. The days leading up to this event were cold, wet and windy, so with boots, warm clothes and coats packed, we were all somewhat relieved when the sun came out at 10a.m just before we arrived at the site!

Students went with the view of studying sculptures, both in the special exhibitions of the renowned Spanish artist and sculptor Juan Miro and the British sculptor Anish Kapoor. Outside are a number of famous sculptures by British artists; Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, who both originated from the area. Students were prepared, with in depth knowledge of the sculptors, what inspired them to create their artworks, and background information about the artists lives. Viewing the artwork brought alive the students' studies, and in their evaluations a number of them said how much they had enjoyed viewing the works.

One favourite it seems, was 'The deer shelter; a sky space sculpture by American sculptor James Turrell who concentrates on light and space-a large room painted off white, with a hole in the roof about 3metres square, and seating, inviting the viewer to stare at the hole and contemplate the changing effect of colour and light as the clouds pass by, changing the ambience of the whole room.

The day was supported by English and art teachers, with the view that students would be using what they had experienced to carry out creative writing within English lessons, and to develop a number of inspirational drawings and designs for sculptors within art lessons.

Back in one piece without even a shower of rain- and an enjoyable day was had by all!



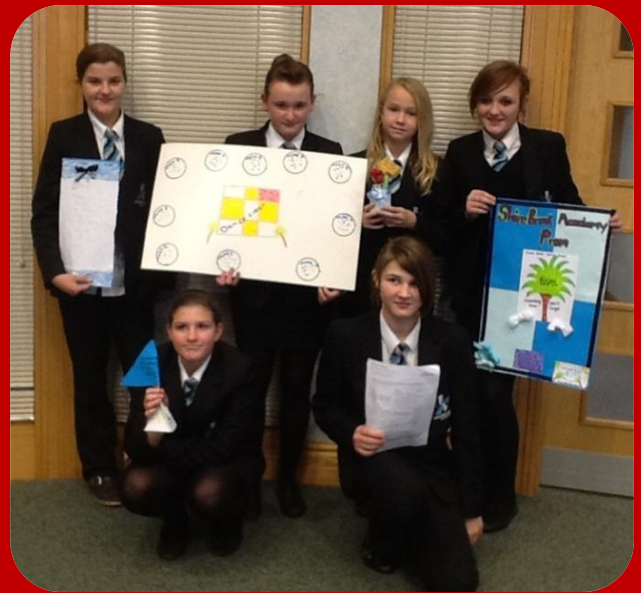


# Enterprise challenge

A team of girls recently entered an enterprise challenge and won! The event was run by Derbyshire Education Business Partnership and Nat West Bank as part of global entrepreneurship week.

Students had to imagine they were a catering company tendering for business to prepare a meal for 100 people. Tasks included costing the meal, entertainment, planning the event, preparing marketing materials, and as a team presenting their tender to the other school teams and a panel of judges.

The Shirebrook team won due to their all-round quality coatings, tender letter and teamwork, a brilliant achievement.



## Derbyshire Achievement Awards

One of our summer leavers, Jaidon Allen, has been commended for outstanding achievement in the recent Derbyshire Achievement Awards. All at Shirebrook Academy wish him lots of luck in the future; he really has been an outstanding role model to all who have come into contact with him.

Jaidon was accompanied to County Hall to receive a Young Achievers Award by Alan Wills and Miss Brannick. It is great to see him recognised for his determination and effort to overcome the many barriers he has faced in his life. Ex-pupil, Nathan Mallen was also in attendance receiving an award for excellent work at college.

*Well done to both!*



## Helter Skelter

When they hear the sound of gunfire they run into a shelter,  
As fast as a Helter Skelter.  
They all stick together like sardines in a tin,  
They have no protection but they still fight for their families.  
Their uniform is tidy through death or victory.  
So, always remember this day.  
When you've run out of bullets you will survive or die,  
Either way they still tried.

*Reece Stubbs and Morgan Airlie, 7IW*



Presented by Chesterfield & Bolsover Learning Community

**Struggling** to help your child make decisions for the future?

**Confused** about the different qualifications that exist?

**Want** to know more about apprenticeships and what progression routes exist after Year 11?

Why not come to...

# **THE PARENTS BIG EVENT**

Showing on:

**Thursday 13th December at 7pm**

**Chesterfield College, Chesterfield (Main Reception)**

Car parking next to college is restricted. Public car parks can be found on Durrant Road near to the Courthouse and on Brewery Street)

**Doors open at 6.30pm**

**and the performance will start at 7pm**

Places are limited so please turn over for details about how to book your place. Students do not need to attend as they will experience the performance during school time.



**Routes Ahead**  
[www.routes-ahead.org](http://www.routes-ahead.org)



**The event will be of interest to all parents and carers of current Year 9 students.**

Over 3000 Year 9 learners will be attending the BIG EVENT during the 10th - 14th December. The purpose is to raise awareness of the important decisions that are needed when choosing subjects to study in Year 10 & 11.

# THE **BIG** EVENT

The BIG EVENT will consist of:

**A Theatre Performance** – explaining the different types of qualifications available and challenging learners to think about how they make decisions




**A motivational session** – allowing learners to raise their aspirations, to be individuals and to challenge their approach to learning

**A Market place** – providing information about different opportunities available, Post 16 & Post 18 and different career opportunities

Parents and carers also need to be aware of this so the evening will allow you to see the Theatre Performance and hear from Fix Up Seminars the Motivational presenters.

There should also be a range of providers alongside Careers Advisers from the Derbyshire Careers Team who may be able to answer any questions that you have.

To reserve your place, please either:

-  call your school and give your details to reception.
-  or email [jacqui.kinch@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.kinch@derbyshire.gov.uk)
-  or complete the form below and send it to:

The Learning Community Office, c/o Parkside Community School,  
Boythorpe Avenue, Boythorpe, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 2NS

I would like to reserve.....places at **The Big Event** on Thursday 13 December at Chesterfield College

Mr/Mrs ..... (Name) Parents of ..... ( Students name)

Who attends..... (School)

Contact number .....

Chesterfield & Bolsover Learning Community



# STAFF NEWS

**A recent study found that half of state schools do not send girls onto study physics at A Level.**

**Laura Barlow, a newly qualified teacher at Shirebrook Academy, has just won Sheffield Hallam University's Lord Winston Prize for her work in making science exciting for young people. She explains how physics can be made more relevant to girls - and why it can help them in all areas of their life.**

I have to admit, that while I always liked science, I didn't enjoy physics when I was at school.

I like it now, but recognise that, compared to biology and chemistry, it's the science subject that, seemingly, everyone loves to hate – especially girls in state schools, who, a recent report shows, are increasingly ignoring it when choosing their A Levels.

Perhaps it's easy to see why. Unlike chemistry, where pupils can have fun causing small explosions, or biology, where they get to dissect a heart, physics is much more abstract. Many of the things you study, like gravity or electricity, are invisible and you cannot see them working. That makes physics difficult to engage with.

There is also difficult terminology and a maths requirement to grapple with, while students, unaware of what careers are possible after studying physics, question why they should study it at all.

But perhaps its biggest problem is its "maleness". The same study found that girls are more likely to study physics if they go to an all-girls school, compared to less than half of students at a mixed-sex school.

This was not the case with other sciences, suggesting that in state schools, physics is uniquely stereotyped as a boys' subject.

Historically, this is down to its link with maths and engineering – subjects boys traditionally prefer – but also because of the way exam boards and text books have used rockets or cars or trains to explain concepts or pose questions.

These are an instant turn-off for girls and, from that moment, there is no way back.

Thankfully, things are changing. Exam boards now use more unisex references, such as gymnasts doing their routines on a beam, which everyone can relate to.

In my own science teaching, I also choose subjects that interest both boys and girls. So far in my lessons, we have debated where on an island to put a wind farm and how we can reduce our carbon footprint. We have discussed space travel, explored why putting a jumper on a snowman makes



it last longer and looked at car design and crumple zones.

These are all based on physics, and the good news is that girls enjoy these topics just as much as boys. They like the team work, the communication and the debating – elements which are often overlooked when we think about what science is all about.

I'm a great believer that learning science is important for everybody, no matter what they do in life. It makes them inquisitive about the world and encourages them to question what they see, rather than take things at face value.

Physics can also help. Not only is physics all around us, it also equips pupils with the necessary skills needed at a time when there is a big push on science and technology in schools.

It can also lead to a huge range of employment options in a world that is increasingly reliant on renewable energies, alternatives to fossil fuels and recycling – subjects which, again, require physics to understand.

There is no reason girls cannot enjoy physics, and if we can encourage more of them to take it up today, they will pave the way for others tomorrow.

If they don't, it will continue to remain a male-dominated subject, and another generation of female scientific talent could slip through our fingers.





## Goodbye Mr Midgley

Our Senior Vice Principal, Bryan Midgley is retiring at Christmas. Bryan has worked at the Academy and predecessor school for over 11 years. He has been in teaching for 34 years. He will be dearly missed by staff, students and parents alike.

Bryan has a wonderful manner with students, a really caring, gentle approach that has inspired and motivated many students in Shirebrook. He has worked tirelessly for the students and wider community and has personally overseen the building of the new school. I know he has passionately fought to get a new building for our students and been very dedicated and committed to ensuring the students get the best facilities possible. At the end of his career he can be really proud of the wonderful legacy he has left the community.

While it is "Au Revoir" to Bryan it is not yet goodbye! He will still be joining us two days a week until the building is complete at Easter to deal with the final arrangements. He will definitely be a guest of honour at our opening ceremony.

I would like to wish Bryan all the best for a very long and happy retirement.

*Julie Bloor*  
Principal

## Creswell Craggs

It was a cold damp day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, but not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the 147 year seven students who excitedly toured the Creswell Craggs site as part of their arts day session of 'Living in Shirebrook and Loving it!' theme, studying the local community as part of the Academy's 'Street Curriculum';

Viewing various Neanderthal artefacts and bones excavated from the site, exploring the evidence of Britain's only cave art, making masks of some of the animals that roamed these parts during those times, and taking a tour of the Robin Hoods cave to see our ancestor's home was quite an experience. Dodging the European cave spiders dangling from the ceilings whilst spotting the mummified rats were all part of the excitement!



## DOBBIES

Our wonderful year 7 students brought a smile to the faces of the shoppers and passers-by on a busy day at Dobbies Garden Centre.

They enthusiastically performed a selection of songs that they had been learning during their music lessons, including classics such as 'Drunken Sailor', 'I Wanna Sing' and 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'.

It was really pleasing to see so many members of our audience singing along to the songs and children dancing with their parents. One lady commented 'How wonderful they sound and how lovely it is to see children taking part in such a nice event – instead of sitting in front of the television or playing computer games.' The behaviour was exemplary and the students were a credit to Shirebrook Academy.

We also managed to raise around £40 for Dobbies' chosen cancer charity. Well done Year 7!





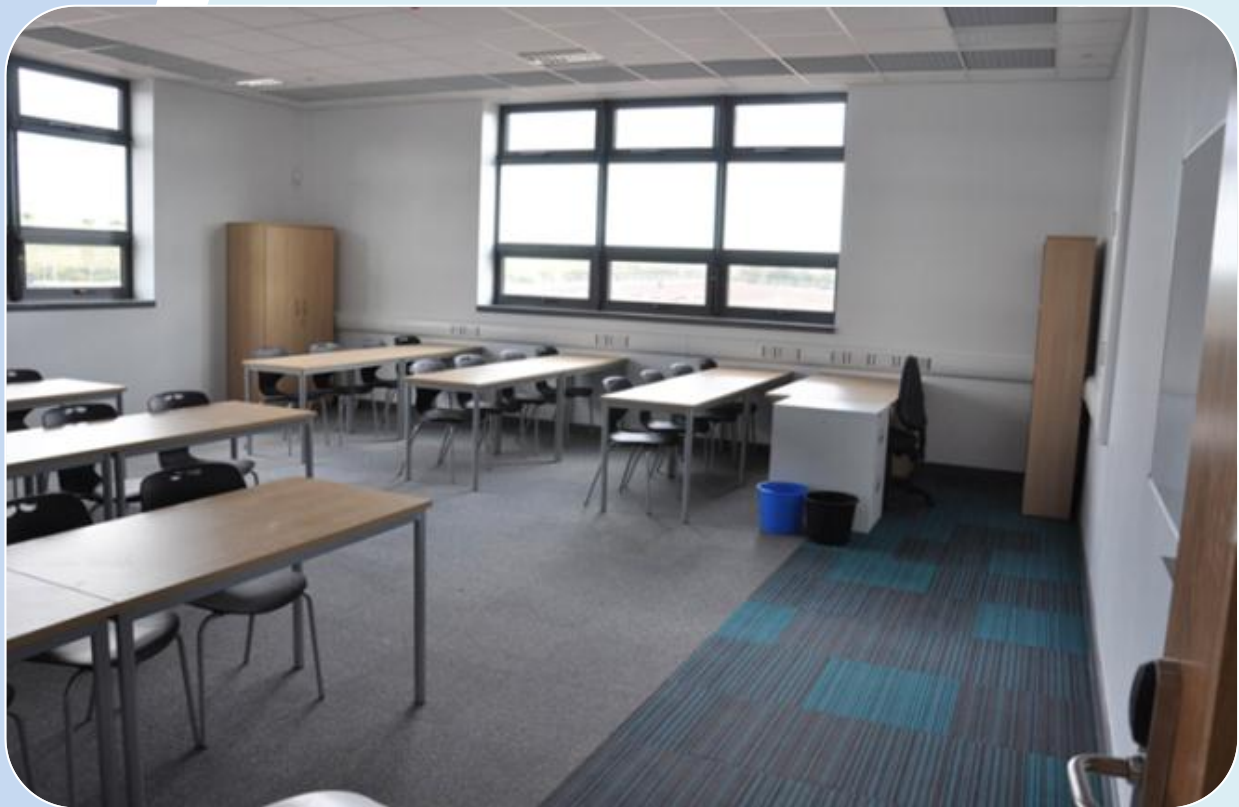
# New Build Update • New Build Update

Progress on the new build continues with lots of landscaping going on around the site. Plants and trees are really making the site look good and making the moving date of Easter 2013 look more and more real.

Students from year 8 and year 9 have been taking tours around the new school and once year 7 and 11 have been round then all students will have had the opportunity to visit the school during the construction phase.

Out of sight, the interior of the school is taking shape. Bowmer & Kirkland and our furniture supplier Envoplan have furnished and decorated a sample classroom so students can get a feel for how each classroom will set up in the new school.

We are pleased to report that the building work is on target to complete on time and soon our IT supplier Dell will be moving in to set up the new IT systems for the schools.



# New Build Update • New Build Update





# Thank You...

I would like to say thank you to all the students and parents who very kindly gave me cards and gifts before I left in the summer term. I was absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of the community, I had so many beautiful flowers, cards and gifts it was difficult to fit them all in the car to get them home!

I have some great memories of my time at Shirebrook and particularly of that last week - Shirebrook's Got Talent will stay in my memory forever!

Thank you again.

Love and best wishes,

*Alison Brannick*

## Diary Dates

### December

- 5 Target Review Day
- 6 Christmas Cabaret
- 8 Winter Wonderland
- 12 Carols in the market
- 13 Y9 Big Event
- 19 Break up for Christmas

### January

- 7 Return to school

### February

- 5 Whole school Super Learning Day
- 15 Break up for half term
- 25 Return to school. Literacy Week

### March

- 6 Target Review Day
- 20 Whole school Super Learning Day
- 26 Y7 Y8 & Y9 Break up for Easter
- 28 Y10 Y11 & Staff break up for Easter

*We will move into our new academy building during the Easter holidays.*

### April

- 16 Y10 & Y11 start back in new building
- 17 Y8 & Y9 start back in new building
- 18 Y7 start back in new building

### May

- 6 Bank Holiday
- 7 Healthy Week
- 13 GCSE Examinations begin
- 24 Break up for half term

### June

- 3 Return to school
- 26 Super Learning Day Y7-10
- 27 Sports day
- 28 INSET day & Y11 Prom
- 28 GCSE Examinations end

### July

- 6 Family Fun Day
- 8-19 Y10 Work Experience
- 12 Super Learning Day Y7-Y9
- 18 Y7 Big Event