



## »»» We are moving...

As I am sure you all know everything is set for the move to the new school. I officially get the keys on Tuesday 9 April. That gives us time as staff to unpack everything we have to take before the students arrive. I have moved house four times but those moves were nothing compared to the organisation that goes into moving a whole school!

It is a very exciting time for the whole community. The new building is really lovely inside. Every desk, chair, cupboard and comfortable settee is brand new. It is no less than our students deserve and we have done numerous assemblies about looking after our brand new school and I feel confident that the students will respect the new buildings to keep it nice for generations to come.

We really hope the building is well used outside of school time by the community – the 3G pitch already has a lot of bookings. We have plans to make more of the land around the buildings too, once the old school is knocked down. We want to develop some high quality outdoor spaces and our own allotments along with an eco-centre on the site of the old building.

Students have been involved with decisions about the building at every stage and we are keen to ensure good community use.

Please see the time-table of events leading up to the move. Further information can also be found inside the newsletter. **(See important information on the inside back page)**

**Julie Bloor**

Principal,  
Shirebrook Academy

### Timetable for Moving In

**9 April**

Senior Leaders pick up the keys and gain service availability

**11, 12, 15 April**

Staff unpacking days. **CLOSED TO STUDENTS.**

**16 April**

Y10 and Y11 students arrive.  
Line up outside the student entrance.  
Induction for Y10 and Y11.

**17 April**

Y8 and Y9 arrive. Line up outside the student entrance.  
Induction for Y8 and Y9.  
Y10 and Y11 to arrive at 10.30am

**18 April**

ALL students arrive as normal.  
Line up outside the student entrance.  
Induction for Y7.

**19 April**

Normal day for all.

# Getting Festive

## Magical Musical Festive Fun

Over the festive period, the music department along with Mr Hand and many students from various year groups were very busy performing lots of concerts in and around the Shirebrook area. These included taking a small group of Y7 pupils down to the Autumn Grange care home to sing Christmas carols which included favourites such as "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer" "Little Donkey" and "We wish you a merry Christmas. The carols were well received by the residents who sang along and gave a rapturous applause at the end.

The concert series continued when the wind band went to Dobbies Garden World for its annual Christmas performance for the public. Passers-by and members of staff were delighted with the performance and gave lots of praise for how smart everyone looked and how polite they were when asked questions.

Our Christmas cabaret incorporating the Shirebrook Academy staff band was a complete success. The academy choir performed a short concert to the school governors who were impressed not only by the number of students in the choir but also the level of enthusiasm shown throughout.

This led in to the final concert for the Christmas period; the carols in the market place. This event included taking students from the Academy along with local primaries including Park Road, Model Village and Brookfield. All schools met in the Shirebrook market place where the event took place. The music for the event was provided by the Academy wind band and the Academy choir were there to lead the singing. The event ran very smoothly hosted by Mrs Bloor and was well supported by all the schools involved and the many members of the public who came to watch!

*Well done to all!*

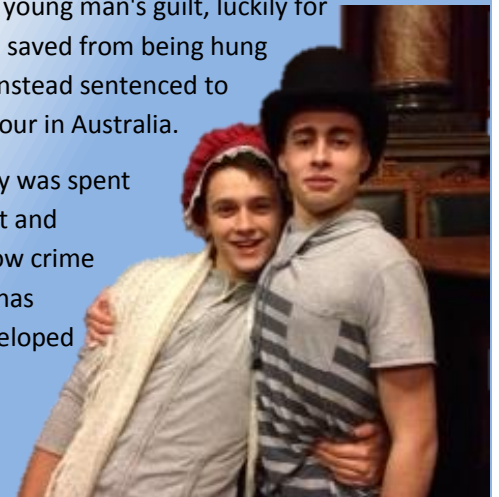
## Galleries of Justice

GCSE History students visited the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham on Friday 2nd December to see the prisons, court house, and cells that were used until 1976.

After meeting the Gaoler and being locked in one of the original cells, they travelled further into the past and at the mercy of the Warden in the exercise yard, could see the names and etchings carved into the walls of some of the prison's past inmates. The students then journeyed to Australia to build an understanding of Transportation, which was used from the 1760's until 1830.

To complete the visit the students re-enacted the trial of Valentine Marshall, a young Nottinghamshire lad who was involved in the Corn Riots and the burning of Colwick Hall in the 1890's. Scott Cann resided as judge whilst Alex Farnsworth and Kieran Berry fought as prosecution and defence before the jury as to the young man's guilt, luckily for Ryan Lack he was saved from being hung by the neck and instead sentenced to 15 years hard labour in Australia.

An interesting day was spent exploring the past and understanding how crime and punishment has changed and developed over time.





# SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

## D of E SUCCESS

A group of Shirebrook Academy students have battled the extreme conditions, overcome fears and found new skills by completing their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Y11 students, Jade Humphries, Lauren McBroom, Connie Newcombe, Katie Lewis, Callum Larby, Tiffany Dean, Lauren Oxley and Georgia Waterfall were formally invited along with family and friends to attend a celebration of success which took place on Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> at County Hall in Matlock. They were presented with their award by Councillor Barry Lewis. The students then listened to guest speakers from around the county telling them of their adventures with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and what they are doing now and the benefits of having done the D of E award. The Y11 group is currently finishing their silver award and some are keen to become involved in the gold award.



## *Class of 2012*

'On the 21<sup>st</sup> November, Shirebrook Academy celebrated the successes of the class of 2012, with an ex-Y11 presentation ceremony. Mrs Bloor and Mr Stafford welcomed students and parents back to the Academy to receive their GCSE certificates and hand out some awards. The evening was enjoyed by a great number of ex-students and staff alike. The Academy wishes all of its ex-Y11 students all the luck in the world as they move into the next stage in their lives at college, work, apprenticeships and university'.





# Anti-Bullying Week

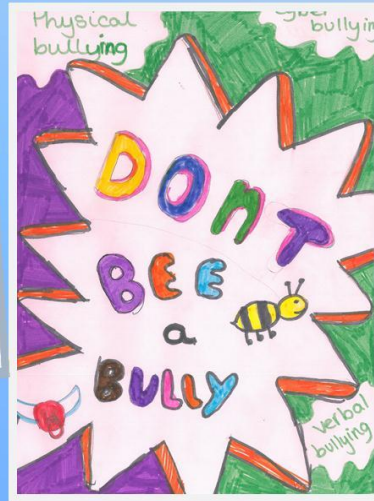
During National Anti-Bullying Week (19-23 November) students were involved in a range of activities.

The police delivered an assembly to Y7 and Y8 students about the effects of bullying. Youth Council students sold wristbands to promote the theme of this year's campaign "We're better without Bullying". Also as part of a citizenship super learning day, Y7 students designed posters and produced short films to promote the anti-bullying message to other students. Winning designs from Laura Kay, Dylan Cooper and Shayla Penson are on display around school.

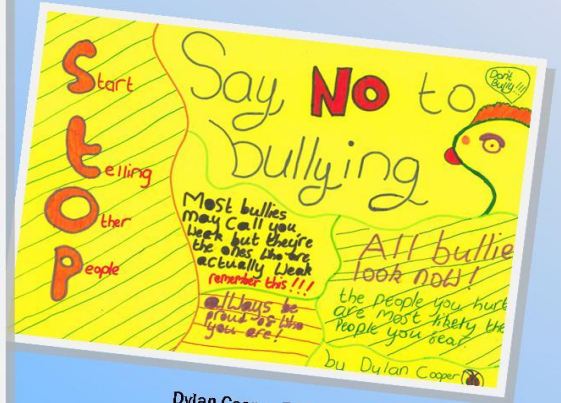
## Y7 Competition Winners!



Shayla Penson 7JE



Laura Kay 7CB



Dylan Cooper 7CT

## Year 7 BIG Event

On Thursday 15th December parents of Year 7 students were invited into the Academy to join in the celebration of STREET curriculum in the BIG event.

The event was to celebrate the activities, success and progress of the students through the term. Prizes were awarded for projects, poetry and reflective writing by Mrs Crosby, Mr McGuinness and Mrs Bloor. Parents were also treated to 7IW singing carols, a presentation of all the best things about Shirebrook and the Academy, poems and Year 7 dancers choreographed by Shannon Unwin.



Mrs Crosby and Mrs Newton the curriculum co-ordinators were absolutely thrilled with the event and felt that there was a real atmosphere of celebration and success; many thanks go to parents and carers who attended.



# Winter Wonderland

## *A magical day at Shirebrook Academy*

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012, Shirebrook Academy was well and truly turned into a Winter Wonderland. Over 500 guests attended the event and all were treated to a whole host of fun, games, activities and displays.

Children visited Santa and his elves in his very own magical grotto, before getting the chance to hold a range of animals including a tarantula, a snake and some meerkats whilst learning about them from the expert guides from Willow Tree Farm. The more adventurous children (and some adults), had a go on the bouncy castles, sumo suits or the range of activities provided by our community partners such as Jump 4 Joy, Shirebrook Leisure Centre and Shirebrook Rangers FC.



There was also plenty to keep the older students and parents engaged too. Whilst the children were having fun, the older ones had the chance to feast upon the fantastic festive food and drink provided by the Academy's willing staff, whilst listening and watching the entertainment on the stage or finishing off their Christmas Shopping at the various craft stalls.



*A big thank you to all the staff, students and community partners that made the day so special and in particular thanks to all our guests who contributed to a fantastic day, demonstrating that the community really is at the centre of all that the Academy does!*

**Remember to make a note of our open day event for the new building on 8th May 2013.**





# Christmas Jumper Joy

An enormous well done to staff and students for raising over £400 for the 'Save the Children' charity by donating money to wear their favourite (ugliest) Christmas Jumper. It was great to see so many staff and students take part and really get into the festive spirit. In his last official role before retirement, Mr Midgley judged the best student and staff outfit to be worn and decided that the honour should go to Lisa Morley (Year 10) and Teaching Assistant Debbie McBroom. Images of a selection of the staff and students showing off their outfit for the day, and the winning pair are shown. Thank you to all those that volunteered and donated money to such a worthy cause.





# Sporting News...

## Inspiring a Sporting Generation

Hot on the heels of all that was great in 2012, the Academy was lucky enough to receive a visit from Sky Sports Living for Sport mentors Leon Baptiste and Anthony Clark to share the experiences of their successful careers. Both sports stars, and former Commonwealth Gold Medal Winners, Leon in the 200m sprint and 4x100m relay, and Anthony in the mixed badminton doubles, worked with students throughout the day giving inspirational messages relating to the students future aspirations.



The day started with a Year 9 assembly, and moved onto morning session with the Year 11 CAGE group (pictured). The CAGE group had a chance to test both the athletes in the sports hall through a range of fitness and games activities, however the work done on how the individual students can make a difference to their futures will have left some important messages in their minds. It was then the turn of the sports council and PE Y8 and 9 rising stars to quiz Leon on his past achievements before the day ended with a focussed Q&A session from our Post 16 Sport Students.

The Academy would like to thank Leon and Anthony for working with the students all day and the Sky Sports Living for Sport Programme for giving us the opportunity to engage with sports stars.

## Bouncing on to the Nationals

Shirebrook Academy student Alysia Middleton competed in Wales on January 19 in the zonal trampolining competition following her victory in the County Championships in December 2012. After performing without the presence of her regular coach at the championships Alysia completed her high difficulty level routine and placed third in the competition to successfully qualify for the National Championships in Birmingham later in the year.



## Y7 BOYS FUTSAL

Our Y7 boys recently won their county semi-final, blitzing the opposition (scoring 14 goals in 4 matches) to qualify for the county final in March.



*Congratulations and Well Done Boys!*

# SAY GOODBYE TO Shirebrook School Building



## 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

If you would like to come along then please confirm your attendance by ringing reception or emailing.

**01623 742722**

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

Names of all attendees must be submitted

**SHIREBROOK  
ACADEMY**  
your learning, your future



On Wednesday 13th March we will be hosting an evening for past students, parents and other interested individuals who would like to come and visit the school for the last time before it is demolished.

Guests will be able to come to the hall where brief tours of the building, led by students will be available (limited availability).

Tours must be booked in advance.

It is also a great opportunity to speak to fellow ex students and teachers whilst enjoying the refreshments provided.

**4-6pm** (last tour at 5.30pm)

Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG20 8QF



# Young Chef Competition

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January Master chef and the Great British Bake Off came to Shirebrook in the form of the Young Chef Competition. The annual competition is run by the Rotary Club of Warsop and Shirebrook District and this year, 9 Shirebrook Academy students from all year groups went head to head in a cook off. A very high standard was produced by all but the eventual winner was Bethany Lyons of Year 8 winning a massive £50 and progression to the regional heats. In an hour and thirty minutes she produced a starter of terrific tropical mint explosion and a main of mixed spice and pineapple chicken curry. All students worked really hard and produced beautiful tasting and well-presented food. Second prize went to Joel Brown in year 11 and third to Abbie Topham in year 7.



*Congratulations  
and Well Done  
to everyone*





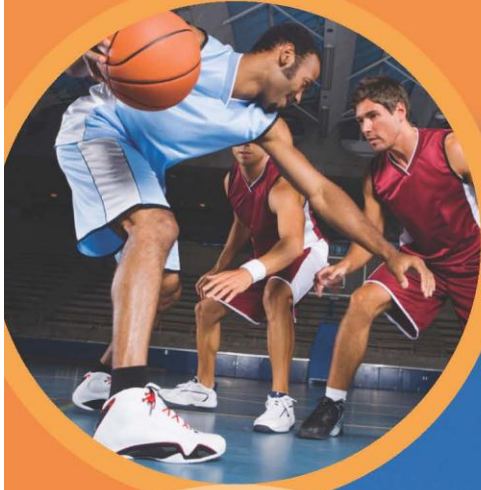
# BACK to SPORT

## Opportunities in Shirebrook

For males and females 14+

Opportunities to participate in basketball, trampolining and netball at Shirebrook Leisure Centre (NG20 8JQ) and Shirebrook Academy (NG20 8QF)

£3 per session - **Your first session is FREE!**



SPORT	VENUE	TIME	AUDIENCE	START/ FINISH
Basketball	Shirebrook	8.00-	16+ years	28/02/13
	Leisure Centre	9.00pm	males and females	02/05/13
Trampolining	Shirebrook	8.30-	16+ years	06/03/13
	Leisure Centre	9.45pm	males and females	08/05/13
Netball	Shirebrook	7.00-	14+	17/09/13
	Academy	8.00pm	Females only	19/11/13

**For further information contact**  
**01246 242364 or visit**  
**[www.bolsover.gov.uk/return-2-sport](http://www.bolsover.gov.uk/return-2-sport)**





Bolsover  
District Council

Shirebrook  
Leisure Centre



SHIREBROOK  
ACADEMY



LOTTERY FUNDED

# BACK to SPORT

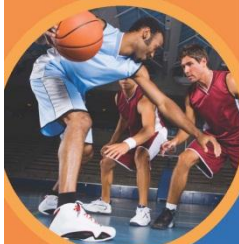
## Opportunities in Shirebrook

**2013 = A year to get back into a sport you used to play or try a new activity you have never done before**

For males and females 14+

Opportunities to participate in basketball, trampolining and netball at Shirebrook Leisure Centre (NG20 8JQ) and Shirebrook Academy (NG20 8QF)

£3 per session - **Your first session is FREE!**



# BACK to SPORT

## Opportunities in Shirebrook

SPORT	VENUE	TIME	AUDIENCE	START DATE	FINISH DATE
Basketball	Shirebrook Leisure Centre	8.00-9.00pm	16+ years males and females	28/02/13	02/05/13
Trampolining*	Shirebrook Leisure Centre	8.30-9.45pm	16+ years males and females	06/03/13	08/05/13
Netball	Shirebrook Academy	7.00-8.00pm	14+ Females only	17/09/13	19/11/13

\*Limited places available, individuals must pre book their place by calling 07909 444094 before first session. The cost for this activity is £4.50.

## No need to pre-book, just turn up

What have you got to lose? Sessions lead by qualified coaches and all equipment is provided **FREE** of charge.

For further information contact 01246 242364 or visit [www.bolsover.gov.uk/return-2-sport](http://www.bolsover.gov.uk/return-2-sport)



Check out our Facebook page **Bolsover Sport Development** to keep up to date with all the latest news

# SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

your learning, your future



We are pleased to announce that on moving to the new building parents will be able to pay for school meals using the secure online payments system, ParentPay.

Instead of sending cash to school this means you can top up lunch cards from home using a credit or debit card, or by calling in at a shop displaying the "PayPoint" sign.

By using ParentPay, you can ensure that your child has access to a healthy lunch every day, with you being able to top up their dinner card at a time that suits you. When crediting your child's account you will also be able to view what meal choices they are making at lunchtime using the ParentPay system

Don't forget that ParentPay is already available for paying for school trips.

Why not take a look at the advantages of paying online by visiting [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) today.

A member of the Academy finance team will be happy to answer any questions you may have and can also send you a reminder of your username and password.

Please call us if you need any more information on

# 01623 742722





# Y7 STREET

## Derby Open Centre

The students in Year 7 have visited the Derby Open Centre for the second year running as part of the STREET curriculum focusing on the Multi cultural aspects of the British Community. The aim of the visit is to see and develop understanding of some of the elements of other cultures, religions and their beliefs. The students visit a Derby Mosque and Mandir (Temple) with a guide from the community centre, they see the decorations and size of the Mosque and Mandir and can see how important faith is to the community in Derby.

They have the opportunity to ask the guide questions about their lives, faiths and even eating habits! They can see the variety of shops and colourful displays in the community.

In the afternoon the students got the opportunity to learn about the elements of a Hindu wedding, listen to Hindi music and have a henna tattoo!

The centre guide, Nahinda, said that the students had again been exceptionally well behaved in the places of worship and asked many interesting questions and she looked forward to welcoming a visit from Shirebrook Academy in 2014.

Thanks also go to Mrs Crosby and the STREET team for organising the trip and giving the students an opportunity to experience elements of other cultures in Britain.





# Peakfm

107.4fm  
online & 102fm

12 students from Shirebrook Academy were recently given the unique and exciting opportunity to work with Peak FM in producing their own short radio show and commercial. On the day, students were divided into two groups that went head to head to produce the best commercial to eventually be aired on live radio. The two groups participated in two workshops, the first where they worked alongside a professional radio presenter Sarah Meaden, and created their own radio show. The second included developing news, sports and also topical links for the presenters to discuss, which were then recorded.

The other workshop involved working with a commercial producer who helped the students develop their ideas and put them into a radio advertisement structure. The two groups individually produced ideas for a commercial to advertise Shirebrook Academy, and are currently battling against one another to have their commercial professionally produced to go on the radio!

The two commercials have now been uploaded to the internet where they are awaiting votes via YouTube in order to determine the winner.





# 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*



Academy Community Evening

Contact person: Andy Gilbert

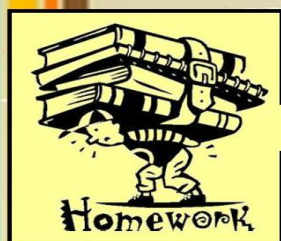
Date: Every Wednesday

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)



## 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

## OPEN EVENING

8<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
4-6.30pm

Welcome to  
the New Build

Tour of Facilities



Incorporating

**HEET Event** – health, education, employment & training advice and support  
(in conjunction with Bolsover Healthy Neighbourhoods Team)

**School Sports**

**Networking Forum** –

tour of facilities and opportunity to meet key partners -  
*invitation only*



Raising  
Aspirations  
in Bolsover  
Making the most of your future



Bolsover Healthy  
Neighbourhoods Team

DANCE

studi

MUSIC

DF



SHIREBROOK  
ACADEMY  
your learning, your future

Common Lane, Shirebrook,  
Mansfield, Notts NG20 8QF

'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**



# The Academy introduces new Youth Workers

This month two new Youth Workers will begin working at the Academy. Joe Carter, who some of you may recognise from his current data assessment manager role in school, and Kayleigh Raynor, a current youth and community worker in Rotherham. Here both give us an insight into their exciting new positions –



## The Youth Worker position is brand new to the Academy- what exactly is a Youth Worker?

**Joe-** A Youth Worker supports and encourages young people to fulfil their potential both personally and socially.

**Kayleigh-** We hope to give Shirebrook young people lots of fun and rewarding opportunities whilst at the same time being there for confidential advice, support and guidance. We're not teachers so we won't be sitting you down in a lesson, up, active and enjoying is what we're aiming for!

## So what type of activities can we expect to see available in the coming months?

**Joe-** We're hoping to get the young people's input so we are delivering activities and projects they really want to do and will enjoy and benefit from.

**Kayleigh-** Some of the ideas we've had are cooking projects, outdoor pursuits (including camping) performing arts, circus skills, biking, dance and sports. If there is anything you guys want to do, come and chat to us and we'll see what we can do to help!

## Brilliant- sounds great. Will they all be based at the Academy?

**Kayleigh-** Some of our work will be here at the academy but we hope to deliver some in the local community as well to make the most of spaces and facilities and to show the community what a positive role young people can play as well as opening doors for young people to help their community too.

**Joe** – We are obviously hoping to make use of the fantastic facilities which will be available in the new building when we move at Easter. We have also already been in contact with other local providers which we hope to utilise in the future.





**I think you will be busy- will you looking to recruit some help?**

**Kayleigh-** Absolutely! We'll need an enthusiastic and reliable team of volunteers to help us. It will be a brilliant opportunity to develop leadership and management skills and to get involved in all the amazing activities we'll do. A perk of the job is that there's usually a bag of sweets around!

**Joe** – Yes definitely if you fancy becoming a volunteer or finding out more information feel free to get in touch with us at the email and/or phone number below.

Plenty of opportunities for everyone then.



**Finally tell us a little bit about yourselves then so we can all get to know you a little better.**

**Joe-** Everyone at Shirebrook Academy will probably already recognise me from the work I do on assessment and target review day etc. Outside of work I love the outdoors, all forms of sports activities and I'm also already helping out in the community working alongside the Multi agency Team in Shirebrook.

**Kayleigh-** I'm a qualified youth and community worker with a background in drama and performance. I have a lot of experience of camping and love hiking and exploring the countryside. I have experience in areas including sexual health, young pregnancy/parenthood, workshops and community projects. I'm a single mum to an 8 year old little boy and I love animals. If there's anything you want to ask or know, come and say hi. I can't wait to meet you all!

Thanks for that Joe and Kayleigh, we look forward to seeing this exciting project begin which will help improve the opportunities for local young people.

**Joe and Kayleigh are now in post working at the Academy and in the community.**

For updates on their initiatives and all other academy and community work please visit [www.shirebrookacademy.org](http://www.shirebrookacademy.org)

If you would like to contact Joe or Kayleigh directly to enquire about either becoming a volunteer or any other youth provision please email them directly or telephone the academy

[youthworker@shirebrookacademy.org](mailto:youthworker@shirebrookacademy.org)

01623  
**742722**





# Prison...Me? No Way!

Despite a snowy start to the day, students enjoyed a super learning day on the 5th February delivered by staff from the Prison Service. The 'Prison, me? No way!' day aimed to help students understand that their choices and actions can have far reaching consequences. Sessions included Internet safety, fire safety, a scenario about anti-social behaviour (Confrontation Street, pictured) and a look inside a prison cell. One student commented; "Confrontation Street, it was good because it was about how to make your decisions".

***Thanks to staff from the prison service, fire service and police for a very successful day.***



# FLARE Success!

The beginning of October saw the school launch an innovative buddy reading programme in which forty Y7 students would be paired with older mentors from Y9, Y11, Y12 or Y13.

Students would meet with their mentors every week to discuss any issues they were currently facing with their learning and the mentors would offer advice and try to help as best they could. The students would read a book of their choice to their mentor in an effort to improve their reading ages and literacy skills.

The programme saw exceptional success at the hands of the mentors and their buddies with every student improving their reading age. Niall Morley and Reece Kissane were a pair however, who made excellent improvements with Reece improving his reading age by a number of years. Each improved pair was awarded a certificate and the most improved a £5 WHS voucher to mark their brilliant success.

Pictured are Niall Morley (Y12) and Reece Kissane (Y7) receiving their certificates for making outstanding progress in their reading age, and a group photo of all the readers and their mentors.

Overall the programme was a huge success and is sure to take place next year, with every student making significant progress and building great relationships with their mentors that are sure to last for the rest of their school lives!

Adam Booth, Y13 Reading Mentor





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Closing the Old School & Packing Away

As we have to pack and move there will be some days that students are not in. However, we do not want to disrupt examination classes so Y10 and Y11 will still be attending.

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – PACKING DAY

Closed to Y7, Y8 and Y9

OPEN for Y10 and Y11

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - PACKING DAY

Closed to Y7, Y8 and Y9

OPEN for Y10 and Y11 who will finish at lunchtime.

Buses will arrive at 12.40

Moving in timetable  
is on the front page.

## STAFF NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal, responsible for Student Support.

I started teaching eleven years ago in Derbyshire (at Hope Valley College) as a PE teacher. Since then, for the last ten years, I have worked in my home city of Sheffield.

I am delighted to be back in Derbyshire, working at Shirebrook Academy!

As you may be aware, I started in January 2013, so have already had the chance to work with many students and parents/carers. I am looking forward to continuing the fantastic work within the school and developing even more opportunities to enrich every child's education further.

I am particularly looking forward to moving into the new building at Easter and feel I have joined the Academy at an exciting time in its history.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Kind Regards,

*Liz Cartledge*

Assistant Principal





## Tree planting fun sees Shirebrook students leave a growing legacy

A group of Shirebrook pupils have left a lasting legacy of their time at school by planting a copse of trees within the grounds of its new building.

Students filled a 550sqm patch of ground with dozens of saplings, which, while still tiny, will grow into a small wood that will grace the Common Lane site for years to come.

The event was the idea of Shirebrook Academy's head of humanities, Helen Newton, who took up an offer from the Woodland Trust for 60 free trees as part of the charity's Jubilee Woods Tree Planting Challenge, whose aim was to plant six million new trees in 2012.

A plot of land, close to a path leading to the students' entrance at the Academy's new £27m building, which opens in April, was chosen and 22 students pulled on their wellies, picked up their spades and got to work.

Each pupil also drew a picture or wrote a thoughtful message on a label, which will be attached to the stake supporting the tree to inspire future visitors.

The saplings are a mixture of birch, rowan and cherry trees, with one Royal oak in the centre, and it will take around four years before they approach anything near maturity. By that time, pupil Kirsty Wilkinson, 15, will have long left school, but she said that she welcomed the opportunity to plant a tree and leave a piece of her wisdom for others to enjoy in future years.

She said: "It was really good to be able to leave our legacy on the new site, especially since we won't be in the new build very long.

"I really enjoyed it and I think everyone else enjoyed it too."

Helen added: "We had a lot of fun planting the trees. There was a lot of giggling from some of them who struggled to dig their holes, but all the trees are in and we are looking forward to seeing them as they grow.

"It's really nice that this group of pupils are able to leave a lasting legacy at the site. There was a wide range of messages and hopefully they will make people stop and think when they walk among the trees in the future."



## Diary Dates

### 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
- 8 Open Evening - Community
- 13 GCSE Examinations begin
- 24 Break up for half term

### June

- 3 Return to school
- 26 Sports Day
- 27 Super Learning Day Y7-10
- 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

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