

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

There are many ways in which to mark Christmas but in school we do things very traditionally, with two carol concerts and a staff panto to round off the term.

This is the way that's it's been for the past few years and I hope it continues that way, because to my mind school is one of the few places where the commercialism of Christmas can be kept at bay.

I know complaining about commercialism has itself become an annual tradition, but Christmas puts tremendous pressure on families to buy expensive gifts, meals and nights out and this can lead to money issues, arguments and debt problems in the long term.

Christmas seems to have become a festival which props up the economy and which helps many businesses to stay afloat, so in school it's good to create a space where festive values of community, celebration and making your own entertainment survive.

I often tell children that the greatest gift you can give your family is your time, because spending time and enjoying the company of loved ones is more valuable and long lasting than material goods.

Like any big family, we have our Christmas traditions which give us a combination of nostalgia, fun and communal activities which bring us all together in a way that no other time of the year does.

This includes our staff panto, complete with baddies and booing and a script packed with in-jokes, on the last day.

Finding rehearsal time in a busy school schedule can be hard so the show is often a skin-of-the-teeth production, but no-one cares and it all ends up in a big sing-song, with everyone going home with a smile on their faces and not a penny poorer!

Have a great Christmas, see you in 2019!

Best wishes

Mark Cottingham

Principal - Shirebrook Academy



SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

Alumni



If you are a former student or know of any who'd like to stay in touch and give back to their old school, ask them to sign up at:
<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/shirebrook>

CALLING CLASS OF 2016

Did you leave Shirebrook Academy
in July 2016?

Have you started University
in September 2018? ...

If so you may be eligible to apply for a small
bursary to support your Higher Education studies.

If you are interested please email
shirebrook@networks.futurefirst.org.uk
for more information.



DOGGIE Day Spa

Shirebrook Academy therapy dog, Bella, took some time off recently from her busy job comforting students to enjoy some free beauty treatments at the Devonshire Dog Spa.

Bella was rewarded for all her hard work helping to boost learning at the academy.

The pampered pooch was treated to a full bath, blow dry and pedicure. She was joined by 3 of her students who took the opportunity to explore their careers options. Olivia Luczynska and Caitlin Tucker are interested in animal care and show a great interest in the dog grooming industry, whilst Ross Collier did an excellent job using his photography skills.

Helen Dodds, support manager at the academy said "The staff at the spa were amazing and really engaged the students, teaching them about what they do and encouraging them in their field of interest. Bella looked amazing afterwards and smelt absolutely lush"

It was clearly a great day for both Bella and Shirebrook Academy students.



Congratulations



We were very proud to representing the community of Shirebrook at a national awards ceremony in London recently - even though we had to settle for the runners-up spot in the Education and Business Partnership Award at the UK finals of the British Chambers of Commerce Awards.

We got through to the national final after being named regional winner in the same category for the East Midlands area, having already won the Derbyshire title.

The award recognises our work with businesses large and small to prepare our students for the world of work which includes inviting representatives of local companies into school to conduct mock interviews and hold CV-writing clinics, as well as organising visits to firms and universities and running an extensive work experience programme.

We were one of only nine regional winners from 50 Chambers of Commerce regions in our category to make it to the national final and being named runner-up in the whole of Britain is a remarkable achievement. We didn't expect to get so far when we initially entered the awards. Our success is not only a wonderful endorsement of the work we do but also shows our students that great achievements are possible if you are prepared to be ambitious and push yourself out of your comfort zone.



COME ALONG IN DECEMBER

From 9-5pm

**Sunday 16th
Thursday 20th
Saturday 22nd**

The Hive

Your community space at Four Seasons

Tombola

Xmas Cakes & Cookies

Novelty Xmas Sweets

Ten Coffee Hot Chocolate



FOUR SEASONS MANSFIELD

All funds raised will be going towards helping 5 Shirebrook Academy students going to South Africa to take part in conservational and environmental education and delivering first aid training to two local schools.



ACET SHIREBROOK ACADEMY
empowering achievement
striving for excellence



WARWICK CASTLE

To celebrate the achievement of students in the first half term of the year, 40 students went on a day trip to Warwick Castle to explore the site and take part in spooky Halloween themed activities.

The five students with the most achievement points in each year group were all invited to come along and bring a friend. All the students had a great time visiting the attractions at the 'Haunted Castle'.



Rewards Trip



LGBT+ YOUTH GROUP

- Drop In
- Non Judgemental
- Discussion
- Support
- Activities

For ALL Year Groups

Unsure of your sexual orientation?

Questioning your gender identity?

Looking for a safe place to just be you?

COME ALONG to our NEW LGBT+ Group
MONDAYS after school until 4:15
 in Academy Support

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Did you know, meals for infants are free regardless of personal circumstances?

Free meals for junior and secondary aged pupils are subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

It is important to register all pupils regardless of whether they intend to have a meal, it could mean additional funding for school.

Easy and confidential ways to register/apply:

Telephone: 01629 536400/535743

Email: checking@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Paper forms available in school

THE ACCESS PROJECT PROGRAMME

We help bright students, through providing 1-1 academic tuition and in school mentoring to gain access to selective universities

YEAR 10 & 11 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Free 1-1 GCSE Academic Tuition in one of the following subjects –

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English
- Maths
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish

We also run 1-1, workshop sessions and university trips to help give students support and guidance surrounding getting to a top university.

Student - Johnathan: "I was so lucky to have a tutorial with Rhiannon last week before my English mock as we went through an exam question that then came up, and I ended up doing really well!"

Tutor - Rhiannon: "Jonathan is proactive, engaged and very conscientious. He did the homework I set and sent it to me by email the day before the tutorial! He's an amazing student."



There are 20 places available for Year 10 and Year 11.

If you would like to apply for the programme then please type the following URL into your web browser - <https://bit.ly/2FsDx7i>

If you need any further information then please contact sam@theaccessproject.org.uk

Do you want to contribute to the Shirebrook Academy community?

Are you able to attend a forum every half term to share your views?

IF SO
SIGN UP AND JOIN
SHIREBROOK
ACADEMY
Parents' Forum

your
voice
counts

If you are interested, please email lward@shirebrookacademy.org

Articulation

Shirebrook Academy invited six Y10 students to attend a unique creative opportunity at Chatsworth House. Students began the day by touring the magnificent stately home and researching pieces of art from the Duke of Devonshire's collection. They then used archives and source materials to present their findings to a team of art experts from Leeds University, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Students attended from five other schools and worked together brilliantly throughout the day, showcasing their talents and surprising the panel with their thoughts and opinions about the collection.



October saw local primary schools take part in a tag rugby festival called 'MegaFest', here at Shirebrook Academy. The event was coordinated by Martin Andrews and several young sports leaders in Y9. The aim of the festival was to develop the children's ball skills, movement, passing and teamwork using a variety of drills set by the Rugby Football Union. The children had a great time and will now be prepared for the local tag rugby competition in a few weeks' time.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

22 JUNE 2019

SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

*Family
Fun Day*



This
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK
we
**choose
respect**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

We have new teams of anti-bullying ambassadors for Y8 and Y9. All have been trained in their new role and proudly wearing their purple ties. They have made a great start to the year with a range of activities during national Anti-bullying week. The theme of the week was 'Choose Respect' – Y9 Ambassadors sold wristbands to promote the message and raised £62, and Y8 Ambassadors promoted the 'Wall of Respect', getting lots of positive messages from students at breaks. Our Y10 Ambassadors are also still making a great contribution, delivering anti-bullying assemblies during the week.

Ambassadors now have some great ideas to promote the anti-bullying message throughout the year, look out for further news!



**choose
respect**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



Children in Need was incredibly successful. We held a bake sale, silent auction and a raffle. It was great to see so many people from the school and the community get involved. It gave our students the opportunity to meet others from the community and everyone who came thanked the staff and students for such an enjoyable morning.

Special thanks to all who donated and came to the bake sale. Thanks must also go to all the students who got involved especially Freya Scott 8TM and McKenzie Spizer 8AF they were amazing and deserve a massive well done.



We're supporting
**BBC
Children
in Need**



So far we have raised...
£346



Fourteen Y11 students arrived at school for 8.30 on a Saturday morning to attend the Worldskills Show at Birmingham NEC and it was well worth the effort. The event is a fantastic showcase of skills and apprenticeship opportunities, with large employers from Coca-Cola to Jaguar Land Rover, with young people from colleges around the country competing in skill areas from Theatre Make-up to Joinery and Digital skills.



worldskillsuk The Skills Show

"It was very helpful, it helps you gain skills and experience for the job you want to do. I got advice on being a paramedic" - Ebony Dooley

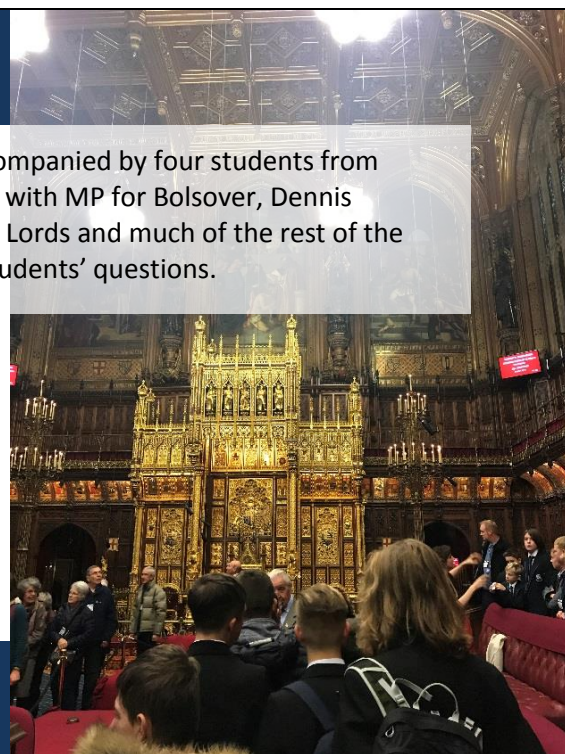
"It was helpful, it taught me skills I wouldn't necessarily think about, for example on the Army stand there were lots of jobs I was not aware of" - Bethany Tonge



"It was very helpful, the experience and knowledge from other people has helped me with my decisions. I am now considering apprenticeships in plumbing/electrical engineering and know more about how to apply" - Josh Paling

Houses of Parliament

On Monday 19th November seven students from the academy were accompanied by four students from Stubbin Wood on a trip to London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament with MP for Bolsover, Dennis Skinner. Students were able to see the House of Commons, the House of Lords and much of the rest of the Parliament building with an expert tour guide who answered all of the students' questions.



BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS

Friday 26th – Sunday 28th October 2018

By Aaron Bradley – Y10

I decided to go on the trip because I wanted to learn more about the war and what different countries do to remember the ones who touched their lives. My favourite part of the trip was the cemeteries that we visited, because it shows how the Commonwealth thanked the troops that gave so much. I particularly enjoyed visiting the Menin Gate for the Last Post Ceremony, because this was an upsetting but a very moving moment. Another memorable place we visited was Langemark German Cemetery, it was very moving that the Germans had to use mass graves for many of their soldiers who died. I learned that remembrance is not the same across all countries but the sacrifice of these soldiers is still important around the world.



Creating Reading Culture

Our school library has become a hive of activity recently with regular clubs and sessions being held as part of our strategies and initiatives to encourage students to read, creating a reading culture in school.

This term saw a significant increase in positive attitude towards reading by students during unstructured sessions, particularly during breaks. Students are enjoying looking at books of interest which are strategically put on display around the library to catch their attention. More and more boys are willing to read aloud to share any interesting discoveries they have found whilst browsing.

Regular visits to the library during English lessons see students taking turns to read, practising listening and reading skills and enjoying the ambience and new layout of the library, browsing at our New Fiction Collection.

Book Club members enjoy making new friends every Wednesday lunchtime while Y11 are embracing after school revision sessions.



Congratulations

The following students have read the most words in their year group this term:

Darus Volkovic 7AD read 122,023 words
Angel Bispham 8KW read 357,223 words
Lauren Fox 9HN read 224,326 words

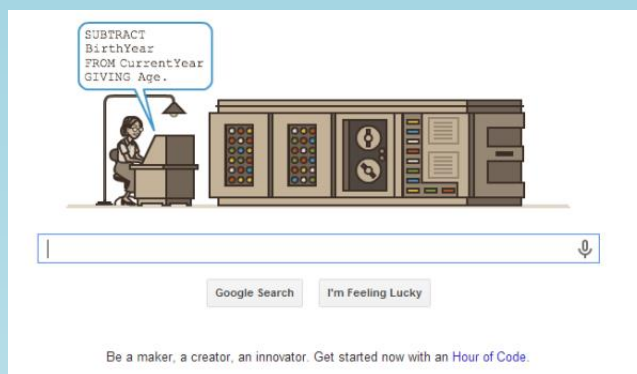


UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

Students in Y7-Y10 have all taken part in the Oxford University and Google international computational thinking competition "Bebras". This saw students complete a series of online problem solving challenges in test conditions in 40 minutes. This tested their logic, reasoning and pattern recognition skills and was part of their project on Computational Thinking. Students will all receive a certificate from Oxford University and those achieving in the top 10% of the UK will receive an invitation for another competition.

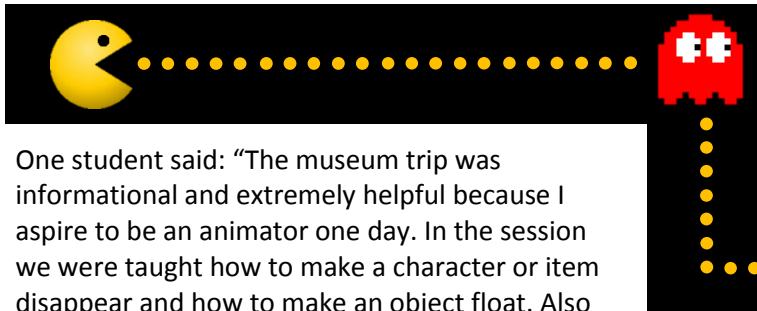


Well done guys!



Science & Media Museum

A trip to the Science and Media Museum in Bradford was a great day out for everyone involved. It gave students the opportunity to attend an animation session which involved creating their own animations, these will be on display in school very soon. During the second half of the day students looked around the wonder lab gallery, games lounge and various rooms looking at the evolution of digital gaming and connectivity. There was even the last surviving set of Wallace and Gromit!



One student said: "The museum trip was informational and extremely helpful because I aspire to be an animator one day. In the session we were taught how to make a character or item disappear and how to make an object float. Also the museum part of the centre was amazing it was full of information on how animators work and how we see and hear. We were also allowed to go and play in the video games part of the museum where you could play all of the retro games and more. Overall I loved the trip and I 100% think it was worth the money "



Bethany Bytheway – "My favourite part was seeing all the different cameras from over the years, I want to be a photographer."

Talulla Sowah – "I really enjoyed doing the stop motion animation, I loved putting it all together and watching back the video that I made."

Ellisia Sunderland – "When we walked round the museum and saw all the old computers and what technology has looked like over the years."

Lexi Booker – "I loved exploring the Wonderlab, trying to find my way through the mirror maze was really fun."

Jessica Preston – "It was really good and interesting. Two things that mixed together education and fun."

Paisley Andrews and Holly Hunt – "The mirror mazes were the best part because you had to find your way through."

Joel Webster and Ben Lilliman – "I really enjoyed playing on the old consoles. I nearly beat Donkey Kong."

Igor Ptnaszny – "I liked the animation because you could do short animations and watch them back."

Bradley Bailey-Jarvis – "I like the arcade with the space invaders."

Dexter Morley – "I really enjoyed the light up science session with how light reflects and refracts."



PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE KEY DATES
THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2018

- 10 Literacy Week
- 12 Christmas Concert
- 14 GRIT Shirebrook Church
Carols in the Market
- 17 Shirebrook Stars
- 19 Finish for Christmas

JANUARY 2019

- 7 Return to school
- 14 Y9 Exams week
- 17 Y9 Student Progress Parental Meeting
- 28 Y11 Mock Exams (Week 1)

FEBRUARY 2019

- 1 NSPCC Number Day
- 4 Y11 Mock Exams (Week 2)
- 4 Y10 Student Progress Parental Meeting
- 12 Paris Trip Parents Meeting
- 14 Y9 Options Evening
- 15 Finish for Half Term
- 26 Y11 Food Practical Exam
- 28 Y7 GRIT Derby Open Centre

ACADEMY UNIFORM



NEW PE Kit

Also available:
Tracksuit bottoms and Skorts.
Various Sizes



**Limited uniform is available to purchase from
student reception, alternatively please visit our
supply shop based in Mansfield.**

SUPPLY SHOP

The Schoolwear Centre
69A West Gate, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 1RU
Tel: 01623 650782



POLITE NOTICE TO PARENTS

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

If you require a face to face meeting, please call our reception on 742722 and we will endeavour to arrange an appointment for you at the earliest convenience to suit both parties.

Thank you

OPENING HOURS

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | 09:00 - 17:00 |
| Tuesday | 09:00 - 17:00 |
| Wednesday | 09:00 - 17:00 |
| Friday | 09:00 - 17:00 |
| Saturday | 09:00 - 17:00 |

twitter

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news and events as they happen
by following us on twitter

@shireacademy