

Spring Newsletter

I hope you enjoy reading the Spring edition of our newsletter which, as usual, is packed with stories about life at school from the past few weeks

I always make a point of telling anyone who will listen that schools are about so much more than exams. A fully rounded education is about learning from a whole range of experiences and activities and I think our newsletters prove that at Shirebrook Academy we take this commitment to education in its broadest meaning very seriously.

Of course exams are important because those qualifications are the passports to the next stage in life whether that is an apprenticeship or further or higher education. We are all fully focussed on helping our Year 11s prepare for their GCSEs which start in earnest after Easter and I have been really impressed by the way that they have approached their final few weeks at Shirebrook Academy.

However, we all know that your character and actions say much more about you than grades and certificates

so I am especially proud of the five boys in Y11 who came to the rescue when they saw a house fire a few weeks ago – you can read the story in full in this newsletter. Remarkably, a few weeks after this happened I took a call from a local resident praising four more of our Y11s who had come to her aid when she had a chip pan fire so take a bow Ian Duell, Callum Cooke, Zakk Humphries and Matt Scott.

When we hear so many negative things in the media about young people it is heart-warming to be able to celebrate the selflessness and community spirit of these young men.

Whatever you have planned I hope you have a great Easter and I look forward to sharing more stories with you next term. In the meantime, keep an eye on our website and follow us on twitter ([@shireacademy](https://twitter.com/shireacademy)) for the latest news.

Best wishes
Mark Cottingham
Principal - Shirebrook Academy

Parliament & Pride



James Edwards, head of modern foreign languages here at Shirebrook Academy, travelled to the Houses of Parliament to represent his school at a meeting held to discuss why fewer UK students are taking part in foreign exchange visits.

Mr Edwards was invited to speak about the school's plans to hold what is believed to be its first-ever foreign exchange visit at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages, which took place on Monday, February 25.

The meeting, which was chaired by Baroness Coussins, was organised to look at the challenges teachers face in organising international exchanges, which are falling out of favour with schools across the country.

Only 30% of state schools currently take part in exchange visits, but the academy is bucking the trend by teaming up with a school in Toulon, in the South of France, which is sending 11 students to Shirebrook next month, with 10 Academy students set to make a reciprocal visit in May.

Mr Edwards, who travelled to London with principal Mark Cottingham, spent around 10 minutes talking about the school's plans, in amongst presentations from the British Council and Anglo-European School, a specialist foreign language academy in Essex which organises around 16 exchange trips every year.

Also attending the meeting were MPs, peers and representatives from other schools and universities, who were able to ask questions during the event.

He said: "The whole day was an incredible experience and we were both extremely proud that Shirebrook Academy had been invited to talk about such an important issue.

"I spoke about the hurdles schools have to overcome to organise trips, but also spoke about how fantastic our students and their parents have been in buying into the idea of taking part in our first trip and agreeing to host an overseas student.

"The opportunity to experience living with a family in another country can be life-changing, while hosting a visit can make you reflect on your culture and local area through different eyes.

"Several people told us how such visits had changed their lives, including someone who grew up in a disadvantaged community in Lancashire and is now a member of the European Commission."

While they were in London, Mr Edwards and Mr Cottingham also got a glimpse into the busy comings and goings of MPs working at the very heart of the UK's democracy.

He said: "It's an interesting time to visit Parliament and we saw a few demonstrators outside holding placards both for and against Brexit, while we passed the Labour MPs Diane Abbott and Yvette Cooper on our way to the meeting.

"It was not lost on us that we were discussing something that promoted a positive relationship with Europe while elsewhere in the same building, discussions were taking place about how we can sever our political ties.

"It's an extremely big and busy place and fascinating to think that next door, or in the next corridor, people were making huge decisions that will have an influence on the future of the whole country."



SHIREBROOK ACADEMY

Alumni



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.

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>

FOOD FUN and the FORCES



The Royal Navy joined us on the
8th February to work with 2
groups of students, the Grow 4
group of students worked hard to
complete a 3 course meal in a
ready steady cook style
competition. Their food was
amazing and students had a real
passion for what they were
cooking, they were really proud of
what they had produced.

Period 3&4, the Y11 food GCSE class had the chance to impress us again
taking part in a ready steady cook style competition, they were keen to
impress with their presentation skills and really pushed the boat out in
terms of ideas and flavour combination.



LOCAL INITIATIVES

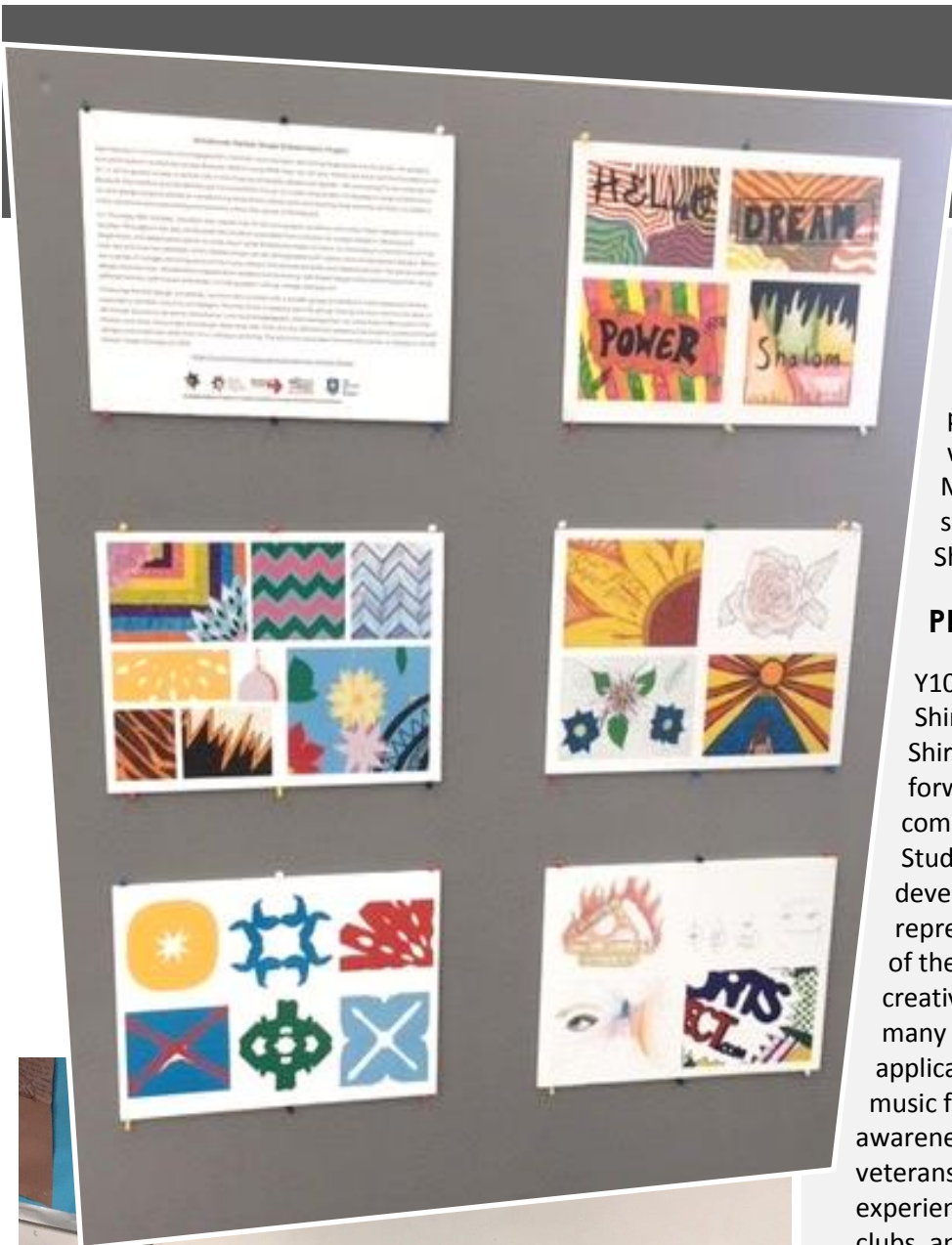
The Shirebrook Shutter Project

This is part of the Bolsover District Council Market Place improvement project. A group of students worked with Junction Arts and local artist Peter Massey to create designs for shop shutters as part of the regeneration of Shirebrook Market Place.

PD Day

Y10 students learnt more about the Shirebrook Shutter Project and the Shirebrook App, and had the chance to put forward their own ideas for the local community with an Enterprise Challenge. Students were tasked to work in teams to develop ideas, and presented them to representatives from local councils at the end of the day. Visitors were impressed with the creativity and enthusiasm shown, and felt that many of the ideas could have a practical application. Ideas included 'Shirefest' (family music festival), a Boxing event, a Mental Health awareness event, a youth club run by services veterans to enable them to share their experiences with young people, after school clubs, and social events for different groups to get together. We hope that Academy students will be able to get involved in the planning for some of these events for real over the coming year. The picture opposite shows Cyprian Horbal explaining his team idea 'Tea and Talk', which was the winning idea from that tutor group.

Thanks to representatives from Shirebrook Town Council, Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire County Council who gave up their time to come and view students' work.



Shirebrook
Town Council

DERBYSHIRE
County Council

Bolsover
District Council

How did the idea for an App come about?

- The idea for having a Shirebrook App has come from conversations with local people about how best they would like to share information with each other and receive updates on what activities are happening in the area.
- Young people who discussed the App were particularly interested in two things; help with 'feeling safe' and finding out about 'fun stuff to do' in Shirebrook – so together we are trying to see if we can build an App locally that can help to support delivering these things.

What have we done so far?

So far, we have;

- Spoken with young people at the *Youth Forum* and the people who provide local services in Shirebrook to get their views and to help co-design how the app might work, what information it would show and what features it should have.
- Produced 'paper prototypes' to imagine and describe how the App might practically function, how it might look and discuss what characteristics a 'genuine prototype' should have.



- We have also sourced local developers and designers who can help to build a genuine 'prototype' of the App which we can test and improve.

What do we want to do next?

- Get more insights from young people in Shirebrook about how the App should work and how young people in particular might like to help build it or test it out.
- Find the best way to get information required for the App uploaded and kept up to date.
- Produce a functional 'prototype' of the app and get local people involved to test it out, improve it and eventually launch it for anyone to use!

GETTING INVOLVED

The Shirebrook App

Last year through the Derbyshire County Council Thriving Communities project a student suggested an App to inform local people of things to do in Shirebrook, and to link with community safety and support services. The App is currently being developed, and James McDonnell and colleagues have been consulting Y10 students about the format and content, to ensure it is used effectively. The app developer Mariusz Linkiewicz was impressed by student ideas and would like to involve them in coding and further development of the app.

NSPCC
Number
Day
2019

On Friday 1st February the Mathematics department and its students participated in a variety of activities for NSPCC Number Day. It was a day of maths inspired fundraising fun.

We created Matherpillars and even solved a Mathematical Murder Mystery in lessons. During tutor period students were asked to participate in a Sponsored Times Table Challenge. The day was a great success, and I am pleased to announce we also raised a total of £345 in sponsorship money.

Many Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Mrs Elmer – Assistant Head of Mathematics

WE RAISED
£345

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

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

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

Heroes amongst us...

Five teenagers who helped rescue a man from a burning house in Shirebrook have been honoured for their bravery.

Shirebrook Academy Year 11 students Farren Walters, Archie Ashton, Josua Jope, Liam Gladwin and Brandon Butler were all given official commendations by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service for displaying heroism in the incident last month.

The students' selfless actions saw them help two off-duty police officers lift a bedridden pensioner to safety after he became trapped in his home when fire broke out. The boys had been walking to the train station when they spotted smoke billowing from the roof of a bungalow on Rockley Way. While they were standing outside the front door, they heard cries for help coming from the garden and they jumped over the fence. There they found a couple struggling to wheel the man, who was confined to his bed, out of the back door and so they helped to lift him out of the building and to safety. Firefighters arrived to extinguish the blaze, which had started in a tumble dryer and spread to the roof space of the building. Firefighters and representatives from Derbyshire Constabulary paid a visit to the academy to give the teenagers their commendations.

Mark Cottingham, principal of the academy, said: "We were very proud to welcome representatives from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Derbyshire Constabulary to our school. "Farren, Archie, Josua, Liam and Brandon showed that they were not the type of people who stand back in someone else's hour of need and they all thoroughly deserve to be recognised for their bravery and compassion."



Pictured from left to right: Josua Jope, Archie Ashton, Liam Gladwin, Farren Walters, Brandon Butler

ARE YOU...

a local man who wants to help this generation of local boys grow into positive, successful young men?

Would you like to help inspire, engage and motivate Shirebrook Academy students?

We are looking for male role models from our community to share: their experiences of growing up and working in the local area, career advice, employment experiences and words of wisdom with our students.

We would like role models from a wide range of careers within the community to help shape the positive choices of Shirebrook's future.



SHIREBROOK ACADEMY NEEDS YOU!



**BOYS WILL BE BOYS
BRILLIANT**

Please contact the academy for more details on:

**01623
742722**



A DATE FOR
YOUR
DIARY

**22 JUNE
2019**

**SHIREBROOK
ACADEMY**

*Family
Fun
Day*



TRAINING SESSIONS

First Session is Always Free

U12 MIXED SESSIONS:

Thursday's 6pm-7pm @ Samworth Church Academy £3.50
Saturday's 11am-12pm @ Oak Tree Leisure Centre £3.50

U13 MIXED SESSIONS:

Tuesday's 6pm-7pm @ Vision West Notts College £3.50

U14 SESSIONS:

Monday's 6pm-7:30pm @ Samworth Church Academy £4.50
Thursday's 6pm-7pm @ Samworth Church Academy £3.50

U16 SESSIONS:

Monday's 7:30pm-9pm @ Samworth Church Academy £4.50
Wednesday's 7pm-8:30pm @ Oak Tree Leisure Centre £4.50

U18 SESSIONS:

Tuesday's 7pm-9pm @ Vision West Notts College £3.50
Wednesday's 8:30pm-10pm @ Oak Tree Leisure Centre £4.50

Email: ian_expresscoachingservices@yahoo.co.uk

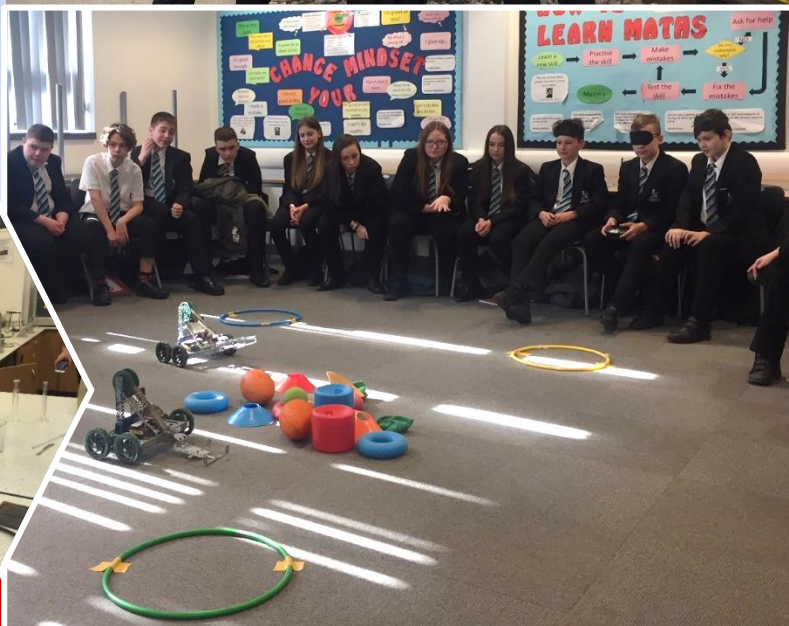
Tel: 01623 650770



STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

During recent STEM activities, Y9 took part in IRail workshops in school, exploring the wide range of careers available in the Rail Industry – one of the largest employment sectors in the East Midlands. The most popular session was the ‘blindfold robot challenge’ which tested students’ communication skills. The next day a team of 3 Y9 students represented the Academy at the Derbyshire IRail event, hosted at Pride Park Stadium in Derby. The day involved a visit to Network Rail and a team challenge – to build a model bridge that would hold a model train for 30 seconds. Our team’s design had the strength to hold the train for 1 minute 30 seconds, but unfortunately tough competition on the day meant they just lost out on the big prize.

Another Y9 group attended a Sparks lecture at Chesterfield College by Flow Adepoju, BSc (Hons) Cosmetic Science graduate, entrepreneur and founder of cult beauty brand MDMflow. Flow gave a fascinating talk about her interest in cosmetics and the growth of her business, then students got the chance to use their own science skills to create their own soap product.



RICKY MUNDAY

Ricky Munday is an adventurer & aid worker, with experience of organising, leading and completing expeditions on six continents. Ricky achieved his lifelong ambition of scaling mount Everest but says he won't be hurrying back soon. He spent the morning in school recently giving our Y10 and Y11 students an inspiring talk about overcoming difficulties and not giving up when things get tough.





STREET WISE WINNER

A recent competition run by Keepmoat Homes to name a new street on their Meadow View development was won by our very own Year 9 student, Josh Ragsdale. Josh came up with the tranquil name of Hummingbird Drive and wins himself a £50 Amazon voucher.



Well Done

WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated World Book Day in style at Shirebrook Academy. The day started with the amazing tune of "Gotta Keep Reading" as a bell, a very fitting lyric for the occasion which made students dance their way to lesson with a positive attitude. Everyone got involved in the Book Quiz, staff recorded audio clips of their favourite books for the students to listen to during tutor time and students had to guess the title of the book being read. We also had a staff dressing up competition and it was down to the students to guess which book character they were dressed as.

Special thanks go to WHSmith for letting us have the WBD free books which we were able to distribute during our special World Book Day assembly for Y7. Our newly formed Reading Advocates who are our Book Club members presented and recommended their favourite books during the assembly. Teachers also chose a book from the WBD collection to talk about in a bid to help students pick the appropriate book for them. There were lots of fun, games and activities throughout the morning including a reading picnic. Mrs Carroll invited students who were doing well in their Accelerated Reader activities to read books and take quizzes online to collect points and achieve certification. There were certificates and prizes awarded to celebrate.



WHSmith

Congratulations to the following students:

ACCELERATED READER'S ACHIEVERS

- Abigail Lewin - Star Reader/Word Millionaire
- Angel Bispham - Super Reader/ Word Millionaire
- Leighton Freeman - Super Reader/ Word Millionaire
- Lauren Foxhall - Super Reader
- Cameron McCluskey - Super reader
- Mitchell Timons - Super Reader
- Sean Whitman - Super Reader
- Lance Reeder - Super Reader
- Sasha Barlow - Rising Reader
- Harry Everett - Rising Reader
- Ashlee Riley - Rising Reader
- Alex Sherwood - Rising Reader
- Bethany Strawther -Rising Reader
- Kayli Simpson - Rising Reader
- Declan Stevenson - Rising Reader
- Sasha Barlow - Rising Reader
- Sarah Barksby - Rising Reader

READING ADVOCATES

- Amelie Clarke
- James Mowbray
- Luke Buckley
- Freddie Dennis
- Ethan Stubbings
- Chloe Evans
- Faith Sykes
- Lennon Morley
- Kelsie Knowles
- Frankie Hillsley
- Kelsie Knowles
- OwenOtis Charles

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

Well done everyone



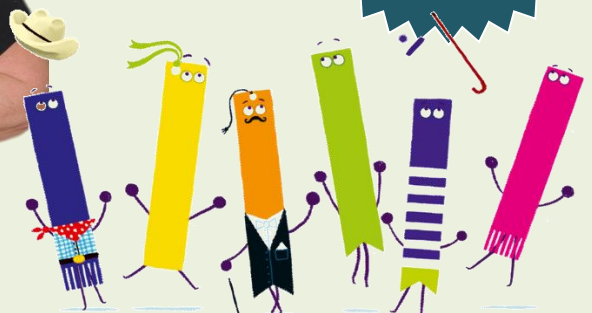
**Dressing Up
competition
winner**
Miss Freeman



Book Quiz Winner
Kira-Mae Belmont 9LF
and consolation prizes
went to 11NF
and 8TM



**Character Book
Quiz Winner**
Fynley Cameron
7AD



PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE KEY DATES
THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR

DIARY DATES

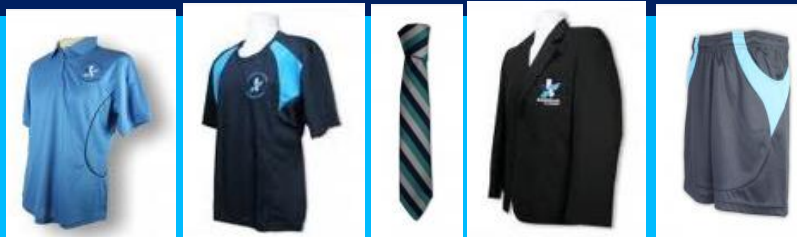
APRIL 2019

- 4 Healthy Day / Gym & Dance Display (pm)
- 8-12 Y7-Y8 Exams
- Languages Week
- 9 Shirebrook Stars
- 10 Rewards Day
- 11 HPV Vaccine Y8 & 9 Girls
- 12 Y7 Shirebrook Church
- 12 Non-Uniform Day & Easter Cake Sale
- 12 Finish for Easter Break
- 29 Return from Easter break
- 30 Y11 Textiles Practical Exam

MAY 2019

- 1 ACET awards evening
- 6 BANK HOLIDAY
- 9 Y7 Student Progress Parents Meeting
- 10-12 Silver D of E practice
- 11-12 Bronze D of E practice
- 21-27 Toulon Exchange
- 24 Finish for half term

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 

Keep up to date with the latest news and events as they happen by following us on twitter

@shireacademy