

# Newsletter

## SHAVINGTON ACADEMY

'Together we enjoy, aspire, create and achieve'



**INSET DAY:** Monday 30th October

**ACADEMY REOPENS TO ALL PUPILS:** Tuesday 31st October 2023

## Alumni News

Congratulations to our former pupil Missy who has secured their first professional acting role. Missy will be playing the character of 'Kit' in the BBC series 'Boiling Point' starring Stephen Graham.

## ★ Act of Kindness ★

It is with immense pride that I am able to shout about the kindness shown by a group of seven Year 10 pupils who, on their way home from school on Wednesday 20th September, stopped to help an elderly gentleman who had fallen, causing a severe head injury. Pupils took their initiative getting towels to help the person treating the gentleman, going to find neighbours to help, and directing the ambulance to the property. Kindness in the community is something that we are encouraging our pupils to demonstrate on a daily basis, and this was something that the pupils acted on without question. Well done to those involved, and I am pleased to say that the gentleman is recovering after spending a few nights being looked after at Leighton Hospital.

*Mrs. J Steele*

*Huge congratulations* to the winners of this summer's reading challenges - Jacob (Year 8), Charlotte (Year 9), Cerys (Year 10) and Rachel (Year 11).

Look out for more reading activities next term!

## Redheart Theatre Performance

Earlier this month, we were delighted to be able to welcome Redheart Theatre back into school for an eerie performance of Gothic Tales. Here's what Georgia in Year 8 had to say: 'I really enjoyed the performances of *The Red Room* and *The Telltale Heart*. There were multiple jump-scares and everything was performed by just one actor - amazing, right? He created a creepy but enjoyably unsettling atmosphere with his different voices and chilling storytelling.'

Dear pupils, parents, carers and members of the community,

Welcoming pupils back into the 2023-24 academic year has been fantastic and it has been heart-warming to see how incredibly well pupils have embraced the beginning of the term. We have started with a clear focus on our learning behaviours and this consistency, across all elements of the academy underpins our standards and high expectations for all. This year we are further developing our whole academy approach to reading which pupils have embraced with incredible maturity and positivity and we look forward to seeing pupils' development as this continues.

Our new Year 7 have settled into the academy extremely well and it has been wonderful to see them adapting to life in secondary school and be enjoying it so much. The preparations for our 2024 cohort are already underway, with many people visiting us on our Open Evening held earlier this term. The admissions window for applications for Year 7 in September 2024 is open until 31st October 2023.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new staff into the Shavington family, Mrs Barlow is a new addition to our Science team; Miss Williams, Mr Warrington and Mr Cullen have joined our Mathematics department and Miss Bartram is now a member of the PE team. Mrs Robinson and Mrs Newell are also supporting in our admin team and Mr Sims is now Deputy Pastoral Leader supporting Year 8.

This first half term has been jam-packed with enrichment opportunities across all year groups and this newsletter shares a flavour of these experiences our pupils have had. Our extensive extra-curricular programme has also been shared and we look forward to many more pupils making the most of these wonderful opportunities.

When we return from the half term break, our focus on the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion will continue as we welcome our first of four personal development, character and enrichment weeks.

Have a lovely half term.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

Mrs. E Casewell  
Headteacher

# Shavington Academy

## Careers Team

### *Year 11 Career Assemblies - FE & 6th Form Colleges*

We believe it is important to provide our pupils with career pathway options and career information with regards to pupils 'next steps' post Shavington Academy. We have invited a number of FE & 6th Form Colleges to deliver career assemblies to enable pupils to make informed choices as they plan their career pathways. The colleges provide course details available for example: A level, T Level, Apprenticeships in various settings, qualifications, industry and business. So far, this academic year, the following assemblies have been scheduled:

*Friday 29th September* - Cheshire College South & West - completed

*Friday 6th October* - Brine Leas 6th Form - completed

*Friday 17th November* - Newcastle & Staffs Colleges

*Friday 1st December* - Reaseheath College

### Year 11 Independent Career Advisor Meetings

It is pleasing to note our Independent Career Advisor meetings are well under way for our Year 11 cohort. Mr John Knight our Independent Career Advisor meets pupils on a one-to-one basis providing valuable career information and advice for pupils as they plan their 'next-steps' post Shavington Academy. Career appointment times are scheduled by Mr. J Clark - Careers Leader. Pupils are informed of their appointment time well in advance of their meeting time in the form of daily pupil briefings and individual appointment slips presented to pupils. Each appointment lasts for 30-minutes. A written report/information from the individual meetings are presented to the pupils only, to ensure confidentiality and to meet CDI ethic guidelines.

### Construction Simulator

Week commencing the 13th November 2023 we are lucky to be hosting a construction simulator for the entire week. This powerful and highly technical piece of equipment is being used to support those pupils at Shavington who have aspirations to work within the construction industry. This simulator will allow pupils to get valuable experience of groundwork operations and give a brief insight to what working with large machinery would be like in the future. The simulator will be supervised by a trained member of the Shavington team who will also support in discussions around T levels, apprenticeships and other routes into the construction industry. This is an exciting opportunity that we expect the pupils to grab with both hands.

### Year 11 Group visit to Crewe Career Fair

*Cheshire College South & West - Thursday 5th October 2023*

What a fantastic morning our group of pupils had meeting local business and training providers at this year's Crewe Career Fair. Pupils took the opportunity to research and find out about various career pathways and future training. The engagement of the pupils and the wonderful feedback received confirmed the visit was meaningful and inspirational. This was the biggest event the Cheshire Warrington Pledge have organised and there was an incredible array of people from businesses to speak to regarding future careers. Pupils were able to visit over 80 exhibitors from various industry sectors ranging from construction, IT, manufacturing, retail, communication, transport, engineering, catering, hospitality and other sectors.

What the pupils said about the event:

*"It was a very inspiring and insightful day"*

*"I liked everything about the day as it gave me an insight of what I want to do in the future"*

*"The information I was provided with helps with future choices"*

*"Lots of companies/colleges to speak to"*

### Futures Fayre

On the 15th November 2023 we will be hosting our annual Futures Fayre event, this is our careers fayre where we invite representatives from local businesses, colleges, universities, training/apprenticeship providers and the armed forces in to Shavington Academy. The idea is for the pupils to gain access to employers, further/higher education providers and local charity organisations to help them make more well-informed decisions related to their post-16 options and future careers. Shavington Academy Futures Fayre is designed not only as an information giving exercise, but as a major stimulus to the thinking of pupils and our parents, we want our pupils to gain first-hand experience of these provisions and plant a seed for future conversations and decisions. We often have a diverse range of providers at the event and I'm sure this year will be no different, showcasing what Cheshire and parts of Staffordshire have to offer. The careers policy of the school places some emphasis on there being a major contribution by external sources, to promote the development of the pupil in order for them to make well informed, realistic decisions. The Futures Fayre is a very important part of this external contribution, and we are convinced that it significantly increases the awareness pupils have of training opportunities, and further and higher education.

# Humanities

## USA Summer Project

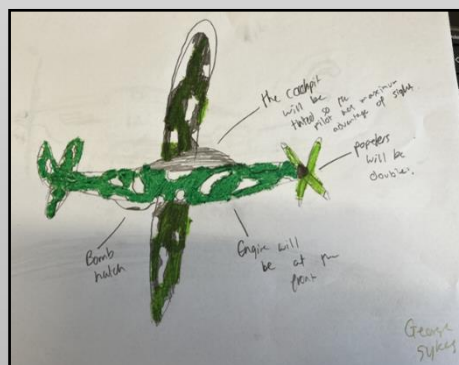
Our new Year 11's had the chance to be creative over the summer as they were asked to create a piece of work based on life in the USA from the 1920's - 1970's. This reflected one of their History GCSE units and was a great way to revise in a different and innovative way. Some of the examples we received were brilliant and it was excellent to see so much time and effort put into a piece of work which will help their studies. Below you can see just a few of the examples of this project from Izzy, Xen and Rachel. Brilliant work from many of our new Year 11 cohort!



## History Club

Prepare for a flight of knowledge, adventure, and patriotism as we take history club to new heights. In history club we are currently working on a research project focusing on the planes used in World War One and World War Two. Recently in the sessions the pupils have been delving into the designs of the Supermarine Spitfire and the Hawker Hurricane and learning about the specific design features and comparing which one was more successful during the war. Over the coming weeks the pupils will begin a local research project that focuses on the involvement that Crewe had in producing some of these aircraft. It was here where parts for the planes were manufactured during the War. Enthusiasts and explorers are welcome so let's soar together. There will be many opportunities to bring your ideas and knowledge to the club.

Miss Birchall



## Year 11 Citizenship - Taking Action!

Year 11 Citizenship pupils have been rising to the challenge of taking their own "action project". As part of their GCSE, pupils must work in a team and try to either create a change, or raise awareness of a specific issue, all inspired by their Citizenship course. Pupils are guided by their teachers but the choices, decisions and actions are entirely down to the pupils themselves. You may have met one team at our recent Open Evening as they were interviewing parents about their views on politics. Other teams are meeting with the local MP, contacting local charities and even lobbying the council to try and make a positive difference to the society that they live in. Watch this space for the next generation of successful campaigners!

## Philosophy & Ethics

Miss Vernon and Miss Ward will be relaunching Shavington Academy's Human Rights Club after half term.

Are you someone who is interested in learning about human rights, passionate about taking a stance in local and global issues, or want to have your voice heard? Then this is the place for you.

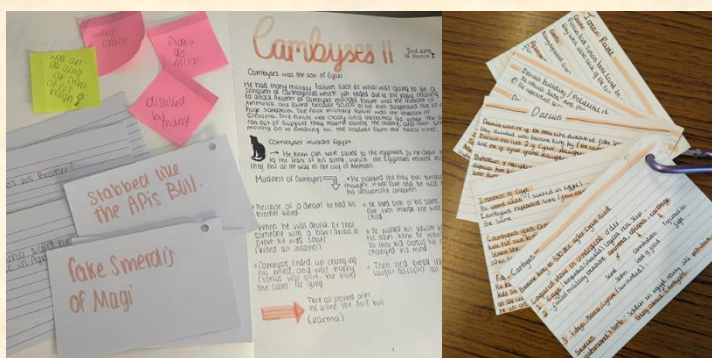
Human Rights Club is open to all Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils on Wednesday lunch times in H4.

## Year 11 History Revision

Preparations for GCSE exams are well underway in Ancient History, Citizenship and History. Little and often is definitely the key to success with revision and as we know that revision can be challenging for some pupils, or that others leave it until the last minute, we have been encouraging pupils to attend revision sessions and developed a new policy for revision. The sessions and homework are aimed at breaking the work into manageable chunks and developing effective revision techniques.

Pupils have responded well to this and we are happy to see the effort that many are putting into creating meaningful resources that will help them achieve later in the year. Good work Year 11, keep it up!

Mr. G Davey



# Shavington Academy & Attendance



## Why is attendance so important?

Regular attendance at school will impact on your child's academic progress - pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves pupils vulnerable to falling behind. Pupils with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Research indicates that there is a direct link between poor attendance and poor achievement. Shavington Academy has a minimum target of 96% attendance for every child. A pupil who has only 90% attendance misses almost 4 weeks of school every year. That's over 100 hours of learning lost. If young people do not attend school regularly, they will experience difficulty in keeping up with their studies. In addition, they also miss out on the many activities and opportunities that we offer at Shavington Academy that support the curriculum and nurture their growth into young adults. Pupils who do not attend school regularly are at a greater risk of becoming involved in crime or becoming a victim of abuse.

Shavington Academy believes that regular school attendance is the key to enabling pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

A pupil's attendance will directly affect their achievement in school. Evidence shows that a pupil's progress and attainment is affected if their attendance falls below 90% and statistics show that if pupils miss just 17 days (34 sessions) of school, their GCSE attainment is likely to drop by an entire grade.

It is important that we help our young people to get into the good habits that they will need in the workplace. Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential in their future employment, and we regularly receive requests from potential employers for references regarding attendance and punctuality. Pupils who develop a poor pattern of attendance and punctuality will be monitored by the Attendance Team and you may be invited into school for a meeting. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for ensuring that your child attends school regularly and is punctual. If you fail to ensure this, you are committing an offence under the Education Act (1996) which may lead to a fine of up to £2500 and/or a prison sentence.

If a pupil does not attend school or is not taking part in an approved educational activity, they are classed as ABSENT from school. This means that if your child is off school for any reason, even if they are ill or have medical permission to be off school, they will be marked as ABSENT.

### **100% attendance is 190 days in school**

8 days of absence is 96%  
12 days of absence is 94%  
19 days absence is 90%  
29 days absence is 85%  
38 days absence is 80%  
47 days absence is 75%

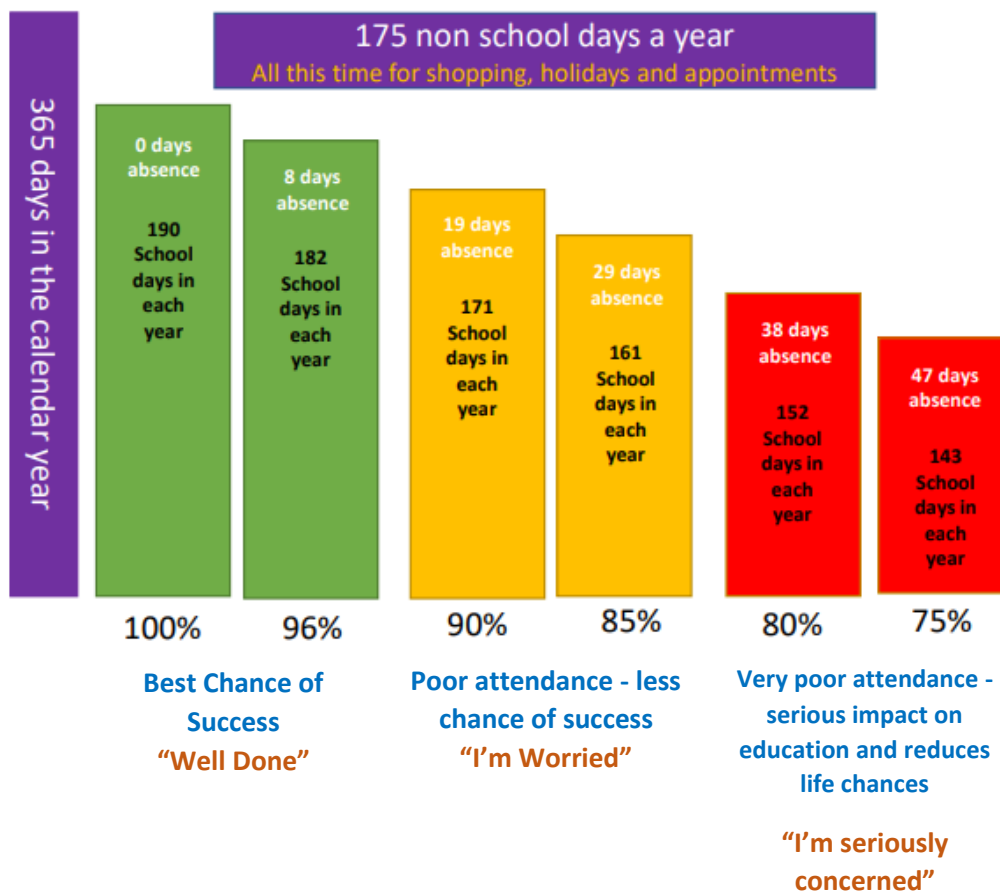
**We ask parents/carers not to keep their child off school unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable.**

**Where this is the case, please can parents/carers:**

- Contact school on the first morning of absence by 08:30 to provide a reason for absence
- Contact the school each day of absence until your child returns to school
- Work with the school and any other agency to resolve any difficulties which may affect regular school attendance
- Provide medical verification for any absences exceeding 5 days (10 sessions) or more
- Where absence is unavoidable, the school is very happy to ensure that work is provided so that your child does not fall behind in their progress. You will need to contact your child's Pastoral Leader to arrange this.

## Good Attendance Means...

...being in school at least 96% of the time



### What is classed as Persistent Absence?

Persistent Absence is classed as any absence that equates to over 10% of the academic year at any given time. Any pupil who appears on the persistent absence list may be monitored formally by Cheshire Easts ACOOS Attendance Services. The thresholds are set out below:

Close of first half-term: 3.5 days in total

Close of 2nd half-term: 7 days in total

Close of 3rd half-term: 10 days in total

Close of 4th half-term: 12.5 days in total

Close of 5th half-term: 15.5 days in total

Close of 6th half-term: 19 days in total

## Leave of Absence

The Education Regulations 2013 states that headteachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In exceptional circumstances the school will consider a request for leave of absence for one period of absence only. Weddings and family events are not classed as special or exceptional circumstances. You will need to request leave of absence by letter at least six weeks prior to the proposed date of absence. This will still impact on attendance.

## Holidays in term time

As you would expect, we analyse the progress of all our pupils, both whilst they are in school and once they leave. A strong pattern that we see throughout is that children who miss school do not do as well as others, and do not make the progress of which they are capable. This is because the lessons that they would have been involved in provide the opportunity for discussion, and misconceptions to be teased out through question-and-answer sessions. Even with a commitment to 'catch up' work, classroom oracy cannot be replaced. Examination results are not everything, I think we can all agree. Unfortunately, absence also impacts a child's friendships, and routines, which can lead to a child feeling less confident in school, following their absence. This, in turn, can lead to further periods of absence, with the detrimental effect it brings.

**Parents cannot authorise absences; only schools can do this.**

Headteachers have discretion to grant leave during school term time, but this is not an automatic entitlement.

Under current regulations, headteachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission from schools to take their children out of school during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

An application for leave of absence should not be granted unless it is made in advance by a parent the pupil normally lives with and the school is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstance of the case which justify the leave. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

If you would like forms requesting for your child for a period of absence or to have medication administered in school, can you please contact the school directly on 01270 260717 or email:

[attendance@shavington.academy](mailto:attendance@shavington.academy)

## The Attendance Support Team

We have a dedicated team of staff at Shavington Academy who work on attendance; Mr Chell, Director of Inclusion works closely with the Welfare and Attendance Officer, Miss Woodcock, Attendance Officer, Mrs Thompson, Pastoral Leaders and, when appropriate, Cheshire East ACOOS Attendance services to scrutinise our attendance data daily, weekly and half termly.

As you would expect, we have very high standards and are committed to all our pupils making maximum progress. The attendance staff are always happy to offer advice and support to pupils, parents/carers and families on effective strategies for maximising attendance. If you would like more details, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Leader.

## What can parents/carers do to help?

It is important that you inform us of any medical or emotional issues that may be affecting your child's attendance to enable us to offer the appropriate support.

If you suspect that your child is experiencing any problems or issues at school that may be affecting their attendance, please make contact with us as soon as possible either via email ([attendance@shavington.academy](mailto:attendance@shavington.academy)) or contact school on 01270 260717.

This will alert us to any problems and help us to work with you towards resolving any issues.

It is important that your child understands that you are working with the school to ensure that there are no barriers to learning and that you **do not condone absence**. It is important that you endorse the school's rules on **punctuality, attendance and dress code** with your children. Late arrival to school will result in your child being set a detention.

**If your contact information changes, please contact us as a matter of urgency to ensure that we have the most up to date information.**

## Pupil Responsibility

- Aim for 100% attendance
- Follow the dress code set by Shavington Academy, also listed in our Parent Handbook
- Be punctual to all lessons
- Be equipped and ready to learn
- Visit the toilets at break time and lunch time only, not during lessons, unless there is a medical reason, for which you will be issued with a pass
- In case of lateness, report to Main Reception to sign in and provide a note from home with an explanation for the late arrival to school or ask your parent/carer to telephone Main Reception, with a reason for the lateness

# Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



Over the past two weekends, 49 intrepid Year 10 pupils undertook the expedition element of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. All 49 of these pupils are now on the cusp of achieving this internationally-recognised qualification. We are incredibly proud of these 'pioneer-pupils' who will be the first cohort from the academy to achieve this award. We asked Courtney and Lyra to tell you, in their own words, about their experience working towards the DofE Bronze Award.

## This is how it works:

Pupils complete three sections within a span of 6, 3 and 3 months. This can be done separately or simultaneously. These categories are physical, skills and volunteering followed by an expedition at the end of this journey. To start, pupils need to choose which category to do for 3 months, 6 months and 3 months: it can be any one they may want, for example you could do skills for 6 months and physical and volunteering for 3 months. Pupils then choose what they would like to do in the said category, this can be anything linked to the name of the category the pupils are doing. The section must be done for at least one hour every week until the deadline is up.

## Before the expedition:

Before the expedition pupils must take part in several DofE sessions to inform and to teach the skills and knowledge needed to partake in the expedition. This included tent pitching, the understanding of the country code, learning 4 and 6 figure grid references, plotting grid references on a map, knowing what symbols on a map mean and, finally, learning how to set up a stove.

## Expedition:

Once pupils have completed 2 or more of these sections, they are allowed to take part in the expedition. This expedition will last for 2 days and one night. We had to plot our given trail on a map using 6 figure grid references and, with a limited amount of support, walked from school to the camp site. The route covered fields and public foot paths so we could apply the country code. This enabled us to gather experiences in map reading along with working as part of a team to build character.

## Opinions from pupils that have completed:

*"The route was nicely planned out and teachers were spaced out nicely to give the feeling of independence."*

*"It was a nice thing to do. It was fun and lots of enjoyment came out of it. I believe my teamwork has improved and I recommend you take part - it is a life changing experience."*

*"All together it gave me a massive sense of accomplishment and independence. This has made it easier for me to put myself into new experiences and involve myself in extra activities."*



**By Courtney & Lyra (Year 10)**