

Dear Families,

We are very keen to promote a culture of reading within the school for very well documented reasons. Research strongly supports the idea that reading helps children engage in *all* curriculum areas. Here are some key findings:

1. **Improved Academic Performance:** Studies have shown that students who read independently tend to perform better academically. They score higher on achievement tests across various subjects and have greater content knowledge¹.
2. **Enhanced Comprehension Skills:** Foundational reading skills, such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension, are crucial. These skills not only improve reading ability but also enhance understanding in other subjects².
3. **Cross-Disciplinary Benefits:** Integrating literacy instruction into all content areas enriches the curriculum. Students learn to use literacy for different purposes, which helps them understand and engage with material in subjects like science, math, and social studies³.
4. **Lifelong Learning:** Encouraging reading from an early age fosters a love for learning. This habit can lead to continuous self-education and curiosity, benefiting students throughout their academic careers and beyond⁴.

Early next year we look forward to opening the brand-new Library area in school. Please join us in encouraging reading and maybe help finding a book that might begin a positive change. I am reading Darragh Ennis's new book (one of ITV's Chasers) *The body: 10 things you should know*. Its fascinating, quite short and good fun to read. Perhaps a thought for a Christmas Gift?



Catering at Shrewsbury Academy

Our catering team play an extremely important part in our students' day. Shrewsbury Academy work collaboratively with the National Breakfast Programme to each student with free toast or bagels, should they wish to partake, free of charge, each day. In addition, our catering provider work together with the school and the students to understand their preferences, whilst maintaining a healthy nutritional balance.

We now have an additional dining area in the Shore, part of the Haughmond Building. This enables our year 7 students to enjoy their dining experience in their own dedicated area of the school.

If you think your child could be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link to Shropshire Councils website:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Many of our students benefit from this offer which entitles students to an amount of credit they can access every day to purchase snacks or a full meal.

Lunch times are always a busy and positive social time for students, with many clubs and games running in addition in areas around the school.



Extra Curricular at Shrewsbury Academy

SHREWSBURY ACADEMY **SPORTS** NEWS

Physical Education Clubs Programme

Day	Before School	After School
Monday	All Years - Fitness - Mr Rogers (Fitness Suite)	All Years Girls - Football - Miss Verrilli (Prima Play) All Years - Fitness - Mr Dobson (Fitness Suite) All Years - Basketball - Mr Dean (Gym)
Tuesday	All Years - Fitness - Miss Weaver (Fitness Suite) Year 9 - Football - Mr Rogers (Prima Play)	Year 7 - Football - Mr Dean (Prima Play) All Years - Fitness - Mr Lawrenson (Fitness Suite) All Years - Volleyball - Miss Weaver (Gym)
Wednesday	Year 8 - Football - Mr Dobson (Prima Play) All Years - Fitness - Mr Rogers (Fitness Suite)	All Years - Netball - Miss Weaver (Prima Play) All Years Table Tennis - Miss Verrilli (Hall) All Years - Fitness - Mr Dobson (Fitness Suite)
Thursday	All Years - Fitness - Mr Rogers (Fitness Suite)	School Meetings (No Clubs)
Friday	All Years - Fitness - Miss Verrilli (Fitness Suite) Year 10 - Football - Mr Rogers (Prima Play)	Year 11 - Football - Mr Lawrenson (Prima Play) All Years - Fitness - PE Department (Fitness Suite)

Details:
All Before school clubs will run from 7.30am – 8.30am unless stated
All After school clubs will run from 3.10pm until 4.10pm
Please speak to a member of staff who is running the club if further details required.
Full PE kit is always expected to be worn for all extra-curricular activities. There is an expectation that attendance at clubs to play in teams



Next Steps – ASPIRATION

Not everyone has that moment when they realise what they want to be or do in life. I remember feeling a little lost with this during my school days, as many of my friends were very clear with where they were going and what they wanted to do. It's ok to be unsure, but one thing that we need to drive into our young people is to dream big. There is **nothing** that can't be achieved with hard work. Many of our students go on to study at Shrewsbury College for both vocational and more traditional A level routes. Many have been and are being very successful. This week's assemblies have focussed on this with clear messages around aspiration. I recently listened to a pod cast by Jimmy Carr. He says that many people are jealous of his successes but absolutely no one is jealous of the hard work it took to get him there.

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt

Open Evening

**English Bridge & Welsh Bridge campuses
(A Level and Vocational Art courses)**
04 February 2025, 5.00pm - 7.00pm

**London Road Campus
(Vocational and Technical courses)**
13 February 2025, 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Taster Session

**London Road Campus
(Vocational and Technical courses)**
30 November 2024, 9.00am - 1.00pm

**English Bridge & Welsh Bridge campuses
(A Level and Vocational Art courses)**
23 November 2024, 9.00am - 1.00pm

scg.ac.uk/events
admissions@scg.ac.uk

**SHREWSBURY
COLLEGES GROUP**

Shrewsbury Academy Spotlight – What is Autism and how does it impact learning?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects how individuals perceive and interact with the world. It is characterised by challenges in social interactions, communication, and repetitive behaviours. The term "spectrum" indicates the wide range of symptoms and severity that individuals with autism can experience.

How Autism can affect Learning

1. **Social Skills:** Autistic children may find it difficult to understand social cues, which can impact their interactions with peers and teachers.
2. **Communication:** Many autistic children face challenges with verbal and non-verbal communication, making it hard to express needs or understand instructions.
3. **Sensory Processing:** Sensory sensitivities can make certain environments overwhelming, affecting concentration and participation.
4. **Information Processing:** Autistic children might process information differently, often requiring more time to understand and respond.
5. **Anxiety:** Higher levels of anxiety can interfere with learning by making it hard to focus and stay organised.



Adapting Teaching Methods for Autistic Children

1. **Structured Environment:** Clear routines and structured environments help autistic children feel secure and understand what to expect.
2. **Visual Supports:** Using visual aids like schedules, charts, and picture cards can help autistic students understand and follow instructions.
3. **Incorporate Interests:** Leveraging a child's special interests can make learning more engaging and meaningful.
4. **Sensory Tools:** Providing sensory tools like fidget toys or noise-cancelling headphones can help manage sensory sensitivities.
5. **Social Skills Training:** Structured activities that promote social interaction can help develop these crucial skills.
6. **Clear and Simple Instructions:** Keeping instructions short and clear can help autistic students understand and follow them more easily.
7. **Positive Reinforcement:** Encouraging and rewarding positive behaviour can motivate autistic children and reinforce learning.

By understanding the unique needs of autistic students and adapting teaching methods accordingly, our teachers can create a supportive and effective learning environment that helps these students thrive.

Shrewsbury Academy
Part of the Marches Academy Trust

Student Support Queries

If you have concerns regarding a student's learning needs, would like to request additional support/advice please complete the internal SEND referral form and send it to the following email address: sendadmin@shr.mmat.co.uk. Our Student Support Department are now based in the Hub area of the Haughmond Building, taking advantage of their new amazing facilities, life skills cooking area, and outdoor learning spaces. The entrance is off **East Crescent** on the South side of the



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Information

shrewsburyacademy.co.uk

NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.



Why not also follow us on Facebook @[ShrewsburyAcademy](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff and school celebrations, to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

Want to work for the Marches Multi Academy trust? Follow the link below:

<https://www.marchesacademytrust.co.uk/joining-us/how-to-join>



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Family Drop-ins

How can we help you?

Scan to see locations and dates all across Shropshire!

Free information, advice and support events

- Family Life
- Domestic Abuse support
- Housing and Finance support
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support
- Parenting support
- Little Stars - Baby Bank/ school uniforms
- Training and Employment support and much more

Supporting families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities). We aim to make a session for you to see for help and get support when you need it.



Some of our students have severe allergies. Please respect our drive to be a 'nut free school.' Always leave snacks and foods containing nuts at home.



Protect our children!

Parents and guardians: Our kids are now most commonly abused online, via their mobile phones and games consoles. Do you know how to keep your kids safe?

Learn more about the dangers of kids being online and how you can keep them safe. Join our free one hour online awareness session to give yourself a head start in an ever changing digital world. Scan the QR code to find out more about our awareness training and to sign up to one of our free sessions or go to www.esomercia.police.uk/epbworkshops

