

Newsletter

SHAVINGTON ACADEMY

'Together we enjoy, aspire, create and achieve'



October 2021

The Academy will reopen to pupils on
Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

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

Character & Personal Development @ Shavington Academy September/October 2021

It has been absolutely wonderful to begin a new academic year in a way that feels a lot closer to 'normal' than the previous eighteen months. 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 2022 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 2022 is open until 31st October 2021.

As a school that seeks to build the character of its pupils, it has been great to see so many examples of SPARK and GRIT over the past half term (as the rest of the newsletter testifies).

We started the year with drop-down Character Development Days for each year group, where pupils explored our core values in relation to our Values Heroes. They then wrote a reflective piece where they evaluated where they were at in relation to these values on a personal level. Many of these reflections showed an incredible amount of self-awareness and maturity and we will be referring back to these character statements over the coming months (and years)!

Pupils and staff alike are extremely happy to see the return of our extensive extra-curricular programme this year and many pupils across all year groups are already making the most of these wonderful opportunities.

Since then we have further explored character and values in SPARK lessons, as well as in two form time sessions per week, which are now explicitly devoted to building our pupils' character. Each term this year, we are focusing specifically on three of the nine core values. This term we have been thinking about the importance of RESPECT, PRIDE and AMBITION – three values our pupils display very readily on a daily basis.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new staff into the Academy, Ms Achieng joins our Mathematics department, Mrs Bettley has joined the Languages team and Mr Moulton is a welcome addition to our Geography department. Over the summer we also recruited a new receptionist, Mrs Aldridge and we also welcome Mr Canham and Mrs Derry as Deputy Pastoral Leaders, supporting year 7 and year 10 retrospectively.

We have also been encouraging all of our pupils to think of themselves as leaders and to apply for leadership positions in school. Indeed in year 9, all pupils will be completing a series of leadership modules, through the PE curriculum, where they will further develop SPARK and GRIT and be given opportunities to put these values to practical use. Each form now has two appointed leaders (one House Representative and one Academy Council Representative) who are responsible for promoting house activities and being the voice of our pupils in terms of raising issues and charitable work and service. We are particularly looking forward to awarding our first house cup at the end of the year, which will be awarded to the house that achieves the most house points across all five year groups. This will be based on M4L scores, curriculum-based projects, sports day, and engagement in extra-curricular activities. The winning house will certainly have to be a house of character and we have no doubt that this will be a tightly run competition given the outstanding commitment and attitudes displayed by so many of our pupils.

This year the Academy continues to emphasise the importance of character and our values and over the course of this year our newsletter will focus on showcasing this to our wider community.

Mr M Nicolle
Assistant Headteacher

Our attention over the coming weeks will also remain on the health and safety of everyone and we thank you all for your continued support.

Core Value: Pride

Have a lovely half-term.

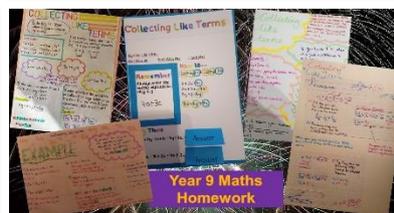


Take Care and Stay Safe,

Year 9 pupils have been creating
some excellent revision resources.

Mrs E Casewell
Headteacher

Year 7 have started life at Shavington with a bang! The Maths department have been so impressed with the quality and creativity of the homework so far...keep it up Year 7!



Core value: Ambition

Creative Writing Club members have been working hard on stories focussing on our key values. Here is an extract from a short story by Jessica in year 8 (edited by Mrs P). Rose discovers a huge family secret that gives her the Ambition she needs to change her life forever...

'We must speak inside,' he explained. I had not seen my Dad for thirteen years, and that is the first thing he said to me? If he had something to tell me, it had better be important. Inside, however, he stared at me expectantly and told me to run along so that he could speak to my mother. Inside my heart seethed. I wanted to scream, but instead I nodded and dragged myself out of the room. I didn't go far. I needed to know what they were saying...

'It's about River.' I heard him say. Who was River? 'She has been captured. Prince Caspian of Findara will marry her at dawn seven days from now. There is no hope of saving her. The whole of the castle is armed with soldiers and winged beasts.' Prince Caspian? Winged beasts? What was going on?

'Caspian knows that when River is his, her power will be his too. So will Rose's. We must tell Rose.'

He opened the door and I fell onto the hard wooden floor. 'I think she knows everything she needs to know already' he asserted, looking down at me.

'No, not everything!' I exclaimed. 'I know there is a girl called River who is in danger- but how am I connected to her?'

'Well,' Father began. 'She is your sister. Your twin sister.'

My face turned a ghostly white. 'I... I have a twin?'

I didn't know how to feel. Every emotion possible flooded my body, but the one that overwhelmed me was anger. Not at River- at my parents. 'How could you keep this from me? I have felt so alone and all along I had a twin?'

I fled to my room and wept. I had only just been told I had a twin and I would never be able to see her now that Prince Caspian had her in his grasp. Then I remembered my resolution from a month earlier... 'There is another part of me that will never be found unless I try.' This was the missing puzzle piece, the one I always needed. It was her. River. I was gripped by a sudden and resolute determination. I knew that I could do nothing else but try. Try to save her...

Creative Writing Club runs every Wednesday lunchtime in E3.

Computing Department

This year we are excited to introduce Miss Waite, a new member and class teacher for the Computing department. Miss Waite has already started 'Code Club' where pupils are encouraged to be ambitious when coding and they will also need to demonstrate resilience when trying to achieve this.

In the first session the pupils were introduced to a fun turtle race game that they needed to program themselves. Loops were used to draw the race track and to make the turtles move a random number of steps each turn. Code Club is open to all years in C2 on a Thursday after school.

This links in with the topic year 8 and 9 pupils have been working on this half term in their Computing lessons. The pupils have been ambitious learning a new programming language that is text based and is often used in the industry of Computer Science. In order to successfully program in Python, it takes problem solving skills, patience and resilience to keep going, even if it doesn't work the first time!



Science Department

The Science department have been delighted to welcome pupils back to the labs this term and especially excited to be back doing practical work. Practical work not only helps embed the theory work that takes part in lessons but is also great fun.

In the spirit of fun practical work, the department have launched their weekly Science club. This is an opportunity for pupils to do exciting experiments and take part in competitions, in addition to the areas delivered in lessons. Pupils have already done some amazing practical activities, showing ambition towards being a better Scientist, skills that they can take back to their lessons. New friendships have been made, with pupils showing kindness to those who have joined the club on their own and, as with many Science investigations, have shown resilience, by overcoming problems and changing how they approach unknown situations.

Over the next few weeks and months, Science club will be undertaking experiments such as: making alien blood, making fire extinguishers, investigating the science of bonfires, glycerol bubbles and much much more!

Science club is open to all pupils in years 7 and 8, however there is a limited number of places available, so pupils should sign up in advance with their Science teacher or come along to S4 to sign up with Mrs Seddon any lunch or breaktime.

We look forward to sharing some brilliant experiments with pupils and will continue to share updates on the excitement that is bound to be had by all involved.

Here is a picture giving an insight into the great things that Science club have been experimenting with so far.



Year 11 Citizenship

We are year 11 pupils who are currently running a campaign for our Citizenship action project. Our aim is to reopen the local youth club which closed due to lack of funding. We would appreciate it if you could sign our petition by scanning the QR code below or by searching the following link:

<https://chnq.it/XDQpn877cw>

The youth club will be a centre of community and friendship in Shavington, with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Are you not yet convinced?

Please read the description on the petition link.

By Nathanael, Darcy, Shannon and Harrison.



STEAM Update



At Shavington Academy we continue to highlight the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) across the curriculum. With jobs in STEAM industries continuing to rapidly grow in number, our focus helps develop pupils' problem solving, teamwork and collaborative skills whilst they are introduced to potential new careers or passions.

As part of this continued focus, we have designed and implemented a competition run fortnightly during form time. In each STEAM session, under a time limit, pupils complete a series of questions based on key mathematical concepts used in all areas of STEAM. This continued practice thoroughly embeds these mathematical concepts into their skill set, allowing for quick and confident usage once they are required for more complex STEAM topics.

The scores for each form are collected and each fortnight the winning form in every year wins a prize. An extra prize will be awarded to the winning form of each half term.

Feedback from both staff and pupils has been extremely positive and we are delighted to see so many pupils engaging fully in developing their STEAM skills during form time.

STEAM starters have also been introduced in Maths lessons; each focusing on a mathematical topic that will be utilised soon in another STEAM lesson. This allows pupils to develop Maths skills they may be unsure about or unfamiliar with, before they are required in Science, Geography or other STEAM subjects.

In addition to this, displays have been updated in all Maths classrooms to highlight the importance of STEAM skills or focus on key people from STEAM industries. From the focus on great engineering works in M1 to the amazingly presented and inspiring 'Women in STEAM' display in M4 (see picture above), pupils can gain further insight into STEAM and its importance from their learning environments.

The focus on STEAM is one of great importance at Shavington Academy, and we look forward to introducing new ideas to continue and improve the development of pupils' STEAM skills and awareness.

Extra-curricular success within the PE department

This half term has been action packed in the PE department. Since September, extra-curricular clubs have been back up and running every lunchtime and after school. Pupils have shown enthusiasm, dedication and pride in their performances when they have been selected for the school teams in Netball, Football and Cross Country. We have had 180+ pupils representing the school in fixtures this half term already!



A Shavington Academy rising star...

Year 7 pupil Emma has been regularly attending dance club and impressed Miss Talbot from Day 1 with her talent, recent achievements and ambitious attitude to succeed within dance.

Performer profile:

From a young age I have always loved dance. At the age of 2, I started ballet, 4 when I started tap dancing and at 5, I started musical theatre (a combination of dance, singing and acting). Now at the age of 11, I am involved in many classes such as: Jazz, Contemporary, Modern, Street dance and Demi point.

As well as many dance exams I also have performed in many different places (Crewe, Congleton, Stoke-on-Trent, London and at Silverstone race track at the Grand Prix). One of my biggest achievements was to perform with the English Youth Ballet.



At my dance school I am part of the youth dance team where I represent our school in big events: this year in October I will be performing at 'Scarefest' at Alton Towers.

My dance school is like my second family. I have always been ambitious and strived to what I want: this has got me very far in my dancing. When I dance I feel I can just escape reality and I love it. If I ever have any negative emotions I just dance it out. Dancing keeps me and my mental health fit and the best it can be.

I hope to carry on dancing for a long time and I am looking forward to the events Shavington Academy will bring my way.