

SHIRELAND NEWSLETTER

EDITORS IN CHIEF –
GRACE, JACOB & MRS WINDMILL



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM



SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

A term in numbers:

- * 31 Trips
- * 20 Visitors to School
- * 12 Whole School Events
- * 5 charity events
- * 49 Extra Curricular Clubs across break, lunch and after school

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Return to School**
Tuesday 6th January, 2026
Gates will open at the usual time for students to return to school after the Christmas break.
- * **Year 11 Parents Evening**
Thursday 8th January 2026
- * **KS5 BTEC Exams Begin**
Friday 9th January 2026
- * **Year 7 & 8 Settling In Evening**
Tuesday 13th January 2026
- * **Family Support Hub**
Wednesday 21st January 2026



Termly Spotlight

THE HEADLINE

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of Shireland,

As we draw the term to a close, I want to thank you for the energy, kindness and resilience you've shown across our school community. Our students have embraced their learning, enrichment and opportunities with real purpose. Our staff have gone the extra mile—day in, day out—to make sure every child feels known, supported and challenged.

I'm especially proud of the way we've kept attendance strong, because being in school every day is the foundation for success. So far this term our overall attendance is 95.5% and that is the highest of any Sandwell Secondary school.

Beyond the classroom, we've continued to build a culture that is safe, inclusive and ambitious. When I look over the newsletter and see all of the achievements over the past term I am absolutely blown away.

From sporting success to incredible school performances, from trips and visitors to school to exciting Focus Days. Thank you to all parents and carers who've supported events, rehearsals and trips and; your partnership makes a real difference.

As we look ahead to the new year, we'll keep our focus on excellent attendance, high-quality teaching and rich enrichment, so every young person can thrive. I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and seeing just a snapshot of the many successes across our Academy this term.

Wishing you a restful break and a joyful festive season.

Warm regards,

Mr T Daly
Principal



Department Feature

Exceptional Success in Music

Music Exam Success

The following students have all achieved music grades over the past term:

Jonah, Year 9 – Grade 2 Music Theory

Joshua, Year 9 – Grade 2 Music Theory – Distinction

Sophie-Rose, Year 9 – Grade 3 Musical Theatre – Distinction

Dileena, Year 10– Elementary Piano – Merit

Ceci, year 10 – Grade 6 Violin – Awaiting the result!

Clara, Year 9 – Elementary Piano – Distinction

A huge achievement to all our students!

Christmas Show

The Christmas Show, All I Want for Christmas, was a wonderful success, performing to a packed audience. Featuring over 60 SCA students, from years 7–13, plus 18 pupils from STP, the concert was a celebration of the variety of musical talent we have here at Shireland. What a wonderful way to start the festive season.

Shireland Music Scholarships

This year marks our busiest one yet in the Music Scholarship programme, with over 120 students accessing music instrumental lessons each week. Students from years 7 through to 13 have been given the opportunity to learn an instrument (or sing), including tuition on Piano, Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, Drums, Strings, Singing and Dhol.

Student Success

Joshua, (Year 11), was successful in gaining a place in the CBSO Youth Orchestra. He has performed several times with them over the last few weeks and is currently in the process of auditioning for specialist Music College to continue his musical career!



Club & Activity Corner

Hooked on Crochet.

Every Wednesday after school, Miss Sudhakar's Crochet Club has become a vibrant hub of creativity and community. Students from all year groups and abilities gather to learn, share, and create. From mastering the basics to crafting clothing and plushies, members have come an incredible way since their first stitches.

Year 8 student Noah says it is "a fun and creative way to make things by hand and see your skills grow each week." Year 12's Sana describes it as "a welcoming space where you can learn new techniques, share ideas, and enjoy the calming rhythm of stitching." Aishah in Year 7 loves how "you start with a chain and work your way up to complex designs," and Rabeah in Year 9 calls it "a wonderful place to relax, learn new skills, and make friends."

The pictures above showcase projects created by our talented club members, proof of their creativity and progress. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, all students and staff are welcome. Just sign up on Arbor and join the fun!

Get Involved!

Interested in joining a club or starting something new? Check out the full list of clubs on our website or look on Arbor for what is available for your year group!



Department Spotlight

Inclusion Department

New staff in inclusion

We're thrilled to welcome two new members to our Inclusion team at SCA!

Miss Toni Bailey joins us as a Teaching Assistant for Years 8 and 9, bringing a calm, supportive presence and a strong commitment to helping students succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs Alisha Arfan is our new SEMH Worker, offering tailored emotional and mental health support across year groups. Her empathetic approach and dedication to student wellbeing will be a huge asset to our provision. We're excited to have them on board and look forward to the positive impact they'll make.



Miss Toni Bailey



Mrs Alisha Arfan

SEND Careers Event – 25th November

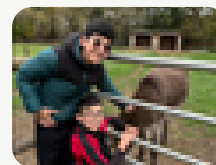
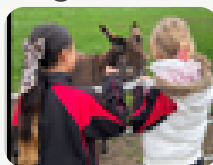
Our Year 10 and 11 SEND students recently visited The Hawthorns for a dynamic careers event focused on future pathways. The experience offered valuable insights into career options, lifestyle choices, and post-16 provision, helping students make informed decisions about their next steps. At SCA, we're committed to ensuring every student leaves with the right support and opportunities in place. This visit was a key part of that journey—empowering our learners to explore, ask questions, and plan for a successful future.

SEND Aston Villa School Football Tournament– Tuesday 14th October



A group of our students had the amazing opportunity to take part in the SEND Schools Football Tournament, held at the iconic Aston Villa facilities and brilliantly hosted by Smile Education. Our team played 7 action-packed games, showing incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience in every single match. No matter the score, every student gave 100% effort and represented our school with pride. A huge shoutout to our Most Valuable Player – Musa! Musa stood out with his exceptional sportsmanship, unwavering respect, and a strong commitment to challenging himself throughout the tournament. A truly inspiring performance!

Forge Mill Farm Visit – 15th October



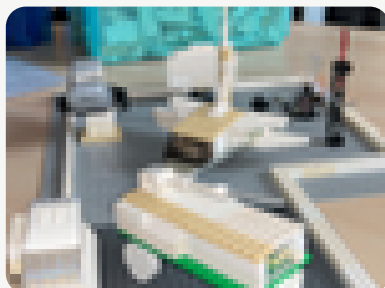
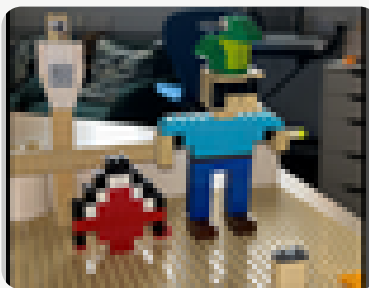
Our Year 7–9 students enjoyed a fantastic (and free!) trip to Forge Mill Farm as part of our Preparing for Adulthood program. With the amazing Lucy Flemming as our guide, students explored the farm, learned about the evolution of farming, and discovered the vital roles animals play. A big thank you to Sandwell Council for funding this experience – giving our students the chance to learn outside the classroom, completely free of charge. Plenty of fresh air, curiosity, and learning – and while we didn't bring any animals back (tempting!), we've come away with loads to talk about in our next sessions.

Extra curricular Feature

New After School Lego Club

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new LEGO Club, hosted by Miss Ellie Penn! Taking place every Wednesday from 3:20 to 4:30pm, this creative space invites students to express themselves through imaginative builds and collaborative play. The club has already seen fantastic engagement, with students diving into projects that showcase their creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. It's a brilliant opportunity for our Inclusion students to unwind, connect, and build confidence in a relaxed and supportive environment.

If you're interested in joining, please speak with Miss Penn—new members are always welcome!

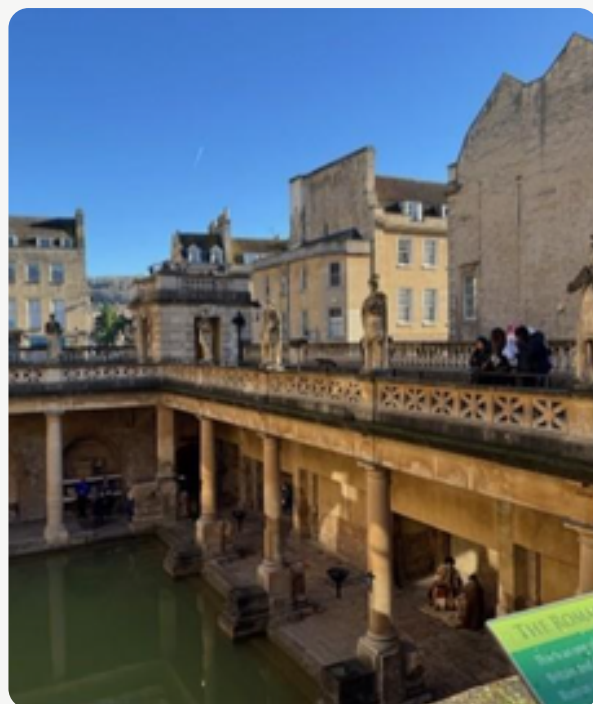


Sixth Form collect for Midland Langar Seva Shoebox Appeal

This year, our Sixth Form students proudly came together to support a meaningful local initiative, the Midland Langar Seva Shoebox Appeal 2025. The appeal provides essential items and small gifts to individuals and families in need, helping to bring comfort and joy during challenging times.

We are incredibly proud of our students for demonstrating such compassion and community spirit. From thoughtfully selecting items to carefully packaging each shoebox, their contributions reflect the values we aim to foster within our school.

A heartfelt thank you to every student who took part. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to help others will make a real and lasting difference to those who receive these donations. Initiatives like this remind us of the power of young people working together to create positive change.



Student Story – Fahim and Amanpreet, Year 13

Y13 Tourism Students visit Bath

In November 2025 we visited Bath, we had to take a drive through the Midlands into Somerset where the attraction needed for our unit 9 Coursework was located being the Romans Bath. Touring around Bath we saw the unique scenery of Bath seeing its historical infrastructure and its local culture. We were amazed with how different it looked to Birmingham city centre. We first attended a talk by Dan Mills from Visit West, who talked about Bath and the Southwest as a destination including the latest industry statistics and the variety of marketing techniques they used to promote the area. We then had a tour of the Roman Baths where we used the audio guides to explore. After exploring the Romans Bath and seeing its beauty we were invited to another conference lead by James from education team at The Roman Baths, where we conducted some primary research with an observation of the current customers within the Roman Baths. This helped us by understanding the type of customers that visit, the way they interacted with the attraction and a real-life experience of collecting data for an attraction. To finish off, we explored the rest of the city to see other site including the River and shops for a full cultural experience. It was a fantastic day, and we will definitely return!

Department Spotlight

Year 7 L4L

This Term in Pictures



Year 7 Black History Month Competition

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, Year 7 students took part in a special competition with three creative categories: a Hero Biography, a piece of Poetry or Creative Writing, or an Art Challenge based on the theme "Celebrating Black Voices."

We were delighted by the effort, imagination, and enthusiasm shown across all entries. After careful judging, 14 students were selected as winners and enjoyed a special cinema trip as their prize.

Congratulations to all of our winners and well done to every student who took part – your creativity and hard work made this year's competition a great success!



Year 7 Visit Royalty at Warwick Castle

A Royal Adventure at Warwick Castle In October, our students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Warwick Castle! From exploring the towering battlements to wandering through the grand halls, the day was filled with history, excitement, and adventure. A particular highlight was the spectacular bird show, where majestic birds of prey soared overhead, showcasing their incredible skills up close. The students were amazed by the speed, agility, and beauty of these feathered performers—an experience they won't soon forget. It was a day of fun, learning, and memories to treasure!



🎃 Spook-tacular Fun for Year 7! 🧛‍♀️

Year 7 students enjoyed a Halloween-themed reward to celebrate the end of term! From exciting games to creative arts and crafts, it was a fantastic way to wrap up a busy half term.

Department Spotlight

Year 7 L4L

This Term in Pictures

Arts Aptitude Students Enjoy National Theatre Live Screening

Our Arts Aptitude students had the exciting opportunity to visit Vue Birmingham this week to watch National Theatre Live: The Importance of Being Earnest. The trip gave students a valuable insight into live theatre performance, allowing them to experience Oscar Wilde's classic comedy brought to life on the big screen. The group represented the school brilliantly, engaging thoughtfully with the production and demonstrating the creativity and enthusiasm that make the Arts Aptitude Programme so special.



Students Discover the Deep Sky

A group of students enjoyed an exciting visit to the cinema to watch the IMAX documentary Deep Sky. Directed by Nathaniel Kahn and narrated by Michelle Williams, the film took them on an incredible journey through the cosmos, showcasing the ground breaking discoveries of NASA's Webb Telescope. This experience gave students a fascinating insight into space exploration and the mysteries of our universe and supported them with the L4L theme Journey to the Centre of the Earth.



Remembrance Day Competition Winners



Ansel, Year 7



Meera, Year 7



Annaka, Year 8

Christmas Reward Show Winners



The trial of Goldilocks comes to SCA

Year 7 students were visited by BPP University, who delivered an engaging session called The Trial of Goldilocks. Pupils stepped into character roles to explore how a courtroom works and had the chance to ask questions about careers in law. This interactive experience gave students a real insight into the legal profession and the skills needed to succeed.



TRIAL OF GOLDILOCKS



Student Feature

Danika goes to new dizzying heights at West Midland Championships!

We are so proud of Danika for her amazing performances at the West Midlands Championships! She had an outstanding start on the trampoline, finishing joint first after her first routine and securing a well-deserved 2nd place overall.

Even more impressively, Danika competed in the Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) and delivered two excellent passes, earning her 1st place and becoming West Midland's Champion in her category.

Congratulations Danika!



Year 10 Visit PwC Birmingham



As part of the work we do around industry and careers, our Year 10 students showed fantastic engagement while exploring the world of work, professionalism, and future career opportunities at PwC Birmingham Headquarters in November.

Year 12 collect for Women's Aid



Year 12 students Amara and Aminah have lead the first Sixth Form charity fundraiser of the year for Women's Aid by collecting donations from the school body for Winter Necessity bags. Over 550 items were kindly donated,

from winter coats to toiletries, toys to dry food items. A huge thank you to the wider fundraising team Sairah, Muniba and Oasna for their efforts and to our students and families for donating.

Club & Activity Corner

Odd Socks Day

To raise awareness of makes us all unique, students and staff wore odd socks to school on Friday 21st November. We saw some great combinations, with a big shout out to Mrs Docherty with the loudest and most colourful pair!



Next SEND Cafes and Progress Meetings:

We are delighted to share the following dates for the upcoming SEND Progress Evenings for the 2025–26 academic year. Thursday 11th June 2026

Booking information will be shared closer to each event.

17th March 2026 – SEND Café 3 (Years 7–9)

28th April 2026 – SEND Café 4 (Years 10–13)

Please complete this form if you wish to attend one of our SEND Café's
Scan the QR code to confirm your attendance:



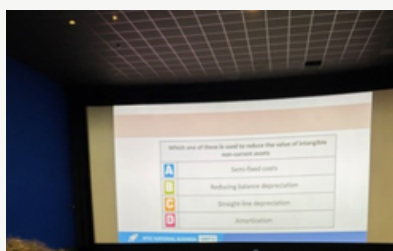


Department Spotlight

Business Studies

Tutor2U – Year13 Unit3 Grade Booster

Our Year 13 learners are currently preparing for their upcoming Personal and Business Finance examination in January 2026. To support their revision, they attended a Grade Booster session on Tuesday, 25th November at Star City. During the session, students received valuable exam tips, techniques, and strategies, alongside comprehensive recaps of key business topics and financial calculations. This engaging revision event reinforced classroom learning and boosted confidence ahead of the exam. Well done to everyone who participated, and best of luck for your examination on Monday, 12th January 2026!



Year 12 – Hollywood Bowl

Our Year 12 Business students had the exciting opportunity to visit Hollywood Bowl on Tuesday, 18th November. The trip served as an introduction to their Marketing unit, where they will soon be tasked with developing a full marketing campaign. During the visit, students not only enjoyed a fun bowling experience but also gathered valuable research for a fictional scenario focused on increasing weekday footfall at Hollywood Bowl.

As part of the activity, students were required to design a short campaign that included clear marketing objectives, an analysis of internal and external factors influencing the campaign, a realistic timescale, and a proposed budget allocation of £10,000. This engaging and practical experience was highly successful, giving learners a real insight into what to expect in their Marketing unit starting January 2026.

Department Spotlight

Physical Education

U16 Basketball Team are reaching new heights!

- Our U16 Basketball team is going from strength to strength. They are currently competing in the U16 Dynamik National Schools Championship.
- So far, they beat Nunnery Wood High School from Worcester 59 to 54 points in a thrilling game!
- They move onto the next round and will surely continue the level they have demonstrated so far, well done boys.



U14 Basketball Team are also going from strength to strength



- Our U14 Basketball are currently competing in the U14 Dynamik National Schools Championship.
- Recently they beat Bromsgrove School from Worcester in a very tight game which they won by 1 point, 47-46!
- They move onto the next round, well done boys!

Sixth Form Football Academy has officially launched!

Our new Sixth Form Football Academy is already making a big impact, giving students the chance to balance their studies with high-level sport. With training sessions twice a week, players are developing discipline, teamwork, and resilience — skills that go far beyond football.

The unbeaten start to the season is a bonus, with a 7-2 win against Etone College, 1-1 draw with Heath Park and a 7-1 win against Blue Coat, but the real success lies in how individuals are growing: building confidence, improving fitness, working as a unit and learning to lead both on and off the pitch. The academy is proving to be a pathway for personal development as much as sporting achievement. This is only the start of our Football Academy as we look forward to the rest of the season and the years going forward.



Alumni Partnership

Alumni Student returns to SCA to inspire and motivate



On Wednesday 19th November, we were delighted to welcome back former student Kaljit Atwal for a very special visit. Kaljit, who studied BTEC Sport here at Shireland, has gone on to achieve remarkable success, playing football in America and building a huge social-media following thanks to her exceptional freestyle football skills. Her dedication, creativity and passion for the sport have made her an inspiring role model for young athletes everywhere. During her visit, Kaljit delivered an engaging and energetic workshop for a group of our students. She shared her journey from her early days at Shireland, speaking openly about the challenges she has faced and the determination required to pursue her dreams. The girls were captivated by her story and motivated by her message about resilience, confidence, and following your passion. Kaljit then demonstrated a series of freestyle football tricks, breaking down the techniques and encouraging the students to have a go themselves. The workshop was filled with excitement, laughter and plenty of "wow" moments as the girls mastered new skills and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. By the end of the session, the students left feeling inspired, empowered and proud of what they had achieved. We are incredibly grateful to Kaljit for returning to Shireland and for giving our students such a memorable and uplifting experience.



All things Sixth Form...

Sixth Form have been busy this term starting new societies, planning for their futures beyond Shireland at post 18 and being visited by lots of external guests in their Futures programme.

In Year 12:

- Students looking to explore Engineering in Aerospace were visited by the Technical Director of Systems Engineering from Atkins Realis.
- The Elephant Year 12 cohort launched and went on their first trip to Loughborough University
- NMITE university visited us again, where alternative pathways in Engineering were explored and a masterclass in problem solving was enjoyed by all
- Our Reading Society has launched, and now joins the Med Soc and Engineering Society with regular meetings and talks
- The Volunteering programme has had a successful launch with over 95 students regularly attending a volunteering placement helping to serve the school community.

In Year 13:

- Aspiring Law students were visited by BB Legal Career, a Law School who want to inspire more young people to take the leap into the legal system.
- University College London, Derby University and Birmingham City University all visited for our Futures programme session delivering talks about next steps and what to do when applying to Uni.
- Mock interviews and A Personal Statement Conference Day were highlights this term where we were visited from Industry and Alumni students helping to prepare pupils for their next steps. Thank you to all our old students who made a return.
- For the first time in 15 years, we have three students secure Oxford University interviews – a huge achievement!
- The MacMillan Coffee morning was another success with £470 being raised for a very worthy cause.

Department Spotlight

Design & Technology

Year 9 take on Air powered car STEM focus day

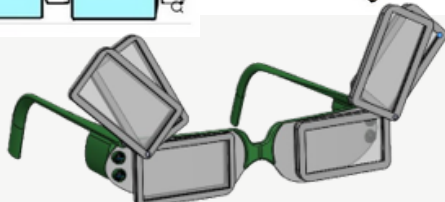
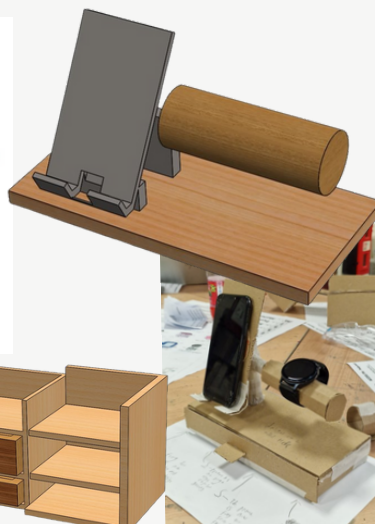
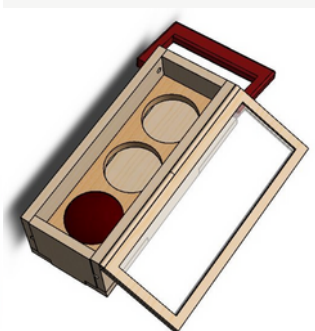
Year 9 students took part in an inspiring Design and Technology STEM Focus Day, combining creativity, engineering, and teamwork. The challenge was to design, build, and race model race cars, applying principles of aerodynamics, accuracy, and problem-solving. Students worked collaboratively to develop innovative designs, using practical skills and critical thinking throughout the process. The excitement peaked during the racing sessions, where speed and precision were put to the test. The day not only encouraged healthy competition but also highlighted the importance of STEM in real-world applications. It was a fantastic experience that showcased talent, enthusiasm, and a passion for learning.

A big congratulations to our winners who were awarded their trophies, medals and treats at their Christmas awards assembly!



Creativity is buzzing in the department as projects develop...

"Design and Technology has been buzzing with creativity across all key stages. At KS3, pupils have been designing and making imaginative board games and stylish pendants, showcasing their originality and practical skills. Meanwhile, KS4 and KS5 students have been working hard to refine and finalise their final design projects in Product Design and Graphics. Their work demonstrates advanced problem-solving, attention to detail, and a strong understanding of design principles. From concept development to high-quality outcomes, pupils have shown exceptional commitment and creativity. It's been fantastic to see such innovation and enthusiasm throughout the department this term.



Performing Arts

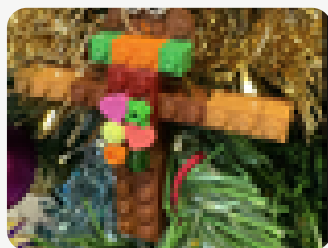
Robin Hood is in Smethwick!

Shireland Collegiate Academy presents to you our Pantomime Performance 'Robin Hood!'. Thank you to the hard work of Miss Hughes, Miss Bans, Miss Bailey, Mrs Singleton Tom, and the Theatre School Team. This performance would not have been possible without them.

Our students took to the stage for multiple performances for rewards, families and friends and visitors from our Primary School.

Inclusion Lego Therapy – Festive Creativity in Action!

Our Inclusion students have been showing incredible creativity during their Lego Therapy sessions, and this term they've taken it to a whole new level with Christmas Tree ornaments!

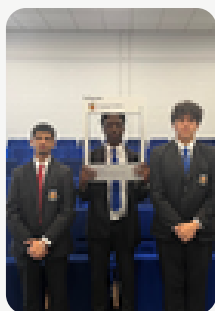


These sessions are not just about building with bricks – they help develop communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in a fun and supportive environment. Watching students collaborate to design festive decorations has been inspiring, and the results are truly impressive.

Year Group Shout Out

Year 11 Shine Bright

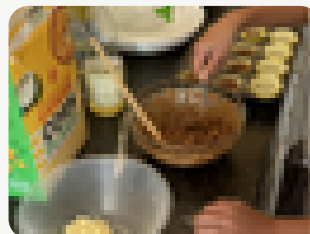
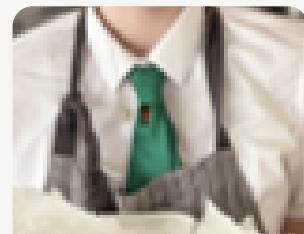
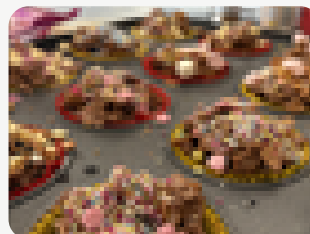
This Autumn term has seen a number of Year 11 students nominated for Star Student of the Week. Well done, to all Year 11 students who have completed their mock exams! A great start has been made to Year 11 Leavers committee organising and planning event end of year celebrations.



In House Competition

The Great 'SEND' Bake Off

At SCA, we continue to champion innovative approaches to emotional wellbeing—and our Talking Therapies Cooking Sessions are proving to be a powerful tool for connection, confidence, and care. Each week, students have been taking part in therapeutic cooking and baking activities, where the kitchen becomes a safe space for expression, reflection, and growth. These sessions go far beyond recipes—they're about building trust, developing social skills, and nurturing self-esteem. Students have practised silver service techniques, prepared nutritious meals, and shared their creations with pride. The process encourages teamwork, communication, and mindfulness, all while reinforcing the importance of healthy routines and positive relationships.



Department Spotlight

English

There's been a murder...mystery!

This term, the English Department transformed the school library into a thrilling crime scene for an immersive learning experience. Students became detectives in a "Whodunit?" challenge, investigating the mysterious death of Mr Johnson. Working in teams, students explored the library to gather clues, create detailed crime scene plans, and compile evidence logs. They examined items such as a blood-stained pen, broken glasses, and an anonymous note, piecing together motives and alibis from character profiles. Back in the classroom, students presented their theories, showcasing creativity, critical thinking, and persuasive writing skills. This engaging activity not only developed analytical and inference skills but also encouraged collaboration and problem-solving.

Stepping up to the mic



At our recent Open Evening, the English Department hosted a lively Open Mic, giving students the chance to perform their favourite poems and deliver famous lines from plays. From Shakespearean soliloquies to modern spoken-word pieces, performers showcased confidence, creativity, and a real love of literature. The evening highlighted key English skills: oracy, performance, and close reading, while building community spirit and celebrating the power of words. A huge well done to all our brave performers who kept the mic and sound running smoothly.



Year 9 explore STEM Careers

Our Year 9 students stepped into the world of finance this term! Thanks to the Bank of America STEM Careers Workshop, they explored exciting pathways in finance and discovered how STEM skills can shape their future careers. [#FutureReady](#) [#STEM](#) [#CareersInFinance](#)

Another champion among us!

Year 11 student, Karan, has achieved an amazing milestone by winning first place at the European Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) Championships.

Competing under the Karkara club banner, Karan showcased exceptional skill, determination and composure against top athletes from across Europe. The victory marks a significant step in Karan's rapidly rising martial arts career, one that began as a personal journey to rebuild confidence and resilience.

Since joining Karkara, Karan has competed in numerous Jiu-Jitsu tournaments, earning ten match victories and nine gold medals prior to the European title win. Her success is reflected by a rigorous training routine, attending training six days a week.





Student Skills

Anti Bullying Ambassadors

We raise awareness for anti bullying week

We've had an amazing Anti-Bullying Week! 🌈💙

Our students took part in tutor time activities, PD sessions, and led powerful assemblies. We were also delighted to welcome Shireland Technology Primary to join us in spreading the message of kindness and respect.

To support our wider community, we also shared a webinar with families, offering guidance for parents and carers on how to recognise bullying and help young people stay safe, confident, and supported.

To round off the week, we organised Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality and raise awareness of bullying – reminding everyone to stand up, speak out, and support one another.

A huge thank you to all staff, pupils, families, and our incredible Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for their energy, positivity, and commitment. Together, we make a difference.



#AntiBullyingWeek #MakeANoise

"Wearing odd socks helped us show that everyone is unique, and that our differences should be celebrated, not teased. It was a fun way to start important conversations across school."

Amira, Year 12



School Council Update

Our new Reps are leading the way Holly and Luka Head Boy and Head Girl KS4

Student Council organised a full leadership board made up of every form representative, year representative, the deputies and our head boys and head girls. As part of the Year 11 Senior Leadership, we had the opportunity in October to lead whole school assemblies for Black History Month which was both a responsibility and an honour. We had the chance to meet MP Gurinder Josan, who gave us a talk about what he does day to day, his background, and knowledge on possible careers as leaders in politics. Overall, it's been an eventful, productive, and inspiring term.

Zaynab and Ishit Head Boy and Head Girl KS5

This term has been a busy and exciting one for the Student Council. We began by welcoming our new Year 12 cohort and supporting them as they settled into sixth form life and their new subjects.

We were proud to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising awareness and funds for a great cause. Our Mental Health Rep, Leah, also delivered a powerful assembly on mental health, encouraging students to look after themselves and each other. Several of our lead students took part in the Department for Education's Rise Attendance and Behaviour Hub programme, contributing to a student panel where they shared their experiences and helped other schools learn and grow. Looking ahead, we are launching a student-led study support programme, where senior students will mentor younger peers with subject help and career guidance.

Student Skills

Netball Report

Netball Club Report

It's been another fantastic season for our netball teams, with strong performances across all age groups and competitions.

Both squads showed resilience during every game, pulling away with sharp passing and clinical shooting.

U16s: Dominated their fixture against their opponents. Their defensive pressure forced countless turnovers, setting up fast breaks, allowing Shireland Collegiate to top the list of schools in the Sandwell Netball League which paved the way to another trip to the County Tournaments.

U14s: Narrow win over Q3 Langley also propelled them into the County Tournament as first place champions. The team held their nerve in the final minutes, proving their growing maturity and teamwork.

Player Highlights – Man of the Match Awards

Marta (year 11)– her precision shooting and calm leadership under pressure sealed the win.

Aaliya (year 9) and Trinity (year 7)– relentless in defence, intercepting passes and inspiring their teammates.

Racheal (year 7) and Makeiah (year 9)– showed incredible composure, scoring decisive goals in the final seconds.

Looking Ahead:

With momentum building, all teams are preparing for next year's upcoming fixtures. Training sessions will focus on sharpening attacking plays and maintaining defensive discipline.

Well done girls. 2026 here we come!

Focus days are in full swing

We have had some fantastic events this Term for Focus Days: Year 7 have learned about castle design and William the Conqueror at Warwick Castle, written performance poetry and experienced a Science day all about combustion.

Year 8 were budding designers who used CAD to design a library, learned all about combatting the stigma that surrounds mental health and created their own media brand, exploring the concept of writing for specific audiences.

Year 9 designed and made their own model cars, coming together on the playground to test whose was the fastest. They also learned all about the Fibonacci sequence and how this can be applied to real life. Students in Year 9 also worked on the stigma around mental health as part of the Personal Development curriculum.

Year 10's wellbeing focus was on time management and managing exam stress. They also focused on how to form positive relationships, as part of their RSE curriculum. The Careers Focus Day involved an array of visitors including the RAF and the Army, looking at how these employers provide more than just careers in combat. Again, the Mathematics department took the opportunity to look at real world applications of Maths, this time focusing on financial literacy such as tax and budgeting.

Year 11 has seen a focus on options subjects including some fantastic trips to Kenilworth Castle, Cambridge Central Mosque and Naseby Battlefields. Travel and Tourism students also has an immersive experience, partaking in a Race Across the World challenge in the Immersive Room.

In Sixth Form, Year 12 students kicked off the year with a Teambuilding trip and Year 13 learned all about writing their personal statements for UCAS. Students have also focused on their options subjects, including trips to the National Gallery, Symphony Hall, Hampton Court Palace and the National Justice Museum.



Visitors to School

Holocaust Survivor Henry Schachter Visits Year 9



On Monday 8th December 2025, Year 9 L4L groups had the extraordinary opportunity to welcome Henry Schachter, a Holocaust survivor, as a guest speaker. Mr. Schachter shared his deeply moving personal experiences of life during the Holocaust, offering students a first-hand account of one of history's darkest chapters bringing their learning in Tragedy (L4L theme) to life.

His talk was both powerful and thought-provoking, reminding students of the importance of tolerance, resilience, and the responsibility we all share in ensuring such atrocities are never repeated. Many students described the session as eye-opening, and it sparked meaningful discussions across the year group.

The following day, Tuesday 9th December 2025, Mr. Schachter returned for a special Q&A session with a group of Year 9 students and members of the Student Council. This gave pupils the chance to ask questions directly, explore his experiences in greater depth, and reflect on how lessons from the past can shape the future. Both events were invaluable learning opportunities, allowing students to connect history with lived experience. The school community is grateful to Mr. Schachter for his time, courage, and generosity in sharing his story. His visit will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on all who attended. He then also went to one of our Trust schools, WBCA, over his 2 days in Birmingham, and shared his story to almost 500 students.

Pupil Reflection

Student Story – Amber, Year 9

From Monday 8th December to Wednesday 10th, students at Shireland Collegiate Academy were privileged to see Henry Schachter, a Holocaust survivor.

His story touched all. From being born in Eastern Europe and travelling all the way to the United Kingdom now, his whole life has been certainly chaotic.

Amongst the chaos, Henry has decided to educate the youth with his real life experiences. Although learning in a classroom can be helpful, learning from someone who had been there during the Holocaust and World War Two is extremely effective.

Students have said they feel privileged, they feel that they have left the talk with a deeper understanding of what this tragedy really was. In my opinion, Henry coming to Shireland to tell us his story, for one, was heartbreaking yet extremely helpful.

Due to the media, some aspects of the Holocaust may not be taught to the extent that it was, or may be hidden from others. In reality, the Holocaust still very much effects everyone today, with that being economically, socially and politically.

Unfortunately, there aren't many Holocaust survivors left, and those who are may choose not to share their story, so we must take every single chance we can to learn and to aid our education.

Our mission at SCA is to innovate, inspire and collaborate. With this weeks' visit, I believe Shireland has completely achieved their values, if anything gone beyond just to give us further comprehension of the Holocaust and much more.



Student Skills

Poetry Corner

CELEBRATIONS – Aishah , Year 7

Eid, Christmas, Birthdays and Easter

All these celebrations make your life a little bit sweeter.

Like for starters, Eid is fun

We eat food and sometimes we play in the sun.

It's a perfect time to talk with your loved ones

We play games and our dads make up bad puns.

On Christmas you spend time with your family

It's one of the days that end quite happily

On Christmas eve people sing silent night

And they are always polite

They decorate their Christmas tree

And chat over hot tea.

On easter we receive chocolate eggs

That the easter bunny delivers while we are in bed.

The whole scavenger hunt is fun

But if we take too long the chocolate melts in the sun

Birthdays are the best day in the world

It feels like my heart left and returns

Between all the presents and all the birthday punches

All I like is my family and the amazing lunches

Celebrations are for different reasons

And in different seasons

Some can be dedicated just to you

Or some are for religions let me just review

That one is for new years

That is the way it appears

Celebrations can be for anything

Just not for somethings

APOCALYPSE – Aarif, Year 7

After the destruction that us humans caused

Pollution and devastation is the only thing that remains

Our actions and decisions have caused the extinction
of all living animals

Cause of us humans our planet is a barren wasteland

All the destruction and demolition in this world is our
fault

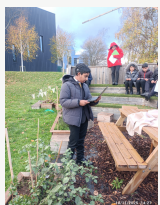
Life and all living creatures are wiped out

Young, old and middle-aged people are all wiped out

People are the cause of the apocalypse

Skeletons are the only remains of humans

Even though it seems like a nightmare if we don't make
a difference, it could be a terrifying reality.



Photos from
Focus Day in our
HeadSpace
Garden

My Country – Sherif, Year 7

People shouting,

Car lights beaming,

I'm just leaning' and also eating

Living the life with my grandpa

Fish getting cooked by my grandma

Shops selling quick

Tourists in awe by what they saw

The Pyramids standing big and grand

Other people flying to see what the tourists saw

So that's my country full of right

The sun in Egypt is just so bright

All the history in just one country

Egypt is as sweet as hone

Mount Vesuvius – Job, Year 7

Once a calm volcano,

Now it was raging.

The city suffocated,

The people fell dead,

Protecting their children,

There was smoke and ash,

submerging the city,

Plinius lost his uncle,

In front of him,

The only one who gives the source,

About the terrific eruption

AIM HIGHER – Sana, Year 12

Aspire to greatness, let your spirit soar,

In every challenge, find strength to explore.

Mountains may rise, but courage climbs higher.

Hope fuels the journey, igniting desire,

Inspiration shines like stars in the night,

Goals guide your path, a beacon of light.

Horizons expand when you dare to believe,

Every step forward, new dreams you achieve.

Reach for the sky — your story's not done.

Home – Meera, Year 7

Home is where the heart is as they all say.

Home is where we find comfort every single
day.

A heap of blankets and pillows with a relaxing
sensation like soft willows.

Home is more than a brick house; it's a place
to dream while we rouse like Sir Klaus.

Dreams fly and twist into reality till it all turns
to mist, the types of stuff you write on your
Christmas list.

In the end we all go home, the safe dome
where we belong, I say goodnight and go to
sleep because I'm safe and counting sheep.

Department Spotlight

Maths

Financial Literacy Focus Day: Preparing Students for the Real World

On 3rd December, our Mathematics Department hosted a Financial Literacy Focus Day, designed to equip students with the practical skills they need to navigate life beyond the classroom. The day was a resounding success, blending rigorous mathematical thinking with hands-on activities that brought abstract concepts to life.

Throughout the day, students explored; Financial instruments and how they shape everyday decision-making, Budgeting strategies – learning to balance wants and needs and Taxation, including step-by-step guidance on calculating income tax correctly.

By tackling these topics, students gained confidence in applying mathematics to real-world scenarios, reinforcing the idea that numbers aren't just for exams—they're tools for independence and informed choices.

The highlight of the day was an engaging, practical session where students compared brand-name sweets, drinks, and snacks with supermarket-own brands. Armed with their new-found expertise and critical thinking, they investigated whether the price differences were truly justified. This exercise sparked lively debate and demonstrated how mathematical reasoning can guide everyday consumer decisions. The Focus Day wasn't just about crunching numbers—it was about preparing students for life after school.

By the end of the day, students left not only with enhanced mathematical skills but also with a deeper appreciation of how those skills empower them as future citizens, consumers, and professionals.

In short, the Financial Literacy Focus Day was a celebration of mathematics in action—helping our students see that the subject is more than equations on a page; it's a toolkit for navigating the complexities of modern life.

A Level Mathematicians are breaking records

Our A-Level mathematicians recently took part in the UK-wide Senior Mathematical Challenge, a prestigious competition that tests advanced problem-solving skills and creative thinking. We are delighted to share that nine of our students achieved certificates of distinction in this demanding contest.

Students achieved a Bronze award Zayd, (top 66% of entrants), 6 Silver awards Alen, Zaynab, Bilal, Testimony, Younus, and Owais (top 33% of entrants) and 2 Gold awards (putting those students in the top 11% of all UK entrants) Ayoub and Ishit (who was also the best in school). Our top two competitors were invited to the next round, the 'Senior Kangaroo', where Ishit was also awarded a Silver award, placing him in the top 2% of entrants to the whole competition. This difficult competition involves subject content knowledge as well as high-order problem solving skills, and rewards both creative and logical working. Well done to everyone who entered!

Entrepreneurs incoming! Year 7 SEND Enterprise Project – Sweet Cone Success

Year 7 SEND students recently completed an enterprise project focused on producing and selling sweet cones. The initiative aimed to develop key skills such as planning, budgeting, and teamwork. Students really enjoyed making the cones, and the project was highly successful, with all sweet cones selling out. Congratulations to the students for their hard work and achievement.



Department Spotlight

INA

INAC Students Honour the Fallen at Uplands Cemetery on Remembrance Day

On 11 November 2025, students from INAC marked Remembrance Day with a reflective visit to Uplands Cemetery. As part of the commemoration, the students gathered to read In Flanders Fields, the iconic poem written by John McCrae during the First World War.

At 11 a.m., the group observed the traditional two minutes of silence. Staff accompanying the visit noted the students' respectful conduct throughout the ceremony and during their walk among the headstones.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to see the graves of soldiers who served in both the First and Second World Wars. Many took time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served.

Teachers praised the students for their thoughtfulness and regard during this meaningful act of remembrance.



INAC Hosts Successful Welcome Café for Parents and Language Buddies

On 4 December 2025, INAC opened its doors to parents and school Language Buddies for a well-attended Welcome Café event. The gathering aimed to strengthen connections between families, staff, and local support organisations. Representatives from a local charity Brushstrokes were invited to speak with parents, offering guidance on the assistance they provide, including support with financial challenges, housing issues, and general wellbeing. Their presence was welcomed by families seeking practical advice and community resources.

Parents of INAC students joined the event, along with the school's Language Buddies, who helped facilitate conversations and make newcomers feel more at ease. Staff noted how heartening it was to see parents engaging with one another, building friendships, and sharing experiences. The school described the Welcome Café as a resounding success, highlighting its role in bringing families together and fostering a stronger sense of community.

Shireland Collegiate Academy Earns Prestigious EAL Gold Award for Outstanding Support of Multilingual Learners



On 2 December 2025, Shireland Collegiate Academy proudly received the EAL Gold Award, a recognition reserved for schools that demonstrate exceptional standards in supporting pupils who are learning English as an additional language.

The award forms part of the national EAL Quality Mark, which is granted following a thorough self-evaluation of a school's provision for multilingual learners. Shireland Collegiate Academy's achievement reflects its strong commitment to meeting the diverse needs of its students and ensuring high-quality teaching across the curriculum.

Staff at the school have been praised for their effective differentiation strategies and for creating learning environments that cater to the individual needs of EAL pupils. The assessment highlighted the school's dedication to promoting inclusion, raising achievement, and providing tailored support that helps every learner thrive.

The EAL Gold Award marks an important milestone for Shireland Collegiate Academy and celebrates the hard work of both teachers and students in fostering a truly inclusive school community.

Visitors to School

Dupoto Whole Trust Student Council Day

The event brought together student council representatives from across Years 7 to 13 from all of our trust Secondary Schools. Our students collaborated throughout the day, sharing ideas and exploring how to drive positive change within their schools. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from Shireland Collegiate Academy supported the day with a performance, highlighting the importance of their role in promoting a positive school environment.

The atmosphere was filled with energy and purpose as students discussed key issues, strengthened their leadership skills, and worked collectively to shape a brighter future for their school communities. Their passion and teamwork truly reflected the Dupoto ethos and what they stand for — unity, ambition and impact.



Want to get involved?

We are always looking for students voice, words and more!



SECOND EDITION

STUDENT VOICE WANTED

SCA NEWSLETTER CLUB

EDITED BY MRS WINDMILL & SIXTH FORMERS

**JOIN US AND
CREATE OUR
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

📣 Join the School Newsletter Club! 📣

Your Voice. Your Stories. Your School. Are you bursting with creativity? Love writing, designing, or snapping photos? Want to be the first to know what's happening around school? Then the Newsletter Club is the place for YOU!

What You'll Get to Do:

- ✍️ Write exciting articles, interviews & reviews
- 📷 Take awesome photos of school events
- 🎨 Design eye-catching layouts and graphics
- 🗣️ Report on sports, clubs, and student life
- 💡 Share your ideas and make your voice heard!

Whether you're a future journalist, a budding designer, or just want to have fun and make new friends, the Newsletter Club is your backstage pass to everything amazing at school. For our second edition, we need feature pages and submissions.

Submissions and questions can be emailed to the Editors in Chief.



**SUBMISSIONS
NEEDED**

DEADLINE FOR EDIITON 2 : 18th MARCH