

SHEPWELL NEWS



A very warm welcome back to Shepwell School & welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. It's been a very strange and worrying time for us all and this year will undoubtedly bring challenges to schools, but it has been incredibly heartening to see our pupils back in the classrooms.

It may be a 'new normal' but our commitment to keeping our pupils and staff safe is unwavering. As a school we have reflected on the best from these extraordinary circumstances and want to ensure the good stays as school life returns to some kind of normality.

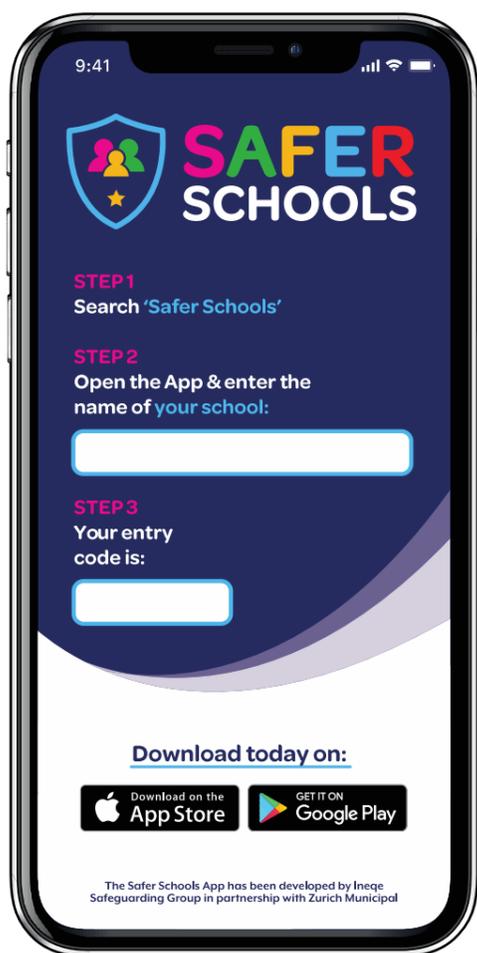
I must admit to writing with some relief that the latest message from Downing Street confirmed that the Government is focussing its efforts on keeping schools open. However, it appears increasingly likely that we need to prepare for some sort of interruption over the next six months or so. To this end we have begun to create home learning packs and updated our 'Remote Learning' policy in the event that we return to remote learning for some pupils. One thing to consider is how we are all able to help minimise risk and thereby reduce the need for the Government to introduce even more restrictions.

Many congratulations the Year 11 leavers on achieving a pleasing set of exam results and I wish them all well for the future. They have all transitioned to post 16 education or training and I know that they will all do well because they worked so hard to get where they are today. I would also like to extend a warm welcome the new pupils that have joined us this term.

I would also like to welcome to Mrs Jennifer Walker (Teacher of Maths) & Mr David Straughan (Teacher of English) as permanent members of staff at the school. We also welcome Helen Rubery as Catering Unit Supervisor and Michelle Alwill as Catering Assistant.

We regularly update school news on the website and on Twitter so please look there for new information. I also encourage you to download the Shepwell Safer Schools App and Shepwell National Online Safety website for up-to-date information. As always, if you have any other queries or questions, please contact the school who will direct your query to the appropriate member of staff. My door is always open so please feel free to contact me.

Stephen Pritchard-Jones
Headteacher



Safer Schools App

As a school we know how important the internet is to you. We all use it to learn, play games, & socialise. But the technology you use every day can seem a bit daunting and you might worry about the risks you can face online - such as bullying, contact from strangers or the possibility of viewing illegal or inappropriate content which could get into trouble. So as a school we are delighted to invite you to download the 'Safer Schools' provided by Zurich Municipal in partnership with Safer Schools & Shepwell School.

The Shepwell Safer Schools App is designed to support and protect our pupils by helping them to stay safe online. The app provides information and guidance to parents and pupils on a range of topics to help you stay safe. Advice covers topics such as bullying, gaming, inappropriate images, social media and much more. You will also receive school-generated notifications and updates. The app also links directly to the school calendar and news page so you will receive regular updates direct to the app.

Download for Free

Step 1: Download the app for free by searching for 'Safer Schools' in the Apple App Store or on Google play. (You can download it on more than one device!)

Step 2: Enter Shepwell School and Home & Hospital Tuition Service in the box.

Step 3: Enter the entry code 1544 in the box.

Interview with a Shepwell Staff

So that you are all able to get to know a little bit more about the staff at Shepwell we are introducing a new feature! Randomly selected staff members will complete a short interview so that you can find out things you may not already know about them! Look out for this in each edition of our Newsletter!

In this edition, it is the turn of Mr Pritchard-Jones and Karis Osborne.

School Council

We are extremely proud to introduce this year's members of student council as Liv (Chairperson), Josh, Eadie, Millie, Hayden B, Becca and Angel. These KS4 students have embraced their new role with great maturity and enthusiasm and we are extremely proud of them for this. They are currently keen to raise the profile of Student Council at Shepwell School and have worked hard on creating displays for every classroom, as well as organising lanyards for them to wear on a daily basis. These lanyards will ensure that other students know they can talk to them with any ideas they have on how to improve Shepwell School further. These members have also discussed topics such as potential rewards for students as well as fund-raising ideas for later on in the year. We are excited to see what else the members of Student Council can achieve!

Our Star Baker!

A huge thank you and well done to Alexia in Year 7 for baking us these amazing cakes. They were delicious! Staff were thrilled not only to taste them, but to see how creative Alexia is in the kitchen. What a super talented baker we have at Shepwell! We look forward to tasting more of your creations! Thank you Alexia from us all.



NEWS CONTINUED...

Rewards

Students have settled back into the new term well. Students have earned a range of prizes by gaining a P2 Postcard in lessons. This recognises the hard work students are putting into their lessons and their learning. Well done.

Music and Arts Award update

We have achieved Beacon Centre Status for 2020-2021 from Trinity Guildhall for recognition of our excellent Arts Award delivery and success. Students have been completing a range of Discover, Explore and Bronze Award tasks, and will be learning a range of skills including mask making, sewing and music making.

We have some limited availability for music peripatetic lessons. Rock it Music come in to teach our students drums, guitar and keyboard. If your child would like lessons, please ask them to speak to Mrs Rudd.

School Cloud

Due to Covid-19 the school has introduced a new initiative and easy to use online video appointment booking system for parents evenings. We are using School Cloud online platform that allows you to choose your own appointment times with school staff and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.



National Online Safety

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children and it is important that we all work together to take an active role in teaching our children about online dangers and how to act safely when using the internet.

We are therefore delighted to announce Shepwell School is commitment to protecting our pupils by taking a proactive approach across the whole school community to internet safety and are working towards achieving National Online Safety Certified accreditation. We are pleased to be working with National Online Safety to offer a free interactive online workshop for all our parents & carers. The course can be taken at your own convenience.

About The Course- Annual Online Safety Course for Parents & Carers (2019-20)

Introduction

Online safety in schools is of paramount importance. As the online world evolves, so do both the online risks facing our children and the relevant legislation, both statutory and non-statutory, which directs and guides how schools should meet their online safety requirements.

The role of Parents and Carers

The first line of defence in keeping children safe online are parents and carers. Online risks do not start and stop at the school gates and encouraging and supporting parents to become involved in their child's online safety at home will ensure they are receiving the most complete protection they possibly can.

What you will learn

Delivered wholly through video, you will learn about a wide range of online dangers across three main areas:

Unsafe communications

Online relationships; fake profiles; online bullying; online grooming; child sexual exploitation; sexual violence & harassment; sexting and live streaming.

Effects to mental health, wellbeing and lifestyle

Online vs offline identity; social media & mental health; device addiction; online challenges; overspending; online gambling and radicalisation.

Managing online information

Online reputation; age-inappropriate content; fraud (online); fake news; targeted advertising; personal data and the dark web.

You will learn about each online danger, what the risks are around each danger, potential signs and what parents, carers and trusted adults can do to help ensure their children stay safe online.

Please find below the link (URL) you need to visit to register your account.

You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/the-shepwell-school>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the "Online Safety for Parents and Carers" course and National Online Safety's Resources (which includes 50+ online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com

Interview with Mr Pritchard-Jones
How long have you worked at Shepwell School?
10 years, 11 months
What do you like about Shepwell School?
Supportive staff & parents, and friendly pupils.
Where else have you worked?
Wirral Music Service, Shropshire Music Service, St Anselm's College, Lindisfarne College, Belvidere Technology College, Lakelands School.
What do you like to do for fun?
Play the trumpet, piano, drums. Travelling to different places in my campervan Backpacking Charity Fundraising
Tell us your favourite joke.
I have several, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does a clock do when it's hungry? <i>It goes back four seconds.</i> • I've started a business building yachts in my attic. <i>Sails are going through the roof.</i> • My wife said I was fool to build a car out of spaghetti. <i>You should have seen the look on her face when I drove pasta.</i> • What do you say to comfort a grammar teacher? <i>"They're, there, their."</i> • Why did the music teacher need a ladder? <i>To reach the high notes!</i>
Tell us about your hobbies.
In my spare time, I conduct brass bands and judge music festivals all over the UK and Europe.
Tell us something no one at Shepwell knows
I am ex 5 th Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry TA In 2005 I walked the Offa's Dyke Path for charity.
What is your favourite animal?
Dogs
Who is your hero, and why?
King Athelstan because he was focused and determined to do the best for his country. King Athelstan was the first king of all England, and Alfred the Great's grandson. He reigned between 925 and 939 AD. A distinguished and courageous soldier, he pushed the boundaries of the kingdom to the furthest extent they had yet reached. In 927 AD he took York from the Danes, and forced the submission of Constantine, King of Scotland and of the northern kings. All five of the Welsh kings agreed to pay a huge annual tribute. He also eliminated opposition in Cornwall. In 937 AD, at the Battle of Brunanburh, Athelstan led a force drawn from Britain, and defeated an invasion made by the king of Scotland, in alliance with the Welsh and Danes, from Dublin. Under Athelstan, law codes strengthened royal control over his large kingdom; currency was regulated to control silver's weight and to penalise fraudsters; buying and selling was largely confined to the burhs, encouraging town life; and areas of settlement in the Midlands and Danish towns were consolidated into shires. Overseas, Athelstan built alliances by marrying off four of his half-sisters to various rulers in western Europe.
What personal success are you most proud of?
Being appointed Headteacher
What is your favourite food?
Curry



GCSE Results

In these very challenging times, our Year 11's last year still managed to do brilliantly in their GCSEs and end of year assessments.

Maths

- 100% achieved expected progress or better (91% last year).
- 64% of students achieved a grade 4 or above (45% last year).

Science

- 91% of students achieved expected progress or better (86% last year).
- Students who took separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieved 100% grade 5 or above, with 100% making expected progress or better.
- 100% of students who took Entry Level also made expected progress or better.

English Language

- 73% of students achieved expected progress or better (same as last year).
- 55% of students achieved a grade 4 or above (27% last year).

English Literature

- 100% of students achieved expected progress or better (same as last year).
- 100% of students achieved a grade 4 or above (75% last year).

Cooking and nutrition

- 100% of students achieved expected progress.
- 100% of students achieved a Pass or above.

Health and Social Care

- 100% of students achieved expected progress or better.
- 100% of students achieved a Level 2 Pass or above.

Music.

- 100% achieved expected progress or better.
- 100% achieved grade 5 or above

Young Writers Award

Pupils have been working hard writing a mini-saga (precisely 100 words) on the theme of being "Trapped." Four Shepwell pupils have had their entries sent off to the national competition set by the Young Writers company. We await news of whether we have won any prizes, or whether our entries may be published. In the meantime, vouchers and certificates have been issued to pupils Eadie, Tayo, Angel and Amelia for their outstanding effort and superb entries, which were all very unique and original.

Mrs Walker

What is a risk that you have taken in your life?
Resigning from a permanent teaching appointment to take up a temporary position. It was a good move because I remained at that school for 16 years.
What is your favourite sports team?
Aston Villa
What do you want to achieve in the next 5 years?
To create a Key Stage two and post 16 provision at Shepwell School. And retire!
What achievement are you most proud of?
The development of Shepwell School



Our New Kitchen!

In order for us to properly cater and serve hot lunches our school kitchen has been renovated to include a hot counter to keep food warm, food preparation space, salad and fruit service area, jacket potato oven and Panini press. We are really pleased with the results and this now means we are able to offer a greater range of healthy meals to our pupils.

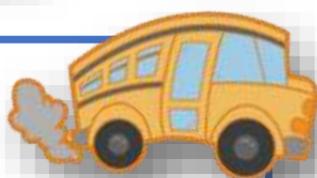
Bronze Food for Life Award

We are pleased to announce that since introducing our hot meal option at Shepwell, we have been awarded with Bronze Food for Life Award. This scheme aims to support catering across the country in preparing locally sourced, sustainable and healthy meals. Our hot meals are rising in popularity with our pupils thanks to our catering team, Helen and Michelle. Pupils are now enjoying freshly cooked and healthy meals each day. We aim to work towards the Silver Award status over this academic year.

If you would like your child to receive a hot meal then please contact the school office for more information.

Breakfast Club

We have received funding to run our own Breakfast Club. This runs daily from 8:00-8:30am. We served hot bagels, a choice of cereals and juice. This club is free of charge.



The Shepwell Fleet of Buses

Pupils may have seen on our car park we now have two school minibuses these will be available for us to use to transport our pupils and expand our curriculum opportunities. We were lucky enough to purchase a second bus in September and Paul (our Caretaker) and Mr Pritchard Jones had them wrapped with our school logo and colours. I'm sure you'll agree they look very smart!





Our Uniform

Thank you Neo in Year 9 for modelling our new uniform. He looks very smart!

To try and support our pupils with the changes in temperature and the lack of heating in school due to COVID-19, we have introduced a new school sweatshirt that can be worn under the school hoody as an extra layer. These can be purchased by via ParentPay or speak to Sam in the school office.

We have got some bundles, which do work out cheaper:

Bundle 1: £30 (school tshirts/polos x 2 & a hoody)

Bundle 2: £40 (school tshirt/polo x2, a hoody and a sweatshirt)

Items can also be purchased individually for the following prices:

£12 sweatshirt

£18 hoody

£7 polo/tshirt

Interview with Karis Osborne

How long have you worked at Shepwell School?

This is my 7th academic year at Shepwell

What do you like about Shepwell School?

The pupils are amazing, every day is different and we are able to see the massive difference a small supportive school can make to students, watching the pupils grow in confidence is really inspirational and helps put life in to perspective. (For me personally)

Where else have you worked?

I worked in independent living before Shepwell supporting 16-18 males and females in leaving care and helping them to navigate their way around the start of adult life. I also worked at New Leaf for a short amount of time where I meet Mr Pritchard Jones.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love going on walks with my 4 year old son and dancing around the house to our favourite music.

Tell us your favourite joke.

'My boss told me to have a good day....so I went home'

Tell us about your hobbies.

Reading, socialising with my friends and going on adventures with my little boy.

Tell us something no one at Shepwell knows

When I was around 3-4 I was in hospital several times as I used to put stones up my nose.

What is your favourite animal?

I'm not really an animal lover but if I had to choose it would be a Giraffe

Who is your hero, and why?

My Mom, she is my best friend, she is so supportive and always there to listen. She always put hers family first but is also very successful in work, just an all-around super woman.

What personal success are you most proud of?

Watching the students leave Shepwell and have a successful start to Post 16 means the world to me.

What is your favourite food?

I love any Chinese food

What is a risk that you have taken in your life?

After passing my first year I left University as I felt that the course wasn't right for me and was taking me down a route that I realised was not right for me.

What is your favourite sports team?

Aston Villa

What do you want to achieve in the next 5 years?

I would love to have more children and look at developing more post 16 options for children with Social and Emotional Mental Health.

What achievement are you most proud of?

My son



Free Trees from Woodland Trust

Since the development of the new school building in 2019 we lost a number of our existing trees due to ground works. This was a huge shame, so we have been looking into ways to reinstall some, much needed, planting on the school site. We also knew this could be costly!

During our time away from school Mrs Hollis applied for the school to receive trees via a scheme the Woodland Trust advertising.

The application was successful and the Woodland Trust have kindly donated 30 x small tree saplings, 30 x hedge saplings, 100 x wildlife plant saplings and 100 x wild harvest saplings. These plants and trees will be planted around the school site to encourage wild life and generally make the perimeter of the school more attractive.

Aspirations pupils may be asked for their support in getting some of these trees planted.

Huge thanks also to Paul (our Caretaker) for his help in getting these planted!

Our Memorial Garden

As you will remember we asked pupils to help design a memorial garden for Isabella Lyttle back in the Summer Term.

We had a few pupils enter and with some excellent ideas which were inspirational. Our favourite however was from Jade Davidson in Year 11. We hope to start working with Jade to install some of her ideas in the coming terms.

Paul, our wonderful caretaker, has begun some of the ground works already. I am sure you will agree that it already looks brilliant. Huge thanks to Paul for all his hardwork and expertise!

