

SHEPWELL NEWS

Shepwell
School

Welcome to the latest Shepwell school newsletter.

It has been wonderful to have all of our staff & students back in school. We are continuing to maintain a Covid safe environment, implementing all of the strategies in our Covid Risk Assessment to keep all of our students and staff safe in school.

I am proud to be the Headteacher of Shepwell School a Short Stay School, Specialist Alternative Provision and Home & Hospital Tuition Service. Shepwell is a vibrant and fun place to be; the pupils and staff work hard and we have high expectations of one another. We are forward-thinking and promote a creative learning environment, which challenges and supports our young people. We are committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning – achieved through a combination of challenge, support, encouragement and praise to ensure that all students fulfil their full potential.

On joining Shepwell, students find a welcoming and purposeful environment, with relationships built on mutual respect. They discover outstanding pastoral systems that help them to achieve beyond their expectations. They also develop a strong sense of responsibility for themselves, their peers and the wider world.

We have an excellent school website and we use this as a way of keeping you in touch with what is going on in the school. The website address is: www.shepwellschool.co.uk and we are adding to the information available on a daily basis. We also have our own Twitter feed, @ShepwellSchool.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter.

Mr Pritchard-Jones (Head teacher)



Covid Safety

We continue to work under Public Health England's Covid safety guidelines in order to keep our pupils and staff safe.

- Staff are wearing masks in all areas of school.
- Pupils are encouraged to wear masks if they are comfortable in doing so.
- Hand gel is provided and used in all classrooms, common areas and office spaces
- Antiviral wipes are provided in all rooms and pupils are encouraged to wipe down their workspaces before and after lessons independently.
- Social distancing of staff and pupils is maintained
- Numbers of pupils and staff are limited in smaller spaces to allow 2m distance
- Hand washing posters are displayed in all toilets and kitchen spaces
- STOP! THINK! Social distancing figures are in all corridors around school
- Laptops are allocated to individual pupils to avoid the need for sharing.
- External visitors are limited.

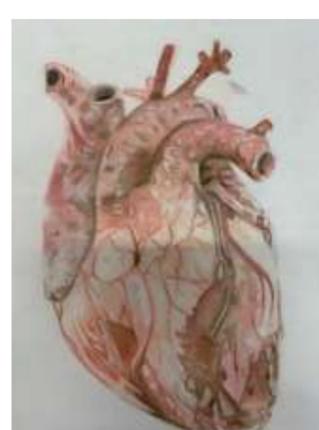
Our hope is that as restrictions begin to be lifted nationally that we will be able to review our procedures.

Interview with a Shepwell Staff

Our randomly selected staff members in this edition are Mrs Wilson and Mrs Tudor. Please look out for their responses as you read this Newsletter!

Subject News- ART

The Year 10 and Year 11 students have been working hard throughout lockdown and since our return to school to keep on top of their coursework. Pupils had the choice of focusing their work on the Black Lives Matter Agenda or on NHS Heroes. The work pupils have produced is outstanding and Mrs Hollis could not be prouder of them all!



NEWS CONTINUED...

Walsall Attachment and Trauma Awareness Project

In February, we became the first school in Walsall Borough to be awarded the Silver Accreditation. We are proud of our recognition in being an attachment and trauma informed school. We are now hoping to achieve the Gold Award by the end of the summer term.

British Art Show Partner School

We are lucky to be working alongside Arts Connect for the British Arts Show. Lucky students will be getting the chance to work alongside a professional artist on a project from September 2021. Watch this space.



Mrs Evans

As parents and pupils may be aware Mrs Evans will be starting her maternity leave this term. I am sure you will all join us in wishing her well.

Mrs Evans will continue to work with pupils remotely until the end of the Summer Term and will be working with Year 11 and with KS3 on interventions. So some of our pupils will still be lucky enough to see Mrs Evans virtually!



Children's Mental Health Week:

We celebrated Children's mental health week from 1-7th February 2021. Children virtually engaged with activities to boost and promote their mental health and wellbeing and on the very last day, pupils had a no screen day where they had the choice of three activities of which they could engage with away from their laptops. It was a successful and engaging week and feedback was very positive.



Isabella's Memorial Garden

In the last edition of the newsletter the Memorial Garden for Isabella had just started. As you can see they have been some huge changes and pupils are now able to enjoy this beautiful space.

Pupils have been helping to look after the plants and Paul (our Site Manager) has been teaching the pupils the names of some of the flowers, shrubs and trees that have been planted.

The garden now has seating areas including picnic benches and small benches around the central archway. It also has a calming water feature and logs for insects to hide in.

As the Summer weather approaches the hope is that pupils will be able to enjoy lessons in the garden and use the space more frequently as a sensory and calming space.

Huge thanks to Paul for all his hardwork in building this lovely space and to The National Education Union (NEU) who donated £200 towards creating the garden. The pupils and staff are very grateful and look forward to spending time helping to maintain it and learning outside.



New Cabins

We will shortly be having two additional cabins onsite to be able to support pupils on intervention and for the Home Tuition Team to use as a remote and onsite teaching space. As you can see, the area is ready and waiting for these new arrivals!



School Gateway

We have moved away from using Parent Pay to pay for school items. Our new system is called School Gateway; the easiest way to use this system is to download the app. It is a much simpler system than Parent Pay and hopefully this will work better for us all going forward.

Interview with Mrs Tudor
How long have you worked at Shepwell School?
6 years
What do you like about Shepwell School?
Everyone supports each other during difficult times.
Where else have you worked?
Mainstream primary and secondary schools
What do you like to do for fun?
Walk. Watch films. Spend time with family.
Tell us about your hobbies.
Walking & cycling.
Tell us something no one at Shepwell knows
If you don't know it's probably because you shouldn't. 😂
What is your favourite animal?
Elephant.
Who is your hero, and why?
My Mom and Dad – always there when we need them and never fail to help and support whenever they can.
What personal success are you most proud of?
My son.
What is your favourite food?
Biscuits.
What do you want to achieve in the next 5 years?
Move house.
What achievement are you most proud of?
Being one of a few to complete the Diploma in Child Psychology 😊



**Reduce
Reuse
Repair
Recycle**

Our Site Manager, Paul, has been continuing his work on improving the outside spaces for our pupils. Some of the pupils have been working with him and learning some maintenance skills in the process.

The latest project has been to upcycle some unwanted and donated outdoor furniture. The pupils have helped Paul to prep the wood and repainted it in a lovely shade of purple! The existing painted tyres have also been turned into some bold planters! The space has been transformed and all through a little reusing, repairing and upcycling!



Our Uniform

A reminder that uniform can be purchased from school and paid for via School Comms. The prices are as follows:

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

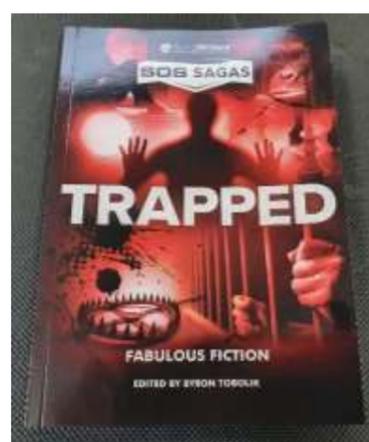
£7 polo/tshirt



<p>Mirror</p> <p><i>I stood gazing into the mirror, obsessing over my looks. What was that? I asked myself. I'm sure I just saw something move in the mirror! But no, I must be going crazy, I thought. I reached out and touched the glass, then something extraordinary happened! I found I was looking out of the glass instead of into it. I tapped on the glass, nothing happened. I tapped again, still, nothing happened. It's no use," said a voice. Startled, Daisy spun around realising she wasn't alone. Who's there?" she called into the darkness. "You're trapped in here, there's no escaping!"</i></p> <p>Delia Smith (15) Shepwell School, Willenhall</p>	<p>Airlock</p> <p>My hands are shaking. I don't dare to breathe. The vacuum of outer space feels like a gun to my head, threatening to shoot me if I move. I look behind me. There's nothing in this direction, either. Stars dot the endless vacuum, decorating the nebulous hands trying desperately to suffocate me. I eventually give in and empty my lungs, taking a long, draw out breath. My focus is redirected to the abandoned spacecraft floating aimlessly in the opposite direction. God I'm not going back. Not after what that... thing did. I'll die out here, if that's what it takes.</p> <p>Eadie Ash (15) The Shepwell School, Willenhall</p>
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Our Pupils in Print

You may remember in our last edition that Mrs Walker had entered some of pupils into the Young Writers Competition. The book is now in print and all of the winners have been included. We are incredibly proud and excited to see our pupils work in print! Congratulations to you all!



Subject News

KS3 maths have been looking at recording information and tally chart and they have used their football skills to practise goal scoring and using tally charts to record the information. This has helped them to transfer their learning from inside the classroom to real life situations.



World Autism Awareness Week 2021
29 March - 4 April

World Autism Awareness Week
29th March- 4th April

We celebrated World Autism Week by involving all students in a range of activities, competitions and quizzes.

It was also an opportunity to extend the work we do at Shepwell in understanding autism.

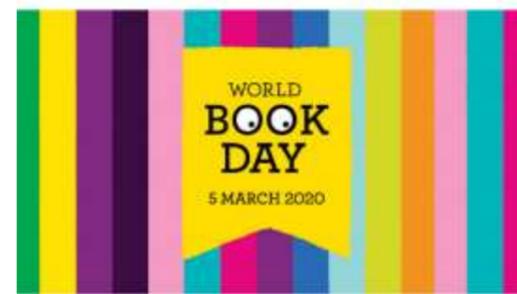
Pupils were given the chance to discuss what autism means for them and enable those with a diagnosis to look at autism as a superpower and the positives it brings to their lives.

Pupils contributions, empathy and understanding during this week was fantastic. Thank you to everyone involved in making this a success.

A huge thank you to Alexia Bednall for our amazing Autism Week cake it was delicious!

National Autistic Society **The Big Five things autistic people want you to know**

1. We often need extra time to process information, like questions or instructions
2. We can feel intense anxiety in social situations
3. We sometimes feel anxious about unexpected changes, like delays and cancellations
4. Many of us find noise, smells and bright lights distressing
5. All of these can lead to us becoming overwhelmed and having a 'meltdown' or 'shutdown'. This can be physically and emotionally debilitating



World Book Day

Thank you to all pupils who took part in World Book Day back in March. The day was enjoyable for all and celebrated the work of authors, gave us chance to discuss different genres and express our preferences in reading for pleasure. Thank you to the staff who also got involved and came to school dressed up! Mrs Walker gave out prizes and certificates for peoples contributions on the day. Well done everyone!



Recipe of the Week

Huge thanks to Mrs Landymore for sending out her yummy recipes of the week via email/Teams during lockdown and to all of the pupils who have taken part and had ago at making something new.

Many of our pupils love cooking and baking, so it has been great to see pupils continuing to do this during time away from our school routine.

Remote Learning

During the period of lockdown, Shepwell remained open for our pupils and followed the same routine as 'normal' school days. Pupils who worked via remote learning were invited to lessons via Teams and were able to stay in touch with their peers and continue with their learning.

Lessons were planned in different ways to give pupils opportunity to learn using pre-recorded lessons, live lessons, role-play, through going for walks and gathering things in readiness for lessons, paired work, small groups and 1:1 sessions. Despite being at home, pupils were given as many interesting ways to learn as possible.

Pupils did remarkably well with remote learning and showed resilience and dedication despite the challenging circumstances. Thank you to all the parents/carers who acted as Teaching Assistants at home and offered support to their child in continuing with their learning, we understand this was not an easy situation so we are very grateful to you.



Student of the Week

Each week staff are asked to nominate a pupil who has stood out in lessons for showing commitment to their learning, for citizenship or for being a good role model to others.

A weekly email is sent out to congratulate these pupils and they receive a certificate for their achievement. It is wonderful to see so many of our pupils being nominated repeatedly, this shows how hard our pupils work every week, no matter the challenges they face.



