



Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to another edition of The Link.

We are now only 3 weeks away from Easter break, so time is at a premium, especially for year 11 pupils who now have just 37 school days to go until their GCSE hall based exams begin.

On Thursday next week, we look forward to 'World Book Day' which is intended to promote reading for pleasure. Mr Balmer, Head of English has shared some information with you about the day which we hope will see pupils engaging in the opportunities around reading, including the Church Stretton World Book Day Challenge! More information about World Book Day can be found [here](#).

Later on Thursday we are holding Pathways Evening so that year 9 pupils and their parents/carers can find out about the courses available to study in Key Stage 4. Mr Bird, Assistant Headteacher has shared details of this event in a dedicated letter, a copy of this can be found on the school website along with a [dedicated page about the Pathways process](#) that parents/carers and pupils will find really useful.

Finally, next week see's the start of year 8 'foundation subjects' examinations. These include all subjects other than maths, English and science which will take place later in the year. Good luck to year 8 pupils therefore - ongoing revision is the key to success!

Enjoy the weekend

John Parr
Headteacher

Next week will be **Week A**

Tutor Time Take-away

This weeks' focus was on Positive Behaviour and mis-behaviour. Please do ask your child about the topic and get them to explain to you what was discussed.



Tutor time take-away



Today's take-away is....
**Positive Behaviour and
mis-behaviour update**

Ready, Respectful and Safe

Lunch Money/Parent Pay

Please can we ask parents to check the balance of their child's ParentPay account for school lunches; we are having a high number of students coming to the Office asking for a phone call home to parents to top up their lunch money. There is also a coin/cash machine where children can top up their accounts in the hall.

Dates for your Diary

7th March - Year 9 Pathways Evening, 5-7pm

7th March - World Book Day

12th, 13th, 14th March - High School Musical Performances

15th, 16th, 17th March - DofE Silver Practice



Pupil Absence Procedure

Please click [here](#) for information regarding reporting a pupil absence. Thank you.

Year 9 Pathways Information Evening

7th March 2024 - 5-7pm



We would like to invite Year 9 students, parents and carers to the Year 9 Pathways Evening, in school on March 7th 5-7pm. Below you will find the other key dates for your diary.

Key Dates 2024:

Thursday 7th March, Pathways Evening, 5-7pm

Thursday 21st March, Progress Evening, 3:40-6:40pm

Friday 22nd March, pathways final choice form sent electronically to students.

Monday 12th April, deadline for submission of options form, 9am.

From 15th April onwards, best-fit interviews and subject choices confirmed.

The pathways booklet is available on the website [here](#) and a hard copy will be available at the Year 9 Pathways Evening. This details the process we follow and contains lots of useful information. The school website [here](#) has information about each subject and the links to two websites that offer lots of useful career's advice and forward planning activities to help students decide.

Andrew Austin, the school's careers guidance officer, will be attending both the Pathways and Progress Evenings to offer further help and advice as to which subjects will allow your child to progress on to the Post 16 courses and training, they wish to pursue. They should ask teachers questions too. This, together with the upcoming grade update, and the Progress Evening (Thursday 21st March) should all help them to reach a well-considered set of options.

Please do not be daunted by this process, we will guide your son/daughter through each step offering advice, guidance, and support as required. Do start conversations at home, talking about subjects and what they hope to gain by doing them, this is an important part of the process. Please bear in mind that curriculum reforms in recent years mean that previous experiences of some practical based courses may be out of date, the emphasis is now more on the theory and application of the knowledge and less so on the practical work itself. The options we offer may be subject to change as a result of the number of students who opted for each subject, staffing changes or we may choose to offer an alternative level 2 course for a subject that matches the needs of the cohort. We will of course share any changes with you at the earliest opportunity.

Year 8 Foundation Examinations

4th to 8th March 2024

The Foundation Examinations will take place w/b 4th March which allows Year 8 a clear fortnight since they returned from the half term holiday before the exams start, this will ensure all students can see each of their subject teachers at least once before their exam. A launch assembly for the Foundation Examinations was held with Year 8 on the morning of Monday 19th February, during which we explained the importance of revision. The exams will allow you and your child to see where their strengths lie in the Foundation subjects and show them their areas for development.

The Foundation Examinations are an important indicator of progress made by students and although there will be preparation taking place in lessons, the expectation is that this is supplemented and supported with revision at home. Our Parent/Carers guide to effective revision can be found on the school website [here](#), and it is full of ways that you can help your child to prepare for their exams. We have invested in an online revision tool called Seneca Learning; your child has the log in details for this. Please encourage them to use this along with the other signposted revision resources on GO 4 Schools for each subject.

During the revision assembly we explained to Year 8 how to plan the use of their time and ensure that they can fit in sufficient revision for each subject. There is help, support and guidance on the school website [here](#) covering how to revise, how to deal with stress and useful links to documents such as the topics covered by the exams, a blank revision planner and the exams timetable. All of these details were shared with Year 8 in an email, which contained links to the key documents they need to get started with their revision.

Spring Term Foundation Exams 2024 Year 8 Timetable

Week A

Date	Period 1 9:15 – 10:15	Period 2 10:15 – 11:15	Break	Period 3 11:30 – 12:30	Lunch	Period 4 13:20 – 14:20	Period 5 14:20 – 15:20
Monday 4 th March	Normal Lessons	French/Spanish writing 48 mins (1 hr)	Break	Normal Lessons	Lunch	RPE 48 mins (1hr)	Normal Lessons
Tuesday 5 th March	Normal Lessons	Geography 55 mins (1 hr 9 mins)	Break	Normal Lessons	Lunch	Normal Lessons	Music 30 mins (38 mins)
Wednesday 6 th March	History 48 mins (1 hr)	Normal Lessons	Break	Normal Lessons	Lunch	Drama 40 mins (50 mins)	Normal Lessons
Thursday 7 th March	DT 48 mins (1hr)	Normal Lessons	Break	French/Spanish reading 48 mins (1 hr)	Lunch	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
Friday 8 th March	Normal Lessons	Computer science 48 mins (1 hr)	Break	Normal Lessons	Lunch	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons

*The Y8 Art Exam will be carried out in class where all appropriate resources will be available to students

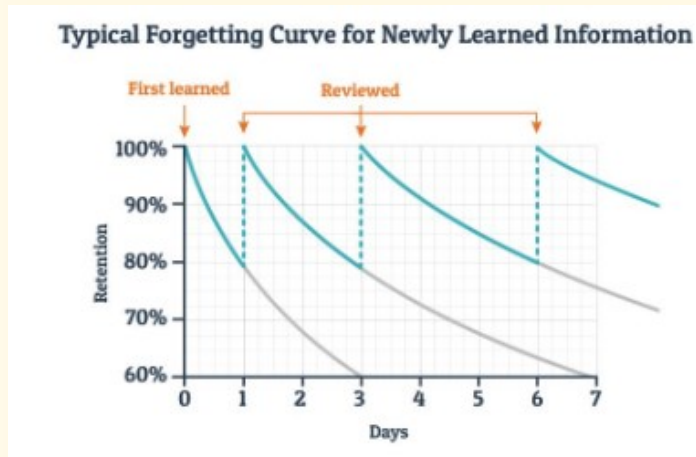
The Revision Revolution

As we move towards 'exam season' we will be sharing a series of articles to inform you of the importance of revision and share with you some of the most effective revision strategies that you and your child can use as they prepare for their exams. There is a wealth of information about revision, how to manage exam stress, and the exam timetables for all Year groups on our website [here](#).

The Science of Learning

In recent years, there has been lots of research around the science of learning and how we learn and retain information.

In summary, what do we know about memory?



Forgetting is completely natural. Research has shown that over time you forget a majority of what you've learnt, and it happens immediately.

Information, if not revisited, is 'lost' from our memory.

Consistent practice and revisiting previous material strengthen memory and boosts learning.

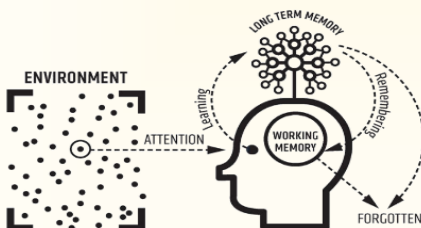
Our working memory is finite and limited and so overloading this or cramming for revision doesn't work.

Essentially, with memory, it's use it or lose it!

We know examinations place huge cognitive demands on pupils and require the retrieval of large bodies of knowledge from long-term memory.

But, according to the cognitive psychologist, Dan Willingham, more progress has been made in our understanding of cognitive science in the last five years than in the previous two and half thousand years.

That means, after lots of research, we now have an evidence-informed understanding of the most effective revision strategies. These strategies will strengthen memory and improve retrieval (very helpful in exams).



Knowledge Organisers

Knowledge organisers contain a summary of the facts and key knowledge of a topic which can be used for memorising, testing, and reviewing knowledge.

You can find subject/topic knowledge organisers on the [Curriculum subject](#) page of the school website.

Use the **20-minute Knowledge Organisers plan**:

- Spend **3 minutes** reading and re-reading the section of the knowledge organiser.
- Spend **2 minutes** trying to recall the information in your head or say it out loud. You could ask yourself 'how' and 'why' questions. This is called '**Elaboration**'.
- Put your KO away and write out the topic and answers relevant to the information – spend about **10 minutes** on your Qs and & As.
- Spend the last **5 minutes** checking your answers by looking again at the knowledge organiser and writing any corrections in a green pen.



- 1. Memorise it.** Read a section of your knowledge organisers. Repeat to yourself from memory until you think you have got it right.
- 2. Cover it up.** Put your knowledge organiser away so you cannot copy it. This will mean that your brain will have to work harder, meaning it is more likely to stay in your long-term memory.
- 3. Write it down.** Get a blank sheet/notebook and write out what you can remember. Even if you are finding it difficult, do not look back at your knowledge organiser but think hard and challenge yourself to recall. You can date it and compare with other attempts in the future.
- 4. Check it.** Refer to your knowledge organisers and check your work against it.
- 5. Correct it.** Make corrections using a green pen and continue this process until you can recall the information.

Barbara Wylie: A Beacon of Inspiration in Women's History



In the celebration of Women's History Month, it's vital to honour individuals whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our understanding. Among these luminaries is Barbara Wylie, whose remarkable journey serves as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating paths for future generations to follow. Born in Shrewsbury, Wylie's early years were marked by a determination to defy societal expectations and pursue her passion for knowledge.

From an early age, she exhibited a fierce intellect and an unwavering commitment to education. Despite the constraints of her time, she embraced learning as a means of empowerment, laying the foundation for a lifetime of academic exploration. Throughout her career, Wylie distinguished herself as a trailblazer in the field of women's history.

Her research delved into uncharted territories, unearthing forgotten stories and amplifying the voices of women who had long been relegated to the sidelines of history. Through meticulous scholarship and insightful analysis, she challenged prevailing narratives, shedding light on the diverse experiences of women.

One of Wylie's most notable contributions was her groundbreaking research on the suffrage movement. In her work, she highlighted the contributions of grassroots activists and women of colour, whose pivotal roles had often been overlooked in mainstream accounts. By centring their voices and experiences, Wylie expanded the scope of women's history, enriching our understanding of the struggles and triumphs that have shaped our society.

Beyond academia, Barbara Wylie was a passionate advocate for women's rights. Whether marching on the streets or speaking at conferences, she lent her voice to campaigns aimed at combating gender discrimination and promoting gender equality. Her advocacy efforts resonated not only within academic circles but also among broader communities, sparking conversations and inspiring action.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us draw inspiration from the life and work of Barbara Wylie, a beacon of hope in the ongoing struggle for women's rights. Her legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, passion, and intellectual curiosity. In honouring her memory by naming one of our teaching groups after her, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the cause of gender equality and justice for all.



Student of the Week



Winners and nominees for this week are listed below....

This week's winners

KS3 Winner

Leah Sheppard nominated by Mrs Gajny for an excellent result in end of topic test.

KS4 Winner

Finley Sharland nominated by Mrs Carr for Achieving above target in most recent assessment! Well done!



This week's nominations:

KS3 Nominations

Student Name	Nominated by	Reason for Nomination
Josh Purslow	Mrs Carr	Doing the right thing, Thanks!
Rachel Beever	Mrs Williams	Consistently having an excellent attitude to learning in lessons and producing some well structured work.
Oliver Regan	Mrs Gajny	Always working to best of ability
Imogen Langford	Mrs Fairlie	A brilliant 3d model of a plant cell with amazing detail. Well done!
Eve Davies	Mrs Fairlie	A brilliant, detailed model of a red blood cell.
Paddy Fox	Mrs Fairlie	Brilliant 3d model of several red blood cells.
Ben Bradley	Mrs Fairlie	Beautiful poster a neurone.
Grace Shaw	Mr Balmer	Grace show real perseverance this week on a tricky bit of analytical writing, and the result was excellent analysis. So pleasing!
Lucas Alsdorf	Miss Evans	Lucas has shown a real conscientious approach to his English studies this year demonstrating maturity and enthusiasm for the subject. It's been great to see his confidence improve by way of him willingly wanting to contribute to lessons. Well done Lucas- keep it up!
Eowyn Lowe	Mrs Fairlie	Making a fantastic plant cell cake! Scientifically spot on and tasty.

KS4 Nominations

Student Name	Nominated by	Reason for Nomination
James Verrin	Dr Wood	Caring attitude and good citizenship
Rosie Frankel	Dr Wood	Excellence as a prefect
Ella McFarlane	Dr Wood	Excellence as a prefect
Ryleigh Young	Mrs Hodnett	Umpiring at the County Netball tournament - brilliant leadership skills shown. Well done.
Annabelle Hodgkinson	Mrs Carr	Totally smashed the most recent assessment! Well done!
Lily Atkin	Mrs Carr	Working really hard on her assessment and achieving above target! Well done!
Pippa Jones	Mrs Carr	Working hard and achieving above target on most recent assessment! Well done!
Serena Vickery	Mrs Carr	Achieving above target in assessment! Well done!
Dexter Crippin	Mrs Carr	Always working hard and for achieving above target in his recent assessment. Well done!

Finley Foxall	Mrs Williams	Finley has made a very positive change in effort in maths lessons this week.
Toby Williams	Mrs Williams	For an outstanding piece of homework reviewing his assessment. Excellent independent study skills demonstrated.
Harry P, Charlie D, Sam W, Alfie R, Brandon H, Hashim R, Fabian Z, Rares N (year 9) Seth R, Jason E, Ben W, Charlie W, Fin F, Isaac H, Tristan D.	Ms Gajny	Congratulations to the Year 10 football team who won 4-2 against Ludlow School. Well done!
Wrenaya Griffiths-Seargent	Ms Gajny	Excellent contribution in class
Summer Jones	Ms Gajny	Excellent contribution in class
Hashim Raza	Mrs Hodnett	For his hard work in Sport Studies. He has written some very detailed work for his assignments and has attended catch up sessions to improve his grade.
Alfie Rowley	Mrs Hodnett	Absolutely brilliant work in sport studies- hard working in lesson, staying in at extra session. He is continually looking to improve his work. I have been so impressed, well done!
Mary Preece	Mrs Fairlie	Excellent effort and engagement in physics lessons.
Madge Davenport	Miss Evans	For her unwavering enthusiasm and improvement in English. Madge's analytical responses are showing real progress and it's clear that she is revising well for this subject (as evidenced through her getting the majority of retrieval tasks correct). Madge also makes the most phenomenal brownies!
Ruby Tooth	Miss Evans	I am incredibly proud of Ruby- her commitment and improvement in English has been outstanding. Ruby is a student who quietly beavers away and is quite simply a pleasure to teach.
Kai Watton	Mr Balmer	It can't be easy starting a new school mid way through Year 10, however Kai has started English with a brilliant attitude. He's completed all the classwork and made some fantastic contributions to class discussion as well. What a fantastic start- well done Kai!
Maddie Davies	Miss Evans	Maddie is consistently proving that she has a flare for English- she willingly shares some incredibly insightful ideas and her annotation of poetry is superb. Maddie also tries very hard with her homework and will help her peers in lessons. Well done Maddie!
Joseph Mushaniga	Mr Balmer	Joseph has always been a fantastic and successful student. This week he's elevated his game further and I can see the dedication to his upcoming GCSEs. Keep it up, Joseph!
Isabelle Hill	Miss Evans	For consistently working hard and focusing in lessons. It has been lovely to see Isabelle's confidence flourish in English too!
Conner Stevens	Miss Evans	Conner has really impressed me with his determination to improve his analytical PEEZL paragraphs in English- It was lovely to see him celebrating his success at doing so this week. Conner is far more focused in English this year and works well in class. Keep it up Conner!
Jack Garner	Mrs Brazendale	For showing great compassion and empathy



Music News

What's on In Music – 04/03/24 & 11/03/24

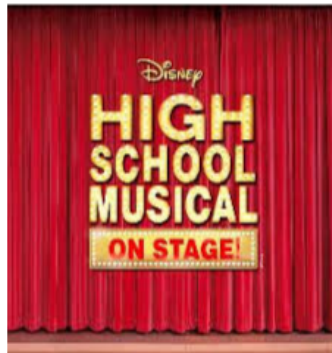
Due to the High School Musical production, normal clubs and rehearsal slots will not run during these 2 weeks.

Tickets are now on sale for High School Musical

12th, 13th & 14th March

£5 (Adults) £4 (concessions)

Available via Parent Pay OR from school reception



Piano Accordion Band
Wednesdays 3.30 - 4.30



Tuition and loan of a piano accordion to take home
FREE!!!

Please see Miss Chapman to book your place

The Church Stretton School Production of

Disney

**HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL**

ON STAGE!

One Act Version

Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March 2024

7.30pm (Doors open 7:00pm)

£5 Adults, £4 Students

Tickets available via ParentPay and School Reception

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Careers News



INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY



Thank you to our supporters:



HELP STUDENTS DECIDE WHETHER UNIVERSITY IS THE ROUTE FOR THEM

Insight into University is a comprehensive virtual experience allowing students to explore STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects lead to. It provides access to information on student life, STEM projects and activities set by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, first year undergraduate lectures, live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers and current students.

Whether young people are interested in life sciences, chemistry, biomedical, forensic science, robotics, food science, electronics, engineering, physics, computer science, sustainability, materials science, aerospace, built environment, tech or maths, we have something for them. With specially developed content and live sessions from universities including University of **Cambridge, Sheffield, Lancaster, Abertay, UCL, Oxford, Liverpool, Plymouth, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Warwick, Kingston, Nottingham, Strathclyde**. We will also have some fantastic workshops and careers guidance from organisations such as Innovate UK, GSK, GE, Tech Partnership, Rolls Royce and more.

The unique feature of this course is that students are able to access content from a diverse range of STEM subjects and will be able to tailor a course that suits their interest.

On successful completion of the course, which involves 30 hrs of study, students will receive a Silver Industrial Cadets award and be in a position to make a more informed decision for their UCAS application.



@TheEDTUK
@IndustrialCadet

Visit us online
www.etrust.org.uk



INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY



What our students say

"I've absolutely loved every minute of this course. I found the live sessions in particular very inspiring and informative, and all of the taster lectures were both accessible and challenging. I'm really excited to continue with my STEM studies."

"This course absolutely helped me with my future education and career path. The way I was able to choose which activities or lectures I wanted to complete was undeniably useful as it meant I could tailor a course to suit me. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience."

"I really enjoyed the course and feel much more confident in applying to university having done it. The live sessions were very interesting and I was blown away by the wide range of choice of sessions."

of students felt that the skills and knowledge that they gained from the course will have a positive impact on their future studies and career.

92%

of students felt confident or very confident in making their future study and career choices after completing the virtual experience.

86%

When is it?

The experience will run from **1st July until 23rd August 2024** and can be completed flexibly to fit around other commitments and study at a pace that suits individual circumstances.

Who is it for?

The experience is open to all students age 16+ and is suitable for all abilities, with activities that cover different levels of advanced study.

All students need is a genuine interest in STEM and inquisitiveness about what the future can hold for them and how they can help get themselves there.

How to apply?

Applications open on 4th March 2024. Visit our website <https://www.etrust.org.uk/insight-into-university> or scan the QR code to register your interest!



Cost: £95

Fully funded places are available if cost is a barrier, please indicate your interest on the application form



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Visit us online
www.etrust.org.uk

National
Theatre

CONNECTIONS
2024

The Loft Arts

presents



**AGE IS
REVOLTING**

by Abi Zakarian

All Stretton Village Hall, SY6 6JR

Fri 8th March 2024 - 7:30pm

Sat 9th March 2024 - 1:30pm

Sat 9th March 2024 - 7:30pm

Doors open 30mins before performances

enquiries: info.theloftarts@gmail.com

All tickets **£5**

Scan here to purchase:



Supported by public funding from
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**









Saturday 16th March
10am to 3.30pm



BirdFest




MAYFAIR COMMUNITY CENTRE, SY6 6BL

A special day focusing on birds with all sorts of opportunities for learning, involvement and enjoyment for all

-  Live birds of prey on display
-  Short talks and workshops
-  Family activities
-  Making bird boxes
-  Information stalls & ID activities
-  Refreshments

FREE
entry
Bring some cash
for stalls and
activities

Competition with great prizes for young people

-  Scan QR code for competition form
-  Or collect form from Church Stretton Library or Mayfair
-  Hand entries in to Mayfair or bring along on the day until 12 noon.



STRETTONS AREA COMMUNITY
WILDLIFE GROUP
Scan the QR code for details



**Thanks to generous funding from Church Stretton
Town Council and Focus Community Awards.**

QUIZ NIGHT!



**SATURDAY 6TH APRIL
6PM**



**MAYFAIR
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**PLOUGHMAN'S
SUPPER & BAR**



**ALONGSIDE MY LONDON MARATHON
RUN, RAISING MONEY FOR**

SAMARITANS



£15 per person (food included).

Tables of 4-6, 14 years plus.

**Please hand an envelope with your name, email,
number of tickets needed and the exact cash into
Church Stretton Medical Practice reception.**

Questions? Contact ella23chamberlain@gmail.com