



Dear Parents & Carers,

As I write in this edition of The Link, the sun is shining, with a suggestion in the air that Spring is on its way. I am sure that like us, you were very pleased to, at last hear, the announcement that schools are to be allowed to re-open! We are all looking forward to welcoming students back to school site from 8th March (in a phased arrangement as per my recent letter). Please note that school transport will be running as usual and the school canteen will be open for students to purchase food.

Meanwhile, we continue to work hard to keep students who are at home and in school on track with their learning and now have initial information about exam grades for Year 11, following the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson's announcement yesterday that students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught. No algorithms will be used. Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18 June. This allows as much time as possible before teachers make their assessments. We hope that the detail behind this arrives soon so that we can let you and Year 11 students know how the process is likely to work.

Next week we are trialling a remote Progress Day with Year 7 parents and carers, using a dedicated system to allow appointments to be made and for teachers to meet parents / carers through virtual means. We haven't done this before, so it is a steep learning curve for us all (like many things relating to technology recently), so please do bear with us as we step into uncharted territory.

Thank you again for all of your ongoing support and without wishing to tempt fate, there does seem to be a glimmer of hope that we may see better times for everyone soon.

Enjoy the sunshine and stay safe

John Parr

"Making the Most of the Madness!"

In these strange times we have learnt to find things to do with the large amounts of spare time we suddenly find ourselves having. Year 11 pupil, Caleb Richards, has certainly done this. On top of his revision regime and online lessons he has been busy making music!

His latest single has had over 2.5k streams on Spotify, his YouTube channel is going from strength to strength and he has started jingle writing! His first paid commission is for a podcast series called the 'Disability Cricket Podcast' which has just been released, also on Spotify.

Congratulations Caleb, keep it up!

Phased return dates for students

The phased return of all students will commence on Monday 08th March. The DfE guidance makes it clear that Year 11 and Year 10 students, in their exam years, should return ahead of Key Stage 3 children. We will therefore phase the return of each year group across the week as below:

- Year 11 return on Monday 08th March.
- Year 10 return on Tuesday 09th March.
- Year 9 return on Wednesday 10th March.
- Year 8 return on Thursday 11th March.
- Year 7 return on Friday 12th March.



Congratulations to
last week's
winners

Student: Annabel Hartshorne Yr11

Staff: Mr Bird

When we return to the school building prizes will be distributed.

Distance learning update



The end is in sight for this period of distance learning and students will begin to return to school from Monday 8th March, which I am sure all members of the school community will be delighted about. Staff and students have continually risen to the challenges that distance learning has presented and we have made the best of a bad situation to ensure high quality teaching and learning has continued throughout. I hope you will agree that the distance learning opportunities provided by the teaching staff at Church Stretton School have been of a very high standard, although there is no substitute for face-to-face teaching and learning. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back into school and we will begin the process of filling any gaps in students knowledge and understanding.

As we head into the final week of distance learning staff will be returning to school to allow them to prepare for the return to face-to-face lessons, which may mean some disruption to live lessons. Work will still be set on Go4Schools so that students can complete tasks independently and teaching staff will be available via email if students require support with these tasks. This will be the case on Thursday 4th March when teaching staff will be involved in the Year 7 virtual Parents day, which will be our first attempt at using the School Cloud video Parents evening software. We have been carrying out trials to make sure the systems will run smoothly on the day, but as with all new forms of technology there could be some teething problems. Please rest assured that if there are issues that prevent you being able to meet with your child's teachers, we will do all that we can to make sure a further opportunity is made available. There are lots of very comprehensive help guides on the School Cloud [website](#), which we would strongly recommend you read well in advance of your appointments. Appointments can be made by following this [link](#) and then logging in with the following information: Student's Preferred Name, Student's Surname and Student's Date of Birth.

Those students who have loaned a Chromebook/laptop from the school can return them when they return to school during the week beginning Monday 8th March. Mr Morgan will take the opportunity to carry out updates and service each device ready for them to be used in school as part of the catch-up plan. We hope that this will be the final period of distance learning, but should it be necessary for the school to partially or fully close a device will be made immediately available to those students who have previously benefitted from a loan device. This will ensure there are no gaps in their learning and once again thank you to everyone involved in making donations to ensure we have enough devices in school to meet this demand.

As Spring approaches, the mornings become lighter and we enjoy more hours of sunshine into the evenings, it feels like there is light at the end of the tunnel and we all hope that things pan out as have been laid out in the Government's road map. Perhaps distance learning will be something we only talk about in the past tense and look back on fondly or with a wry smile. However, if we do ever need to return to periods of distance learning for some or all students, we have everything in place to ensure that this can happen as soon as it is required. Very much like insurance policies that you hope never to use it is the reassurance that you are covered should the worst happen that allows you to enjoy the everyday normality that we will hopefully return to very soon!



Key Stage 3 Student of the Week



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

Robert Lewis Nominated by Mrs Pugh for excellent effort in English and Mrs Mackechnie for Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons

Mackenzie Williams Nominated by Mrs Mackechnie for consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons

Charlotte Hale Nominated by Mr Charles for fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.

Lawson Wyatt Nominated Mr Charles for fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.

Back to Key Stage 4 again next week



This week's nominations:

Mrs Pugh	Alex Wooldridge	Excellent work in English
Mrs Mackechnie	Martha Wynne	An outstanding contribution to work on solving equations
Mrs Mackechnie	Maisie White	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Freddie Westall	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Poppy Cumberlidge	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Eleni Ward	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Aris Kokkinos	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Catherine Parry	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Hanae Soussi-Dahdouh	Outstanding progress in online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Mackenzie Williams	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Oscar Walden	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Mackechnie	Rob Lewis	Consistently making valuable contributions to online lessons
Mrs Proffitt	Clara Powis	Excellent work ethic and attitude in French
Mrs Proffitt	Eleni Ward	Excellent work ethic and attitude in French
Mrs Proffitt	Freddie Westall	Excellent work ethic and attitude in French
Mrs Proffitt	Ella McFarlane	Excellent work ethic and attitude in French
Mr Charles	Poppy Carr	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Charlotte Hale	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Max Hallam	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Melisa Karakulah	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Ben Lawrence	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Seth Richards	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mr Charles	Lawson Wyatt	Fantastic assessment scores and work during lessons.
Mrs Pugh	Madison Young	Excellent work in English
Mrs Pugh	Charlie Morris	Excellent work in English
Mrs Pugh	Aidan Thomsett	Great effort in English
Mrs Pugh	Ed Prosser	Excellent effort in English
Mrs Pugh	Robert Lewis	Excellent effort in English
Mr Charles	Charlie Morris	Excellent assessment scores and contributions during online lessons.
Mr Charles	Lilly Brown	Excellent assessment scores and contributions during online lessons.
Mr Charles	Rudy Laslett	Excellent assessment scores and contributions during online lessons.

Accelerated Reader

Once again well done to the following students for reaching their targets.

Year 7

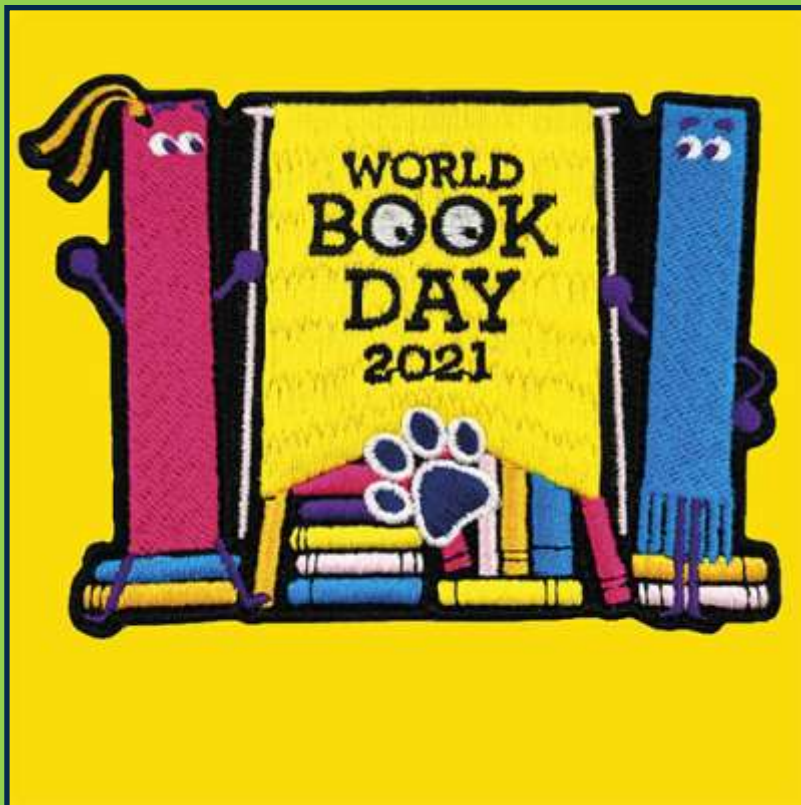
Poppy Carr

Lawson Wyatt

Year 9

Daisy Swain

Well done everyone for keeping up with your reading last half term. The targets have now all been reset, so follow the link in GO4Schools or the website and get some rewards, as well as enjoyment, for your reading efforts.



Next week, March 4th is World Book Day - so let's make an extra special effort to get involved in reading on that day.

Check out this [website](#) for more information and activities.

Ella McFarlane in Year 8 is raising money for the WWF on JustGiving with a raffle. If you would like to support her raffle please find the link below.
Thank you

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ellawwf>

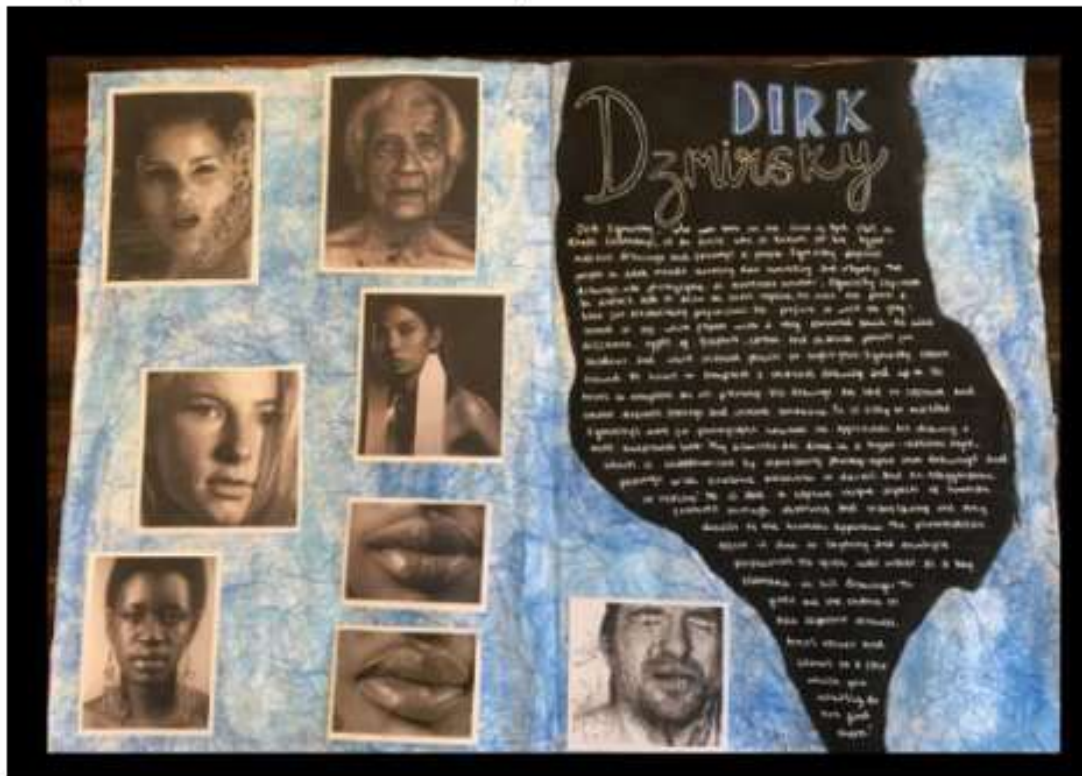


Lock down masterpieces

Ria Marland

Year 10

Photography research



Lauren Stevens

Year 10

Painting in the
style of Phil
Galloway





David Jones, Year 10
 Portraiture
 Daisy Swain, Year 9,
 William Morris style
 Joss Nockolds, Year 9
 Drawing from
 observation

Grace Dalglish, Year 9, Own character
 Seth Richards, Year 7, Drawing from observation
 Hazel Walters, Year 9, William Morris style



Cerys Jones

Year 11

Ceramic research

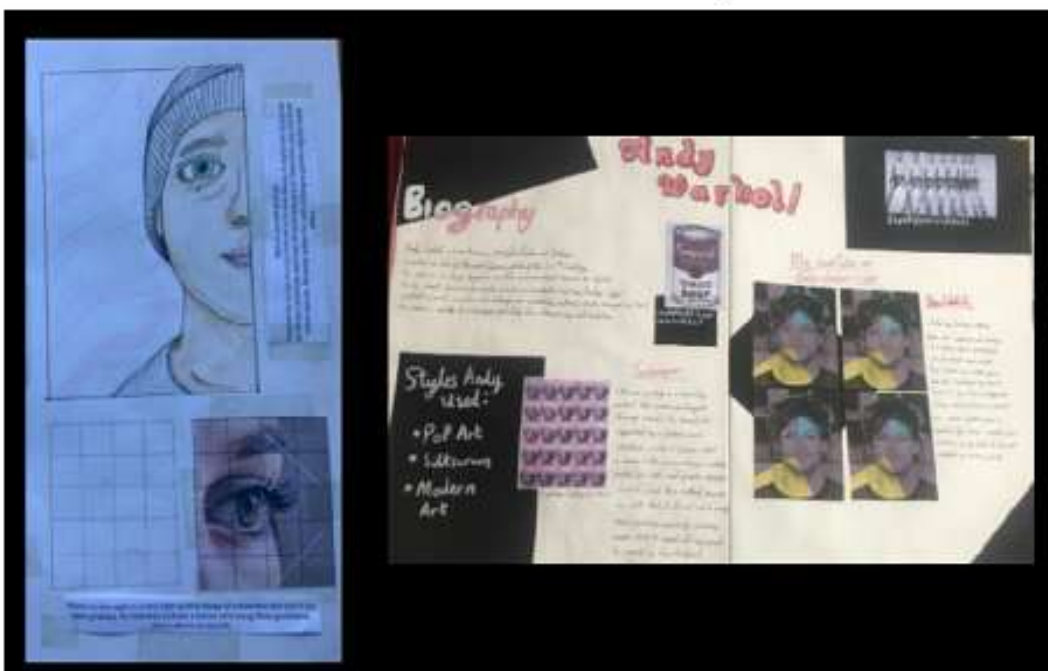


Korda Roach, Year 10

Self portrait

Lauren Edwards, Year 10

Andy Warhol research



**THE SECOND IN AN INSPIRING
SERIES OF EVENTS AIMING TO
RAISE ASPIRATIONS AND
EMPOWER GIRLS TO HEAD
OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH
CONFIDENCE AND AMBITION.**

WOMEN **MEDICINE** WOMENMEANBUSINESS

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 6-8pm

A virtual event - join us on Microsoft Teams

Join us to hear from a dynamic female panel of women in medicine, ready to offer expert advice and insight to students from across Shropshire.

Register at [Eventbrite](#) or email outreach@shr.gdst.net for more information

6th Annual
Biomedical Conference



SHREWSBURY
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
HELP FOR FUTURE LEADERS



So you want a career in medicine?

Everything you need to know about applying for Medicine

**A free online event on MS Teams for pupils in Year 10
and above who have an interest in careers in medicine.**

Saturday 13th March 2021
9:00am until 12:30pm

Register and find out more at:

Eventbrite or outreach@shr.gdst.net

01743 494000

outreach@shr.gdst.net

32 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TN

AGENDA

MORNING SESSION

- 09.00am **Welcome Address**
Ms J Sharrock (*Head, Shrewsbury High School*)
- 09.10am **Studying Medicine and problem based learning** – Dr Nicola Phillips
(Teaching Fellow and Admissions Tutor, Lancaster Medical School)
- 09.50am **Life as a medical student** - Jack Lyon, Year 5/6 (Manchester), Louisa Jeffries, Year 2 (Hull York Medical School), Tori Ainsworth, Year 1 (Sheffield)
- 10.30am **How to apply for Medicine at Lancaster incl. Personal Statements** –
Dr Nicola Phillips (Teaching Fellow and Admissions Tutor, Lancaster Medical School)
- 11.00am **Break**
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- 11.10am **The Medical School Interview** - Dr Adam Arshad (Step 2 Med)
- 12.00pm **Preparing for the BMAT** – Dr Nicola Phillips (Teaching Fellow and Admissions Tutor, Lancaster Medical School)
- 12.30pm **Closing address** - Mr D Payne (Deputy Head, Academic, Shrewsbury High School)



Dear Parent/Carer

Next week is the 10th National Careers Week. As with most events at the moment this has become a virtual event. Throughout the week there will be events with various employers which you can join. The Virtual Careers Fair will go live on Monday. Within the school we are running various activities. Students in Years 7,8 and 9 will be researching a career using the Start Profile website, which can also be used by parents (see accompanying letter), the Yr11s will work through assessing their skills and looking at Careers Goals with the help of NCS. There will also be Kahoot Careers Quiz going live next week.

To get more information about the week use the link below to visit the National Careers Week website

<https://ncw2020.co.uk/>

The Parents Guide to National Careers Week has some useful information

[the-parents-guide-to-national-careers-week-2021.pdf](#)

For more updates and virtual events throughout the week follow us on twitter on [@StrettonUpdates](#)

Any questions or enquiries please contact Mr Overton on lee.overton@csschool.co.uk

ONLINE RESOURCES

A list of websites & apps that are helpful for managing mental health

NHS Every Mind Matters

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

This website offers a range of mental health advice as well as an interactive quiz that's designed to help you feel more in control of your emotional/mental wellbeing.

Kooth

www.kooth.com

This site contains free mental health support with their online counsellors. It is a free sign up service that has resources such as discussion boards, helpful tips/articles written by young people and an option for them to write mood journals & set positive goals.

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

A mental health charity for children & young people that has a wide variety of helpful videos, games and articles. They have a free telephone helpline (0800 1111) and message boards where young people are encouraged to share experiences and support each other in a positive way.

Papyrus

www.papyrus-uk.org

A mental health charity dedicated to preventing young suicide by providing support and resources for young people and their families. They have their "Hopeline" (Call: 0800 068 4141 / Text: 078600 39967 / Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org) for children and young people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, or for anyone concerned for a young person that could be thinking about suicide.

Calm Harm

An app to help teenagers manage/resist the urge to self harm by providing a wide range of distraction techniques.

Combined Minds

This app contains psycho-education for parents, families & friends with practical advice on how to provide mental health support to children & young people.

Cove

A relaxing musical app that helps people try to capture their mood and express it by making music within the program and capturing it in a journal format. Note: you do not need to know how to play an instrument to use this app.

Stem4

www.stem4.org.uk

A charity that promotes positive mental health in teenagers as well as encouraging them to build resilience and manage difficult emotions via online resources.

YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk

A mental health charity that gives help and advice for young people, as well as encouraging them to get involved in fundraising/campaigning to raise awareness for children & young people's mental health.

Samaritans

www.samaritans.org

A charity that offers mental health support & information online for everyone. Their helpline is free and available to all ages. Call 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org 24/7.

Child Bereavement UK

www.childbereavementuk.org/young-people

A site which has resources for young people who are grieving, as well as providing information & advice to families/professionals on how to best support a young person who is bereaved. A helpline is also available on 0800 028840.

Clear Fear

An app to help children & teenagers manage anxiety through distraction & helpful activities.

Calm

A mindfulness app that includes various relaxing sounds to listen to as well as "sleep stories" & some guided meditations.

Headspace

A mindfulness app that has more of a "podcast feel" to it with various talks, guided meditations and helpful videos available.



Midlands Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
A Keele University Teaching Trust