



SOUTH SHROPSHIRE ACADEMY TRUST

THE LINK

Edition 1, 8th September 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year! We hope that you have enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing summer break and that students are ready for the new school year. It was fantastic to receive all of our students on Tuesday this week, with beaming smiles, impeccable uniform and appearance and fully equipped for learning. Thank you, therefore, to you as parents and carers for your support in ensuring students are ready for school!

A warm welcome, at this point, to our new Year 7 students and also students who are new to our school and joined other year groups. I am sure that it will not take long for the initial nerves to subside, for new friends to be made and new experiences enjoyed. Indeed, as I write this edition of The Link, many of our new Year 7 students are on a residential trip to Bushcraft, an outdoor activity centre where they will participate in teambuilding and competitive tasks. I am sure that they will have a wonderful time and we look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Along with new students, we also welcomed some new colleagues who have joined our staff. For your information, new staff to the school are:- Mrs McEwan, Science Faculty; Mrs Dixon, MFL Department; Mrs Rowley, School Reception / Attendance Officer and Mr Richards, Cover Supervisor. We are so pleased to have these colleagues join our team and further enhance student learning.

GCSE Results

It is with pleasure that we are able to congratulate all of our Year 11 leavers for their fantastic GCSE results this summer!

This year again saw changes to GCSE examinations, with new and more demanding content and students being awarded numerical grades for maths and English, with a grade 4 being comparable to an 'old C grade' and a grade 7 being comparable to an 'old A grade'.

We are so proud of all students achievements, with 78.7% of students achieving the new more demanding standard pass grade of '4' (equivalent to C grade) in both English and maths—well above the national average! In addition, 79% of students achieved 5 GCSEs of at least grade C (4 in maths and English) - record results for Church Stretton School!

Student performance in core subjects included 88% of all students achieving at least a grade 4 in English (85% in English Language and 79% in English Literature) and 82% achieving a grade 4 or higher in maths. For comparison, these are all significantly above the national average this year of 69% of students attaining a grade 4 in English Language, 72% attaining grade 4 in English Literature and 71 % attaining a grade 4 in maths. I would like to express my gratitude to all staff, teaching or non-teaching for the support given and to you as parents and carers for ensuring that our students, whatever their starting point or ability, gained such fantastic grades. Most of all, we hope that Year 11 of 2016/17 leave us with fond memories of school and as young people who have a desire to continue learning.

Enjoy the weekend

Mr. J. Parr
Head of School

EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

8th Yr 9 HPV vaccine

28th Open Evening 5.00-7.00pm

21st Presentation Evening

29th Open Morning 9.15-11.10am

22nd Sponsored Walk

NEXT WEEK IS

WEEK B

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2016-17

Congratulations to all students and parents/carers on exceeding our target for the second year running!

Our attendance target for 2016-17 was 96% and we achieved **96.35%** (up from 2015-16).

The Shropshire average was 94.9%.

A total of 29 students had less than 90% absence, amounting to **4.99%**.

The Shropshire average was 12.05%.

Our targets for this year are to improve on last year's attendance of 96.35% and decrease lateness to lessons. (This improved last year on the previous year from 682 to 515 but we still feel this is too high).

Go4Schools

Go4Schools information is currently being updated for the new academic year. We appreciate your patience whilst this process takes place. Parents of Year 7s will be contacted shortly with details of how to access Go4Schools. Thank you.

Please note students will still be able to access their timetable and homework tasks during this period.

Thank you

Study Support

If your child needs support with homework or a space to complete it there are two sessions which they can attend to help them. They are:

Tuesday lunchtime, 12.30pm until 1:10pm

Thursday after school, 3:20pm until 4:30pm.

Both sessions will be in B8 with staff to assist. Access to computers and printing available. Any enquiries contact Mr Overton.

Church Stretton School PTA

The Church Stretton School PTA is an active group of volunteers who aim to raise money for the school through two major fundraising events a year, the Craft Fayre on Saturday 18th November 2017 and the Mynd Drover Challenge walk in June 2018. The next PTA meeting is on Wednesday 20th September at 5:30pm in the school, where refreshments will be provided. Please come along to find out what we do and what you can do to help.

Parent Guide to Attendance Codes

Code	School Meaning	Meaning
/	Present AM/PM	Present
C	Other authorised circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/description)	Authorised Absence
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised Absence
G	Family holiday (NOT agreed or days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorised Absence
I	Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)	Authorised Absence
J	Interview	Approved educational activity
L	Late (before reg. closed at 9.10 am)	Present
M	Medical/Dental appointments - evidence provided	Authorised Absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised Absence
O	Unauthorised absence (not covered by any other code/description)	Unauthorised Absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Approved educational activity
U	Late (after reg. closed at 9.10 am)	Unauthorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved educational activity
W	Work experience	Present

Reminder on the School Policy on piercings.

We appreciate that the vast majority of our parents/carers and students understand and accept the school's policies and expectations.

Our policy on piercings is very clear and we expect all students and parents to follow it. The purpose of this article is to remind you of our policy and to make it clear what will happen if a student breaches the policy.

Piercings are limited to one pair of small stud or sleeper earrings.

No other piercings are allowed.

Sanctions

If a student arrives at school with piercings other than those allowed they will be given the opportunity to remove the item/s.

If the student breaches the policy again a member of school staff will confiscate the item/s and transfer them to Reception where they can be collected at 3.20pm on the same day.

Any refusal to comply with staff instructions will result in the student completing lessons in the Student Support Centre until a meeting has been convened with the parent/carer.

Students who have not followed the school uniform policy and have had their nose pierced will be asked to remove it or purchase a plastic retainer.

Participation in practical activities such as Physical Education will also be restricted for health and safety reasons unless the items are removed and alternative arrangements will be made if necessary.



Sports stars...

The PE department are looking for any photos of our Church Stretton School sports stars. If you take part in any sport outside of school, please bring in a photograph to showcase your skills. All photos welcome. We have some great athletes out there and you should be proud of your achievements. Either bring the photo to the PE department or you can email a copy of the photo to Miss Lea on E.Lea@csschool.co.uk

Work Experience Consent Form Reminder

Year 10 Parents please ensure you have sent back the work experience parental consent form to Mrs Merrett by 27th October. Please contact school if you require another copy.

Thank you

SPORTING FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 12th September

- Year 7 Girls Netball away at William Brookes
- Leave school at end of day and return at 5.45pm.

Thursday 14th September

- Year 11 Girls Netball away at William Brookes
- Leave school at end of day and return at 5.45pm.



Sat 18 November

Freshly cooked food available
ALL DAY!

*Christmas present ideas,
fairtrade and ethnic gifts*



**Shrewsbury Rd
Church Stretton
SY6 6EX**

Residents views being sought on future delivery of the library service in Church Stretton

Residents in Church Stretton are being asked to comment on the criteria which will be used to help choose the best provider to take on the running of the local library.

Shropshire Council recently consulted with Church Stretton residents about their priorities for the provision of a library service. The survey received over 500 responses.

All the points raised within the consultation have been considered and has helped shaped a draft set of criteria. The criteria will be used in the selection of a new provider of library services within a formal tendering process, following the Community Right to Challenge legislation.

Before Shropshire Council goes out to procure a new organisation (“provider”) to manage library services in Church Stretton, the council would welcome comments in relation to the specification. Such as, if the council is asking the right questions to the potential provider and whether it is weighting them in relation to the views expressed by the public.

Councillor Lezley Picton, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure said;

“It is important that we work alongside residents in Church Stretton, and other communities in Shropshire, to shape how services will look in the future. We would encourage all residents to give us your views.”

Residents can complete the survey online at <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/selection-criteria-for-the-appointment-of-a-new-organisation-to-manage-library-services-in-church-stretton/> or visit the ‘Get Involved’ pages on the Shropshire Council website www.shropshire.gov.uk . Paper copies are available at the following locations: Library, Leisure Centre, Mayfair Health and Well Being Centre and the Town Council office.

The closing date for the survey is **5pm on Monday 18th September**.

To find out more about Church Stretton Library and what it offers visit

<https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/church-stretton-library/>

Further information

Work to appoint a new provider to manage and develop library services in Church Stretton commenced when the Council invited expressions of interest (under the “Community Right to Challenge” legislation) from local community groups in autumn 2016. Two valid expressions of interest were received and the Council is now undertaking a procurement exercise to select a new organisation. For more details of the Community Right to Challenge process please visit:

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/doing-business-with-us/community-right-to-challenge/>

Whilst the decision over which organisation runs the library in the future is for the Council to make, we want to make sure that we have taken into account the views of Church Stretton library users and non-users when we set out our selection criteria. These are included within the tender questions and the tender scoring scheme, and are informed by the library services service specification.

It is anticipated that once a bidder has been chosen, the new arrangements for the library service will be in place by the end of summer of 2018.

Shropshire Council is taking a locality approach to commissioning services. Engagement with local partners to support and retain the local delivery of a range of services and activities is a vital component of this work.

For the library service, this has meant working within local communities to find sustainable solutions that will secure library provision for the future. It has been recognised that there is no ‘one size fits all’ solution, so approaches have varied, depending on local circumstances and priorities.

COMING SOON

THEATRE AND OTHER EVENTS AT CHURCH STRETTON SCHOOL

We are working hard to make the school; Theatre; and Cinema locally accessible and inclusive in Church Stretton

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT please!

Our Satellite Live screenings give all of us in the Stretton's a chance to see top quality productions filmed live from the country's most famous theatre venues.

How lucky we are to have such a lovely local and easily accessible facility which is also available to many local community organisations to hold their events

We have a great mix of events lined up for our Autumn Programme and into 2018. Our September events are shown here.

JOHN LE CARRE: AN EVENING WITH GEORGE SMILEY

WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER - ENCORE

7.45pm £12/£6

Broadcast live from London's Royal Festival Hall, join us for a celebration of one of the world's greatest writers as he shares the secrets behind the creation of his most beloved character. From his extraordinary Cold War novels – such as *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* – to his powerful descriptions of the War on Terror in *The Night Manager*, *A Most Wanted Man* and *A Delicate Truth*, the writing of John le Carré has come to define the last half century.



In a rare public appearance and one-off event, the author reads from his new novel, *A Legacy of Spies*, which sees the return of his most iconic Cold War characters, as their past comes back to claim them in the present. With a unique question and answer session, this is an unmissable opportunity to experience one of the foremost chroniclers of our age, direct and in his own words.

In conversation le Carré discusses the full breadth of his career spanning five decades, and reflects on the continuing story of his most famous creation, the tubby, bespectacled spy, George Smiley.

Through this event John le Carré and the producers The Ink Factory are raising money for Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors without Borders (MSF), and are donating their proceeds to the charity

Book your pre-theatre meals for this event in THE PLACE Restaurant and reserve seats in the theatre. A fantastic meal prepared by our award-winning chef. **Two-courses with wine or soft**

THE MAGIC FLUTE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 7.15PM £12/£6

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW





Badminton for All

Church Stretton Badminton Club invite you to try out our fantastic sport

In these playing/coaching sessions open to anyone.

Come along and have a go

Church Stretton Leisure Centre

Commences 20th September 2017

7.00pm to 8.00pm

All abilities welcome

Sports wheelchairs and racquets available FOC

For more info call Alan Fox on 01694725588 or 07977060303

RAISE your wellbeing

Respect + Achieve + Inspire + Skill + Enjoy