



newsletter

Famous Scientist comes to Shirebrook Academy!

After an anticipated patience from both the science staff and year nine, ten and eleven triple science students, Professor The Lord Robert Winston stepped into the room to a great reception from everybody.

Instantly after setting his equipment up, he showed the room an image of a magnified embryo and asked: "Is this embryo real?" He then explained that the embryo that was shown on the computer was an artificial embryo just before implantation into the womb, I particularly found this very interesting and from looking round the faces of both staff and students, I could see that they found it interesting too as they listened to every word that was said. As the lecture went on, Robert Winston narrated through a very informative PowerPoint presentation about fertility and clearly stated that we humans are the least fertile mammal on the Earth, as we only conceive 18% of the time. This is when the woman is in her early 20s and by the time she is 40, her chances of conceiving will have decreased so much that she is almost completely infertile. Here he explains how important IVF is to some couples throughout the world and explains that although The World's first successful test tube baby was born in 1978, scientists around The World have been trying for hundreds of years. This surprised me as I thought that IVF was a very recent discovery, but obviously not!

At the end of the lecture, I asked a few students whether they enjoyed their experience and everyone who I asked said that they enjoyed it because it was interesting and it will definitely help them with their understanding of the matter of fertility when it comes to their exams. I myself found Robert Winston very interesting and I was taken-aback at the sheer intelligence of him and found him very enjoyable to listen to. He wasn't a man who stood at the front of a classroom and pointed to the board whilst his student's heads were on the desk. Instead he was a man who allowed the students to take part and didn't just stand at the front but walked around the room, pointing to the board with a Laser – which I found really cool!

Jake Toon Year 11



(Photograph courtesy of School Matters)

Message from the Principal

This has been a very busy but exciting first term. I am getting to know the students and the people of Shirebrook and I have enjoyed my first term immensely. I am very proud of the hard work and good behaviour of our students. They have thrown themselves into lots of projects as you will see from the newsletter and their commitment to raising money for charity is very impressive.

Year 11 took examinations in November in GCSE English and Maths and their attendance at revision sessions (including Saturday mornings) is testament to their commitment and determination. They are a very hard working year group and I have every confidence in their success in the summer exams. They have high aspirations and they are determined to be active citizens in an employment market that has become increasingly demanding. The Year 11 careers evening was a lovely event, well attended and many students went away confident about their choices for post-16 study and training. We are delighted with the number of students who have said they wish to stay on at the Academy as we develop our new post-16 courses.

We are busy planning a new pathway approach to the curriculum for Year 9 and parents and students will be invited to an options evening in February to explain this and help them through this important time.

I have been working with the Student Council. They are a bright, articulate group of young people with clear ideas about how they want the Academy to move forward. So far they have presented to Governors, helped interview for a new member of staff, worked with our local 'Stay Safe' group on a community project, helped to redesign the Library, made decisions about the refit of a part of school to become a post-16 centre for September and been ambassadors for the school at our open evening. They are also organising a fund raising event at Christmas.

One of the visions we have for the Academy is that it will become a centre for the community. You will see in the newsletter some fun activities we would love you to be part of in January. We are hoping to grow the community use over time so that when the new building is up and running all the facilities are used to capacity.

It has been a great start and it was wonderful to share this with so many of our sponsors, students and parents at our grand opening on the 17th November. We were very privileged to have Professor The Lord Winston to carry out the official opening and to celebrate this new beginning for the Shirebrook community. Our winning strap-line competition 'Your Learning, Your Future' sums up nicely what we are all striving for at the Academy.

Best Wishes
Julie Bloor Principal



Shirebrook Primary Schools K'Nex challenge

Students in Year 6 were able to take part in the official opening of Shirebrook Academy by taking part in a K'Nex challenge. Teams of students worked together to design and build models of a new playground area for Shirebrook. The students first selected a location within Shirebrook for the playground and identified the reasons for the selection. Each team also had to identify which materials they would use to build their equipment for real. In order to make these decisions students needed to discuss which properties of the materials made them suitable for inclusion within a childrens playground. The students approached the problem presented in a range of different ways but each team worked together to decide on the best solution. It was fantastic to see the students working together and sharing a range of different ideas.

The morning was supported by Graham Lee and Ruth Biddulph of Bowmer Kirkland who supported the teams by acting as mentors and experts in the field. Whilst Graham and Ruth made the decisions about which teams had won the students evaluated their projects identifying what they would do differently next time. Suggestions included more space and including a fence around the playground so that parents would know where their children were.

The winning teams from Langwith Bassett, Whaley Thorns and Brookfield each received a box of K'Nex for their schools.

Construction and the Built Environment **Taster Day**

Sixty Year 9 students were able to take part in the a construction day which had been organised in partnership with the Construction Industry Council (CIC). The students were able to take part in a range of activities aimed at raising their awareness of courses and careers in construction. The activities included the bridges to schools project run by the Institution for Civil

Engineers, Town planning delivered by Planning Aid, an architecture session run by Bond Bryan and Aim Higher and a careers session provided by CIC, Construction Skills council and Chesterfield College.

All of the students had a thoroughly enjoyable day and particularly enjoyed the bridge building session when they got to wear hard hats and fluorescent jackets whilst building a suspension bridge. All the students then had to walk over the bridge to check that it had been built correctly!



Post 16 at Shirebrook

Shirebrook Academy are excited to be offering a suite of post 16 courses in September 2011. These courses will be offered in Partnership with Chesterfield College. The courses offered are:

- BTEC level 2 construction**
- BTEC level 2 Health
and Social care**
- BTEC level 3 Applied Science**
- BTEC level 3 Sports**

All students will be registered students of Chesterfield college and have access to all of the facilities at the college. On a day to day basis students will be based at the Academy in Shirebrook.

Staff and students at Shirebrook Academy are now preparing for the first students by setting up a dedicated post 16 area and developing resources for the courses.

If you are interested in applying to Shirebrook Academy please contact us for a prospectus and application form - enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org

Post 16 and Sheffield Hallam University

Sheffield Hallam University is very pleased to support the development of post 16 studies which will be offered for the first time in Shirebrook.

Students will have the opportunity to spend time at the University as part of their studies to see what further learning opportunities there may be for them, there and to see what other employment opportunities there are for those interested in science or construction. We will also be working with staff to contribute to what will undoubtedly be interesting and valuable courses.

Shirebrook Academy: Art and drama residential visit to the North Yorkshire Coast

Art and drama students of Shirebrook Academy visited the Yorkshire 'Jurassic' coast for three days on Thursday 21 October to Saturday 23 October 2010. They stayed in the refurbished Youth Hostel at the top of the 199 steps from Whitby's streets, next door to the ruined Whitby abbey and St Mary's church, which provided some of the inspiration for Bram Stokers 'Dracula'.

The aim of this visit was to provide an inspiring residential experience. Students had opportunities to produce artwork around the seaside town. They visited the local art gallery and maritime museum, and experienced the general ambience of this historic town with its seaside pier and fishing boats, with its stories of haunting and Bram Stokers' Dracula. The biting cold wind made drawing difficult, however students were not deterred, happily using

their cameras instead! An exhibition of these will be on display later this term, along with a showcase video diary made by the drama department.

Other activities included a theatre visit to Scarborough to watch John Godbers' production of 'Teachers'; a comic depiction and comparison of a comprehensive school's teachers and students. Another bracing mornings visit to the picturesque Robin Hoods Bay where students made further sketch studies and photographs, followed by an afternoon in Whitby's Pannett gallery and maritime museum. Whitbys well known attraction 'Dracula Experience' caused quite a scare to some individuals, when a live actor appeared from under some stairs and grabbed some students legs!

Students were captivated one night when a local fisherman, 80 year old



Bob Marsden, born in the terraced cottage next door to the famous Fortunes Kipper smokehouse, spoke to the group of his (tough) life when he left school at the age of twelve, carrying baskets of cockles for 2 miles over the cliff tops and fishing on trawlers, leaving them with the message 'always be positive, even when life gets tough'!

Students then walked the ghost tour with the well known Harry Collett, with his local tales of spooky happenings throughout the town, putting the hairs up on the backs of necks as we crept back into the dark, creaky youth hostel.

Students made the following comments 'I ate my first oyster!' Shannon Crew (14). 'I loved every part of the trip except the Dracula Experience as it scared me really, but apart from that everything else was perfect, 10/10' Connor Wales (14). 'I have been looking forward to this weekend all month! It has gone too fast, I have enjoyed every minute, what a way to end our first term!' Daniel Salmon (15) 'I really enjoyed the Whitby trip. It was brilliant learning about the culture and life there. There are some beautiful views and sites.' Darien Stelling (15).

It was a valuable and popular experience for the thirty four students, maybe to be repeated in the future, but hopefully with warmer weather!

Raising Aspirations Evening



Shirebrook Academy recently held a Raising Aspirations Post 16 evening for year 11 students and their parents. The aim of the evening was to inform our young people and their parents about the different options available to students once they have taken their GCSE examinations. Tracey Horton, Personal Development Co-ordinator, explained the wide variety of options available to students and on hand were a variety of providers including West Nottinghamshire

College, Shirebrook Academy Post 16 providers and Chesterfield College to offer students and their parents further information, advice and guidance on what options are available. Connexions staff also ran work shops on when and how to apply for college, sixth form and apprenticeship courses.

Ex students, Michael Goodwin and Jae Howard, provided musical accompaniment throughout the evening and year 9 students were kept very busy serving refreshments to everyone present! The event was very well attended and will hopefully become an annual event to support our young people in making the right choice after GCSE examinations. Sherrell Hemsley, year 11 student, said 'the evening has been great, I feel I know what I want to do next year and how to secure a place on my chosen college course'

Shirebrook Academy would like to thank Connexions - Raising Aspiration project for their support in organising this event.



Year 11 Raising Aspirations Group

The Year 11 Raising Girls Aspiration group was launched with an afternoon of pampering at Shirebrook Academy! Students were taught the art of pedicures and manicures and relaxed with a cup of tea and a cup cake. Twenty girls have been selected to participate in the programme, the aim of the group is to raise the confidence of the young ladies involved to ensure they achieve their target grades and realise their true potential! The group will also be visiting Meadowhall, the theatre and participating in Tai Chi sessions. The programme is in its third year and has so far been extremely successful in raising not only the girls examination results but also their self esteem and self confidence.

'Connecting Classrooms' visit from Sudan

As part of a three year partnership, three teachers from Sudan visited Shirebrook in October to find out more about the UK education system and build links for future partnership work. In a packed week, the teachers spent time at Stubbin Wood School, Brookfield Primary School and Shirebrook Academy, meeting lots of students along the way and answering lots of questions about life in Sudan. Students have already exchanged work which gives an insight into daily life in the two countries, and future plans include the sharing of information about local communities, to help students understand the global community they are part of. Pictured are the head teachers/principal of the three UK schools with the visiting teachers. Other picture features visitors and students from all three schools planting trees at Brookfield as part of the partnership project.



Enterprise Trade Fair

A team of Shirebrook Academy Year 10 students competed against other schools in Bolsover, Ashfield and Mansfield District at an Enterprise Trade Fair, for the chance to win the top prize of a trip to New York! Teams had been working on a range of business ideas with an environmental theme - the Shirebrook team idea was 'Globo' - a computer game for children to encourage awareness of environmental issues. The team had to sell their business plans, TV advert, radio jingle, and product prototype to a series of judges from local businesses. The winning team will be announced at an 'Oscars' awards evening in November.

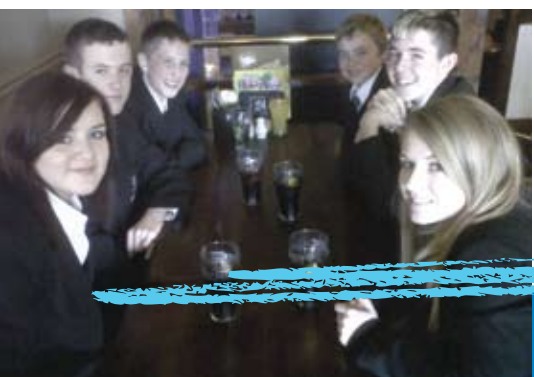
Super Students

Year 9 Super Students, Paige Evans, Heather Bentley, Adam Shaw, George Roberts, Matthew Bullars and Michael Draper were rewarded with a lunch at the Hobby Horse in Chesterfield to thank them for their dedication and hard work when representing the Academy at many of the events recently run by Shirebrook Academy and other partner organisations. The students are always happy to help, give up their own free time and really are 'super students'. Thank you all very much!



Presentation Evening

An enjoyable evening was had by all when Shirebrook School's ex Year 11 cohort returned to the new Academy to collect their GCSE certificates and catch up with old friends and staff. It was fantastic to see so many students return and to find out about how they were doing in college and at sixth form. Ben Allsop received an award for the highest achievement at GCSE, with Lucy Cadman and Michael Goodwin awarded for second and third highest achievement, respectively, at GCSE level. The Academy wishes all the ex students good luck in their future careers and asks students to keep the Academy informed of their achievements.



'Making a Difference' Engaged- 'Photo voice' Project

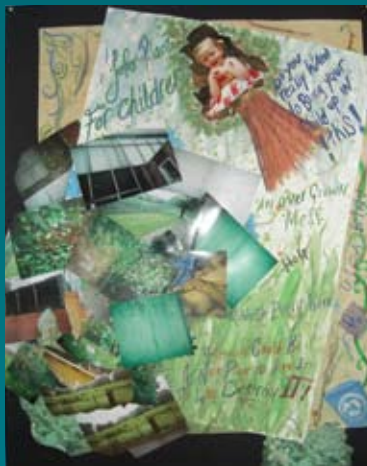
Dr Carolynne Mason of Cambridge University commissioned Shirebrook academy students following the BTEC courses to produce work that helped young people bring about change in the local community. The schools personal development coordinator Tracy Horton looked at citizenship aspects, and worked with the art department to provide cameras for each student.

The project gave the opportunity for all students to show their point of view with regards to their feelings about issues facing the local community. The students started work in sketchbooks initially to make primary studies and research of the importance of photographs as opposed to snap shots, and the impact that images can have on a person's emotions.

Sheeba Saeed, a photojournalist talked to the students about her films and photographs taken of beggars in Lahore. Students were startled by the reality of urban deprivation in another country. Claire Booth, an English teacher who's degree was in Theatre design, discussed with the students matters of presentation and composition. Art teachers facilitated a creative approach with students creating individual mixed media responses combining image and text.

The final work was exhibited in the school hall with a presentation to Dr Mason, Principal, Julie Bloor, Vice principals Tim Croft and Alison Brannick as well as most of Year 11 and some of their parents.

Students discussed their work in front of the assembled audience using PowerPoint presentations and evaluations to present their ideas. This was a very successful project and one that has made students think carefully about how they can 'make a difference'.



Garden Project

Students from Shirebrook Academy are re designing and redeveloping the gardens at Oakland's Care Home in Langwith. Students Ricky Clark, Jaidon Allen and Luke Walker, abably assisted by Teaching Assistant Alan Wills, are working hard to develop the gardens into an attractive and usable space for the residents at the home. Ricky, Jaidon and Luke have already cleared several areas and planted several colourful flower beds and planters. The project will be ongoing, maintaining and building on important links between the Academy and the local community. Ricky said 'I am really enjoying being part of this project and learning new construction skills as well as meeting people from another generation'.

Year 7 Whitehall Visit 18 October 2010

Ten Year 7 students visited Whitehall outdoor pursuits centre on Monday 18 October. Whitehall is situated in the hills outside Buxton and is a purpose built establishment that offers many outdoor activities.

The aim of the day was to help the students improve their teamwork abilities, self esteem and communication skills between each other.

The students had to work together on solving problems such as walking on planks, crossing a gap without touching the floor, encouraging each other around assault courses. They also encouraged each other in attempting the 'zip' wire which is travelling at speed whilst suspended in the air. All the students attempted activities and enjoyed the day.



Parents and students were then able to visit all areas of the school and take part in a range of activities in each of the subject areas. This included making necklaces from their DNA, visiting a favela in Geography, learning about E safety in ICT, listen to the school band, meet characters from history, nurse a virtual baby, test their fitness and sample life in Spain and France

Visitors were also able to take a virtual tour of the new school building and look at the plans and images produced by the architects.

A fabulous evening was had by all of those involved and the Academy looks forward to welcoming the Year 6 students when they join us in September 2011.

Year 6 Open Evening

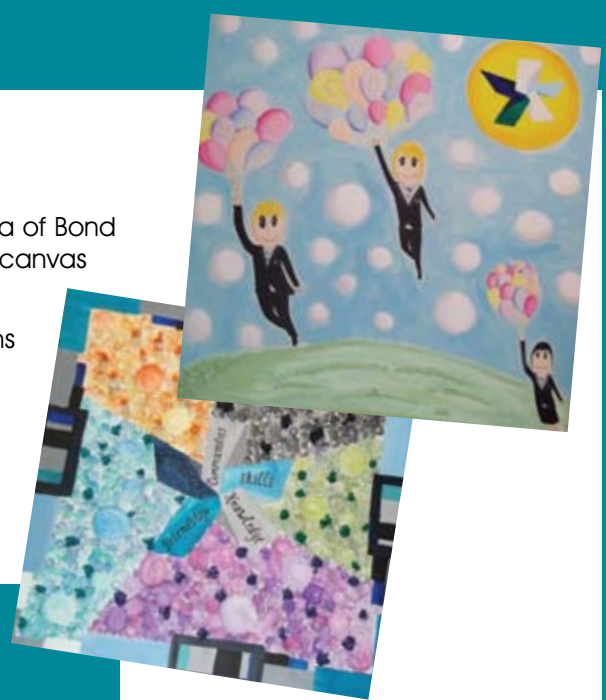
On Wednesday 22 September Shirebrook Academy held its first ever open evening for Year 6 students. Students and parents were welcomed to the Academy by the principal Ms Bloor who introduced the Academy and the many opportunities which are available to students.

Year 10 Academy Art

Year 10 BTEC Art students were commissioned by Gonzalo Carmona of Bond Bryan Architects. They were asked to produce a one metre square canvas which had been inspired by the ideals of the new academy.

Students worked over six weeks developing and refining their designs before producing their selected image onto canvas. These were then mounted in the school hall for the academy grand opening event with special guest Lord Robert Winston.

Students and parents celebrated the evening with their artwork on show for all to see. Mr Carmona commented that the work looked 'fantastic' and couldn't wait to return for judging.



Galleries of Justice

Year 10 History discovered the delights of crime through the ages on a visit to the galleries in February. They saw the first types of medieval punishment – ducking stools, giblet, and birching stool. Were put on trial as a reform activist, placed in a 18th century cell and terrified by the matron of the women's prison. As they stepped around the exercise yard, walking on the graves of the people that had been executed in the prison, and waited for the 'drop' in the condemned cell they gained a real insight into the workings of the judicial system through the ages. Highlights included 'ensuite facilities'; bathing; a tardis and the car from 'Heartbeat'. In the dock as Valentine Marshall in the afternoon, D Jay Emery was faced with the details of his crime and sentenced to death by hanging on the steps of the court.

Throughout the tour the students were praised by all the guides for their manners, enthusiasm and intelligent questions.

Well done!!

Student Council Interview with Sir Robert Winston

As part of the Shirebrook Academy official opening ceremony, the Student Council were privileged to meet and interview the great Sir Robert Winston. During the interview the student panel got the chance to quiz Sir Robert on behalf of the student population on many issues, in particular regarding his illustrious career to date, his greatest achievement, and his science background. As well as finding out about Sir Roberts experiences as a science student at school, including grumpy teachers and explosions in the classroom, there was a chance to find out more light hearted things such as his favourite cartoon character; none other than Wallace's sidekick Grommit! The Student Council thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the messages he portrayed will live long with the students, especially his love for his children and the importance of a good education.

Brya-le Holloway

Connecting Classrooms



Shirebrook Academy is partnered with two schools in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East as part of its International Links; Al Gharbia Model School for Boys and Al-Khama'el School for Girls in Madinet Zayad.

In art, the current Year 9 students made postcard designs which depicted British culture of their interests, coupled with Arabic words of welcome. The other side of their cards had text about family life, pets, school life and outside interests, written on a Super learning day. This helps students

strengthen their understanding and tolerance of international cultures. Students also sent PowerPoint presentations that they had worked on in Science, looking at water sources. Another group of students worked on a project called Photo voice, communicating making a difference to their environment through the power of photography, and these were also sent to the UAE schools.



Jeans for Genes Day, 1 October 2010

On Friday 1 October staff and students at Shirebrook Academy took part in Jeans for genes day by paying £1 to wear their jeans for the day. A grand total of £446-82 was raised. Well done everybody!!

Academy Community Team (ACT)

The Academy Community Team is made up of a range of individuals and groups who work in and around the Shirebrook Community. The aim of the team is to consider how the Academy can best support Shirebrook and offer venues, courses and support for the wider school community.

The group are currently considering how the Academy in its current buildings can offer a fuller service to Shirebrook as well as looking to the future and how the new building can be utilised.

Current work includes a range of courses which will be available free of charge in January. These will include family fun table tennis, holiday Spanish and teen gym. For more information please see the advert in this newsletter.

If you would like to find out more about ACT and how you can get involved please contact the Academy by email enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org. You can also contact us if you are looking for a venue for your group to meet or to hold an event.

Music Showcase

Over thirty Shirebrook music students wowed family and friends in the October Showcase Special.

The KS4 students who are all taking vocational music courses, at Shirebrook Academy, put on an evening of entertainment and provided the refreshments for the full house audience of specially invited guests. Many of the students were performing for the first time as part of their BTEC music courses which include all elements of the music business from planning events to front of house.

The ticket only event included vocal and instrumental solos, rock and pop bands and Y10 and Y11 vocal ensemble performances and is one of a series of Showcases that will be staged throughout the next two years.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of an £800 to the music department by Mrs Daniels, mother of former Shirebrook student James. The money had been raised for the school at a special bi-annual concert put on by friends and family of James and held in his honour. The money will be used to purchase three saxophones to boost woodwind teaching at Shirebrook Academy.



New Text Messaging Service

Shirebrook Academy has recently launched a new call parents service which will be used to send text messages to parents about events and news. The new service was recently put to the test when the Academy needed to close due to the snow. The Academy was able to text all parents to tell them that the Academy was closed to students.

The new service will also be used to remind parents of events such as target review day and to let you know when students should be attending revision sessions and exams.

To enable the service to work effectively and to ensure that you get the messages it is important that you keep us informed of any changes to your mobile phone numbers.



Litter Pick

Year 8 students recently participated in a litter pick in the area around Shirebrook Academy. The event, run in conjunction with Bolsover District Council, helps young people become involved in taking positive action in the community. The students were surprised at the amount of litter they found in the local area and all stressed how important it is to 'find a bin to put it in!'

Meet Jo Stevenson

Impact Theatre company performed a play 'Meet Jo Stevenson' to Y11 students and Y10 students, with discussion workshops looking at communication skills, interview skills and promoting support available with career planning from Connexions advisors. The show was really entertaining, and in the workshop students were giving the character of 'Jo' advice to improve his prospects of getting the job he wanted. The play was funded as part of the Bolsover District Raising Aspirations project, and has also visited other district schools.

Did you know?

Year 10 students are completing some GCSE courses in one year. That means in May and June of year 10 students will sit their final examinations and be awarded their real GCSE grades in August. It's crucial that all year 10 students work extremely hard, attend well and constantly try their best, basically what we expect of our students all the time!

If you are not sure what one year GCSE options your child is doing please ask a member of staff.

Community Use

Join us at Shirebrook Academy for A Family Fun Night

Bored with long, dark winter evenings? Want to get more active or have some fun with the family? Come and join us at Shirebrook Academy Community Night

When? Starting on Thursday January 6th for 7 weeks from 6.00 until 7.30pm.

Where? Shirebrook Academy

Who? Adults and Children of all ages

What? Family Fun Table Tennis, Holiday Spanish, Teenage Gym

Cost? **FREE!**

Family Fun Table Tennis in Gym 2

An opportunity to get active and have fun as a family. Competitions and fun tournaments available.

Holiday Spanish in H3

Learn how to say hello, order a meal or a drink and have fun while learning. An opportunity to develop simple Spanish skills and develop your knowledge about Spanish culture.

Teen Gym in Gym 1

An opportunity for young people (16 and under) to use a range of Gym equipment designed for younger people. Complete a circuit or develop your own personal programme.

If you think you would like to come along please email us at community@shirebrookacademy.org with your name and contact details or telephone the Academy and ask for Cat Gibson.

Alternatively you can just turn up on the night but you may be disappointed if we are fully booked.

Important dates:

17 December	Last day of term
4 January	First day of term
10 January	Y9 exams
11 January	Y10 and 11 GCSE mathematics exam
13 January	Y10 and 11 GCSE Biology exam
14 January	Y10 and 11 GCSE maths exam
17 January	Y10 and 11 GCSE Chemistry exam and Science exam
20 January	Y10 and 11 GCSE Physics exam and Additional Science exam
26 January	Y10 and 11 functional maths exam and Y8 FSMQ
3 February	Options evening
8 February	Y11 parents evening
15 February	Y10 parents evening
21-25 February	Half term
1 March	Y9,10 and 11 maths exams
9 March	Y10 and 11 functional maths exams
14-18 March	National Science and Engineering week
15 April	Last day of term

Academy Website

The Academy website is getting a new look! The new look website will include a wide range of information on news and events which are taking place as well as being a place where you can find all of the up to date information on the Academy including policies, calendars, contact details and community courses.

To enable us to complete this facelift the website will be offline during the first week of the Christmas holidays. Why not check out our new look in January!

www.shirebrookacademy.org

Did you know?

At Shirebrook Academy a significant amount of year 9 students are taking GCSE examinations this year in a variety of subjects including design technology, English and mathematics.

Is your child one of those students?

It's really important that the students involved work hard, attend well and try their best... just what we expect of all academy students!

If you require further information please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff.