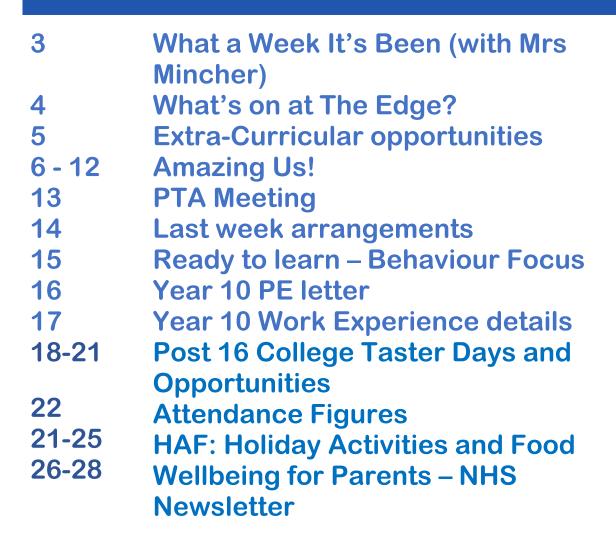


SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR AMAZING SCHOOL

EMAIL CLAIRE.MINCHER@WBS .318EDUCATION.CO.UK WITH CONTENT IDEAS.

The WBSpotlight Contents page





Dear WBS families

Within this Spotlight, you will find an extensive section dedicated to the Christmas Market. The event was filled with so many highlights that it is challenging to capture them all in words. Mrs. Shaw and I believe it is an opportune moment to build upon this success by engaging our young people in more creative and industrious activities. Therefore, we would like to establish a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to foster stronger connections with our local community. If you are interested in participating, please mark the date of January 9th in your diary.

Despite numerous positives, we have unfortunately observed a slight decline in punctuality to lessons and general behaviour standards among a small minority of students. We urge parents to support us in our efforts to ensure that students understand their responsibilities while at school.

Year 7 went to see Panto this week, photos to follow. What a wonderful time they had – oh yes they did!

We are eagerly anticipating the final week of school, during which the WBS Oscars will make their return. It's going to be fantastic!

Mrs Mincher, Acting Deputy Headteacher



Extra-curricular



Wednesday	Y/&8 Football	Girls Rugby	Dadminton *Y7&8 3.20 - 4.10pm *Y9-71 4.70 - 5pm	
STAFF	Mr Boek	Miss Johnson	Mr Sourton	
Thursday	Y7-11 Girls Football	Y10-11 Rugby		Beginners Swimming Club
STAFF	Mr Boak	Miss Johnson		Miss Bagnail & Ms Coloing,
Friday	Y9-11 Football	Y7-11 Hockey	Wenlock Lightning Netball Club "Y7-9 5.00 – 6pm "Y10-13 6.00 – 7pm	
STAFF	Mr Parkes	Mr Wilson & Mrs Hennessy	Mrs Jardine	



Day of the Week	Year Group	Where	Time
Monday	Year 9-11 Dance Club	Studio 2	3:20-4:20
Tuesday	Year 11 GCSE Dance	Studio 2	3:20-4:20
	Rehearsal/Revision		
Wednesday	Year 7-8 Dance Club	Studio 2	3:20-4:20
Thursday	Elite Dance: Y7-13	Studio 2	3:20-4:20



Please come and join us at one of the WBS Dance Clubs this year.

Primary Dance and Summer Dance 2025 are coming up! Come along and be a part of our shows!

Biathlon is coming to William Brookes School again!

William Brookes School is proud to continue to honour their Olympic heritage by hosting a national Biathlon qualifier event on behalf of GB Pentathlon.

The event will take place on Monday 9th December, with competitors travelling across the country to take part in the event. Our WBS students also have the chance to pit themselves against some of the best in the country during the event.

We cannot wait to host this prestigious event!



Our beautiful Christmas tree...



Lucy, Poppy, Georgia, Evie, Miss Thomas and Mrs Mincher had the pleasure of picking out a beautiful Christmas tree last week that was gifted to us from Roden Garden Centre.

We also enjoyed a hot chocolate before heading back to decorate

it!





Our Christmas Market was a real triumph!



12

You

£1178.82 was raised for the school

The Christmas Market was a community event, designed to bring WBS together. Firstly I must thank all the amazing staff at William Brookes.

Friday evening saw Mrs Shaw cooking lots of pizzas and Andy Rocke, Saffiya Mahmood, Olivia Glakin, Tracy Watkins, Meic Henson and Mark Jones stayed behind to work with our wonderful student volunteers who decorated the school, making the space look truly festive!

Vicky Ray and Jen Hone have been fantastic. They have been busy working with our students to make lovely edible gifts to sell on the day. They also came to run the refreshment stalls on the day!

Natalie Hughes, Anne Feenan alongside our school Govenor, Linda West collected lots of amazing raffle prizes for us, as well as running stalls on the day. Mark Jones has been wonderful, with the help of Paul Colburn, who designed and crafted our

Mark Jones has been wonderful, with the help of Paul Colburn, who designed and crafted our very own santa's grotto! Mark also ran three stalls on the day!

Vicky Adams and Alex Lane worked well with our amazing choir and Year 7 singers. The Rock Band did various perfromances as well. Vicky Adams is so passionate about music, she works tirelessly to get our students to develop their ceativity. We are very lucky to have her! On the day it was a real team effort. Campus team came in super early on their day off to make sure the studio was all set up! Ruth Shaw, Mark Jones, Tracy Watkins, Alex Lane, Ed Scrivens, Vicky Adams, Natalie Hughes, Steve Beard, Jo Caldwell, Vicky Ray and Jen Hone all ran stalls. I would also like to thank the staff who brought their family and friends to visit us also.

Our incredibly industrious students of course were superb. All the students who contributed to the lead up to the market were so helpful. A special recognition must go to Georgia, Lucy, Evie and Poppy, Year 7 who came to select the Christmas tree from Roden Garden Centre. These students

worked every lunchtime for 3 weeks crafting and organising things for the day. They also participated in the Year 7 sing off as well as helping on a stall.

Lia Mroz, was truly wonderful. She designed all of the posters and assited with the student crafting. I could not have done it without her!



Finally, can I thank our parents who donated a whole host of items for us to fundraise and Maddie and Kate who helped on a stall. We hope we can build up our PTA and start planning a bigger and better Christmas market for next year with your continued support!

I just want to take the opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday,

Claire Mincher

Thank You:

Spar – Much Wenlock Bill Leigton Studios – Shrewsbury Courtney's Cakes Colours florist Pig and Pie Golden bear Croft Design, Baker and Cook, Barrow Street Café, Mrs P's Newsagents Roden Garden centre - Shrewsbury









pcakes £1 each or £5 a box











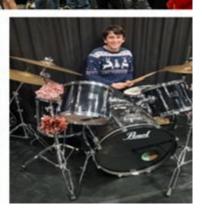














Memory Tree at William Brookes School Christmas is a time of great joy. The giving and receiving of gifts and the coming together of families. But it can also be a time when the absence of those we have lost is more keenly felt.

Whether it be a grandparent, parent, sibling, friend or pet, loss is something that we will all experience in our lives, yet it is something about which we seldom talk.

This year we would like to offer everyone in our community the opportunity to remember a loved one or cherished pet by adding a simple bauble to our memory tree.

Baubles will be available from tutors next week and also from reception. You are invited to add the name of the person or pet you want to remember to the front of the bauble. Feel free to add decorations or a photograph if you would like.

Baubles can be returned to school via tutors or reception.

Please write your initials and tutor group on the back of the bauble if you would like it returning to you in the New Year.

If you would like a bauble, please ask your tutor or come to Beijing workbase, Reception or the Library.

Baubles can be returned to Mrs Macdonald in the Beijing workbase – students will also be popping round to collect them.

Alternatively they can be dropped at Reception.



Key Dates – Please come and support our wonderful musicians and singers!

- Much Wenlock Christmas Tree Festival 13th December -Our Choir will be performing in this event, at 5pm in Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock
- Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11 *th* Dec at 7.00pm. Our Choir, Year 7 and 8 Rock Bands and Soloists will be performing..
- Church Services Our Choir and Soloists will be performing at evening Carol Services at:
 - Much Wenlock Monday 16th December (timings to be confirmed)
 - Broseley Tuesday 17th December (timings to be confirmed)

Amazing Us!

Ready to learn, easy to teach

4	-Above and beyond what is expected -Engaged and interested – ready to learn -Completed all work set to an excellent standard, including Do It Now -Contributed positively to the lesson and engages exceptionally well -A pleasure to teach
3	-The minimum expectation -On board and on side – ready to learn -Effort shown to complete all work set, including the Do It Now task -Effort shown to be a positive member of the class -Effort shown in making themselves easy to teach
2	-Not showing engagement in the learning and not ready to learn -Completed some work but not enough, and not to a good standard -Not making a positive contribution – have needed significant intervention from the teacher to keep them on task -Have made themselves difficult, at times, to teach
1	-Student was not in control of their behaviour -Prevented their learning and the learning of others -Made themselves difficult or impossible to teach

The Countdown is on!

Mrs Shaw & Ms Glackin cannot wait to celebrate with all our fantastic students in the last week of term! This is going to be a wonderful event!

There is still time to boost your ATL scores to be rewarded a WBS Oscar!

#WBSpride

#RespectExcellenceFriendship

PTA – Get involved!

Dear Parents / Carers

We are delighted to inform you that the Christmas Market was an incredible triumph. It was such a positive event that allowed our industrious students to shine. It was lovely to welcome parents into the school to support us in raising money for the school.

We feel it is now the right time to kick start a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and get it up and running again. We would like to invite any parents who would like to get involved more regularly in supporting the school to our first PTA meeting on: **Thursday 9th January at 5pm.**

Natalie Hughes, our Teaching Assistant, will be chairing the meeting.

Natalie has a vast amount of experience running PTAs. We hope to see many of you there as we start planning Easter, Summer, and Christmas events for 2025. Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Claire Mincher claire.mincher@wbs.318education.co.uk Natalie Hughes natalie.hughes@wbs.318education.co.uk

Last week of Term Arrangements

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
w/c 25.11.24						Saturday
						Christmas Market
w/c 02.12.24						MW Lights switch
						on 12.45-1.10
w/c 09.12.24	Christmas show		Christmas Concert			
	practice					
w/c 16.12.24	Much Wenlock	Broseley Church	VI form escape		Final Day	
	Church	pm	room pm		P1-2 Normal	
	performance pm		9.30 - 11.00		P3 – KS3 Assembly	
			Wheatfields		with HT + activity /	
	Christmas menu		1.30-3.00 - Lady		Y10 Oscars Y11	
	(Hot choc and		Foresters		Activities	
	gingerbread)				P4 - Tutor time/	
		Christmas menu		Christmas menu	Oscars/ Y10	
		(Cookies, cakes)	Christmas menu	(Turkey Curry)	Activities/ Y11	
			'Christmas Dinner'	DATE ON NEW	Oscars	
			Hot rolls		P5A- KS4 assembly	
					+ activity/ Tutor	
					time/ KS3 Tutor	
					time	
					Christmas	
					jumpers/ non	
					uniform	
					10-11/11/01/21/10/11-1	
					Christmas menu	
					'Students choice'	
					No early finish	

Christmas Jumpers / Tshirts can be worn Friday 20th December. This will be non uniform day...



Ready to Learn

Student non-negotiables reminder

- Interrupting Teaching and Learning
- Respect staff (don't talk back or swear at staff)
- Follow staff instructions
- Respect the school building (don't cause damage or make a mess)
- Attend every lesson on time
- Keep phones in bags
- Wear you uniform well
- Own any sanctions (go to detentions, go to REI without argument)
- Minimum ATL 3 each lesson

Wellbeing Hub Review

We have conducted a review of our new Wellbeing Hub, lots going well. If a student becomes anxious or dysregulated, support can be accessed via the well being hub. A member of the senior staff will manage this.

SEND homework club: SEND parents should have received an email with the option to sign their child up. Homework club will be held in the library. The sessions are as follows:

Monday Year 7 & 9 Tuesday Year 8 & 10 Wednesday Year 7 & 10 Thursday Year 8 & 9

If a child does not have homework, they are expected to go home, if they arrive at homework club with no homework, parents will be contacted to collect them.

Year 10 BTEC PE students - Letter

Dear Parent/Carer

After much consideration the PE department strongly believe that a swap to GCSE from Cambridge National Sports Science qualification would be of significant benefit.

We feel that the students who have opted for the course this year will be better suited to the GCSE set up rather than continuous coursework. The students are struggling to achieve the rigorous nature of the coursework and will score higher in the three practical activities required for GCSE.

Please be assured that the work that the students have learnt this year so far is also on the GCSE specification and will therefore go direct to their studies for the new course. As a department we have taught GCSE PE previously and I have extensive knowledge of one of the exam papers so we feel we are in a good position to switch courses at this stage.

Please understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and the students' interests are at the heart of this decision. We believe that they will achieve a higher grade in the GCSE PE course rather than the Cambridge Nationals and that is the basis on how this decision has been made.

In order to answer any of your questions Mr. Parkes and Mr. Boak will be holding an information session via TEAMS next Monday 9th at 5.30pm, a link to the meeting is below.

<u>https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTYyZjg3NTAtNDAxNS00NmY2LThkZDctYjYxNTVIYjg4NjE4%40</u> <u>thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2262cfc38e-c823-41a7-93bf-7aa8df9f90d0%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229cf0c272-6d33-4fd8-ac10-2da980bbdbdb%22%7d</u>

Kind regards

Mrs Claire Mincher Acting Deputy Headteacher

WORK EXPERIENCE SEPTEMBER 2025

Current Year 10 Work Experience will take place Monday 1st September - Friday 5th September 2025.

This week Year 10 parents have been emailed details regarding when work experience will take place in Year 11, along with information required to find a placement and how to set it up, each student has had a copy of the login details as below.

How to login to the online 'Grofar' system

- 1. Search your school email account for a 'Grofar invitation' email
- 2. Use the link in the email to sign in and change your password to one of your choosing
- 3. Then, for any future logins, go to auth.grofar.com



For any questions regarding your work experience placement, please contact <u>james.boak@wbs.318education.co.uk</u> or <u>karen.jones@wbs.318education.co.uk</u>

Shrewsbury College



admissions@scg.ac.uk

SHREWSBURY COLLEGES GROUP

Telford College

Open event 22 January 2025	Open event 12 March 2025
5.00pm — 7.30pm	5.00pm — 7.30pm
View event	View event

Want to visit us sooner, or like a personalised tour? Book a VIP tour today...

Register for a VIP tour today!



<u>Book your place today</u>

Walford College Open Event Saturday 14th June 2025



Our next open day will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025.

Can't make this date? Our next open days are:

Saturday 8th March 2025 Saturday 17th May 2025 Saturday 21st June 2025

STFC Shrewsbury Town Football Club College and University



In-comm Training Telford



In-Comm Apprenticeship Open Day - Telford

🛗 Sat 22 Feb 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 🛛 💡 In-Comm Telford, TF3 3AJ

Visit our world class state-of-the-art Training Facilities and gain an insight into the benefits of an engineering apprenticeship!

- Take a tour of the training academy
- Talk to our recruitment team
- Discuss our fantastic vacancies
- Apply via our easy step application form
- Talk to tutors and apprentices
- Talk to real industry companies who will be attending



Book your place		
SHARE T	HIS EVENT	
f		
NEED HE	LP?	
	Manage tickets	



BBC Apprenticeships - Applications are live for 2025!

The BBC's award-winning apprenticeship schemes could be your chance to start an exciting career across a wide range of jobs in the media industry.

With opportunities across the UK, in the areas of business; digital, data and technology; engineering and operations; journalism; and production, there's a place for you, with us, at the BBC.

Vacancies for all our schemes can be found on the BBC Early Careers Page.

Salaries for our Level 3 - 6 apprenticeships start at £21,840. If you're working in London there will be an additional payment of £5,318 to help manage the higher living costs of living in the capital.



A Career with a Difference

There are many different routes to explore from Apprenticeships and Early Career Programmes to hands on working with horses or working in an office environment:

- There are several Specialist Training Colleges to choose from which young people can attend either after GCSEs or A Levels. For those wanting to explore riding options, the British Racing School based in Suffolk and the National Horseracing College based in Yorkshire, offer a Foundation Course in Racehorse Care which leads to a Level 2 Apprenticeship delivered in a racing yard.
- For those based in Scotland, the Scottish Racing Academy also has courses to offer. They offer a vocational pathway allowing students to learn more about the racehorse and how to care, feed, prepare and exercise racehorses.

• The National Stud based in Suffolk offers practical courses learning how to care for mares, young horses and foals, ideal for those students who don't necessarily want to ride horses but are keen to care and look after them.

There are also Business Apprenticeships available and Early Career Programmes, so there really is something for everyone.

Home - Careers in Racing





2024 HAF (Holiday Activities & Food)

Who can access the Programme?

Core Eligibility:

There are free places available on the HAF programme for children and young people aged 4 (reception class age)* to 16, who:

- Receive benefits-related free school meals
- Ukrainian guests staying in Shropshire

Wider Eligibility:

Local authorities have discretion to use some of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children and young people who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

In Shropshire this includes:

• Children and young people who live in areas of high deprivation and/or from low-income households who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals

There are a limited number of free places available for children and young people who meet the wider eligibility criteria of living in areas of high deprivation and/or from low-income households on the Shropshire HAF programme 2024.

Referrals for Additional Eligibility:

Children and young people who meet the additional eligibility above can be referred onto the programme by a professional they are working with. E.g., school staff, social worker, early help officer, youth worker.

Referrals unfortunately can't be made direct by a family/carer.

Referral forms are available on the Shropshire HAF webpages and via request to the email address below – <u>www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF</u>

For more information about referrals please email HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk

Please note, these referred places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis by the Shropshire HAF Co-Ordinators.

If a referral has been approved and place/s allocated on the HAF Programme, the person requesting the referral will be sent a unique code and details of how to make a booking.

Shropshire Council makes the final decision on which children and young people should benefit from the flexible funding element of the HAF programme.

Rationale Behind Additional Eligibility:

HAF is a national programme, funded by the DfE (Department for Education). The aim of HAF is to support children and young people in receipt of benefits related free school meals during the three main school holidays.

Research shows that the school holidays can be difficult for some low-income families. For some children and young people this can lead to a holiday experience gap. These children and young people are less likely to access organised out-of-school activities, more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and more likely to experience social isolation.

The HAF programme is a response to this issue, with evidence showing that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people.

Benefits of the HAF programme include:

- Reduced holiday food insecurity
- Improved diets on days children attend clubs
- Provision of childcare to enable parents to enter work or stay in work during the holidays

• Enhanced learning experiences, preparedness for returning to school and children being supported in not falling behind over the holidays.

Shropshire HAF 2024:

Over the last 3 years, the number of children and young people eligible for benefits related free school meals in Shropshire has risen. There is currently more demand for places on the Shropshire HAF programme from children and young people who meet the core eligibility criteria than ever before.

To meet this demand and provide places for core eligible children and young people, the additional HAF eligibility criteria has been reduced since 2022. We appreciate this is disappointing. Please see below for other useful resources and additional programmes happening in the county for families.

Where there are limited spaces available for referral onto the Shropshire HAF programme for non-FSM children and young people, the priority for 2024 is to support those living in areas of high deprivation and/or from low-income households who are not in receipt of free school meals.

<u>New data from the Department for Education</u> shows that despite an increase in the numbers of children and young people being eligible for Free School Meals over the last 2 years, large numbers are still in need and are missing out on support.

Currently there are very tight eligibility criteria to have the opportunity to benefit from FSMs in England: children must be in families on qualifying benefits and earning less than £7,400 after benefits and tax. This incredibly low-income threshold means that there are substantial numbers of children who are living in poverty and households that don't have sufficient income to buy food alongside other essentials, and yet do not fall within the criteria to receive FSMs.

This clearly illustrates there are large numbers of children in need of FSMs who are missing out and who the HAF programme in Shropshire aims to support.

4- and 5-Year-Olds:

* Children who are aged 4, who attend a nursery or pre-school are NOT eligible for the HAF programme, unfortunately the programme activities are not suitable and the funding from the DfE doesn't cover this age range. Eligible children aged 4+, must be in full time education and have started school in Reception Class (or equivalent).

Useful Information / Additional Support and Programmes for families:

Actio Consortium – 'All In Short Breaks':

To find out more about Actio and the 'All In Short Breaks' programme, please visit www.actio.org.uk

To find out more about becoming an All In member please visit <u>All In Programme | Shropshire</u> <u>Council</u>

All In Short Breaks opportunities are funded by Actio. These opportunities are accessible with an All In membership. Membership is available through Shropshire Council for children and young people with SEND aged 0-18 who live within Shropshire. Activities are sensitive and responsive to the needs of children and young people with SEND. They provide a safe space to try new activities, socialise with peers and enjoy themselves.

The SEND Local Offer: More information and support is available at

https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/family-support/information-advice-and-supportservice-iass/ and email local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk

<u>Shropshire Family Information Service:</u> provides detailed information, advice and support on all aspects of family life for parents and carers of children and young people. <u>https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/practitioners/the-early-help-offer-provision-of-early-help-services/family-information-service/</u>

Cost of Living: Information has been brought together by Shropshire Council with its partners to support residents at this challenging and worrying time. Cost of living help | Shropshire Council

Winter holiday fun and food in Shropshire

Contact Details:

 Email HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk

 Visit: www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF

 HOWSP
 William Brookes School

Useful Resources





December 2024

Did you know you can access free learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children and make sure they thrive?

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on Inourplace this month.

All feelings welcome

Sleep trouble?



Why is it important to name feelings?



By Clinical Psychologist, Dr Hazel Douglas MBE. Understanding emotional health is the first step to wellbeing. This video introduces a short course on understanding your child's feelings Five common sleep issues for babies and young children explained

(easy reads and watch digital hub)

(2 minute watch)

What are the early signs of an eating disorder?



Eating disorder awareness for parents

The Psychologist's advice

(5 minute read)

A wellbeing guide for SEND parents



Understanding your child with additional needs

Your parenting guide for neurodiversity or other SEND considerations

(bitesize e-learning)

Process trauma with resilience



Inderstanding you own trauma

Private learning to confidently move on from traumatic experiences

(bitesize e-learning)

Learn why your kids act the way they do



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online course empowering your parenting anytime, anywhere

(bitesize e-learning)