



I am delighted to be writing to share the plans moving forward after half term. Reading time is planned for each day, for every student across all year groups, which is proven to support your child's learning and progress further. Books are arriving and we are ready for the 20 minutes a day Drop and Read time.

We have been busy appointing new staff and have successfully appointed 11 new members to join our team during this half term. This would not have been possible without the support of our student panels taking part of the interview process and decision making. They have an amazing success rate of choosing the right candidate.

Collaboration Day is taking place tomorrow Friday 9th February. It is where staff collaborate on strategy in schools. We hold Collaboration Days because we need to bring together key thinkers and leaders from across our schools to develop Trust strategy together. We prioritise this work as it benefits all children and young people and moves our Trust towards our shared goals. Innovation, transformation and collaboration need to be afforded headspace and time. Students can follow their normal 5 period day by accessing the school website and clicking onto '[Student Work Collaboration Day](#)' under the 'Communication' Tab on the top right hand side of the website home page. An email has also been sent to all parents explaining how students can access this work tomorrow. Students are expected to bring the completed work with them to their next lesson.

Saving some brilliant news to the end, we are so proud that Mrs Case, our sixth form pastoral leader, together with Liv and Josh from our Sixth Form, and former student Cameron (who remains very much part of our team when home from Uni), have been awarded The Kings Award for Voluntary Service. An article is posted below, a very well deserved award for the constant energy and commitment they give freely to the community. We are privileged to have such wonderful advocates as part of #TeamIdsall. We are all very proud for them, well done!

We wish everyone a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back after Monday's Staff Training Day on Tuesday 20th February.

Have a lovely weekend,

*Michelle King*  
Headteacher



### FOCUS

#### Key Stage 3 Badminton Win

After a long and challenging Badminton season, Idsall become the KS3 Boys School Games County Badminton Champions last week at Shrewsbury Sports Village. This is a massive achievement for the boys and something Idsall have only won twice in 20 years. The team overcame eight different schools to become county champions, starting back in November, winning the east Shropshire qualifiers, and then progressing on to the County Finals last week. The level of badminton on show from all schools was phenomenal. Idsall

students not only showcased an extremely impressive skill set, but the level of teamwork and passion that outwitted their opponents seems to have been the key to their success. Becoming county champions is no mean feat. The team should be very proud of their hard work and dedication they have shown both at training and fixtures nearly every week. Congratulations to the whole badminton squad who have worked extremely hard this academic year.



### Upcoming Events

Events at a glance:

- \* Fri 9 Feb: Trust Collaboration Day; students home learning
- \* Mon 12 - Fri 16 Feb: Half Term; School closed to students
- \* Mon 19 Feb: PD Day, school closed to students
- \* Tues 20 Feb: All students return to school
- \* Tues 20 Feb: Year 9 Options Information (via Teams) Evening, 6-7pm
- \* Fri 23 Feb: Year 11 Prom Deposits due
- \* Mon 26 Feb - Fri 8 Mar: Year 11 Mock Exams
- \* Wed 28 Feb: Disneyland Paris Parents Meeting, 5.30pm, Main Hall



### News

Visit our website to:

- \* View our [upcoming events](#)
- \* Check our [term dates](#)
- \* Read the latest [news](#)



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### Reminders & Notices

#### Safeguarding Focus



This week's focus is around sleep. Sleep can significantly impact a child's mental health and wellbeing, as well as their attainment at school. Good quality sleep is important, and this is different to lots of sleep!

There are 4 main things that can affect the quality of sleep:

- Health
- Environment
- Attitude
- Lifestyle

Please see the sleep guide on [our website](#). It has been produced by the Mental Health Foundation, for further information and support.

#### Shropshire Schools Athletics 2024



James (Year 10) was the only runner on Team Idsall late last week after illness forced some withdrawals at the Shropshire Schools Cross Country Championships. James ran in a very strong field of sixty of the best runners in the county. Many of the front runners ahead of him are in Year 11

and several are represent Shropshire. The Oswestry School course was good with a few boggy sections but generally held up well. James finished the 3-mile course only three minutes behind the winning time to place 14th, with an excellent time of 21mins. In those conditions, this shows great physical and mental strength. Well done!



#### Free School Meals for Half Term

Free School Meal Vouchers are for £15. They have been emailed from Edenred to parents this week. Please email the school if you have not received your voucher.

#### Student Absences

Please ensure that you ring the school attendance office first thing in the morning, every day of your child's absence (01952) 468 400 or email [attendance@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk) for years 7 to 11 absence and email [6thformattendance@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:6thformattendance@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk) for Sixth Form absence. Thank you.

#### Trips

Planned trips appear here. Please see communications or trip leader for more information.

- ◆ 'Oh, What a Lovely War', Theatre Severn Shrewsbury, Feb 2024, Trip Leader: D Williams
- ◆ 'A Mid Summer Nights Dream', Year 7-9, RSC Stratford Upon Avon, Feb 2024, Trip Leader: A Thorpe
- ◆ Reward Trips for Easter 2024, Coming Soon
- ◆ Disneyland Paris, Year 7/8, March 2024, Trip Leader: C Leverington
- ◆ Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Year 9-13, July 2024, Trip leader: P Goodison
- ◆ GCSE PE climbing trip, Year 10, 18th, 25th June 5th July 2024. Trip Leader P Goodison
- ◆ Skiing Trip Austria, Year 10-13, Easter 2025. Trip Leader P Goodison



#### Key Stage 4 Basketball County Finals



On Friday afternoon, the KS4 boys, all Year 10, played five games and finished third in this year's County Basketball. The day was always going to be tough with three of the squad unavailable, meaning just 5 players played all of the games, without any subs. They pushed the eventual winners to a 23-21 loss in game 2 but after dominating games 1 and 3, the tiredness meant the last 2 games were close encounters. All other teams fielded Year 11 players, so we hope to do even better next year!

#### Year 11 Prom Deposits

The Year 11 Prom will be on Thurs 20 June. £10 deposits are due by **Fri 23 Feb**, via ParentPay. The final balance of £38 will be due by Thurs 2 May

#### Languagenut Competition

Another national Languagenut competition is now running until 18th Feb. Lets get Idsall's ranking up from 255th! School will be giving prizes for the Idsall internal scoreboard, so get practising.

#### NEW: French Speaking Club

Monday lunchtimes in L4. Open to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils; Year 9 also very welcome. Take advantage of our very own native French speaker to practise your key speaking skills and build your language confidence.

#### Kings Award for Voluntary Service



Mrs Case has been a volunteer at Telford Crisis Support (Telford Foodbank, Baby Bank and School Uniform Bank) for more than 10 years. They have recently received a Kings Award for Voluntary Service. Mrs Case and some sixth form volunteers, Josh and Liv, received their awards yesterday. Well done!

#### Year 7/8 Netball

The Year 7 and 8 Netball teams played at Wrekin College on Tuesday. A series of fixtures have been set up as training opportunities and it was great to see the girls play in several different positions and apply what they have been working on in training to game play. Wrekin College are always a very strong opposition, but staff were extremely proud of the girls; they never gave up and had an enjoyable evening. Player of the Year 7 team was Isobelle and Year 8 was Maisie. Well done all. They have more games coming up in preparation for the Marches Trust Varsity competition at the end of February. Watch this space!

#### International Ice Hockey

Alfie in Year 8 has been chosen to represent England U13 Ice Hockey squad. He will be playing in the Turku tournament in Finland later this year. Well done to Alfie for the selection and good luck for Finland!

#### British Shooting Champion Update

Abbi, Year 7, won the Junior 6-yard Rifle at the National Final of the British Schools Shooting Championship this week. Well done!

#### Shifnal Youth Provision

Shifnal Town Council have commissioned two new youth groups, starting this week with taster sessions, to cater to teens and young people in Shifnal and the surrounding area. The Junior Group (Year 6-8) meet 5.30-7pm and Seniors (Year 9+) meet 7.30-9pm. Sessions every Wednesday at Trinity Centre, 12B Victoria Road, Shifnal. For more information, see posters on [our website](#), or contact [Becca Lewis](#). Follow the [QR code](#) to complete membership and consent info.



#### Love Libraries Month in the LRC

Let Miss Basini know what you love about the LRC, or what suggestions you have for its future. Why not visit your local library over half term?

