



It has been a fun packed week here at Idsall, with lots of visitors, competitions and students showing how great they really are. The feedback has been brilliant from our guests who have had nothing but praise and compliments for the students who took part in the sessions run. There are lots more booked in as we widen the experiences given to our students, get them to explore new things and set them new challenges that, of course, all lead to rewards and merits towards their house team. Well done everyone.

Year 11 have come to the end of the mock exams and will now be busy getting ready for the coming full examinations starting in May, alongside our Year 13 students who will also be busy preparing for their final exams and next steps. Remember we are here to help; a good revision programme is now essential to ensure preparations are fruitful and you are ready. Do not forget to take advantage of any revision sessions and Session Six invites.

Over the last two weeks we have been fortunate to welcome the NHS School Nurses Team back into school as part of the PSHCE program being delivered. The Nurses spoke with Year 8 about healthy relationships, and with Year 9 about sexual relationships, including consent, STIs and contraception.

For a second time this Term we welcomed the British Army into school this week to lead two practical events with a range of students. Students, guided by British Army chefs, were provided with a rationing box and instructed to create a three course meal that Troops could eat. Students rose to the challenge and created some incredible meals without instructions from what they had been given; the dishes ranged from chicken curry to onion bhaji's with chilli jam. The second practical session saw students racing to stop their colleagues being "fatally hurt", led by Army Medical Service staff. One group failed after plugging the fake bleed on the wrong leg. The star of the day was the Dog Handler's Army Service dog 'Pick' who demonstrated her skills in locating bullets and explosives around the school hall.

Between Monday 11th March and Friday 22nd March students will be collecting for two different causes: Shifnal Help Food Bank and St Chad's Refugee Sanctuary in Birmingham. Each item bought in is going to equate to one House Point, which will be totalled next Term after further competitions for an overall winner. Please donate if you are able and have spare items at home: unperishable food, hygiene products or unwanted clothes and shoes are all really welcomed. We thank you in advance for anything you are able to donate. Students will be delivering the collected items to the different charities on Friday 22nd March.

Have a lovely week,

Michelle King  
Headteacher



### FOCUS World Book Day: Thurs 7 Mar 2024

An annual celebration of books and reading, students have all been gifted a voucher for £1 off their chosen book, or exchangeable for a special edition £1 book.



Events in school included an English Department Treasure Hunt that went down extremely well and a "Guess the Reader" quiz.

LRC events were delayed due to exams and staff absence, but Miss Basini's Escape Room and Book Quiz will be available next week during Session 6. See LRC for more details.



### Upcoming Events

Events at a glance:

- \* Wed 13 Mar: TrustEd Boogie Nights Show, 3-8pm
- \* Thurs 14 Mar: Medical Mavericks Visit, see page 2
- \* Mon 18 Mar: Languages Mock Oral Exams
- \* Tues 19 Mar: TrustEd Primary Cross Country, 3.45 - 4.15pm
- \* Wed 20 Mar: TrustEd Ball Skills Festival
- \* Fri 22 Mar: End of Spring Term for all students



### 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 on the app Snapchat - which is introducing new parental controls that will allow parents to restrict their teens from interacting with the app's AI chatbot. The changes will also allow parents to view their teens' privacy settings, and get easier access to Family Centre, which is the app's dedicated place for parental controls.

Parents will now be able to see their teens' safety and privacy settings. For instance, a parent can see if their teen has the ability to share their Story with their friends or a smaller group of select users. Plus, a parent can see who is able to contact their teen on the app by viewing their contact settings. Parents can now also see if their teen is sharing their location with their friends on the Snap Map.

This [article](#) has more information.

#### Regional Athletics Achievement

Kadisha (Year 10) was invited to represent Telford and Shropshire at a Regional Sports Hall Competition Final, in Solihull last weekend. She competed in 800m, 1600m, standing Long Jump and Shot Put.



Kadisha did brilliantly, winning the longer race and earning herself a medal and certificate. Well Done!

#### Year 6 Transition

We are looking forward to welcoming our new year 7 cohort from September 2024. If you have been allocated a place with us, you will receive a letter from us by the end of March.

There will be a uniform evening on Tues 7th May where we look forward to seeing you. Further details will follow.

If you have any questions in the mean time, please contact our [Transitions](#) staff.

#### Year 11 Alton Towers Trip

Letters for the Year 11 Trip (Fri 19 Apr) have been distributed and replies need to be returned to Mrs Leverington before **Wed 13 Mar**. Thank you

#### 20-mile Charity Run

Tom in Year 11 will be running 20 miles next weekend to raise funds for Combat Stress, a fantastic cause that helps military veterans. More information and secure donations can be made on [Tom's page](#). Good luck!

#### Virtual Insight into University

EDT (Engineering Development Trust) are offering **Year 11 and 12s** the chance to apply for their extremely popular [Virtual Insight into University](#) course. This course is a comprehensive virtual experience allowing students to explore STEM studies at university and gives students access to information on student life, STEM projects and activities set by leading universities and global STEM companies, first year undergraduate lectures, live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers and current students.

The course will run during the period 1st July – 23rd August 2024 and can be completed flexibly to fit around other commitments. On completion of the course, which involves 30 hours of study, students will receive a Silver Industrial Cadets Award.

There is a fee of £95 but bursaries are available for eligible students. All interested students are encouraged to apply!

**Year 13** are invited to join their FREE YINI Placements Open Day Webinar, on Wed 13th Mar, 4-5 pm. This session will provide students with full details on EDT's placement programme. It is a free service which helps place school and college leavers with companies across the UK. The programme lasts for 12 months and is a paid placement. You can register for the [webinar online](#).

#### NHS Apprenticeships

Students that may be interested in an apprenticeship in Clinical Engineering at the Royal Wolverhampton Trust in partnership with Walsall Healthcare Trust starting September 2024. You will find these posts advertised on [NHSJobs.com](#). These are available now and close on 1st April 2024; recruitment days will be held at the end of April 2024. If you have any questions, please contact [Sagreev](#) on 01902 481606 or [Jenny](#) on 01902 695525.

#### Rugby teams make County Semi Finals

Year 8 and Year 9 Boys Rugby teams both made progress in their groups to get to the Semi Finals of this years Shropshire County Cups. Year 8 are group winners and will take on Wrekin College next week. Year 9 finished second in the "group of death", but had the highest runners up score of all four groups qualified to progress. Good luck for next weeks games. Year 7 go to next week's County Cup Tournament with a quiet confidence after training hard since Christmas. Results to follow.

#### Shropshire Council Parenting Team

The Parenting Team will be delivering free Understanding Your Child and Understanding Your Child SEND groups from April 2024.

- These 10 week groups aim to:
- Promote understanding of children's behaviour within the context of developmental issues
  - Promote the development of parent/child relationship
  - Increase confidence and self-esteem in both parents and children
  - Give parents a strategy for repair when things go wrong
  - Promote reflective, sensitive and effective parenting

They are also offering a free SLEEP TIGHT workshop from April and June 2024. These 5 week workshops cover:

- Recognising the role of sleep hygiene to improve sleep
- Identifying causes of sleep issues and appropriate practical strategies to try
- Completing sleep diaries and identifying potential sleep issues

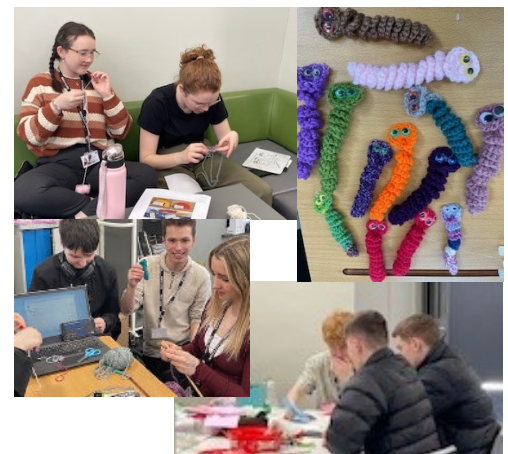
More information is available on the [school website](#). Please do not hesitate to [contact the Parenting Team directly](#) if you have any questions: 01743 250950

#### Catering Update

The latest Aramark Newsletter is now available on the [school website](#).

#### Sixth Form Crafternoon

This week the sixth form pupils participated in crafternoons to promote mental health and wellbeing. A variety of crafts were on offer from making Mother's Day cards to crocheting worry worms. Special thanks to Miss Basini and Mrs Case for crochet assistance and hot-gluing many googly eyes.



### Trips

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

- ◆ English National Badminton Open, School Badminton Team, Mar 2024, Trip Leader: G Pargeter
- ◆ 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







### 🔔 Reminders & Notices

#### Holiday Activities and Fun—Easer 2024

Bookings for the Spring/Easter HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) programme are now open.

There are free places available at HAF holiday clubs for:

- Children and young people aged 4 (in reception class or equivalent) to 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.
- Ukrainian guests staying in Shropshire
- Children and young people living in areas of high deprivation and/or from low-income households who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals. These children and young people can be referred onto the programme by a professional. More information about referrals is included in this email below.

Parents / carers will need to quote your school code (U7nsP) when booking onto activity. Codes are unique to each school.

There is more information on the [school](#) and [HAF webpages](#).

#### LTA Youth Start, Albrighton

A six-week LTA Youth Start Tennis Scheme is about to begin at Albrighton Tennis Club. All sessions will be run by an LTA Accredited Coach with first aid, safeguarding training as well as a current DBS and insurance in place. The LTA Youth Start course is £34.99 per child! There is a flyer on the [website](#), or you can visit [www.wedotennis.co.uk/albrighton](http://www.wedotennis.co.uk/albrighton)

#### STEM Skill Clubs, Shrewsbury

Skill Supply Ltd are returning to Shrewsbury this Easter to run their Holiday STEM Skill Clubs. The clubs are for 8 to 13-year-olds, offering them the opportunity to engage in STEM activities based on a different theme each day. These fun and interactive activities let children from different schools come together, collaborate, and learn. The clubs are all OFSTED-registered, and staff are safely recruited, DBS-checked, and well-trained. More information can be found on the school website, or at <http://www.skillsupply.co.uk>

#### Lower KS2 Tennis Festival

On Wednesday 6th March, Idsall Sports Leaders planned and delivered a tennis festival for local primary school children in Years 3 and 4. It was a fantastic afternoon with lots of 1-2-1 coaching taking place. Lots of progress was made by both leaders and participants and the sun was even shining too!



### Spring Varsity 2024

Mr Goodison, Miss Broughton, Mr Pargeter and Mrs Dunn took 10 Varsity squads over to Shrewsbury School last week for the annual winter Y7/8 Varsity tournament. Sports this time were football, rugby, netball and rowing.

This was the first time Idsall took part and lots of lessons were learned in regards to the format and techniques, meaning hopefully next year we can place even higher and hopefully come back with the trophy.

The students were amazing, supportive and in great spirits although the competitions were very competitive, it was played with real sportsmanship and a great attitude by everyone especially the Idsall crew.

The students had to be at school early for a 8.30 registration and an 8.45 leave time.

Tournaments started at 10.00 and went through pretty much non stop till 2pm meaning there were some tired people on the way back (especially for some students who represented in multiple squads!)

With a wet past few weeks the rugby was not as planned on grass instead being moved to the all weather surface and a version of touch (much to the frustration of both of the boys squads).

The students also had the opportunity to play one of the oldest organised games in the history of sport 5s – which is a little like squash but played with a glove using your hand, several of the students tried this in the 5s courts at Shrewsbury school and a few took to it straight away.

Special thanks to Shrewsbury school for hosting the day; the weather held for us and Mr Goodison hopes to be back even stronger next year.

P.S watch out for the summer Varsity which will be hosted in the commonwealth stadium at Alexandra stadium Birmingham - details to be sent in the summer term.

	U12 Boys Football	U13 Boys Football	U12 Boys Rugby	U13 Boys Rugby	U12 Girls Football	U13 Girls Football	U12 Girls Netball	U13 Girls Netball	Girls Rowing	Boys Rowing	Total	Position
Marches	1	4	2	4	4	5	4	2	1	1	28	1
Shrewsbury	5	1	3	5	2	3	5	4	2	2	32	5
SJT	2	3	1	1	3	4	1	3	5	5	28	2
Grove	4	5	5	2	1	1	2	5	3	3	31	4
Idsall	3	1	4	3	5	2	3	1	3	4	29	3

Table of final positions and rankings (1 meaning first, down to 5 meaning fifth)

### 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.