

Edition 37 : 12/09/25



Calendar and Events



- Mon 15th Sept : Prefect Applications Close
- Thur 18th Sep : Bletchley Park Trip
- Fri 19th Sept : Wear it Orange Day - All4One Foundation
- Mon 22nd Sept : Electrical and Mechanical Army Practical Session
- Tue 23rd Sept : Cross Country Event
- Thu 25th Sep : Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am - 12pm
- Thu 25th Sep : Year 6 Open Evening

- Fri 26th Sep : Collaboration Day (School Closed to Students)
- Tue 30 Sept : IN-COMM Stem Sessions Yr 9 & 10
- Wed 8th Oct : Yr 9 & 11 Individual Photos
- Tue 14th Oct : Year 10 Apprenticeship Taster Day
- Fri 17th Oct : Year 12 Trip Uni and Apprenticeship Search Fair
- Mon 20th & Tue 21st Oct : PD Days
- Wed 22nd to Fri 31st Oct : HALF TERM
- Mon 3rd Nov : PD Day
- 10th Nov - 22nd Nov : Year 11 Autumn Mocks

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Michelle King - Headteacher



A Fantastic Start to the Year!

It's been wonderful to see the school in full flow again, with students and staff working together so positively. Our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled in quickly and are already embracing school life with enthusiasm and maturity.

Throughout the week, I've had the pleasure of speaking with many students who are polite, smartly dressed, and genuinely happy to be here. There's a real buzz around the school—a sense of energy and excitement that will only grow as the year progresses.

It's also great to see planners being used so effectively. I've spotted homework being recorded, to-do lists being written, and excellent communication between home and school. This kind of organisation sets the tone for a successful year.

This week, we also launched our Work Experience presentation for Year 10 and Year 12 parents. Getting ahead with placements is key, and we're pleased to support families in starting that process early.

There's so much to look forward to this year—watch this space for exciting opportunities and achievements to come!

YEAR 7 NEWS

Phone Pouches

Unfortunately, the delivery of the phone pouches has been delayed, and we still do not have a confirmed arrival date. We will keep you updated as soon as we receive more information. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Year 7 Enjoying the Outdoors

Year 7's are settling in well, and we've seen some very competitive and enthusiastic games of table tennis taking place in the euroquad at both break and lunch. The football matches at lunch seem to get more exciting each day – Mrs Reeve and Mr Thomas have given up on trying to work out if there is one game going on, with lots of players on each side, or if there are multiple games at the same time – never mind who is on which team! Amazingly, all the players seem to know who is on their team – which is what matters!

We are shortly due to launch a Year 7 board games lunchtime club to be held within The Shore – our 6th form team are excited to support with this – bring on the Cluedo, Scrabble, Jenga and more!





Year 7 History

Year 7 History students have begun their History curriculum by appreciating the value of sources.

Mrs Strachan says "The purpose and aims of the History curriculum at Idsall School are to ensure students know how to be functioning, questioning individuals. We want them to understand the wider world around them, to inspire curiosity and develop a passionate understanding of the past through enquiry-based lessons and a variety of teaching and learning styles."

Effective teaching supports our pupils in developing a wide range of history skills to engender a healthy scepticism of evidence"

Below are pictures of some History students from class 7A4 appreciating the value of evidence from the time - handling some artefacts from Mrs Strachan's 'box of interesting finds'!





YEAR 10 NEWS

Casen Cycles to Success!

Wow!

During the 6 week holiday Casen Thompson attended the Battle of Hastings with the British Cycling Association.

Casen was awarded an amazing 2nd place in the National Championships! During the holidays he also gained two third place spots in his British Cycling competition's.

A fantastic achievement - well done Casen!





Jessie & River

Jessie and River travelled to the National Agriculture Centre Stoneleigh park, Warwickshire to compete at The Showing Register Talent Spotting Finals.

Both Jessie and River did amazing as this was a huge national show.

- First they competed in the Mountain and Moorland large breed Horse of the Year qualifier and performed to a high standard but sadly no placing.
- Second they competed in the New Star amateur rider of the year and came home with a 10th.

It was a long but great day, they both did so well to even qualify to get there let alone compete their socks off. Jessie has worked so hard with River he is still a baby at just 5 years old. They looked stunning and did everyone so proud.





YEAR 11 NEWS

Prefect Applications



Monday 15th September is the closing date for Prefect applications. All students have been informed of the process and the link to follow if they wish to apply. No applications will be accepted after this date.

"A Prefect is a role-model and will be expected to uphold school rules to a very high standard. Your behaviour, attitude to work and appearance must be exemplary, and we expect our Prefects to represent the school positively in the local and wider community."

This is an important role within the school and students will be carefully selected by the Head of Year and all staff within the school. Students selected will be accepting a position of considerable responsibility.

If you need more information please speak to Mr Munoz-Baldwin, Head of Year 11.

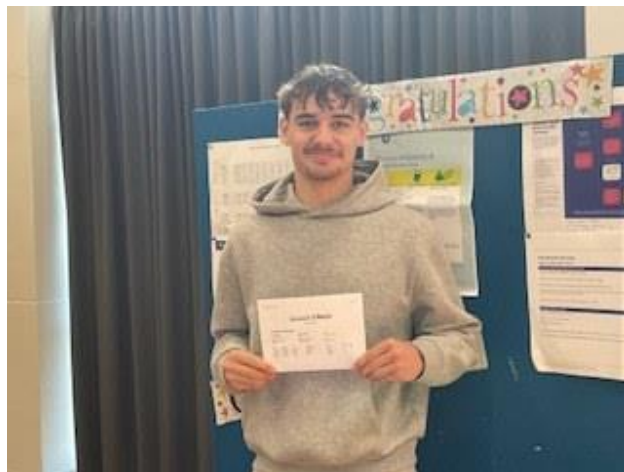
SIXTH FORM NEWS

Idsall Sixth Form had AMAZING A Level and BTEC Results

Among the top students at the school were 18-year-olds Zach Nixon with an A in Economics and two distinctions* in BTEC Sport and BTEC Business, Eva Hampl with A's in Sociology and Geography and a B in Economics, and Mia Brooks with three A's in Business, Sociology and Psychology.

Eva has accepted an apprenticeship, Mia is off to the University of Warwick to study business management, and Zach is heading to the University of Liverpool to study business, finance and economics.

Zach said: ***"The support you get from the staff here is one of the best, it's been a great two years. Not just the learning but the friends you make along the way."***



A Level of the Week

CRIMINOLOGY - New for September 2025!

Criminology is an incredibly fascinating field of study that weaves aspects of Law, Psychology, and Sociology together.

Why choose the Applied Criminology course?

If you have a keen interest in the application of the criminal justice system, the profiling of criminals or wish to pursue a career in law enforcement, then this is definitely the course for you.

You will work much more independently than at GCSE, we will train you in thinking critically, analysing the facts of case studies and debating the trials, tribulations and outcomes.

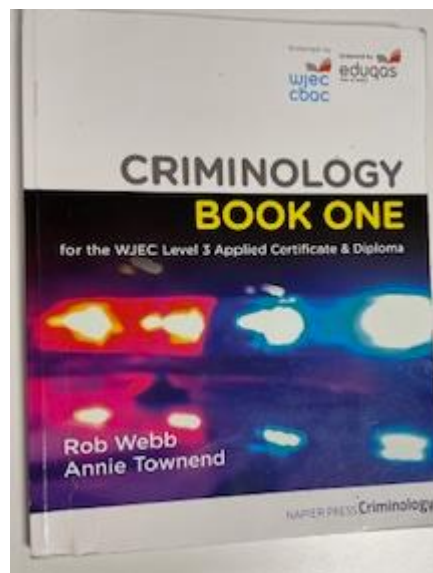
What will I study?

The course examines theories regarding the causes of different types of crime and what makes some people more 'criminal' than others. You will discover why certain crimes are underreported and will be given the opportunity to create a campaign for change that increases awareness.

Year 2 will focus more closely on crime and punishment, exploring the purpose of the criminal justice system and how and why we punish crimes. You will learn about the procedures around crime, all the way from the crime scene to the courtroom, and gain an understanding of how the criminal justice system works. You will also be asked to review a criminal case to ensure that it has been tried fairly.

Where can it lead me?

Many students choose to progress into studying law at university, others choose to work in social care or law enforcement. This course has so many transferable skills that the possibilities of where this course can lead you are limitless.



All Welcome for Coffee & Cake

On Thursday 25th September between 10am and 12pm, Idsall Sixth Form is throwing open the doors to members of the public and inviting you all to their Macmillan coffee morning.

Drinks, cakes and other sweet treats will be available in the main hall and you will be served by our very own 6th form students,.

So, please put it in your diaries and come along and support this fantastic charity.



Idsall Sixth Form invite you all to a
Macmillan Coffee morning on
**Thursday 25th September, 10:00-
12:00.**

Drinks and sweet treats will be available in the main
hall, with all proceeds going to this fantastic charity.

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 25th is our annual Open Evening for the present year 6 students to come in and have a look around the school and see the wonderful facilities we have on offer.

This evening gives them the opportunity to see the departments in action, speak to members of staff and our present students, to see around the school and to generally get an incite into Idsall School.

Students from year 7 to 11 will be invited by departments to come along and help on the evening. All students that are asked to help will be given a parental permission form which

needs to be completed and returned by Monday 22nd September. Present students are not allowed in the school without a permission form unless they are going around the school with a parent and sibling.

For more information on our open evening please see the Idsall School website :

<https://www.idsallschool.org>



IDSALL SCHOOL

Part of the Marches Trust

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Thursday, 25th September 2025
4.00 pm – 7.30 pm

We look forward to meeting and introducing you to the staff and students at our thriving and highly successful school. You will see departments in action and how students are supported during their seven year journey from Year 7 to 13.

The Headteacher will speak in the Main Hall at 4.45 pm & 5.45 pm.

No need to book—just turn up!

You can also come and visit us during a normal working day on Monday 29th September. To make an appointment for this please call 01952 468400 or email fo@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk

Please visit our website www.idsallschool.org for more information about our school.



DO YOU WORK IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS?

If so we need your help!

One of our ex students needs help with a survey for his dissertation from anyone who works in primary schools! Cameron completed his seven year school journey at Idsall, culminating in being Head Boy of the 6th Form. He is still a regular face around the school as he often returns to support and help our current students with inspirational talks, helping to run ECO club etc. when he is home from University. Please, if you work in a primary school or know anyone who does can you complete, or ask them to complete, the survey below.

"My name is Cameron Anderson, and I'm a third-year student at Aberystwyth University studying BSC Agriculture with Business Management. I'm currently collecting data for my dissertation study, which explores the perceived barriers and opportunities for integrating Agricultural Education into the UK Primary School Curriculum. I would greatly appreciate your support and insight into this topic by completing the survey below.

Please click the link provided to access the survey:

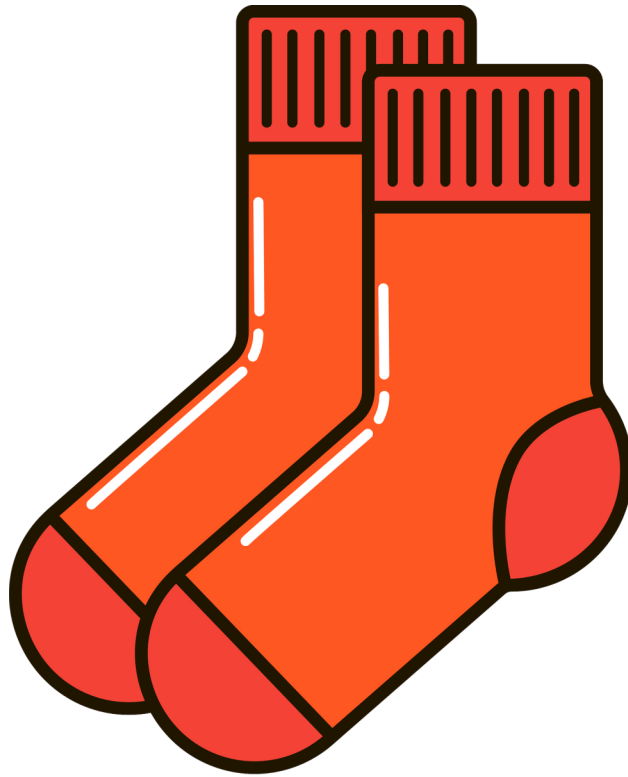
<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/aber/sowing-the-seeds-of-learning-barriers-to-integrating-agricultur>





WEAR IT ORANGE

Friday 19th September



WEAR AN ORANGE ACCESSORY

on Friday 19th September, staff and students are invited to wear orange accessories or an item of orange clothing to raise both awareness and funds for the *4 All Foundation*. A suggested donation of **£1** may be made via Parent Pay, or alternatively, in cash within school on the day.

ORANGE THEMED CAKE SALE

In addition, there will be an **orange-themed cake sale** at lunchtime near the hall. Contributions of orange-themed snacks or cakes to support the sale will be gratefully received and can be delivered to Reception for the attention of Miss Martin.

CHARITY

The *4 All Foundation* is a charity committed to creating active, inclusive, and enriching opportunities for people of all ages across Shropshire. In partnership with schools, care homes, councils, and community groups, the charity delivers a wide range of programmes that foster connection, promote wellbeing, and inspire lasting change.

Further information about the services they provide, as well as the impact they have had since 2022, can be found on their website: www.4all.foundation.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.



DISNEYLAND PARIS TRIP MEETING



Once again we are looking into the year 7 & 8 Residential Trip to Disneyland Paris. The trip is expected to run between Friday 27th and Sunday 29th March 2026.

There will be a Teams meeting for the parents of any student that is interested in the trip. Date and time will be sent to you all via email / newsletter in the next few working days.

This trip is now running for its 3rd successful year and is only open to students in year 7 and year 8 and includes a river trip on the river Seine and a full day in Disneyland Paris.

The price for the trip will be approximately £495 per student, however this is still waiting to be confirmed. A deposit of £60 will be required by Thursday 2nd October, 2025.

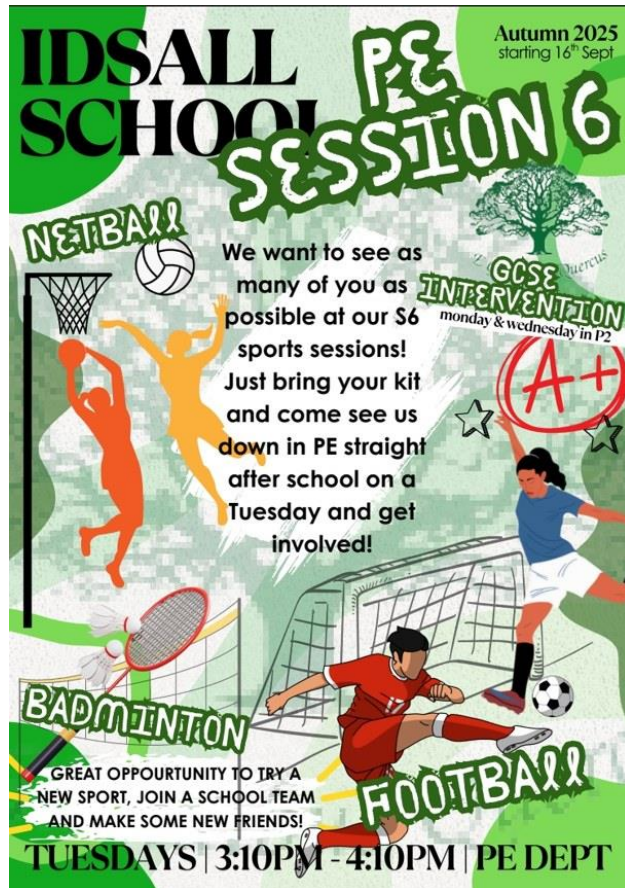
More details will be given out at the Teams meeting, however, hopefully this gives you a chance to talk to your student about this wonderful opportunity in advance.

PE SESSION 6

Just bring your kit and your enthusiasm!

So if it is football, netball or another sport, now is your chance to get involved. The PE department are putting together their lists of session 6. If there is a sport you are interested in, speak to a member of the department!

If you are interested but need more information, just pop along to the PE office and speak to a member of the department.



ONLINE FRENCH LEARNING CLUB

Do you want to improve your French ... if so our MFL team are starting a French online learning club. This will be held in room L2 on a Wednesday session 6 and / or Friday lunchtime.

This club is open for years 7, 8 & 9.



- . FRENCH ONLINE LEARNING CLUB -IN L2
- . WEDNESDAY PERIOD 6 AND FRIDAY LUNCHTIME
- . YEARS 7-9



UNIFORM DONATIONS

DO YOU HAVE OLD UNIFORM THAT YOU NO LONGER USE?

Whether it is a blazer, trousers, shirts, ties, PE Kit etc if you have any uniform items that you no longer use. we would love to take it off your hands! Please drop off at reception.

CALCULATOR DONATIONS



Do you have an old working calculator around that you now no longer use? Left school and don't want it any more? If so please donate to the school - the maths department are always in need of them.

Thank you

NOTICE TO PARENTS: REMOVAL OF LATE BUS SERVICE



Effective September 2025, the late bus service will no longer be part of our school transport programme.

This decision has not been made lightly. After careful review, we have found that:

- Very few students have been using the late bus service regularly.
- Usage has averaged fewer than 4 students per day, and the bus is often completely empty.
- Operational costs for running the service have significantly increased, making it unsustainable.

We have been assured that local bus and train services are available, although we recognise that these may not be suitable for all student destinations.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

WORK EXPERIENCE 2026

Work Experience is 29 June - 3 July 2026 for students in years 10 and 12.

The date for details to be uploaded to Unifrog is Friday 27th March 2026.

SAFEGUARDING



This week's safeguarding focus is on technology attachment. In this day and age, children are increasingly forming emotional and habitual attachments to technological devices. Statistics show that it is believed that 96% of children regularly access the internet at home, and therefore children's online access and presence is bigger than ever. Please see below for an infographic with further details, as well as guidance as to how we can support our young people with this.

As ever, as parents if you have any requests for topics to be included in our safeguarding focus, please email Mrs Reeve (jennie.reeve@ids.mmat.co.uk).

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and digital citizenship. Formerly delivered by National Cyber Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TECHNOLOGY ATTACHMENT

In today's digital age, children are increasingly forming emotional and habitual attachments to their devices. With 95% regularly accessing the internet and nearly half engaging in live streaming or content sharing, their online presence is greater than ever. This guide explores the phenomenon of technology attachment in young people and offers expert advice on fostering healthier digital habits.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WIRED FOR REWARD

Children's brains are particularly sensitive to reward-based stimulation, and some digital platforms, especially those offering quick-hit content like short-form videos, are designed to exploit this. The instant gratification of likes, comments, and rapid screen changes triggers dopamine releases, making these interactions highly addictive. Over time, this may contribute to changes in attention patterns and a reduced inclination towards activities that involve prolonged focus or delayed gratification, such as reading, problem-solving, or creative play.

NIGHT-TIME TECH HABITS

Screen use late into the evening can disrupt natural sleep patterns by suppressing melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep. Children engaging with stimulating content may experience delayed bedtime, lower sleep quality, and increased fatigue during the day. Additionally, not sleeping well (PCMS) on online interactions can cause anxiety and reluctance to engage in evening or night-time engagement and tired mornings.

SHAPED BY SCREENS

For many children, digital spaces have become a key arena for identity exploration and expression. Social media encourages them to curate their image carefully, with likes, comments, and shares serving as social validation. This environment can be self-referential, leading children to compare their online persona to the idealized versions of themselves seen in influencers or celebrities. This can lead to a distorted perception of reality, where the digital self becomes more real than the physical one.

DIGITAL WORLD DANGERS

The internet can expose children to unfiltered content, some of which may be inappropriate, misleading, or harmful. Cyberbullying, exposure to extremist material, and online predators are all risks children face, often without fully understanding the consequences. Misinformation can also spread rapidly, leading to false beliefs and actions. Children may internalize these digital dangers, impacting their emotional and mental health.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY BUILDS

Devices often become digital comfort blankets. In moments of boredom, anxiety, or loneliness, children may instinctively reach for screens to soothe them. This reliance on digital distraction limits their ability to develop healthy coping mechanisms, such as mindfulness, conversation, or physical activity. As the habit builds, their dependency may displace real-world experiences and emotional resilience.

FRIENDSHIPS & FILTERS

Technology transforms how young people socialize, often replacing face-to-face interaction with text-based or image-based communication. While messaging apps and social media enable connection, they may also lead to emotional disconnection and the development of a distorted interpersonal sense, such as over-reliance on likes and comments for validation. As a result, some children may become less confident and more reliant on digital personas to navigate friendships.

Advice for Parents & Educators

READ THE ROOM

Pay attention to behavioural changes that may signal unhealthy tech attachment. This includes mood swings, increased secrecy about online activity, withdrawal from family time or hobbies, and visible distress when separated from devices. These cues can indicate deeper emotional reliance or even exposure to distressing content. Early recognition allows for proactive support and meaningful conversation.

DON'T WAIT, REACH OUT EARLY

If a child's relationship with technology starts affecting their emotional wellbeing, school performance, or social connections, don't hesitate to seek help. Open up discussions with teachers, pastoral staff, or digital wellbeing professionals. Early intervention is key, and a supportive network can provide tools, resources, and reassurance for both children and adults navigating this evolving digital landscape.

SHAPE DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Create a balanced digital environment with clear guidelines on when and how devices can be used. This includes screen-free zones (e.g., bedrooms, dining tables), app restrictions, and time limits. More importantly, involve children in these decisions and explain the reasoning behind them, even reflecting upon your own digital use so they can see it's something we all have to manage. Setting boundaries like a dialogue, not just directives, helps build trust and encourages self-regulation.

SET THE STANDARD

Children often mimic the behaviour they see. When adults demonstrate healthy digital habits, such as prioritising face-to-face conversation, limiting screen time with their partners, and being present with their children as more likely to follow suit. Share your own positive uses of technology and encourage children to do the same. This collaborative approach helps demystify tech use and encourages responsible engagement.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Washford is an award-winning educator, author of *The Digital Ecosystem*, and founder of *Digital Bridge*. *Digital Bridge* supports the relationship between families and technology, empowering everyone to be balanced and digitally well. With over 15 years in digital education and wellbeing, she supports families, schools, and governments to build balanced and safe digital cultures.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

X @wake_up_weds f /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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WHAT'S ON IN THE LOCAL AREA

Try Something New! Taekwon-Do FREE CLASSES!

TAEKWON-DO CLASSES
for NEW BEGINNERS

AGES 5+

IDSALL SCHOOL SHIFNAL
CLASSES EVERY WEDNESDAY

to reserve your place
call **Mr Neil Morris (5th Dan)**
on **07969 996055**
or email **neilmorris14@btinternet.com**

LEARN SELF-DEFENCE HAVE FUN! IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS

Mr Morris runs a beginners programme in authentic and original Taekwon-do every Wednesday evening at Idsall School in the old gym.

So if you are looking at trying something new why not go along - you get **two free trial classes!**

- ***Discounts available to Idsall Students!***
- ***Classes every Wednesday 6-7pm in the old gym at Idsall.***
- ***Offering two free trial classes.***

So what are the benefits of Taekwon-do for young people :

- *Physical Fitness: Taekwondo promotes overall fitness by engaging various muscle groups, enhancing strength, agility, and flexibility*
- *Self-Confidence: The goal-setting and positive reinforcement in taekwondo help build self-esteem in young people*
- *Discipline and Focus: Taekwondo teaches young people discipline and the ability to focus, which are essential life skills*
- *Mental Growth: It blends physical training with mental development, encouraging personal progress and resilience*
- *Character Development: Taekwondo fosters respect, perseverance, and teamwork, contributing to a young persons character development*

INTERESTED ... contact Mr. Morris on 07969 996055 to book and for more information.

CONTACT US



Coppice Green Lane, Shifnal, Shropshire. TF11 8PD



01952 468400



admin@ids.mmat.co.uk



Idsallschool.org

Michelle King BA MA NPQH NPQEL

Our values :



Excellence: striving always for mastery and personal success



Integrity: consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



Empathy: embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



Creativity: inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



Equality: ensuring fair opportunity for all