



SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Shenfield High School
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Newsletter

Spring Term 2 – March 2023

News from the Headteacher

Sadly, this Easter we must say goodbye to two longstanding colleagues who have made a he contribution to Shenfield High School.

Mrs Messenger joined Shenfield High School in September 2011 and has spent the past eleven and a half years supporting so many students with their pastoral care. The pastoral provision at Shenfield High School has a reputation that is second to none and Mrs Messenger has played an integral and leading part in that for over a decade. We wish her and her husband all the very best of everything in their retirement together.

Mr Sands also joined Shenfield in 2011 as a teacher of music. As a senior leader, Mr Sands has been at the heart of the school's development with his work on the school's curriculum, assessment and staff development and not forgetting the school shows and music concerts. We wish him well in his new role as Deputy Headteacher at the Cornelius Vermuyden School.

I am pleased to inform parents that we have appointed to some key senior positions within the school over the past ten days, for September.

Mrs Sarah Whitfield has been appointed as Team Leader for English taking over from Mr Clifford whose Assistant Headteacher responsibility shifts to whole school curriculum.

Mrs Karuna Shaunak-Hobbs will become Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning and Mr Jamie Rigg has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher for Behaviour and Inclusion. These appointments were made following a rigorous and competitive process

involving over thirty applicants. I am looking forward to working with the new senior team structure on the further development of our school.

Following the appointment of our new Estates Manager in January we have been completing an extensive review of the school premises identifying maintenance, structural and decorative upgrades. We have received good news from Active Essex that we have been successful in gaining funds to upgrade our pool area over the next few years and we are once again bidding for funds from the DfE to start an upgrade programme of some of our science laboratories. A conversation was recently had with our local MP Mr Burghart who has offered his support with this so fingers crossed.

I hope that you all have a restful Easter Break and that the weather allows us to enjoy some Spring sunshine.

See you in the summer term.

Clare Costello
Headteacher

Attendance

Please note the email address to use for all attendance matters including enquires, queries and absences is:-

attendance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Updated Security Gates System – After School

We have recently been able to enhance the security of our external gates for the period after school from 15:15 to 16:30 when most after school clubs and after school sessions finish. All staff and students have been updated on the new arrangements and it has had a real positive impact.

The external gates are now secured at 15:15 when the vast majority of our students have left, and they can then be operated via access cards that all members of staff carry with them. If your child is attending an afterschool session, the member of staff leading that session will escort everyone to the gate (or arrange for another member of staff), to ensure all students are able to depart safely. Reception is staffed until 16:30 and there are plenty of staff around to ensure that students are able to receive any help they may need.

Mr Roberts – Chief Finance & Operations Officer

Pastoral Team

Who to contact in the Pastoral Team

Year	Pastoral Manager	Head of Year
7	Ms East v.east@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Fletcher m.fletcher@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
8	Mrs Wood s.wood@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Miss Murphy a.murphy@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
9	Mrs Kalaitzis k.kalaitzis@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Acquah i.acquah@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
10	Mrs Hodgson-Wild a.hodgson-wild@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Miss Arnold t.arnold@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
11	Mrs Allen j.allen@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Chapman p.chapman@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Walker j.walker@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
Student Services	Mrs Purbrick l.purbrick@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
Pastoral Coordinator	Miss Day g.day@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
Assistant Headteacher	Mr Rigg - Behaviour and Standards j.rigg@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

KS5 Pastoral Team

Who to contact in the Key Stage 5 Pastoral Team

Year	Pastoral Manager	Head of Year
12	Mrs Nelson s.nelson@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Macdonald j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
13	Mrs Downey c.downey@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Bishop t.bishop@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Dunn j.dunn@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Mr Macdonald j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
Head of Sixth Form	Mr Cooke a.cooke@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

[Link to the Curriculum and PREP Newsletters for Years 7 to 11](#)

Important information Trips, Visits and Events

There have been a lot of interest and conversation regarding online platforms. Below for you are four brief articles related to online issues. The first two come from Andrew Hall a UK safeguarding specialist. The second come from Alan McKensize who is an online safety specialist, and you may remember we shared a number of his briefings via newsletters last year. He discusses how to support the limit of TikTok use as well as signposting some really useful resources in terms of how to start conversations around online issues.

If you have any questions or particular areas you would like more information on please do not hesitate to contact me via email :-

d.j.barron@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Safer Internet Broadcasting – UK Safer Internet Centre

In the modern world many children and adults are seeing live streaming as a valid way of generating low start up income. The rise of YouTube, Twitch, Instagram, and other platforms, have opened up ways of making money that didn't exist before.

Now users are able to get opinions, views, and advice across to people all over the world, simply from your computer or laptop. There is no minimum age to these kinds of activities. And people that make a success of YouTube can be as young as primary age. However, this opens up opportunities for those who prey on these channels of under aged people. They encourage them and ultimately try to gain their trust. This requires those in the educational and safeguarding sphere to be able to give good advice to keep them safe whilst pursuing these online objectives.

The Safer Internet Centre has produced a page dedicated to mitigating harm for those engaging in these online activities.

To find out more please follow the link below:-

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/livestreaming-2>

Online Gaming – The White Hatter

The rise of video games as the preferred medium for children and young people to blow off steam, has been going on for over three decades now. Ever since the launch of the affordable computer, and the gaming console children and young people having been hooked. And with every evolution, it is only a matter of

time before the price of novel gaming technologies drops to the level that it becomes ubiquitous.

When that occurs it doesn't take long for it to filter into the common youth culture, creating terms of reference that are difficult for the lay person to decipher.

The White Hatter has recently published an article which seeks to clear up some of the confusion presented by such popular phenomena. To read more follow the link below:-

<https://thewhitehatter.ca/online-gaming/>

TikTok - New Screentime Settings

Last week TikTok announced that over the coming weeks a new update to the app will automatically set up a 60-minute time limit for users under 18, if users wish to extend this they will have to input a code.

When I initially saw this I was quite negative, users are just going to input the code and carry on. Why can't TikTok enforce a daily time limit, surely that would be better? But on reflection I started thinking about enforcement, does it work? Which is better: you must, you will, or here's an option for you to make a conscious decision?

I use TikTok myself, just for browsing and keeping an eye on what is going on, and every single time I get sucked down the rabbit hole and before I know it 30 minutes have passed. Great for procrastination, not great for getting work done!! I would like to see a feature which allows me the option to set up reminders, e.g. 10 minutes, 20 minutes, 1 hour etc., but for the moment I do think the 60 minute option is a good step forward.

To read more click [HERE](#) and there is a good 'Guardian's Guide' from TikTok [HERE](#).

Parents - Conversation Starters

Parenting the digital world is difficult, no-one can deny that. For many of us we didn't grow up in a world of technology, therefore we don't have 'lived experience', we're just trying our best. With many parents I speak to, one of the questions I regularly get is, "How do I start the conversation?"

With the exploitation of children getting significantly worse each year, those conversations are so important. In my voluntary work with the Police I visit many homes where a child/young person has uploaded illegal imagery, and yet so often I hear "Why did you do that, you knew it was wrong!", "That's it, you're banned" and much more. This is victim blaming.

From a parental perspective I get it, I understand the reaction. Parents are scared, even traumatised. Yet these criminals are devious, I often see the chat logs, children are ALWAYS victims.

The Internet Watch Foundation have put together a brilliant guide for parents. It's about a year old now and I have mentioned this before, but with the increasing concerns it is worth sending out to parents again. Or, if you are sending out a newsletter or having a parents evening, you could use some of the conversation starter examples that are within the guide, I think they are brilliant.

You can find the guide [HERE](#). Additionally, SWGfL have some great social media checklists which would be useful for students and parents [HERE](#).

Careers advice

Year 9 students were spoken to during assembly by Fiona Byford Smith, Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor at Chelmsford College.



Fiona took our students through the opportunities available to them with Chelmsford College plus an impartial explanation of apprenticeships, BTECs and T-Levels.

Please click the link below to view the presentation should you wish or contact Chelmsford direct.

<http://careers.shenfieldlearning.com/talks.html>

Helen Sharpe, Head of Apprenticeships from South Essex College joined our Y13 students Friday 10th

February to give them a full insight of the Current Apprenticeship Information available to them.



In addition Students were also reintroduced to the platform Unifrog (previously used by students to search for university courses) by Mr Cooke, Head of Sixth form, to show them how to find apprenticeships available to them using various filters that help to identify relevant opportunities.

Interactive Lessons

Friday 10th and Monday 20th February Y8 Social Science Classes took part in their Advanced Employability Skills Workshops with Shelley Tweed and Ian Thorogood from First Intuition, Chelmsford Branch. We thank them for all their support throughout February.

Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February, Year 7 social science classes were given an interactive lesson via external speakers from Axis Europe Group. We cannot thank Vera O' Driscoll and her 5 colleagues enough for the Employability Soft Skills and Careers Readiness Workshop that was delivered.

Keeping social science lessons interactive, it is never too early to be career ready. Team work activities, review of the main soft skills within the workplace, and CV analysis were all discussed amongst our students.

Parents Association

All the money we raise goes to help the school provide better resources for our children. Please do support us where you can!

If you would be willing to join the SHSPTA then we'd love to hear from you. Not much time is needed just an hour or so here and there - whatever you can spare!

You can contact the PTA via:

Email: shspa@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Twitter: @shs_pta

Or Facebook