



SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Shenfield High School
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decisions we have had to make. I hope we can all look forward to greater normality in the New Year.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Term ends on Wednesday 16th December at 3pm. All being well, we return to school on Monday 4th January 2021, which is a week B.

Yours sincerely

Carole Herman
Headteacher

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 – Dec 2020

News from the Headteacher

In a challenging term, it is great to see that Christmas and Shenfield spirit is very much in evidence. I hope you enjoy reading about the generosity of our Shenfield High School community with donations for the Brentwood Food Bank and hampers for Kids Inspire. In addition, students and staff took part in the annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children, with an array of splendid festive knitwear on display. Thank you for helping some worthy causes and for taking part.

In a new addition to our newsletter we have a piece from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Jane Swettenham. Mrs Swettenham will contribute to the newsletter three times per year which will help to keep parents in touch with the work of the governing body.

I am sure you will also enjoy reading about our Jack Petchey Awards at the end of this term. Congratulations to Charlie Kunkun, Immam-Abasi Ikeddeh, Stephanie Harding and the recipient of the Jack Petchey Leader Award, Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Comerford. Mrs Comerford was nominated by a number of staff and students in recognition of her unstinting work in safeguarding and wellbeing.

We have done our best this term to try to provide students with as normal experience of school as possible while keeping everyone as safe as possible in a school context. The situation is not normal, of course, and there have been many challenges. I'd like to thank you for your support and understanding of the difficult

News from the Chair of Governors

This has certainly been a challenging and anxious time for students, parents and staff. We are grateful for the support that parents and students have shown the school and its staff during this difficult time. The Shenfield School community spirit has certainly been much in evidence. The entire school community has pulled together in the face of this crisis and has shown remarkable resilience and determination. Governors would like to thank the staff who have done so much to support all the students during these very difficult months.

As governors we are responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in conjunction with the Head teacher. We are here to support the school and to hold the school to account for its educational performance. Governors are also responsible for overseeing the finances of the school ensuring that money is well spent. The role is both challenging and rewarding. We hope that when there is next a vacancy for a parent governor that you will consider putting your name forward for election. Parent governors are able to bring a parental perspective to the issues discussed and we recognise that it is important to have a link between governance and the parental community.

Some of your children will have met governors during our monitoring visits. We are always interested to hear the views of students which are invariably insightful and honest. We are looking forward to meeting the students again when our visits resume. We also hope to have the

opportunity to meet you at school events in the future when some degree of normality returns.

Details of current governors can be found on the school's website under governor information. If you wish to contact governors please do so via the Clerk to the governors Mrs Karen Whordley at k.whordley@shenfield.essex.sch.uk.

With the development of various vaccines we look forward to what we hope will be an improving situation in 2021 and ultimately a return to normal life for our students. In the words of the Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu "The journey of a 1000 miles begins with a single step."

We wish you all an enjoyable Christmas.

Jane Swettenham
Chair of Governors on behalf of the governors of
Shenfield High School

ATTENDANCE

Please be reminded all attendance email correspondence to go to Attendance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Important information

As the term draws to an end many are looking forward to the Christmas break, in whatever form that takes this year. It is a time for family and, as such for many is a difficult time for a variety of reasons.

Support

Marie Curie is known as charity that raises awareness and fundraises but they also offer support for those dealing with any aspect of dying, death or bereavement. They have a free support line on [0800 090 2309](tel:08000902309) and their website <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk> is full of information and guidance.

Sadly, research demonstrates that holiday periods for some people are a catalyst for them feeling at their lowest. Suicide is a difficult topic to think about let alone discuss, but all the guidance demonstrates that talking about it is crucial to intervene and help. www.papyrus-uk.org was founded by parents who lost their children to suicide and the link below takes you to a document designed to support conversations with your children. It includes how to have conversations about self-harm something which has increased since the pandemic began.

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Your-Child-A-Guide-for-Parents.pdf>

Screen time

Lots has been written about regarding how much screen time our young people engage with, but do you know how much time you spend looking at your screen? I do. At the time of writing it is 1h 11m. If you want to know yours then follow the steps below.

If you have an apple product then head to settings, then screen time to find out. You should be able to see your daily average. If you then click on the *See All Activity* you can review what apps or social media feeds take up the most of your screen time. I did this recently with some students and the results raised many an eyebrow! It would certainly make for interesting conversations between parents and children over the break.

If in your review you acknowledge a lack of understanding about a particular platform, or want to know how best to encourage your child to use a platform safely be sure to head over to <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>. They have guidelines for the majority of popular social media apps and update the guidance regularly.

DSLs

Mrs J Comerford – Mr DJ Barron – Mr J Rigg
Miss G Day – Mrs J Pitkin

School will be closed over the Christmas break. Should you have a safeguarding concern during the break please make use of the Essex Safeguarding website or the Childrens and Families Hub number 0345 603 7627. In the case of an emergency call 999.

Mr DJ Barron
d.j.barron@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Pastoral Team

Who to contact in the Pastoral Team

Pastoral Secretary – Mrs Walker
j.walker@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Student Services – Mrs Purbrick
l.purbrick@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Year 7 Pastoral Manager – Mrs Kalaitzis
k.kalaitzis@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Year 8 Pastoral Manager – Mrs Hodgson-Wild
a.hodgson-wild@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Year 9 Pastoral Manager – Mrs Allen
j.allen@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Year 10 Pastoral Manager – Ms East
v.east@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Year 11 Pastoral Manager – Mrs Messenger
k.messenger@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Pastoral Coordinator – Miss Day
g.day@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour and Standards – Mr Rigg
j.rigg@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

- [Year 7 Curriculum and PREP](#)
- [Year 8 Curriculum and PREP](#)
- [Year 9 Curriculum and PREP](#)
- [Year 10 Curriculum and PREP](#)
- [Year 11 Curriculum and PREP](#)

Food Bank

Our Year 7 and Year 9 students and their families have donated a huge amount of food to Brentwood Food Bank. From essential goods to Christmas treats, our students have been so generous and will really make Christmas easier for local families in need.

House Captains got all the boxes together ready for the food bank staff to collect. Thank you to everyone who donated; a treat is on its way to the form that donated the most items!



Brentwood Food Bank is there to help anyone who is facing hunger because of a crisis – they provide three days' emergency food and practical support to help people cope in difficult times. To find out more, visit: brentwood.foodbank.org.uk or call 01277 224528/ 01277 229189



Christmas

A big thank you to the following Year 7 students, who spent some of their time decorating the school Christmas tree in reception:

Angel Ohagwa, Aayush Baluja, Thomas Sanders, Ria Gabriel-Smith, Millie Gibbons and Mirela Robu.



Hampers

Year 8 and Year 10 students and families continued our yearly tradition of putting together Christmas Hampers for a local charity, Kids Inspire.



House Captains delivered the Hampers to Kids Inspire, who were very impressed with the efforts that went into decorating the boxes.



Thank you Form Tutors, students and families for your incredible efforts again this year.

Remembrance Sunday Service: West Ham

As part of the West Ham Academy's commemorations, the Club undertook a Remembrance Sunday Service before their Games Programme fixtures and also produced a video which told the story of the 'West Ham Pals'; a battalion that served in the First World War.

Two of our Shenfield High School students; Liam Jones (Year 10) and Reggie Morris (Year 7); undertook roles within the planning and filming of this video. Please see below a link to an article that was published on the club website. There are two videos included; the first is of the service held before the Under 14s game against Norwich City (at the top of the page) and the other is the 'West Ham Pals' video (at the bottom).

<https://www.whufc.com/news/articles/2020/november/08-november/young-hammers-pay-tributes-remembrance>

We are incredibly proud of the commitment and efforts of these two students towards this project. Throughout their parts, Liam and Reggie spoke with confidence and maturity whilst undertaking their role as young ambassadors of the West Ham Academy. As a school we wanted to share our students' contribution to such an important act of remembrance.

Children in Need



November saw Rachel Pearce in Year 7 raise over £50 for Children in Need. Rachel had asked to arrange a cake sale in school, but due to current regulations she decided to bake cookies and sell them to friends and family outside school.

We were very impressed with her determination to do something to raise money and to support many worthy charities via Children in Need.

Well done Rachel!

KS5

Who to contact in the Key Stage 5 Pastoral Team

Pastoral Managers

Mrs Downey

c.downey@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Panayi

e.panayi@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Dunn

j.dunn@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Head of Sixth Form: Mr Cooke

a.cooke@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Black History Month Artwork



Two of our Year 12 students, Bryanna Benjamin and Annaliese Bimpong, have composed these two fantastic pieces of artwork for Black History Month.

Jack Petchey Award

The Jack Petchey Leader Award

We are delighted to announce that the Jack Petchey Leader Award has been won by Mrs Jenny Comerford, Deputy Headteacher. She was nominated by a number of staff and students and the award is very well deserved. Our heartfelt congratulations. Here are some extracts from the nominations from staff and students:

"Above all else, Jenny is wise. Kindness is her underpinning quality and everything she does is professional and considered."

"A school is built on strong foundations that allows staff to go about their everyday work with confidence in knowing they have the professional support of others. Jenny provides this support all of the time to each and every one of us."

"Jenny is an exceptional member of our school community, and one of the calmest, most measured individuals I have had the pleasure to work with."

"I have been honoured to work with Jenny."

"She has the best advice and always comes up with positive solutions for everything."

"Mrs Comerford has helped and supported me in so many ways."

"She's always around the school, a friendly face to talk to about anything you need...so thanks for all your love and care,"

"She manages to make an impact on everyone she works with."

Congratulations to Jenny Comerford – this award is incredibly well-deserved!

Sixth Form



Immam-Abasi Ikiddeh

Since joining Sixth Form Immam-Abasi has demonstrated exceptional self-motivation and compassion. Having achieved excellent results at GCSE in Year 11, he has continued to show commitment to his academic studies. Alongside he has volunteered his spare time to taking over the leadership of the Christian Union from a previous student who left at the end of last year. He has not been deterred when faced with the difficulties posed by social distancing in his efforts to unite students and without him this group, which benefits students from across the year groups, would not be possible. He has dedicated his time and patient determination to investigate how to run the group "remotely" taking initiative and responsibility for liaising with staff and recording encouraging messages and videos that are being sent to students/members of CU providing spiritual support.

He also trained as a Peer Mentor and has been supportive to a younger student in school. His mature approach and willingness to dedicate his free time and experience to benefit others is admirable and deserving of recognition.



Stephanie Harding 13HLU

Stephanie is an exceptionally diligent student, and prides herself on always giving of her best. She listens to her teachers and is always willing to go the extra mile. She has a mature attitude towards her family situation and offers support to her family. She has shown maturity in balancing the needs of others and her work. Irrespective of those challenges, responsibilities and uncertainties of the current climate, Stephanie has been a tremendous asset to Sixth Form. She is always positive and first to volunteer help where it is needed. Stephanie has been an excellent Senior Student Peer Mentor in Sixth Form and has always made a valuable contribution to the school community by supporting younger students. She has given up her free time voluntarily to share her experience with students who need somebody to talk to; she has shown empathy and supported students through challenging times, endlessly patient and understanding. Stephanie attended training to develop the specific skills necessary, which include good listening and communication skills as well as safeguarding of students. She has used these skills effectively and ensured that every student she has worked with enjoys their time at school and feels happy; she has demonstrated dedication and commitment throughout.

Year 9

We had a winner in Year 9 this half term – a huge congratulations to Charlie Kunkun, who was nominated by Mrs Toole. *'Charlie has been amazing, keeping positive and completing 95% of all work set right from the beginning. He even took school work home with him to complete as well as doing extended work too.'*

Sport Football

Shenfield Football Academy 1st Team 2020-21



Shenfield Football Academy triumph in the first ECFA Premier League Fixture

The Shenfield Football Academy first team finally played in their long awaited first league fixture on Wednesday against a very strong Ben Herd Pro Performance (BHPP) Football Academy side who are Hertford Town Youth Team. It was an intriguing fixture with both sides showing lots of quality and clearly having very strong programmes.

BHPP had lots of the possession, but our shape and tactical awareness were fantastic making SFA very hard to break down and causing problems on the counter attack.

The score was 3-2 to SFA at half time having gone 3-1 up and conceding a penalty in the last minute of the half.

An incredible second half performance from the boys saw SFA win the game 4-3. Mr Preston and Warren Fenton were very proud of every single player's application and effort levels to win an extremely tough game. We will have a very exciting season ahead if this performance is the level the boys can play at.

Goalscorers: Kailen Davey x2, Josh Wright, Max London.

Cricket

Shenfield Cricket Academy



Team photo December 2020