



SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Shenfield High School
Alexander Lane
Shenfield
Essex
CM15 8RY

T: 01277 219131
F: 01277 226422
E: shs@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Governors can be contacted through our clerk Karen Whordley at k.whordley@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Governor details can be found on the school website under governor information.

We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Jane Swettenham

On behalf of the governors of Shenfield High School

News from the Headteacher

I'd like to extend my congratulations to Mrs Costello on her appointment as Headteacher of Shenfield High School from September 2022. We are all looking forward to getting to know Mrs Costello when she visits the school in the Summer Term prior to taking up the post in the new academic year. I hope she enjoys leading this wonderful school as much as I have. I wish her all the very best.

We are saying goodbye to some colleagues at the end of this term. Farewell and good luck to the following members of staff:

- Mrs Lilley, our SEN Administrator, who is moving to a role in the NHS. Thanks for being part of TeamShenners.
- Mrs Hawkes, our receptionist who is going to become a wedding registrar. Mrs Hawkes has been part of our wonderful front of house team for over 15 years. We will miss her, but I am sure the couples getting married will benefit from her welcoming and supportive manner. We wish her well.
- Mr Springett, our Assistant Site Manager, is retiring after 20 years at our school. I'd like to thank Mr Springett for everything he has done along with the other members of the Site Team to keep the school running smoothly. We wish him well with all those projects and hobbies he will now be able to enjoy more fully now he will not have to get up at 4.30am to be here to unlock!
- Mr Taylor, Assistant Head, Inclusion and SENCO, who is moving to another Inclusion and Senco role in an Essex school. Mr Taylor has been at Shenfield for nearly 20 years and is known to many families in our community. Always welcoming and with expert knowledge, Mr Taylor has served the school very well and we wish him all the best as he progresses in his career.

Newsletter

Spring Term 1 – March 2022

News from the Chair of Governors

Governors are pleased to announce that Clare Costello has been appointed as the Headteacher of Shenfield High School from September. Clare is currently the Headteacher at Shoeburyness High School. We would like to congratulate Clare on her appointment and look forward to working with her.

Congratulations to Jo Gray who was elected as our newest parent governor following elections in February.

We very much enjoyed the school production of Shrek last week. So many talented young people and so much hard work that had gone into making the production a success.

Governors visited the CCF in February and had an opportunity to meet some of the cadets. The CCF is extremely popular with over 160 cadets. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities and Shenfield now has one of the largest CCFs in the country. Governors have also had the opportunity to meet with the student leadership team. We would like to thank students for taking the time to meet with governors and explain their leadership roles and the house system. Our students are wonderful ambassadors for the school.

The Essex Year of Reading

Mr Taylor and I have worked particularly closely this year as we have got involved in the Essex Task Force and the Essex Year of Reading, both of which are focused on post pandemic renewal and recovery. Through Mr Taylor's work, other schools have taken up a programme we use in Shenfield called Thinking Reading which supports students who are significantly behind in their reading to reach their chronological reading age and therefore access the secondary curriculum. The Essex Year of Reading was launched last month and a number of our students were involved in making a video. In addition, Dermot O'Leary and Frank Cottrell Boyce were both involved in endorsing the initiative. The links are below. Great to see our students involved, powerful to have endorsement, and all of this very much supports our view in our school that reading is the key to accessing the curriculum, as well as being life-enhancing. The Essex Year of Reading tag is 'where will your book take you?' and as Frank Cottrell Boyce says in his powerful message, 'with a book you are never alone.' Please click on the links below to find out more about the Essex Year of Reading. You can also download the Essex Year of Reading App.

Dermot O'Leary <https://youtu.be/tvzkbusvws0>

Frank Cottrell-Boyce <https://youtu.be/h5rwcoNC0S4>

School 1 <https://youtu.be/9qdWbldxf5k>

School 2 <https://youtu.be/ibJh4XztpCU>

School 3 <https://youtu.be/6cicyrbBUKo>

Do encourage your children to read and read widely – for pleasure, for information and to enhance their language skills. Our library is full of wonderful books, as are libraries across Essex. We support literacy and reading across our curriculum, whether it is explicitly through programmes like Bedrock, through the valuing of reading for information in all subjects, through the study of literature and through reading for pleasure. It really is the key to everything else.

Life at Shenfield

As you will see from other contributions to the newsletter, it has been a very busy term. It has been wonderful to see so much success in sport, and for us, once again, to have a whole school musical; back on the stage. Shrek was a wonderful show, performed with great exuberance and with lots of talent on display. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed the National Combat Cadet Competition. We've also had the Young Citizens Mock Trial and a number of internal speakers.

The final week of term also sees our Easter concert which, I have no doubt, will be equally enjoyable.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of our news.

Yours sincerely



Carole Herman
Headteacher

Attendance

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

attendance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

No drop-off of equipment at Reception please

We are a very big school and we are not able to accept items in Reception that students have forgotten to bring with them. Our Reception staff do not have the capacity to get belonging to students across the site. Please encourage your children to get themselves organised so that no one is inconvenienced. Many thanks.

Collecting your child when they are not well

When a child in the school is unwell, they should come to the First Aid Room. The First Aider will make a decision about whether the child should be sent home and will call a parent or carer directly.

Students are not allowed to use their phone on the school site between 8am and 4pm. If your child calls you and asks you to pick them up, please tell them to go to First Aid and speak to the member of staff there; do not come and pick them up. If a parent then needs to be informed, we can call from the school.

We do not endorse young people calling parents from the school site and asking to be picked up. This causes delay and confusion as we are unaware of what is happening.

Medication and Pain Relief

We only give pain relief between the hours of 11am and 2pm. This is so that the time allowed between doses is managed in line with manufacturer's instructions.

All medication and pain relief must be brought into school and handed in to Reception. This will then be held in the First Aid Room.

Students are not permitted to carry medication, pain relief tablets and over the counter medicines in their bags. The only exceptions to this would be an anaphylactic device, specific epilepsy medication or an inhaler.

Online Safety

If you've been following the news of late you might be aware of the proposed Online Safety Bill ([Draft Online Safety Bill - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/draft-online-safety-bill)) currently being debated in parliament. Elements of this draft have been through the house before but the proposals within this latest draft are potentially powerful developments in making it safer to navigate online spaces. In this addition of the Parent Newsletter we wanted to highlight two high traffic elements regarding online space, Gaming and Youtube.

Gaming

At just over 8 minutes in length Alan Mackenzie (Online Safety specialist) discusses the topic of online gaming and emphasise that whilst to some, gaming just means playing games, but to children it is quite different and there are 2 main reasons for this:

- The majority of children play games for socialisation - their friendship groups.
- A small number of children play games to escape something that is, or has, gone wrong in their lives. In other words, they use games as a coping mechanism.

<https://vimeo.com/487627625/3c5538740c>

Useful Links:

Gaming Hub - Lots of useful information here: gaming age guides, what you need to know, choosing the best games, setting limits and more:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>

Common Sense Media - If your child is asking you about a game and you're not sure, it's worth having a look on the Common Sense Media website where you can find advice and opinion about thousands of games.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews>

Taming Gaming - this is a brilliant resource for parents, with lots of useful information. The site is owned by a father who is a big gaming enthusiast.

<https://www.taminggaming.com/features/Curated+Lists+of+Amazing+Video+Games+that+Parents+Love>

YouTube

YouTube is an amazing and vast online resource, popular across generations. In this 7 minutes discussion, Alan explores what types of content is most popular with children and some of the risks and issues.

YouTube is supposed to be for children 13 years and over. If you're not aware there is another version of YouTube which is specifically for younger children, called YouTube Kids. Personally I'm a fan of YouTube Kids because there are some great parental controls that can be used. However, my children are much younger and the majority of content on YouTube kids is for very young children, so it's not a surprise to see younger children using the main YouTube service.

<https://vimeo.com/487628391/ac8070b8f0>

Useful Links:

Historically YouTube has only had one content filter available for parents, called Restricted Mode. There are now three, which allows parents to set a filter that is appropriate to the age of your child:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/supervised-experiences-for-families-on-youtube/>

If you're not aware of YouTube Kids have a look here:

https://www.youtube.com/kids/?gclid=CjwKCAiAn7L-BRBbEiwAI9UtkPejld9xRUimU5SXHIAwYM3U9XJ5WZtOrUB4fgTGhza8PS0K48tkuxoCiDYQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

YouTube moderation for parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YvIfw7obwE>

Pastoral Team

Who to contact in the Pastoral Team

Year	Pastoral Manager	Head of Year
7	Mrs Wood s.wood@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Miss Murphy a.murphy@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
8	Mrs Kalaitzis k.kalaitzis@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Acquah i.acquah@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
9	Mrs Hodgson-Wild a.hodgson-wild@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Miss Arnold t.arnold@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
10	Mrs Allen j.allen@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mr Chapman p.chapman@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
11	Ms East v.east@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Ms Dyson c.dyson@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 Downey c.downey@shenfield.essex.sch.uk	Mrs Knight a.knight@shenfield.essex.sch.uk
13	Mrs Panayi e.panayi@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](#)

KS3 - KS4

Summer uniform

For the summer term only, students from **Y7 to Y11** may wear their Shenfield polo shirts. These may be worn alone in warm weather or, if another layer is needed, with a Shenfield jumper and/or Shenfield blazer. Coats may be worn outside of course, but no other clothing worn over the polo shirt will be allowed. All other uniform requirements still apply.

KS5

Summer uniform

For the **Sixth Form**, boys may wear their shirt without a tie in the summer term only. Alternatively, they may wear a plain polo shirt. We will, however insist that

- 1) The polo shirt for sixth form boys is plain in colour, it may contain a small logo BUT SHOULD NOT have a logo that covers the entire top
- 2) Sixth form students will still be expected to wear their lanyard for identification purposes
- 3) Sixth Form boys will be expected to wear a collared shirt and tie from September to Easter

Important information

Trips, Visits and Events

A Shrektacular Shenfield Production



Early last week, Shrek burst onto the main hall stage here at Shenfield to three sold-out evenings.



Audiences were treated to a spectacular production, which included a giant dragon, a 14ft tower, and an exploding bird!

Rehearsals started back in October 2021, with the original performance week planned for back in January. We didn't let the postponement dampen our spirits, and our pupils demonstrated incredible resilience and determination to create an incredible show.



The Performing Arts Department is immensely proud of all the pupils. It was an absolute privilege to work with such talented and passionate pupils.

National Combat Cadet competition 2022



Shenfield High School CCF took part in the national Combat Cadet competition hosted by 7th Brigade at Stanford training camp in Thetford.



The team of eight cadets consisted of year 12 and 11 who battled over the weekend of the 18th March to complete a variety of combat tasks. The senior cadets challenged themselves mentally and physically and approached each activity with enthusiasm and as a team.



The cadets crawled through underground sewage pipes, carried out a house clearance, navigated their way using a route card and were praised on their outstanding section attack against the enemy.



All cadets were phenomenal and were awarded a bronze award. We look forward to competing next year.

External speakers from Axis Europe

Tuesday 8th and Tuesday 22nd February 2022 Y7 social science classes were given an interactive lesson via external speakers from Axis Europe.



We cannot thank Kellie Durey and her colleagues Vera O'Driscoll and Daniela Postolachi enough for the Life 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 five soft skills within the workplace and CV analysis were all discussed among our students.

Law Presentation – January 2022

Julian Beard, Rebecca Viola, Fran Clay and Aimee Jones from Sternberg Reed came along to Shenfield High School to meet with and present to those students in Y10-13 that have an interest in Law and the pathways within it.



Looking at their own personal career journeys within Law, including advice into small and large firms, qualifications and areas of study. Students received full explanations to their questions keeping it a casual affair led by students. All areas were discussed and students gained a greater understanding of how law has changed since the pandemic and where it could take our students if a future career in the industry was for them. Thank you very much Sternberg for your support and advice on this day.

Sternberg Reed
Solicitors

Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition – March 2022

Young Citizens is an organisation which seeks to teach young people about many aspects of society and the law. We entered a team of 11 pupils from y8 and 9 into this year's Mock Trial competition. The pupils are given a court case and then they take on roles of all those involved – the lawyers, the court staff, the witnesses, the defendant and the magistrates who will then decide if the person is guilty or not! The team have been rehearsing for three months one lunchtime a week, getting to know the case and acting out the way a real court case would work.



Shenfield Court Team

Izzy Hind, Ruby Mosedale, Keiya Fletcher,
Ria Gabriel-Smith, Jacob Burrow, Isla Montgomery, Aanya Patel, Chloe Man, Addie Murrell, Lily Durrant, Chase Sanders
Many thanks to Mr Sullivan for all his help

On Saturday 12th March, we went to Basildon Crown Court and acted out the case against seven other schools. The team were amazing in the way they stayed in role, remembered all we had learned back in school and most importantly, did it all with enthusiasm and excitement. Despite not winning overall, we were complimented on our speeches and performances in the witness box. Our defendant Alex was found not guilty and the whole team were allowed to leave as free citizens!

Sport

Shenfield has enjoyed many memorable sporting successes in its history, but the last month must match any period for success across a range of different sports.



Our U15 girls cricket team qualified for the indoor Essex Cup finals where they beat Becket Keys to face a very strong Felsted side in the final. Felsted had been crowned National Champions the last time this competition was held pre Covid so we were in for a tough game. Our girls lost the toss and batted first with Millie Rawlins, Katie Bailey and Amye Swinney all retiring as we made an impressive 89 runs from 8 overs. Felsted got off to a slow start due to excellent bowling from Emily Toolan and Kirby Jennings. Millie and Jess Winstone-Adair also bowled tight overs and were backed up with superb fielding from all the team. Felsted mounted a recovery with two overs remaining so the title would be decided in the last over. The Shenfield girls stayed calm and Katie Bailey bowled a good over taking one more wicket before they needed six from the final ball to win. Felsted could not manage it so Shenfield were crowned Essex Champions. This squad will now go on to represent Essex in the regional round of this National competition in May.

Our indoor athletics season saw all Year 7 and 8 boys and girls teams claim the Brentwood District titles. Sadly, Active Essex cancelled the Essex finals citing Covid concerns. However, our U12 and U14 athletes enjoyed competing at Lea Valley's impressive indoor athletics centre in a competition that attracts the best athletics schools across London and the surrounding counties. Across several rounds our U14 boys and girls made semi-finals with the girls missing out on the final by just 1 point. However, the U12 boys and girls performed incredibly to make it into the final from over

60 schools that enter. At the final Silva Tyler-Earnshaw ran an incredible 8.09 seconds in the 60m sprint to win gold as well as jumping 1.40m in the high jump. Zac Thomas came 3rd in the 800m and second in the long jump. Alfie Arkins threw over 8m in the shot putt to also finish in the top 3. In fact, all boys gained a personal best in their events to help the team to a 4th placed finish. An incredible achievement against the calibre of grammar and private schools we were competing against. Fixture congestion meant we rotated the girls squad so we could get the girls playing in their Essex Cup basketball semi-final and put a strong team out in the athletics. The girls won a tense basketball match and the girls at the athletics all achieved personal bests with Sophie Wiseman finishing 3rd in her 60m sprint.

The past month also saw our young cross-country runners perform well at the Essex Cross-Country championships. Poppy Horton, Zac Thomas and Charlie Eagle all earning selection to run for Essex at the inter-counties races this coming weekend.



Our U14 girls and boys badminton players also competed in the Essex championships with both teams finishing 3rd and 5th respectively, only beaten by Grammar School teams.



Meanwhile the basketball and football seasons have also been reaching the final stages. Our U14 boys lost out on a place in the Essex final to strong Westcliff GS team but we had four other teams make their respective finals. The U12 boys lost to St Thomas More but can be so proud of their progress this season and their commitment in the final. The U12 and U14 girls also played back to back finals at Great Baddow school earlier this week. Both games being incredibly close with the lead changing hands on several occasions. Both Shenfield teams had players get in foul trouble but having strength in depth meant players coming on to the court did not weaken our teams. That is testament to the hard work each player has put into the school practice sessions across the year. The defensive effort was also crucial to drying up our opposition's scoring threats. Again, both U12 and U14 girls teams shared the point scoring across several players as they went ahead and away from Baddow and Mayflower opposition respectively. Shenfield has won only one Essex Cup basketball title in the last six years (having lost four finals in the time) but thanks to our girls superb efforts they managed to claim two titles in 2 hours!

The U12 girls won by 9 points (55-46) with the U14 girls winning by 12 points (67-55) to be crowned Essex Champions.

ESFA National Cup Football:

Our Year 7 boys came back from 2-0 at half time to beat independent school Whitgift School 3-2 in a nail-biting National Cup semi final. Whitgift started the game on the front foot scoring an early goal from a corner and getting a second with a great long range strike just before half time. Our half time team talk was crucial and our Shenfield boys responded brilliantly scoring within the first 15 seconds of the restart. We kept the pressure on before scoring our equaliser soon after. We had numerous chances to win the game and finally the winning goal came 10 minutes from time. It was then time to defend with all our energy and stick together as a team. The boys showed so much resilience to hold onto the score line to make the National Cup Final in their first year together. We are so proud of their efforts and will give everything to bring the trophy back to Shenfield!

Our U16 girls have made yet another National Cup football final after beating Chesham school 3-1. Our girls have now made three consecutive National cup finals, winning 4-1 VS Crompton House in the 2018-2019 competition and losing 5-4 on pens after drawing AET in the 2019-2020 competition. Although this has almost become the norm for these girls, the level of

this success dominating girls' school football over the last 5 years at Shenfield is truly remarkable!

U12 Girls:



The day after their Essex Cup basketball triumph many of the same Year 7 girls took to the Shenfield Astro to play in the National Cup semi-final against Surbiton High School, a private school renowned for its girls football pedigree. Surbiton enjoyed lots of possession but it was Shenfield that looked the more likely to score with Maisie Brickell pulling the strings in midfield to feed Evie Whymark. Evie opened the scoring with an excellent strike from 15 yards. Shenfield had chances to extend the lead before Surbiton made their possession count with an equaliser. At half-time the girls were focussed and determined to retake the lead and that happened when an excellent cross by Poppy Horton was finished by Evie.

Evie completed her hat-trick 5 minutes later when she volleyed home after more good workout from Maisie.

Shenfield's defence then had to work tirelessly to keep out Surbiton who pulled a goal back to make it 3-2 with 5 minutes left in the game. Jess Scadden, Amanda Kayode both making key tackles to deny goal scoring chances while Keeper Ellie Gray pulled off one excellent save to her left. When the final whistle went the girls were jubilant but respectful to our excellent opponents.

We can't wait for all three National Cup final occasions and hopefully look forward to bringing lots of SHS pupils to a premiership/championship stadium to support our SHS teams at these National Finals.

Parents Association

You can contact the PTA for any of the above projects via:

Email: shspa@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

Twitter: [@shs_pta](https://twitter.com/shs_pta)

Or Facebook

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!