

# SHENFIELD

## HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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# SUMMER TERM 1

# MAY 2025

# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## News from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term, our focus has been on reward and recognition. It is essential we celebrate the achievements of our students, big or small. This commitment to acknowledging positive behaviour and academic success helps foster a supportive environment where students feel motivated to excel. It has been heartening to see so many students receiving accolades for their hard work and dedication.

This was especially so during our Year 9 and 11 awards evening. May the 1st saw the return of the Shenfield High School Awards Evening following a five-year hiatus. It was noticeable how so many of the citations spoke about the character of the award winners; their kindness, support for others and generally what good people they are. We were very proud of all of them.

As a staff body we are always full of mixed emotions at this time of the school year. As we prepare to say farewell to our wonderful Year 11 and Year 13 students, we are also full of excitement at the possibilities that a new cohort of students brings to the school community. Last week we held our Year 6 welcome meetings which marks the start of the transition from primary to secondary school for the new Shenfield High students.

We look forward to guiding them through this important transition, helping them feel confident and excited about their journey ahead. Each new cohort brings fresh energy and perspectives, and I am excited about what the future holds for our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Wishing you all a restful half term break.

Warm regards

*C. Costello*

Clare Costello  
Headteacher

Our **VISION** is to prepare our students to **EMBRACE** all OPPORTUNITIES and **FULFIL** all AMBITIONS.

**STUDENTS ARE KNOWN** and **KNOWN WELL** and **PREPARED** for a future of **LIFELONG LEARNING**.  
RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE READY

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# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



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## House Points Termly Results

						
SUMMER 1 2025	Running total	42,418	44,601	42,098	37,554	
	Termly difference	 6,052	 5,840	 5,495	 5,341	
SPRING 2 2025	Running total	36,366	38,761	36,603	32,213	
	Termly dif'	 9,429	 9,683	 9,367	 8,446	
SPRING 1 2025	Running total	26937	29078	27236	23767	
	Termly dif'	 7,564	 7,370	 7,411	 6,385	
AUTUMN 2 2024	Running total	19,373	21,708	19,825	17,382	
	Termly dif'	 9505	 11,418	 10,203	 8,474	
AUTUMN 1 2024	Termly	 9868	 10290	 9622	 8908	

## Summer 1 2025 results

### Total House Points

C-POINTS and KS4 CREDITS

31,709	33,026	31,397	28,612

TEAM COMPETITIONS

10,709	11,575	10,701	8942
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TOP FORM

4481	4735	4831	4382
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**Well  
Done!**

## RUNNING TOTAL

		44,601
		42,418
		42,098
		37,554

# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



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## A Night to Remember – Year 9 and 11 Awards Evening Success

On Thursday 1st of May, we proudly welcomed students, families, and staff to our Shenfield High School Awards Evening – a celebration of achievement, aspiration, and the strength of our school community. The event marked a triumphant return to this special tradition, and the response was overwhelming.

With nearly all invited students in attendance, joined by their guests, the hall was filled with pride, excitement, and a genuine sense of accomplishment. Awards were presented across a range of subjects and areas of school life, recognising academic excellence, resilience, leadership, personal growth, and the Shenfield Spirit.

A standout moment of the evening was the inspirational speech delivered by our guest speaker, Lily Dawson, who spoke passionately about staying curious and finding your own path in life. Her message resonated deeply with students and parents alike, reminding us that success looks different for everyone and that the journey is just as important as the destination. Her presentation can be read in the next article.

The evening was a brilliant success from start to finish — a recognition of not just individual achievements, but of the values we uphold as a school: respect, responsibility, and being ready to learn.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the night so memorable, and we look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition in years to come.

## Lily Dawson Alumni

*Good evening, everyone.*

*It's really lovely to be back here and to have the chance to share my journey with you. I could say the clichéd: 'Not too long ago, I was sitting exactly where you are now' but I won't. It's true but I trust that you all can guess than from my being invited back.*

*I'm a first-year law student at the University of Bristol, and it's everything I hoped university would be. But it's also been the result of years of learning, resilience, and hard work. The reason I've been invited here today is to share how I got myself where I am and what it was like in the hope that something in my story might resonate with you or help you shape your own aspirations into something that's right for each and every one of you.*

*Looking back at my time in school, I can honestly say that those were some of the most important years in shaping who I am. After I completed GCSEs, I studied History, English, and Physics at A-level, which may sound like a bit of an unusual combination. And yes — it was challenging at times. But that's exactly what I appreciated most about those subjects. A large part of how I got here is that I actually wanted to learn and tried to take every opportunity to do so. History taught me how to analyse complex ideas and see connections across time. English deepened my love for expression, language, and creativity. And Physics — though very different — taught me how to approach problems logically and methodically, even when they felt impossible at first (and, trust me, they almost always felt impossible, it's physics).*

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## Lily Dawson Alumni

Overall though, I don't think it's about what exactly you are learning but the way in which you take advantage of the opportunities given to you. It's about finding something you love and absorbing as much information and knowledge as you can. That is what gets you far; the teachers at this school recognised my determination and tried so hard to help me achieve the goals that I strived towards. That was what my time at Shenfield was like. Hard work supplemented by connections with peers and teachers. School was more than just lessons and grades — it was where I learned resilience, balance, and ambition. It was where I first really understood the value of hard work.

When I used to think about my aspirations and deciding the right path for me, I suppose I expected one big reason, filled with multiple layers and experiences that made who I am. I thought I'd discover what I wanted to do as a culmination of all of that. In reality, it wasn't like that at all. I didn't know what I was interested in or what I wanted to be for a long time. I knew that performing wasn't a stable profession so I looked for something that was. So, no, it wasn't this epic reason filled with grandeur and aspirational success like an ancient Greek hero's origin story, it was simple and grounded in what I knew I wanted personally. I guess it was luck that I ended up genuinely loving the subject I chose.

So when we fast forward to now, and I'm studying Law. It's intense — there's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that push me forward. But every challenge also feels purposeful. I continue to love law because I want to make a difference and the possibilities in this field are inspiring.

I'm still figuring out the exact path I want to take — whether it's becoming a solicitor or a barrister. And that's okay.

Aspirations don't have to be set in stone from day one. They change and fluctuate and forgiving myself for changing my mind has been a large part of my journey. What matters most is having that drive to keep moving forward. I know that as long as I keep working hard, staying open to opportunities, and believing in myself, I will get where I want to be — even if the route is unexpected.

If I can leave you with one message today, it's this:

Hard work really does lead to great things.

It doesn't mean never failing or never having doubts — I've certainly had both. But it means showing up every day, putting in the effort even when it's difficult, and trusting that those small steps add up. Your time at school, just like mine was, is full of opportunity. Every subject you take, every extracurricular you join, every conversation you have — all of it helps shape your future.

So aim high. Stay curious. Be resilient. And above all, believe that with determination and effort, you can achieve far more than you might even imagine right now.

Thank you so much for listening — and I wish you all the very best on your journeys ahead.



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We would like to congratulate our deserved winners of this prestigious award who embody our school values and demonstrate them continuously. They have been nominated by members of staff and below are extracts from their commendations.

*'The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and motivate young people across London and Essex by providing exciting projects and programmes for them to get involved in.'*

*We also recognise the outstanding achievements of today's young people by awarding them for their hard work and positive impact in their community.'*

*Awards mean different things to different people. The Achievement Awards are not solely for academic achievement – they may be used to recognise a personal triumph for someone who has faced a challenge, a young person who has pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone or it may be an opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of a team player.'*

<https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/>

Daisy W

"..... She is an outstanding role model to her peers, taking total responsibility for her work and learning .....to this she has committed herself to lots of extra-curricular opportunities at school, showing a clear sense of community and desire to fulfil her potential"

Thevindu G

".....he is the most diligent, hardworking and smiley young man you can meet. He is a real inspiration to us all"

Maisy R

".... Maisy is an ally to her friends, but also the wider school community and beyond. She thrives on challenge and, even when faced with unforeseen difficulties, she perseveres to overcome. She is a fantastic role model and exceptional member of our community, looking out for everyone, including staff....."

Oliver L

"... I believe he embraces the ethos and purpose of the scheme. .... He has embraced the opportunities offered at Shenfield High School and shows a clear sense of community."

Ava T

'.... she embraces the ethos and purpose of the scheme.....she has proven to be such a strong, focused student who throws herself into her work and extra-curricular activities. She is a hard-working student, excelling in her studies who always sets an example to others. She is an inspiration to all.'

Cara W

'.....She has proven herself to be an outstanding student who upholds the values we pride ourselves on as a school.....She is a strong, focused student who throws herself into her work and extra-curricular activities.'

**Well  
Done!**



# S H E N F I E L D H I G H S C H O O L



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## Year 10 Headteacher's Award

### YEAR 10 HEAD- TEACHER'S AWARD



To be eligible, students must:

Have 60+ KS4 credits

Have an average attitude to  
learning score of 3.2 or above

Write an application which is  
endorsed by a teacher of their choice

**DEADLINE  
FRIDAY 6TH JUNE**



Responsible Ready Respectful

## Exceeding Expectations – Postcards Continue to Soar

Our Exceeding Expectations postcards continue to go from strength to strength, with a record-breaking number being issued this week to recognise students who are going above and beyond in their learning.

This term alone, nearly 1,000 postcards are being sent out across all of Key Stage 3 - a clear reflection of the exceptional effort and attitude being shown by so many of our students across subjects.

Parents and carers should be on the lookout for these digital postcards in their inboxes, as teachers continue to highlight those who are demonstrating outstanding commitment, progress, or contribution in lessons.

A special mention goes to 22 students who will each be receiving six or more postcards from different subjects this week - an incredible achievement and a testament to their consistent hard work and focus across the curriculum.

The Exceeding Expectations programme is designed to shine a spotlight on the positive behaviours we value most - determination, curiosity, resilience, and a desire to succeed. We are thrilled to see so many students embodying these qualities and setting such a strong example for others.

Well done to everyone who has received a postcard this week - we are proud of you.



# SHEENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



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### Reward and Recognition

Over the course of the previous few weeks, you may have been aware of the very popular and successful recognition strategies in place for our students, particularly when demonstrating scholarly behaviours.

#### Seek and Celebrate

In the initial week of return, our senior leaders initiated a process whereby each classroom was visited every period of the day for the purpose of spotlighting the most positive scholarly behaviours on offer.

Through 'seek and celebrate' we were able to witness a wealth of fantastic teaching and learning, celebrating those students who embodied the schools values in their learning and added positive value to our classrooms.

The students listed were acknowledged on this occasion. Well done to:

Lexi A Year 7  
Chloe B Year 7  
Dimi B Year 11  
Scarlett B Year 9  
Olivia B Year 9  
Kavin B Year 8  
Alfie B Year 7  
Brooke B Year 7  
Maddison B Year 7  
Yasmin B Year 8  
Olivia C Year 10  
Harvey C Year 8  
Ruby C Year 9  
Beau-Lily C Year 7  
Sean C Year 7

Sean C Year 7  
Isabella C Year 8  
Isla D Year 7  
Mercedes D Year 7  
Maisie D Year 10  
Ellie D Year 8  
Emily D Year 10  
Sienna-Rose D Year 7  
Maddie D Year 9  
Ralph E Year 7  
Ollie E Year 11  
Sadie F Year 8  
Fleur F Year 7  
Fleur F Year 7  
Freya G Year 7

James G	Year 8	Hannah O	Year 8
Hayden H	Year 10	Angel O	Year 11
Frankie H	Year 9	Henry P	Year 7
Layla H	Year 10	Scarlett-Rose P	Year 10
Henry H	Year 9	Sophie P	Year 10
Lydia H	Year 7	Beabea P	Year 9
Betty I	Year 7	Charlie P	Year 8
Rosie J	Year 10	Charlie R	Year 9
Diana J	Year 8	Jake R	Year 7
Maisie-Jane J	Year 10	Tommy R	Year 8
Lizzie J	Year 10	Miguel SDBM	Year 7
Amber K	Year 9	Mila S	Year 9
Scarlett K	Year 7	Aimee S	Year 10
Maisey L	Year 7	Alarni S	Year 8
Robyn L	Year 7	Joseph S	Year 9
William L	Year 9	Anais-Lyra S	Year 7
Blake L	Year 8	Sofia S	Year 9
Chrissie M	Year 9	Charlie T	Year 8
Fredie-Lee M	Year 7	Ryan T	Year 9
Lily M	Year 9	Tjaart V	Year 8
Maisie M	Year 8	Olivia V	Year 7
Jhazzielle M	Year 9	Molly V	Year 9
Lottie M	Year 10	Ruby W	Year 8
Maisy M	Year 10	Eliza W	Year 7
Ruby M	Year 7	Annabelle W	Year 7
Amelia N	Year 10	Brandon W	Year 8
Georgia N	Year 8	Noah W	Year 9
Scarlett-Rose N	Year 7	Poppy W	Year 8
Nathan O	Year 8	Ava W	Year 9
Hannah O	Year 8	Daisy W	Year 9
		Henry W	Year 10





# S H E N F I E L D H I G H S C H O O L



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### Reward and Recognition

#### 5 Stars

Alongside senior staff recognition via 'Seek and Celebrate', the opportunities for students to be celebrated by their teaching staff has been extended through our '5 stars' initiative.

Each lesson, staff administered '5 star reviews' to their '5 stars' in the lesson. This incredible wave of positive recognition led to students being given the opportunity to win rewards through a prize draw containing the top 10% of the cohort.

Well done to the following students, who acquired outstanding totals across the 9 academic days this initiative took place:

Robyn L	Year 7	Alicia BA	Year 7
Tara S	Year 7	Henry D	Year 8
Benjamin B	Year 7	Flynn H	Year 8
Maddison B	Year 7	Lleyton A	Year 8
Cara W	Year 7	Harvey C	Year 8
Chloe B	Year 7	Blake L	Year 8
Brooke B	Year 7	Isabella C	Year 8
Eliza S	Year 7	Hannah O	Year 8
Anais-Lyra S	Year 7	Charlie T	Year 8
Lexi A	Year 7	Poppie G	Year 8
Alfie B	Year 7	Ollie T	Year 8
Eleni B	Year 7	Sophia G	Year 8
Isla D	Year 7	Perry N	Year 8
Jack P	Year 7	Reis O	Year 8
Charlie R	Year 7	Sophia S	Year 8
Lochlan S	Year 7	Zachary S	Year 8
Matilda G	Year 7	Mollie B	Year 8
Lydia H	Year 7	Angel D	Year 8
Araminta J	Year 7	Bobby M	Year 8
Sienna S	Year 7	Mitchell A	Year 8
Lucas V	Year 7	Phoebe B	Year 8

Katie J	Year 8	Lara B	Year 9
Alarni S	Year 8	Paige J	Year 10
Jake A	Year 9	Lilly PW	Year 10
Milly L	Year 9	Lacey W	Year 10
Daisy W	Year 9	Sophia L	Year 10
Joel A	Year 9	Livy S	Year 10
Amber K	Year 9	Mahith V	Year 10
Emme F	Year 9	Chloe C	Year 10
Scarlett P	Year 9	Sophie W	Year 10
Isabella-Brooke A	Year 9	Emily D	Year 10
Will F	Year 9	Belle F	Year 10
Dillon N	Year 9	Madison P	Year 10
Adisa R	Year 9	Sadie S	Year 10
Darcy C	Year 9	Ava T	Year 10
Sofia S	Year 9	Maddie A	Year 10
Rachel W	Year 9	Tegan B	Year 10
Amelie A	Year 9	Libbie B	Year 10
Mia G	Year 9	Lucy C	Year 10
Levi J	Year 9	Sonny F	Year 10
Jessica S	Year 9	Devon H	Year 10
Ruby T	Year 9	Stanley M	Year 10
Grace W	Year 9	Krishna P	Year 10
Ava W	Year 9	Charlotte S	Year 10



Well done to all students on their efforts and success throughout this half term. We hope to have more positive initiatives coming soon to recognise your value to our school community.

# S H E N F I E L D H I G H S C H O O L



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## SIXTH FORM

### Year 13 Leavers Day

On Friday 9th May, our Year 13 students gathered for their farewell assembly, led by Mr Cooke and Mr Bishop. While lessons will continue until the end of the exam period, this special occasion was a chance to reflect on and celebrate the students' two years in the Sixth Form.

The assembly featured heartfelt messages from staff, offering well wishes and words of wisdom for the future. Afterwards, the celebrations continued outdoors, where students enjoyed a range of sporting activities and ice cream in the sunshine - a fitting send-off on a beautiful day.

Well done to our Year 13 cohort. You've been an absolute pleasure to work with, and we wish you all the very best as you begin your exams and take the next steps in your journey.



## Oxford University Trip

Special thanks to Mr Churchill, one of our school Governors who attended St Peter's College and helped to organise the Oxford University trip.

Our day consisted of taking the minibus to a park and ride and then making our way into the city. We arrived early so took the opportunity to wander about the city in the glorious morning sunshine.

Having arrived at St Peters College for our introduction, we embarked on a few activities, learning about the admissions procedure and interview process. We were extremely fortunate to meet some of the student ambassadors attending the college who were all very welcoming and spoke about the lifestyle at the university.



We then went for a tour around the college and university to see what Oxford University has to offer including the Bodleian Library with the extensive collection of books and other materials as well as the college bar and gym.

After a delicious lunch in the grand dining room, students got to sit in on an academic taster session to see what being an Oxford student is all about. Students all got to attend a Q&A sessions that was extremely useful.

This has been a great experience for students to see whether Oxford is right for them in the future.



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## Geography Field Trips

On Friday 4th April, Year 11 geographers were eager to get out into the woods to explore and put their rivers knowledge into action.

Ahead of their GCSE exams they needed to investigate changing flood risk on a river, Loughton Brook in Epping Forest was the chosen site, due to its accessibility and proximity. Students visited the local field centre and were introduced to the local geology and got to see first-hand how a river starts its journey to the sea. From there, they set out to measure sites along Loughton Brook to calculate the flow of water and assess the flood risk of the surrounding area.

It was a great trip with excellent behaviour and sets the pupils in good stead for their upcoming exams, with practical knowledge to back up their classroom learning. Good luck Year 11!



Year 13 needed to get out into the field for one last day before their final exams and, after a discussion as a class, it was decided coasts was the area that they would most benefit from seeing and investigating in the real world.

On the 1st of May we set off for Walton-on-the-Naze, to investigate the impact of management decisions on the coast. Year 13 were able to put their desk-based learning into practical application and saw rotational slumping, cliff drainage and variable beach profiles to name but a few exciting things! There may also have been ice cream, which was appreciated by all.

We wish them all the best in their exams and the wider world beyond.





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## History Year 7 Interhouse Castle Competition

Year 7 students were very busy over the Easter holidays making their very own castles!

After studying the Norman Conquest earlier this year, students have learned all about how William the Conqueror was a famous castle builder. He built hundreds of motte-and-bailey and square keep castles, some of which are even local to us - Colchester, Dover and the Tower of London. You can see in their castle projects how these castles have inspired students in their creations.

As you can see, judging these will be tough! Winners will be announced after half term. Well done Year 7 and good luck!



Well  
Done!



# S H E N F I E L D H I G H S C H O O L



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## Barcelona Trip 2026

We now have approval for the next MFL trip, scheduled for February 2026. Arrangements are currently being made to offer the best deal that we can for parents/carers, and the best experience we can provide for our students.

If you are currently in Year 8, or in Year 9 or 10 and taking a language - look out for further information - we intend to start the sign up process and take deposits for places after the May half-term.



## MFL Awards Evening

It was a great pleasure for us to attend the KS3 and KS4 Awards Evening, and to celebrate the progress of our students, seeing them mature and grow since we first began teaching them. It was also important for us to recognise those quieter individuals in our subject area whose diligence and passion for the subjects are clear, even if they are not always the first to speak out in class - we appreciate the effort of our students, and we look forward to seeing just how far you can go!

## MFL GCSE and A-Level Speaking Exams

A big well done to all students in Year 11 and 13 who have already completed what is for many their first 'proper' exam in any subject this year.

It was clear that there was a significant amount of work and effort put in by students, and we were pleased and proud to see them achieve their potential despite the obvious nerves that come with the Speaking element of the exams.

We wish you the best of luck with the remaining papers, and know that you will do your very best to achieve well. Thank you for your hard work over the past two years.



## Maths Challenge

This half-term 120 students from Year 7 and Year 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, a problem-solving test sat by tens of thousands of students across the country.

55 of these students received either a bronze, silver or gold commendation certificate.

In Year 8, Zach C received our highest score and has been invited to sit a follow-on challenge in June.

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## Combat Cadet Competition 2025

Over the weekend of 4th - 6th April, Shenfield High School CCF and 2 staff officers travelled to Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, for the annual Combat Cadet competition run by 7 Brigade Cadet Training Team (CTT).



The competition section was led by RSM Pearce and SSgt Riches. The team arrived in high spirits ready for the competition. After lots of admin including issue of rations, ammunition and radios, the cadet Section Commander RSM Pearce and Captain Brooks headed off into a briefing to receive instructions for what lay ahead. The rest of the section and Major Maynard continued making ready and preparing/checking kit for the rigours of the next couple of days.

It was an early start (05:30am) Saturday morning as every team had to deploy to Beckingham Training Area and be ready to start the competition at 08:30am sharp. Points were lost for being late.

The team rotated through 3 phases over the entire weekend with 8 stands to complete in the next 36 hours, competing against 18 other cadet units from across the southeast region. The stands included a section attack, observation, skill at arms, navigation, house clearance, a casualty evacuation and a patrol lane. All the stands tested their communication, teamwork, leadership and military knowledge.

The team worked incredibly hard all weekend, winning one of the sections outright and coming away with silver medals at the final parade on Sunday, an improvement on our participation in previous competitions where we achieved bronze status. This is an amazing achievement when considering some cadet units train intensively for years specifically for this competition. It was a great competition and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.



## Live Firing Range Day

On Saturday 10th May, 26 Year 10-13 cadets, accompanied by CCF staff, embarked on a journey from the school to the MOD Farninghoe ranges between Colchester and Mersea Island for Live Firing and Marksmanship Training.



Upon reaching the ranges, the cadets engaged in several refresher shoots, where they took turns firing under the guidance of 7 Brigade Cadet Training Team (CTT) staff. Each section of the shoot involved a change in firing position, including prone supported, prone unsupported and kneeling, all requiring very different shooting disciplines and techniques, contributing to the overall assessment and final score. Notably, among the participants, Cadet Vemula achieved the best score for Year 10 cadets.



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## Why Join SHS Cadets ?

This is a question we are frequently asked by both students and parents, of both existing students and those parents planning for their younger children when choosing schools post primary, until recently we had just given a simple 'why not' followed by a brief overview and personal analysis of the short and long-term benefits that joining Shenfield High School cadets can offer.

We are delighted to be able to share the news that the University of Nottingham were commissioned by the government in 2016 to undertake an extensive and protracted research into the benefits that school-based CCF membership offers to young adults in academic Years 9-13 in the UK. The research and report were published in March 2025.

The overriding compelling message and outcome was that participation in cadets has a hugely positive impact on numerous aspects of school and personal life, including but not limited to self-belief, motivation, attendance, behaviour, resilience, attitude to learning and a clear indication that cadets become more successful as they transition into further education, careers and adulthood. This is supported by the new report which unequivocally demonstrates that being a cadet gives pupils an 'edge' in applications for college, university, apprenticeships and employment.

We are incredibly proud of the fact that we are one of only nine percent of state schools nationally that offer the opportunity to participate in a CCF within the school they attend, and the only local state school that has the added benefit of a CCF firmly embedded into the ethos of everyday school life at Shenfield High School.

We have included the link to the report for convenience and would urge you to take the time to read some if not all the research and findings.

University of Nottingham

'The Impact and Value of School-Based Forces in the UK'

<https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/institute-for-social-innovation-and-impact-cadets-report-2025.pdf>

## VE Day 80th Anniversary

Shenfield High School CCF senior cadets were invited to support The Mayor of Brentwood Cllr Mark Haigh and other dignitaries as they commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the brief ceremony included a short speech by the Mayor, readings and the raising of a VE Day 80 flag, followed by a short reception in the council office to reflect on the significance of the eighth decade anniversary and the sacrifices of those who served during WWII.



# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 2 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Year 10 - The Learning Hub

As our Year 11 students prepare to leave at half term, we're inviting Year 10 students to step forward and take full advantage of the Learning Hub — a dedicated academic space open to all year groups every day after school from 3 - 4pm.

The Learning Hub isn't just a quiet room - it's a structured, purposeful environment designed to support effective study and academic progress.

Here's what it offers:

- Silent zones for focused, independent revision
- Group study areas for peer collaboration
- Access to a teacher for support, guidance, and questions
- Computer access for online revision tools, coursework, and research
- Past papers and exam materials to practise and improve
- A calm, consistent routine to help build strong study habits

Many of our Year 11 students have made the Hub a central part of their preparation - and it's made a real difference. Now that space is opening up again, we want to see Year 10 students making the most of it.

If you're serious about getting ahead for next year, developing better study habits, or just want a quiet space to get your work done, the Learning Hub is for you. No sign-up needed - just turn up any day between 3 and 4pm.



## Brilliant Club Graduation

On Thursday 15th May, 13 of our talented Year 8 students visited the prestigious Courtauld Institute of Art in central London as part of their Brilliant Club graduation ceremony.

The visit marked the end of a challenging but rewarding programme, during which each student completed a 1,500-word university-style assignment on the question "What is War?" Impressively, every student achieved a university-level grade, with one pupil finishing just four marks short of a First!

The day included a fascinating tour of the university campus, an engaging Art History lecture on Edouard Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, and a formal graduation ceremony alongside students from six other schools.

It was a fantastic and inspiring experience, giving our students a glimpse into university life and a reminder of the exciting futures that lie ahead of them.

The students who graduated the programme are:

Lleyton A  
Oliver A  
Eva D  
Lily D  
Millie E  
Charles K  
Ronnie L  
Jessica M  
Jake M  
Hannah O  
Talia R  
Brandon T  
Poppy W



The Courtauld



# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Ski Trip – USA 2025

During the Easter holidays the school went on our first transatlantic ski trip to Waterville Valley and Cannon in New Hampshire (USA). We flew into Boston before making our way up to the resort.

The conditions were ok for the first two days, given that we were towards the end of the season, then on day three we had a full day of snow (also fancy dress day) making conditions for the rest of the week in Waterville amazing.

For the students who were learning to ski it was a great experience with nice wide slopes that were not busy. The progress made by students was incredible over the week and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We enjoyed lots of evening activities including going to a pizza restaurant and running a group competition for the quiz night and games nights, with Miss Thornhill's group winning. After skiing, we headed back towards Boston for a night going via the Mall of New Hampshire, to the hotel before the Boston Red Sox's Tour which was incredible to see. Such a fantastic trip, we will be back to the USA soon for another ski trip in a few years time.

Ski Trip 2026 is now out and available on ParentPay if you are interested. We are going to Les Deux Alps in France during Easter again which is a glacial resort so guaranteed snow even that late in the season.

Highlights video is available to watch on the following link [https://youtu.be/6Y\\_sd8QM6RA](https://youtu.be/6Y_sd8QM6RA) and the X account for the ski trip where we posted photos and videos of the trip is @shenfieldski





# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



**SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Performing Arts

### Junior Performing Arts Academy

This half term our JPAA students, along with our Year 10 Tech Award Dance students, had the fantastic opportunity of taking part in a "Mean Girls" choreography workshop with a member of the current West End cast.

The students spent 2 hours exploring choreography from the West End show they did an incredible job, showing such focus and professionalism throughout. The workshop leader was blown away by the talent of our students and we were very proud of them.

After the workshop we took the students up to the West End to see a matinee performance of the "Mean Girls", which we all loved!



## JPAA Showcase

Our JPAA students have also enthusiastically taken part in auditions for the choreography, singing, and acting competition, with successful performers earning a slot in the highly anticipated JPAA Showcase.

The event was a true celebration of the diverse talents within our student body, featuring an impressive range of performances—from Irish dancing and contemporary routines to hip-hop comedy-drama, piano playing, and vocal solos. The competition highlighted not only the creativity and dedication of our students but also the incredible variety of their skills.

Congratulations to everyone who participated. Tickets for the JPAA Showcase are available to purchase via ParentPay.

## Lower School Play

Rehearsals for this term's Lower School Play are in full swing, with our talented Key Stage 3 students bringing the magical world of The Wizard of Oz to life - this time with a unique twist. Audiences can look forward to a creative adaptation featuring six Dorotheas and five Scarecrows, offering fresh perspectives on the beloved classic. An impressive cast of 60 students is involved in the production, many of whom have been generously dedicating their lunchtimes and after-school hours to rehearsals. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork. Tickets are now available to purchase via ParentPay - we look forward to welcoming you to the show!



# SHEENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Sixth Form Theatre Academy

On the 8th May we finally had our Professional performance evening at The Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch.

Their performance was nothing short of outstanding - a true display of professionalism, talent, and passion.

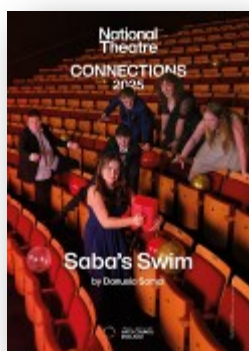
I was incredibly proud to watch them take to the stage with such confidence and creativity. Their commitment to their craft continues to amaze us and they represented the Drama department with the highest standard of excellence. They truly are remarkable ambassadors for our school.

The performance was a huge success, fingers crossed we are selected for the final National Performance at The National Theatre itself in July!

Below are some of the comments from our parents in the audience:

*"The 8 students on stage were complete superstars last night - I loved the way they all worked together as a group and they and you should be very proud of their achievements. I was extremely proud of all of them and wouldn't have missed it for the world"*

*"They are a wonderful bunch of young people. Their performances were fantastic. Thank you for giving her this opportunity. She hadn't appeared on a big stage before and thoroughly enjoyed it."*



## Year 11 GCSE Drama and Tech Award Dance

As the academic year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 11 drama and dance students. Having now completed their courses, these talented young people have shown unwavering commitment, creativity, and resilience throughout their studies.

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach such a hard-working and dedicated group. Their passion for performance, willingness to support one another, and determination to succeed have been truly inspiring.

We have no doubt that these students will go on to achieve great things, both in their upcoming exams and beyond. We wish them all the very best of luck and look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Our **VISION** is to prepare our students to **EMBRACE** all OPPORTUNITIES and **FULFIL** all AMBITIONS.

**STUDENTS ARE**  
We strive to ensure our **KNOWN** and **KNOWN WELL** and **PREPARED** for a future of **LIFELONG LEARNING**.  
RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE READY

**Well  
Done!**

# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Celebrating the Arts



Lower school production



GCSE and A' Level artwork

On the 8th July, 2025 we are very excited to be hosting two major events to celebrate the amazing creative and artistic talents of our students. If you have been lucky to visit previous shows at Shenfield High School, you will know the professional standard of the students' work and the dedication they apply. If not, we truly believe it is worth seeing. We look forward to seeing you there.





# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Year 11 and Year 13 Art Exhibition

**BRENTWOOD  
ART TRAIL  
2025**

Find our art on display here!

brentwood connected

Brentwood | Shenfield | Ingatestone

**31 May – 29 June**

Enjoy art from talented local artists in pop-up galleries and take part in creative activities in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone

FREE BRENTWOOD ART TRAIL EVENT DAYS (10am – 4pm)  
Saturday 31 May – Brentwood  
Saturday 7 June – Shenfield  
Saturday 14 June – Ingatestone

We are incredibly proud to be exhibiting a selection of Year 11 and Year 13 work at Brentwood library as part of the Brentwood Art Trail.

We have also been given the opportunity to extend the exhibition of our student's work until the end of July so there will be lots of opportunity to view their amazing work.



For more information, visit [brentwoodarttrail.co.uk](https://www.brentwoodarttrail.co.uk)  
 @DwdArtTrail Brentwood Art Trail DwdArtTrail

## 2025 Teacher of the Year Award

**RED OAK  
SCHOOL WEAR**

**2025 TEACHER  
OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**

Do you know an amazing primary or secondary school teacher?  
Here is your chance to say thank you! ❤️

**How to nominate your teacher?**

- Simply complete the nomination form and send to: [competitions@redoakwear.co.uk](mailto:competitions@redoakwear.co.uk). You can enter more than once.
- We'll shortlist the Top 5 finalists and then it's over to the public to vote and decide on the winner.
- We will announce the winning teacher on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**DEADLINE**  
MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION FORMS BEFORE 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

[www.redoakwear.co.uk](http://www.redoakwear.co.uk)

Red Oak School Wear are excited to announce they are launching their Teacher of the Year Award – a wonderful opportunity for parents and pupils to celebrate and recognise the incredible educators who make a lasting difference every day. Nominations are now open.

If a parent or student would like to nominate, simply complete the nomination form which can be found here:

<https://www.shenfield.essex.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/2025-Red-Oak-School-Wear-Teacher-of-the-Year-Nomination-Form.docx>

and send it to: [competitions@redoakwear.co.uk](mailto:competitions@redoakwear.co.uk)

# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



## SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

### Holiday Activities

[www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk](http://www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk)



### May Half Term Camps

"Four days of Fun at SIX amazing venues. All with amazing indoor & outdoor facilities"

#### Essex

Colchester  
Chelmsford Shenfield



#### Suffolk

Ipswich  
Bury St Edmunds Woodbridge

Tues 27th - Fri 30th May 2025

£45

PER DAY

Schools Out Schedule	EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025			MAY HALF TERM 2025						SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025					
	WEEK 1 Mon 7 - Fri 11 April	WEEK 2 Mon 14 - Fri 17 April	WEEK 3 Tue 17 - Fri 30 May	WEEK 1 Wed 27 - Fri 31 July	WEEK 2 Mon 28 July - Fri 1 Aug	WEEK 3 Mon 5 - Fri 8 Aug	WEEK 4 Mon 12 - Fri 15 Aug	WEEK 5 Mon 19 - Fri 22 Aug	WEEK 6 Tue 26 - Fri 29 Aug	WEEK 1 Mon 27 - Fri 31 July	WEEK 2 Mon 28 July - Fri 1 Aug	WEEK 3 Mon 5 - Fri 8 Aug	WEEK 4 Mon 12 - Fri 15 Aug	WEEK 5 Mon 19 - Fri 22 Aug	WEEK 6 Tue 26 - Fri 29 Aug
Shenfield High School Breakfast Club BRY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The discount code for Shenfield High School students is **SHENFIELD15** and you will receive 15% off childcare.



### Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



Sunday 25th & Tuesday 27th May

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS

Book Now



[Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

There will be opportunities for families to get involved in history trails around the museum, spot hazards in our fire safety room, partake in craft activities and a sit on our fire engines (and squirt water).

The museum is free entry (but visits are by appointment only.....as we are on the site of an operational fire station).

If families are interested, could they please make a booking via Eventbrite.



# SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Subject Leaders Contacts

English	Mrs Whitfield <a href="mailto:s.whitfield@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">s.whitfield@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Maths	Mr Russell <a href="mailto:p.russell@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">p.russell@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Science & Engineering	Dr Pope <a href="mailto:g.pope@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">g.pope@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
History	Mr Thorpe <a href="mailto:t.thorpe@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">t.thorpe@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Geography	Mr Springett <a href="mailto:h.springett@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">h.springett@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
MfL	Mr Shaunak <a href="mailto:a.shaunak@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">a.shaunak@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
PE	Mr Hall <a href="mailto:m.hall@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">m.hall@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
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Performing Arts	Miss Sherwood <a href="mailto:e.sherwood@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">e.sherwood@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Music	Mr Willsher <a href="mailto:p.willsher@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">p.willsher@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Computer Science	Mrs Shaunak <a href="mailto:k.shaunak@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">k.shaunak@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Business & Economics	Mr Shearing <a href="mailto:b.shearing@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">b.shearing@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Media & Film	Mr Sheriff <a href="mailto:m.sheriff@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">m.sheriff@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Food	Mr Costello <a href="mailto:r.costello@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">r.costello@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>

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

[attendance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk)

Absence can also be reported via Edulink



[shs@shenfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:shs@shenfield.essex.sch.uk)

## Pastoral Team Contacts

Year	Pastoral Manager
7	Miss Smalling <a href="mailto:k.smalling@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">k.smalling@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
8	Mrs Allen <a href="mailto:j.allen@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">j.allen@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
9	Ms East <a href="mailto:v.east@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">v.east@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
10	Mrs Hodgson <a href="mailto:a.hodgson@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">a.hodgson@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
11	Mrs Kalaitzis <a href="mailto:k.kalaitzis@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">k.kalaitzis@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
12/13	Mrs Downey <a href="mailto:c.downey@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">c.downey@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>

Year	Head of Year
7	Miss Arnold <a href="mailto:t.arnold@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">t.arnold@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
8	Mr Chapman <a href="mailto:p.chapman@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">p.chapman@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
9	Mr Fletcher <a href="mailto:m.fletcher@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">m.fletcher@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
10	Mrs Toland <a href="mailto:a.toland@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">a.toland@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
11	Miss Emms <a href="mailto:c.emms@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">c.emms@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
12	Mr Macdonald <a href="mailto:j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
13	Mr Bishop <a href="mailto:t.bishop@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">t.bishop@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>

KS3 - 4 Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Walker <a href="mailto:j.walker@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">j.walker@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Student Services	Mrs Purbrick <a href="mailto:l.purbrick@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">l.purbrick@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Assistant Headteacher	Mr Poole Behaviour and Attendance <a href="mailto:t.poole@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">t.poole@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>

Head of Sixth Form	Mr Cooke <a href="mailto:a.cooke@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">a.cooke@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Mr Macdonald <a href="mailto:j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">j.macdonald@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
KS5 Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Dunn <a href="mailto:j.dunn@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">j.dunn@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>

Safeguarding Team	
DSL	Mr Bolitho <a href="mailto:n.bolitho@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">n.bolitho@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>
Deputy DSL	Mrs Nelson <a href="mailto:s.nelson@shenfield.essex.sch.uk">s.nelson@shenfield.essex.sch.uk</a>



# S H E N F I E L D H I G H S C H O O L



SPRING TERM 1 - MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTION COLLABORATION

## Charity Cake Sale

Thank you so much to everyone involved in our charity cake sale. We raised £120! All money raised will go to Brentwood Mind, Mental Health Charity.

A special mention to Phoebe B, Year 10 who arranged the whole event and hosted the sale in South Hall.

Well done and thank you again.



## School Term Dates 2025—2026



Please keep up to date with school events by visiting our website at:-

[School Event Calendar](#)

## Key dates Summer Term 2

Date	Event
26 - 30.05.25	JSA Sports Tour 2025 : Madrid
02.06.25	Summer Term 2 starts WEEK A
25.06.25	JPAA Showcase 6:30pm
26.06.25	New Entrant Information Evening 6:30pm
27.06.25	Year 6 Induction Day
03.07.25	Summer Music Concert 6:30pm
05 - 12.07.25	CCF Summer Camp
07.07.25	Year 9 Career Option Day
08.07.25	Lower School Play 6:30pm
08.07.25	Art Exhibition 3:30pm - 7:00pm
11 - 17.07.25	Year Team Rewards and Reward Trips
13 - 28.07.25	World Challenge
14 - 15.07.25	Year 10 Mock Interviews
17.07.25	Sports Day
18.07.25	Last day of Summer Term : Students finish at
21 - 22.07.25	INSET Days

READY  
TO  
GO  
7

Year 6  
Induction Day  
27.06.25



Wishing everyone a wonderful  
half term holiday.