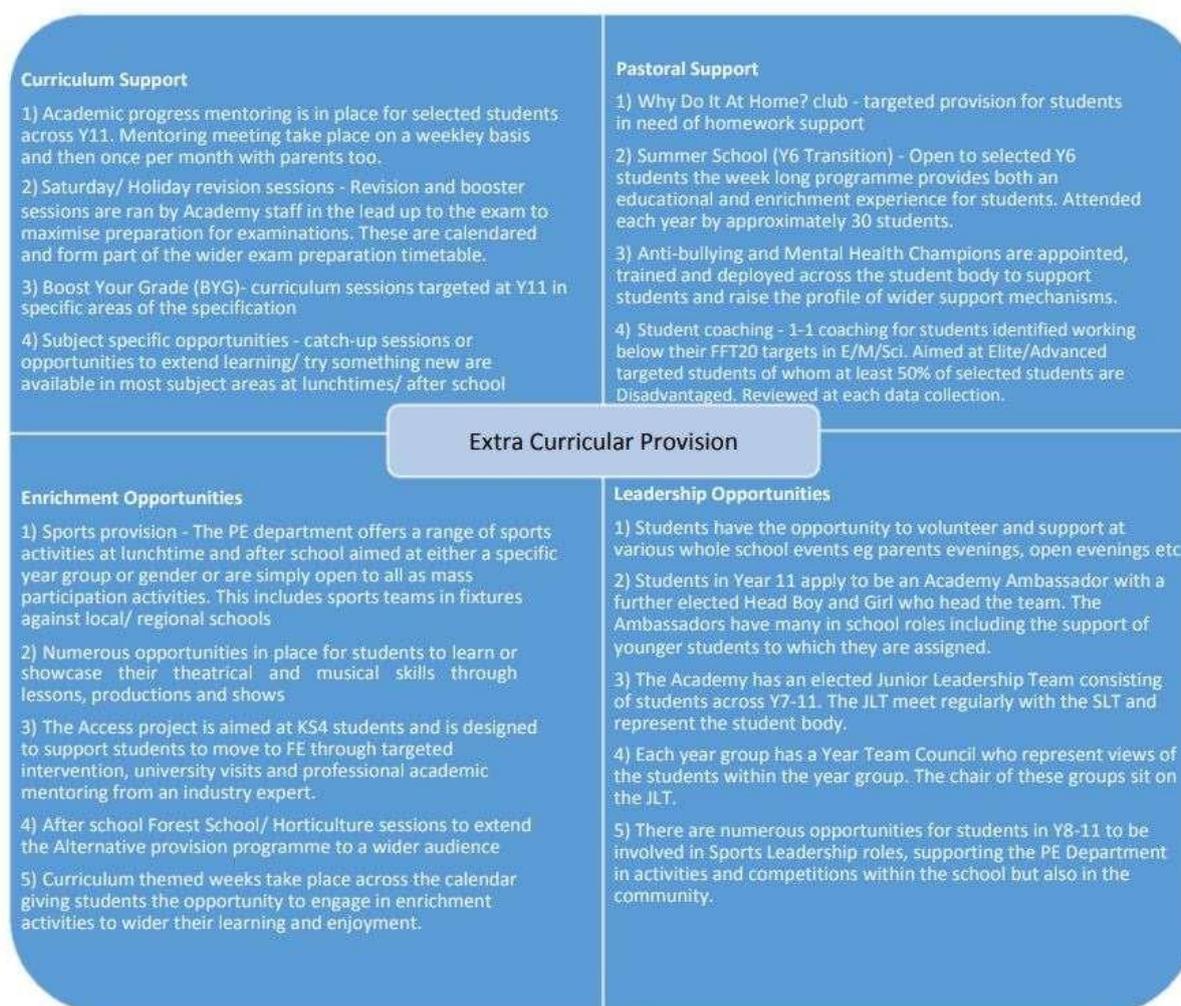


The Co-curriculum at Shirebrook Academy

The Shirebrook Academy Curriculum aims to make learners work ready, life ready and ready for further study. The curriculum is split into two distinct areas, the taught curriculum and the co-curriculum.

The co-curriculum, i.e. the extra support, activities and opportunities for students outside of regular lessons, is equally as important at Shirebrook Academy as the regular taught curriculum. It is through the co-curriculum that students have opportunities to follow a passion, grow as a person, receive extra support or be recognised by staff by being a role model or ambassador.

We offer a four-fold programme of co-curricular provision –



September 2019 Update

Personal Development

Talk the Talk is a charity providing students with workshops to develop oracy skills. In the summer term of 2019 all of Y9 and Y10 had full day workshops (funded by the **DANCOP** raising aspirations initiative). During the day students learnt about how to project their voices, how to present confidently, and how to articulate their own skills and achievements – vital preparation for future interviews and employment. Students noticeably gained in confidence from the start of each day to their final presentations and even the most hesitant were able to speak in front of their peers with encouragement and support from the trainers. A very worthwhile event.

PE Department

In July the sun was shining, the music was pumping and the PE staff were dancing for our annual **Sports Day**. The morning saw the completion of the field events day with excellent performances including –

- Year 10 - **Emmie Lynch** broke the shot put record with a distance of 8.43 metres, **Imogen Mahan** set a new record in the 1500m with a time of 7.11 minutes and **Kelsie Brocklehurst** now holds the Y8 and Y10 girls long jump record with a distance of 3.97 metres.
- Year 9 - **Emily Jepson** added to her Y8 record by setting a new Y9 girls discus record with a throw of 20.74 metres and **Ellie Cheeseman** set a new record in the triple jump with a distance of 8.70 metres.
- Year 8 - **Isabelle Corbett** set a long jump record last year but switched to the triple jump this year and smashing the record by over a metre with a distance of 9.20 metres.
- Year 7 - **Jordon Savoury** beat the long-standing shot putt record by over half a metre setting a new distance of 9.93 metres.

The afternoon session brought the whole school out to cheer on their peers in the track events. The star of the afternoon was Year 10 **Ben Madeley** who set a new 100m record of 11.80 seconds meaning Ben now holds the Y8 and Y10 record over that distance.

Also in July, Shirebrook took a full KS3 athletics teams to Mount St Marys for the annual **District Athletics** competition. This year was a hugely successful year for the Academy with The Year 7 team finishing 2nd and both the Year 8 and 9 teams becoming the **District Champions!** Individual standout performances were by **Keane Darby** and **Isabelle Corbett** who broke the District record for long Jump, **Emily Jepson** setting a new District discus record and **Stash Janczar** setting a new District javelin record. Shirebrook Academy were crowned **District Champions** for 2019

On Tuesday 9th July, Shirebrook represented Bolsover District at the **Derbyshire Summer Games**. This was the 7th annual event which was originally set up on the London 2012 legacy. The day allows students to experience an 'Olympic' event with an opening ceremony, an oath and medal presentations. Shirebrook Academy had qualified to represent Bolsover District in 3 out of the 4 sports – which was our highest total to date! Our **Go Ride Team** had a gruelling schedule which pushed some of our fittest students to the limits! Incredibly, the academy finished **5th in the County!** Although our Qaudkids team didn't not finish on the podium, they were awarded the '**Spirit of the Games**' accolade, which highlighted the fantastic attitude they applied to all the events throughout the day. Our **SEND cricket team** finished in **2nd place** – only narrowing missing on the gold medal by 6 runs!

During PE week students were joined by **Commonwealth Silver Medallist Laura Samuel**. Laura gave an inspirational talk about her journey through elite sport, about the importance of commitment, dedication and resilience. The students were then put through their paces in completing a gruelling circuit with Laura. Participating students raised over **£1000** for charity.

Arts Department

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, the Arts department at Shirebrook Academy went interstellar this year for their annual **Arts Week** with the theme of **Space(d)**.

The atrium was transformed by a suspended hand-made solar system, space rocket, stars, astronaut, banners and murals. The lesson bells were changed to play spaced themed music including Ricard Strauss, The Beastie Boys and of course, David Bowie. During form time students were encouraged to engage in a competition to make **eco-friendly scrap paper origami rockets** and **space sculptures** using nothing but rubbish.

The week also featured an array of events and activities organised by the department, beginning on Monday with the creation of our space themed **well dressing**. This ancient Derbyshire tradition was given a modern twist with a science-fiction scene created using natural materials set in clay.

On Tuesday our talented art teachers and students began a **large-scale alien inspired artwork** in the atrium entitled 'Atrium 51', the students were fascinated to see the eerie scene come to life as the piece developed.

Wednesday saw a plethora of activities and performances; at lunch the artwork continued, accompanied by an unusual soundscape - **Steve's Reich's Pendulum Music**, this experimental composition is performed by manipulating electronic feedback by swinging microphones suspended over speakers. Whilst we don't expect it to be in the charts any time soon it certainly added to the spacey atmosphere! Wednesday evening featured our

Summer Showcase Concert and Art Exhibition, our talented Shirebrook musicians performed brilliantly to a large and appreciative audience of parents and members of the community.

Our **science** teachers joined in the festivities on Thursday by running an **astronomy session** on the field using special filters to observe and track sun spots. Meanwhile our special guest DJs were spinning the disks in the diner and taking spaced-themed requests.

The week drew to a close on Friday with a special **eco-friendly percussion workshop** where students built **Taiko drums** using old car tyres and parcel tape before composing rhythms to perform as an ensemble at break time.

The instruments sounded fantastic and were played expertly by our **year 7 percussionists**. Friday lunch featured an impromptu **jazz-fusion performance** by our music teachers followed by an exceptional contemporary dance performance by Shirebrook alumni **James Murphy** and local dancer **Lucinda Buckley**. Their self-choreographed pieces wowed the large number of students who gathered to watch.

Humanities Department

At the beginning of July, thirty-six **Y9 and Y10 students** attended a trip to **Krakow**. The trip was a phenomenal success, and the students were a real credit to the academy. Visits were taken to **Auschwitz**, which was hugely emotive and culturally enriching. We also visited Schindler's factory, Krakow Castle and the awe-inspiring Wieliczka Salt Mines, a whole city built out of salt, 100m below the ground. Time was also taken to soak in the atmosphere of the beautiful medieval city of Krakow.

Additional activities

On Saturday 29th June the community of Shirebrook came together for the 7th Annual **Family Fun Day**. The day, which was the hottest day of the year, saw a raft of entertainment for all of the family. The Academy funded most of the activities which saw Willow Tree Farm host a petting zoo, Pony Rides provided by Clip Clop Ponies, a Falcon experience, a number of inflatable activities for children of all ages including traditional bouncy castles along with favourites such as laser quest, a climbing wall and a rodeo bull along with new items such as football darts and crazy golf. Musical entertainment was provided by many of our own students including the Wind Band and River Hopkins from Y9 who did an outstanding set, but this year we also provided a professional touch with acoustic guitarist and singer Dylan Dale. Also on stage were local dance troop Harlequins School of Dance who wowed the audience with a number of dances. Many other activities took place along with trade stalls from local business and educational agencies. The day was a huge success and enjoyed by all who came.

On Monday 8th July Shirebrook Academy welcomed over 180 new students into Year 7 via our **two day transition programme**. After their first year group assembly with Mr Cottingham and Miss Rodbourne (Head of Year) they spent the day taking part in activities to help them settle into the Academy. On Tuesday 9th July the students took part team building activities using the Academy's Pine Cone facilities. Working in form groups they took part in orienteering and team challenges, designed their form logo and went bug hunting to overcome their fears!

On the 12th July we held the annual **leavers prom** at Chesterfield's **Proact stadium**, throughout the year the students raised money to ensure that the prom was a success, they raised in excess of £500 meaning that they were able to have extras as the prom such as a professional photographer, photobooth and back drop. The prom was well attended by over 100 students and staff alike. The event was very well received with positive feedback from staff and parents, an excellent way to cap and excellent year for this cohort

The last day of term saw the return of our annual talent show **Shirebrook's Got Talent**. The show took it up another gear with its professionalism, thanks to new lighting purchased last year. This year we had more variety than ever, with magic and live drawing in the line-up. We have so many talented students but singers are usually the ones that dominate the competition. This year was no exception, with **Gracie Dexter** winning the show with her rendition of Lewis Capaldi "Hold Me While You Wait". This was a particularly awesome win as Gracie had overcome massive fears and insecurities by auditioning. This process, the practicing and working with staff, gave her the confidence to perform at the Music Showcase event. She stole the show and was a worthy winner. As always a massive thank you needs to be extended to staff, who indulged another crazy staff performance idea and agreed to be filmed driving round the car park and the local area in our own episodes of **'Carpool Karaoke'**. Another great show – here's to the next!

On 21st-23rd June, led by our Alternative provision team, our amazing **Everest Challenge** students continued their mission to climb a total height greater than Everest by climbing **Snowdon** and **Garnedd Ugain** in Wales. It was extremely challenging as it is a tough climb and it was a very hot day but the students were amazing and once at the top, were rewarded with amazing views. The red arrows even flew over. After climbing both peaks, we returned to camp for a well-earned rest. The following day the whole group rode the world's fastest zip line, the **Velocity 2** at Penrhyn Quarry and later the **Forest Coaster** at Zip World Forest. The levels of determination, perseverance, resilience and courage shown by these students over the weekend was truly outstanding and we were very proud of them all.

On 4th July our fantastic **Alternative Provision Department** held their annual **celebration event** to recognise the achievements and success of all students who had engaged in AP over the course of the year. This year we held the event at the Pinecone area which gave our parents and carers the opportunity to look around the site where most of our AP take places. It was lovely to see so many faces there to join the celebration and to appreciate the fantastic opportunities given to our students at the Academy. Next year we hope to make the event even bigger and better.

June 2019 Co-Curriculum Report

Despite the term being extremely busy in preparing Y11 students for their final GCSE examination, there has still been a raft of co-curricular opportunities for our students, summarised below -

Personal Development

Since Easter the following co-curricular activities have taken place led by our thriving PD Department

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- Sheffield University Achievement Awards – Students achieved an Award from Sheffield University in recognition of them achieving 95% attendance and punctuality across KS4, completion of a successful work experience placement and attendance at a careers event. Over ninety-nine students achieved the award in total, and thirty of these attended a presentation evening with their parents at the University Octagon Centre – a lovely evening to celebrate achievements alongside Y11 from other schools. Millie James and Jonathan Hallows were awarded ‘Achievers of the Year’ for standing out from the crowd in terms of attitude and motivation to succeed.
- Thirty Y8 students attended a day at the University of Sheffield as part of the HEPP project.
- Twelve Y10 students visited Chesterfield Magistrates Court and sat in the public gallery to watch a real life trial – fascinating for students interested in legal careers.
- The Y9 Junior Leadership Team representative Zoe Hodgson invited Guide Dogs for the Blind to deliver an assembly as part of a fundraising campaign. Zoe is also planning some fundraising activities as part of Family Fun Day.
- Two Foundation Learning students with additional learning needs visited West Notts College in order to become familiarised with a college environment. Students joined in with foundation learning classes

PE Department

On 11th June, a group of our talented dancers and gymnasts travelled to Aston Academy along with our musicians to perform as part of the first ACET Performing Arts Showcase. The performers were from Year 7-10, wowed the audience with a ‘Monster mash-up’, a lyrical piece to ‘Say Something’, a modern dance to ‘Power’, a acro duet to ‘1000 years’, as well as a gymnastic solo from Beth Freeman and an upbeat street dance by a Year 7 dance group. A fantastic evening of talent.

Throughout the term the PE Department continued to organise a large range of sporting fixtures. In May and June they had a total of 15 sports fixtures including Cricket, Football, Rounders, Athletics, Cycling and Quad kids. Our Y7 Quadkids athletics team qualified to the County Finals along with the KS3 Cycling team having won the District competition. The County Summer Games will be held at Mount St Marys on Tuesday 9th July.

The PE department continued to offer a large number of leadership opportunities for students across the Academy. This term five of our students have continued to complete their Level 1 and Level 2 Sport Leadership Qualification and there has also been 10 leadership events involving over 30 Y9 & Y8 sports leaders from the Leadership Academy which has now included events in Kwik Cricket, Football, KS2 Athletics events and SEN festival to name just a few. In addition, 6 Y8 Girls have invited to attend the YST Young Leaders Conference at Loughborough University and St George’s Park during the first weekend of July. This is an excellent opportunity for the girls who will be learning valuable leadership skill, networking with other young leaders as well experiencing the fantastic facilities which the two prestigious sports venues has to offer.

We’ve also been working closely with local sports provider to extend the opportunities by offering a our Y10 students a PT session from Everlast Gym, a football taster sessions Mansfield FC, an extra-

curricular club with Chesterfield FC and Pure Heart Gymnastics Club setting up a new after clubs for gymnasts.

Languages Department

It was another busy half term for the Modern Foreign Languages department, which saw the completion of Shirebrook Academy's first ever school exchange with Bon Accueil School in Toulon, France. As detailed in the last co-curriculum report, the home-leg of the exchange took place in March 2019, and saw 11 students from Bon Accueil School in Toulon in the South of France study in our school, live with their 11 'exchange partners' (40% of whom are classified as 'disadvantaged') and their families in the local community, and take part in cultural visits in the local and wider area – including visits to Chatsworth House, Bolsover Castle, Alton Towers, Meadowhall, Sherwood Forest, The Big Fish, Go Ape; and enjoy a last night celebration evening and full day in host families. These activities linked directly to the aims of the exchange and allowed students to develop team-building skills, communication skills, resilience, as well as cultural awareness, friendships and memories which will hopefully last a life-time.

The away-leg of the exchange took place in May 2019 with our unforgettable reciprocal visit to the south of France leaving students with memories, friendship and experiences which will live with them forever. The experience has left us filled with an overwhelming sense of pride having witnessed first-hand the life- and interpersonal skills which students have learned and developed over the exchange, and what they have achieved and experienced.

The biggest single sign of success for us was the outpour of emotion with the tears shed when students had to say 'au revoir' at the end their stay in Toulon. Tears shed at having to say goodbye to new friends and families who just two months ago were complete strangers, and tears shed for the end of a period of unforgettable life enhancing experiences such as adapting to life in a French school and overcoming the challenges of Latin, singing and science lessons (in French!); overcoming fear of heights with a spectacular trip up Mont Faron; touring around a town which offered so many cultural differences to their own; and the highlight activity for many – kayaking in the spectacular crystal clear Mediterranean Sea. Experiences like these are priceless and we hope to be able to continue this tradition by offering an exchange to students in 2020 – and continue to be one of only 30% of UK secondary schools to do so.

Maths department

On Tuesday 30th April our talented mathematicians from year 7 and year 8 competed in the UK Mathematical Trust Junior Maths Challenge for the first time in a number of years. Over fifty students participated in the challenge, and all will be awarded participation certificates. Thirteen of our students have received a Bronze Award from the UKMT and five received a Silver Award from the UKMT. These are students who achieved in the top 40% nationally. We are hoping that we can build on this and have more entries and more awards next year.

Arts Department

On 11th June, a group of our talented musicians travelled to Aston Academy to perform as part of the first ACET Performing Arts Showcase. The artists who performed were a Year 7 singing group, who formed this year and performed A Million Dreams from the Greatest Showman, GCSE musician Kirsty Wilkes who performed Rachel's Boys as a saxophone solo, and Georgia Gougher-Jones who performed her own expressive interpretation of Prince's Purple Rain accompanying herself on the piano to an appreciative audience.

Art students entered a competition launched by the Friends of Shirebrook Cemetery, who invited students at the Academy to submit pictures to decorate the chapel walls as part of a renovation project undertaken alongside Shirebrook Town Council after volunteers have repaired the windows, repainted woodwork and polished the pews, the altar and the brass work, but wanted a picture to fill a space at the head of the chapel. Around 100 students contributed pictures and the designs were whittled down to three, which were then put to a public vote last year.

Year 11 student Ilona Esanu's design, which features a silhouette of a girl against a warm orange background sheltered by a large tree, was the clear winner and the final version, which was painted on two large canvasses, was installed at the Cemetery at the beginning of June. Ilona says that she is happy to have made her own lasting contribution to the chapel and it's nice to know that something

English Department

The English department have been offering many co-curricular opportunities for students of all age groups in their three core areas, English, Media and Drama. In English all KS4 students have been lucky to experience live performances of both A Christmas Carol and Macbeth, two key pieces of GCSE literature. In addition the department have been planning to offer literacy experiences for students during the upcoming Arts Week focussed around HG Wells and the future and space writing. In addition a library visit from Joseph Delaney, famous author of Sci-fi and fantasy fiction, will be taking place later this month. In Drama KS3 students are rehearsing a one act performance over lunchtimes and afterschool to help develop and raise the profile of Drama, working towards a school production next year. In Media out of lesson opportunities have been taking place to further support KS4 students with the completion of their NEA.

Additional activities

The Access Project (TAP) continues to provide mentoring and academic support as well as University trips and visits for some of our students. Fifteen of our current Year 11 students, who have just completed their final examinations, were enrolled on the programme. Between them they had 144 online tutorials over the year, a university trip to Leicester, and a 1-1 and workshop session surrounding top universities. In addition there are currently sixteen Y10 students enrolled who between them have received 133 online tutorials over the year which will continue next year. In addition they had a trip to Oxford University, and a 1-1 workshop session surrounding universities and future careers. These students have also had ad hoc support for any university based questions or queries, including help with college applications etc. In September, we will be looking to recruit any extra Year 10s that may want the programme. Finally recruitment has begun with the current Year 9 students in anticipation of them beginning their GCSE's from September. We currently have nineteen applications and are continuing to target students. They will be starting online tuition in September, once they have completed an initial training session. All students that have been part of TAP, including the Year 9s, are disadvantaged, being on either FSM, PP or hit a geo demographic flag.

In conjunction with CRESST, an organisation that delivers conflict resolution training for young people, a small group of Year 8 students have created a fantastic publication about conflict and how best to deal with it. The publication includes a real life story created by Ruby Burdett and Tia Steers, in addition, it also includes strategy posters designed by other students. The publication, entitled 'Kentucky Fried Conflict – where would you eat???' will be shared with all KS3 students giving them tips, ideas and methods on how to resolve conflict.

As part of the Boys Will Be Brilliant programme, and in an attempt to showcase positive male role models from the local community, a new initiative has been launched where members of the public,

and school staff can share their experiences of growing up in Shirebrook to our students. So far two of the talks have taken place over lunchtimes to over forty students each time who have been inspired by the experiences, and the valuable life lessons they have shared.

April 2019 Report

PE Department

The PE Department had a busy half term which included the annual Healthy Day which saw a day full of activities including pre-school yoga, 'Just Dance' form time activities, smoothie and fruit kebab making, dodgeball and a range of healthy snack options in the diner at lunch which saw over 70 students switch to a healthy option. The whole school were involved in at least one activity during the day and over 100 students were involved in lunch time and after school activities in total. Healthy Day was followed by a Gym and Dance Display which saw 45 dancers and gymnasts wow a sold out theatre in our 5th Annual Gym and Dance Display. Performers from all year groups were involved which showcased a talented group of girls and highlighted the dedication shown by all our performers.

Throughout the term the PE Department continued to organise a large range of sporting fixtures. In March and April they had a total of 23 sports fixtures including football, netball, rugby, trampolining, sports hall athletics and seated volleyball. Our Y7 sports hall athletics girls team qualified to the County Finals, the KS3 trampolining squad won the North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District Novice Competition, and our SEND boccia team will also go on and represent the District at Derbyshire County Finals in May.

The PE department continued to offer a large number of leadership opportunities for students across the Academy. This term five of our students have continued to complete their Level 1 and Level 2 Sport Leadership Qualification and there has also been four leadership events involving fifteen Y9 sports leaders from the Leadership Academy which has now included events in infant agility, handball, netball and boccia. In addition four Y8 Girls have also been involved in a SEND Leadership Academy at Brookfield School, where they have been developing their leadership skills and ready to lead a Sports Festival during PE week in the Summer Term.

Personal Development

Pastoral support for Year 11 continues in the lead up to their transition to their next steps. Careers guidance interviews continue with all Y11 students receiving a 1-1 guidance session with follow up appointments planned in the Summer Term to support those students still undecided or needing extra help with applications. In addition targeted work to support students with transition has included presentations from the Apprenticeship Team, and visits to local training providers and colleges.

A number of further enrichment opportunities have also taken place this term -

- STEM visit - Y9 students visited MSE Hiller, a local manufacturing company, where students had a go at welding and saw the lab facilities at the company.
- Careers Week – a week of exhibitions in the Atrium at lunchtimes with colleges, universities, employers and training providers attending.
- Keepmoat housing challenge – competition for students to name a street in the new Meadow View development. Josh Ragsdale, Y9, won with the name 'Hummingbird Drive'

- Y7 High Prior Attainers invited to attend an evening with their parents to launch our programme of Higher Education links. This was attended by 30 students and families, with a further 45 students attending a day visit to the University of Sheffield.
- Y9 family visit to Sheffield University – attended by 9 students and families.

Alternative Provision Department

In order to support some of our more vulnerable students, the Alternative Provision team host a range of co-curricular opportunities in addition to their rich programme across KS3 and KS4 -

- The Everest Challenge is an initiative that involves climbing several hills and mountains in Britain over the course of approximately 18 months that in total equal the height of Mount Everest. The mountains include Mount Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis, the highest peaks in Wales, England and Scotland. Two expeditions have already taken place during this half term, with the next one planned for 18th May and a 3-day residential trip to Snowdonia planned for 21st-23rd June. Targeted at selected Year 9 and 10 students, the aim is to develop their resilience, perseverance, determination, self-identity, self-esteem and confidence.
- The alternative provision team have started a programme of After School Revision sessions to complement the already thriving Why Do It At Home club which run twice per week. The new sessions are specifically aimed at Y10 students who wish to develop their English and Maths skills. These sessions are targeted at students who work with the AP team during the school day and are keen to stay behind to work because of the relationship the team have with them. The department also assist with the running of the Y10 revision sessions on Thursdays afterschool.
- The team are finalising plans to extend their provision further after Easter by introducing a range of afterschool physical activities. This will include a Horticulture Club on a Wednesday and a Forest School Club on a Thursday. These sessions are targeted at KS3 and aim to engage our students in positive activities beyond the school day. They are open to those who already work with the AP department but the team also want to engage others who do not have that opportunity, so that more students can benefit from the array of fun activities on offer at the Pine Cone site.

Languages Department

Languages Week 2019 was an overwhelming success and saw record numbers of students turn-out to activities, with enthusiasm at an all-time high. The main aims of Languages Week are to open students' eyes to a world of languages and cultures which may or may not be present in their own community, and also to broaden horizons and allow students to see the true meaning and value of languages outside of the classroom. Form time activities saw students completing daily quizzes identifying music from around the world, members of staff and the languages they were speaking, football clubs around the world and airport themed translations – as well as our annual boules competition! The department try to make the activities link to a number of different areas of the curriculum and life in general, to allow students to really see the importance of languages and cultural appreciation in their day to day (and future) life. Activities this year included a visit and talk/demonstration from two Italian chefs who enthused students and spoke about how they achieved their goals at such a young age, as well as about Italian food, culture and history. The links to food don't end there, with the team also delivering a pizza and crepe making session for students, which are always popular and well-attended activities during Languages Week. They also staged an 'I'm a Teacher Get Me Out of Here' activity which showcased a number of foods from around the world, and a fantastic

Picasso masterclass which allowed students to get to grips with Picasso's very unique style. In addition, we were really lucky to welcome five professional footballers from Derby County FC who spoke to students about their involvement with languages and culture, and how they are important in the world of professional football and career development – this was attended by over 100 students and showcased brilliantly how languages can bring people together and link to an area of life which interests so many of our students. The final two activities of the week saw the theatre packed out with students attending a Zumba extravaganza and Karaoke session – two activities which students and their families may enjoy in their life, but may have been unaware of their Columbian and Japanese origins respectively! The theatre was packed out for both activities which saw students jump bravely out of their comfort zone (especially our brilliant boys!) and try something new.

This half term also saw the Modern Foreign Languages department take part in its first ever school exchange with a school in Toulon, France. Despite dwindling numbers of schools currently engaging in exchange programmes, we were excited to give students this opportunity and to revive a tradition which is sadly fading in UK state secondary schools. Such experiences offer a priceless contribution to breaking a cycle of low aspirations and limited horizons for all students in the school and local area, and go a long way towards promoting and supporting the vision and ethos of our school. The department are always looking for ways to help our students to see the deeper meaning and value of Modern Foreign Languages as a subject and life skill. But our school exchange also supports the

Academy's 'co-curricular' aims of widening horizons, giving students' experiences that enrich their lives and prepare them for life beyond school, as well as developing the interpersonal skills and resilience which are so crucial in later life. In addition, to provide students with life enhancing experiences, memories and friendship to last a lifetime, to broaden horizons and develop cultural awareness, to provide students the opportunity to experience an educational environment different to their own and throw them out of their comfort zone – and of course from a languages point of view, to allow students the chance to practise their language skills and have exposure to the language in real life settings. We are delighted to have been able to offer this opportunity to all KS3 students, and to see 11 students take part in the project. We have just come to the end of the 'home leg', which saw 11 partner students from Bon

Accueil School in Toulon in the South of France study in our school, live with their 11 'exchange partners' (40% of whom are classified as 'disadvantaged') and their families in the local community, and take part in cultural visits in the local and wider area – including visits to Chatsworth House, Bolsover Castle, Alton Towers, Meadowhall,

Sherwood Forest, The Big Fish, Go Ape; and enjoy a last night celebration evening and full day in host families. These activities linked directly to the aims of the exchange and allowed students to develop team-building skills, communication skills, resilience, as well as cultural awareness, friendships and memories which will hopefully last a life-time. The return leg to France will take place at the end of May, with a similarly busy and meaningful programme.

being put together by our partner school, students and families. We are really excited to give our students this opportunity and can't wait to see the exchange tradition develop more and more over the coming months and years at Shirebrook Academy.

Maths department

On Friday 1st February, Shirebrook Academy participated in NSPCC Number Day to raise awareness and funds for this important charity. All Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 were asked to participate in a sponsored times table challenge during their tutor time and we raised a total of £345.07 through contributions and sponsorship. Students also participated in a range of number activities during their maths lessons on the day including a Murder in The Maths Department mystery.

In addition on 14th March the department participated in Pi Day activities. Pi day was organised as part of STEM week, and students had a Pi day quiz competition to complete in tutor groups, as well as Pi related activities in Maths lessons. Students designed 'Pi-Line Pi-Scrapers', their own crop circles based on Pi and completed a number of Pi calculations. The faculty all wore Pi T-shirts to dress for the occasion and some students have been awarded with Pi Pin badges and their own scientific calculators as rewards for the best work.

Next term will see the department compete in the UK Mathematical Trust Junior Maths Challenge for the first time in a number of years. Our Top mathematicians in Year 7 and year 8 will be competing against students from across the country in completing 25 mathematical problems. Students will be asked to apply their best mathematical and problem solving skills to solve the multiple choice problems and may be given the opportunity to enter the next round of the competition – The Junior Maths Kangaroo.

Additional activities

STEM week this year was focused around the theme 'journeys'. Some of the activities used to widen the creative opportunities the academy offered ranged from: escape rooms, musical fruit, celebrating Pi day and noise reducing footwear. A zombie infection game was deployed to the whole school to measure the exponential rate of infections, journeying through the academy – aimed at allowing pupils to develop their inter-personal and numerical skills. In addition weekly STEM clubs are in place which have been used to develop students in KS3.

Mr Moran, Head of Year 7, has been hosting cinema evenings for Year 7 students who achieve a targeted number of positives in a term.

The music department continue to offer weekly ensemble redressals and workshops including KS3 Singing Club, String Ensemble and Wind Band as well as a weekly timetable of peripatetic lessons in brass, woodwind, strings, drum kit and guitar. In addition the arts department continue to offer extra opportunities for students of all ages to develop their skills and showcase their talents outside of the curriculum through regular lunchtime clubs, showcases and continued use of their own Instagram page to highlight fantastic work. The arts team have also been taking part in a joint project with Junction Arts and the local council to re-invigorate the local market place with students designing shop front shutters.

In preparation for the approaching GCSE examinations staff have been providing an increase volume of opportunities for students attend revision and catch up sessions outside of the regular after school BYG timetable. These have included weekend and holiday sessions in English, maths, PE, arts, humanities and technology. The programme will continue all the way until the end of the exams.

We hosted our termly Shirebrook Stars awards afternoon and our termly Rewards Day during the final week of term. Currently 25.4% of all students have received at least the Bronze Shirebrook Star Award and we have already awarded the Gold Star to 10 students (more than at this point in the last academic year). The celebration afternoon is a great way for the students to be rewarded and is

attended by a large number of proud parents. In addition the Rewards Day took place, which has seen nearly all students across the academy receive some form of reward this academic year. Students receive either a Bronze breakfast award, a Silver cinema afternoon or attendance reward, or a Gold experience day out. So far this year over a third of all students across the Academy have received a higher level Gold reward of either a Shirebrook Star or an invite onto the Gold Rewards Trip.

In April members of the Junior Leadership Team organised 'Football Shirt Friday' which saw all students and staff donate £1 to wear a football shirt for school with the proceeds going to the Bobby Moore Foundation and Bowel Cancer support. In total the initiative raised £565. In addition the 'i-Venture' fundraisers from Y9 and Y10 hosted a number of events and activities in their drive to raise money for their trip next year. This included a popular bake

sale. One student in Y10, Kadi Glover, also hosted a bake sale in order to raise funds for Dementia UK, a charity she has a personal connection with.

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Enrichment Opportunities

The PE department offer a range of sports activities at lunchtime and after school. To date: 58 fixtures have taken place; which includes rowing, sports hall athletics, dance, trampolining, and handball in addition to the traditional sports such as football, rugby and netball. This has contributed to over 200 additional hours being given up by staff.

45% of key stage 3 students have accessed a lunchtime club which has included badminton, table tennis, football, dance, trampolining, basketball and fitness.

Over 25 students from Years 10 and 11 are enrolled in The Access Project which is designed to support students to move to FE through targeted intervention, university visits and professional academic mentoring from an industry expert. Students receive 1-1 coaching with a graduate professional, additional IAG from trained staff and also get to visit Russell Group Universities – so far this year students have visited Leicester University and Oxford University.

Curriculum themed weeks take place across the calendar giving students the opportunity to engage in enrichment activities to widen their learning and enjoyment. So far this year we have hosted Languages Week, STEM Week and Literacy Week which was focussed around 'A Christmas Carol'.

The languages department have run a Spanish Pen-Pal project in which to date eleven students from Y9 have been taking part in the project during lunchtimes which sees them exchange hand-written letters with students in a Spanish school - aimed at allowing students to develop writing skills, inter-cultural awareness and communication/inter-personal skills.

Many curriculum trips and visits have taken place including Y7 GRIT trips to Leeds Armouries, Shirebrook Church and Derby Open Centre, a Y8 Science visit to a STEM Fair for potential Triple Scientists, a KS3 computing visit to the Science and Media Museum and a Y10 Health and Social Care visit to Chesterfield College.

Alongside the direct curriculum enhancement visits there have been numerous educational and vocational trips led as part of the personal development programme. These include a Discover US visit to Sheffield University for selected students in Y9, 10 and 11 which will culminate in a two day residential in June for Year 10 students, a DANCOP funded STEM visit to Chesterfield College to receive a lecture by a young entrepreneur, and an iRail Challenge day in Derby (including a visit to Network Rail), a Y10 visit to Sheffield Hallam University, a Youth Council meeting at Bolsover District Council, a Made in Chesterfield visit to MSE Hiller in Bolsover (local manufacturing company) and completion of the Shutter Arts Project where students worked with Junction Arts and a local artist to contribute to design ideas to brighten up shop shutters on Shirebrook Market Place.

In addition, residential visits have taken place to the Belgium Battlefields (Y7-Y10 students), a one night experience visit to Paris in November (76 x Y7-10 students), a four night trip to Paris in March (45 x Y7-10 students) plus the Toulon Exchange Project with Bon Accueil School in France where five Y8 and five Y9 students be given the opportunity to experience a different educational environment and to provide life enhancing experiences.

Leadership Opportunities

The Academy has an elected Junior Leadership Team consisting of students across Y7-11. The JLT meet monthly with a member of the SLT and represent the student body. Projects completed so far this year include the increase in recycling points across the Academy building.

Presently we have 21 students completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze or Silver level. There will be an additional 6 students beginning their gold Award in the Summer too. In addition the Alternative Provision team are working with 10 students in Y9/10 to complete an 'Everest Challenge' which will see them demonstrating their resilience by completing tough hill walks around the UK with the intention of progressing to Snowden in the Summer. So far the students have completed their first walk up Mam Tor in Castleton.

There has been numerous opportunities for students in Y8-11 to get involved in Sports Leadership roles, supporting the PE Department in activities and competitions within the school but also in the community. So far 15 primary events run by the School Sports Partnership have been supported by the Y9 Leadership Academy, and five Y9/10 leaders are currently completing the Sports Leader Level 1 course. In addition twenty Year 8-9 Sports leaders have attended two leadership conferences and they are working towards presenting at a Secondary Leadership Conference in the Summer.

Pastoral Support

A 'Why Do It At Home?' club runs three times during the week to offer targeted provision for students in need of homework support. The club is regularly attended by up to 15 students who receive the valuable support. Between 30 and 40 students from each year group have been selected to receive additional 1-1 coaching. Students were identified based on their data collection and in particular students working below their FFT20 targets in English, Maths and Science. The selected students all have a target of either advanced or elite and of whom at least 50% of selected students are Disadvantaged. The students meet during form time on Tuesdays either individually or in small groups to discuss progress and independent learning. Coaches also check quality of book work and student journal. Student voice feedback indicates students involved appreciate the extra layer of support and guidance, but the programme continues to be reviewed, as do the students who form part of each group after each data collection.

Curriculum Support

Academic progress mentoring is in place for 32 selected students across Y11. The programme consists of each student being assigned a mentor who meets with them regularly - focussing on attainment. Personal/pastoral issues have also been picked up as a result of these meetings. At key points in the year, the student alongside their parent(s) meet with the Vice Principal to discuss progress, behaviour for learning and any obstacles to success in Y11. Within the meeting, action plans are developed alongside the student and parent to try and maximise academic success within Y11. The final impact of this programme will be evaluated after the GCSE exams have been completed, however the vast majority of students are engaging with the scheme and are positive about its

impact. Whilst some students have are not on target in several subjects, the majority are working towards them and are positively engaged in school. This can also be exemplified by the low number of behaviour points and good attendance that the majority of the group have demonstrated.

Boost Your Grade (BYG) curriculum sessions are targeted after school revision opportunities for Y11 in specific areas of the specification which all subjects contribute to a rich programme which is well attended. In the lead up to the final examinations in May certain students will be targeted in specific subject areas. In addition some subject areas have run weekend sessions for students including Maths and Geography in the lead up to mock examinations. A full programme is in place both at weekends and in the school holidays for students to attend in the lead up to their final examinations which includes opportunities for all subject areas.

In addition general subject specific opportunities are in place for all students across the school in the form of catch-up sessions or opportunities to extend learning/ try something new both at lunchtimes and after school. Examples which are well attended include STEM Club jointly based in science and maths, the 'I love MFL Club' in languages, Coding Club in computing, and the delivery of the Duke of York Award (iDEA) to Y7 and Y8 students in Computing.