



Friday 27th June 2025

Headteachers report of the week

This week has been one of celebration, reflection and heartfelt farewells as we said goodbye to our incredible Year 11 learners. Their final weeks at school have been filled with emotion, pride and a strong sense of community spirit.

From the moment they arrived there was a buzz of excitement in the air. The final assembly began where we shared memories and well wishes. It was a joy to see the learners come together, not only to celebrate their academic journey but also to acknowledge the friendships and personal growth they have experienced.

There were a few tears as we watched a video montage of their time at Woodlands. It was a powerful reminder of how far they've come and the bright future that lies ahead.

Throughout their time, our Year 11's have left a lasting impression on our school community, and we are immensely proud of the young people they have become. Whether they are moving on to college, apprenticeships, or employment, we know they will continue to thrive and make a positive impact in the world.

To our Year 11 learners: thank you for your contributions and your energy. We wish you every success and happiness in the next chapter of your lives.

Best Wishes

Jules





Hands-on insight given to Woodlands School students

School children from Woodlands School, a specialist education centre for young people with social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs, recently attended an insightful site tour and Q&A session at Morris Property's bungalow development in Wem. The development is being constructed for the Housing Plus Group, providing affordable and accessible homes for the local community.

The visit offered a unique educational opportunity for students currently undertaking a BTEC Level 1 in Construction. This practical course enables learners to develop fundamental trade skills, including plumbing, electrics, bricklaying, and decorating, as part of Woodlands School's holistic approach to preparing students for adulthood.

During their visit, pupils had the chance to meet Morris Property's Site Manager, Conor Roberts, and Construction Manager, Steve Flavell. The students engaged in a lively Q&A session, asking questions about career pathways within the construction industry and what daily life is like on a construction site.

This on-site experience will be complemented by a forthcoming presentation delivered by Housing Plus Group. Held in a classroom environment, this follow-up session will further educate pupils on the diverse career pathways available within the housing and construction sectors, including apprenticeship opportunities.

Morris Property was commissioned by Housing Plus Group to construct the affordable development of four bungalows. Demonstrating their commitment to responsible construction practices, Morris Property is adhering to the stringent guidelines of the Considerate Constructors Scheme on site. This commitment ensures minimal disruption to the local community while maximising the positive social and economic benefits of the project.

Alice Arnold, Deputy Headteacher at Woodlands School, commented on the visit: "Our students thoroughly enjoyed the site tour with Morris Property. It was an invaluable opportunity for them to see what they are learning in their BTEC Construction course applied on the ground. Meeting Conor and Steve provided fantastic inspiration for our pupils as they consider their future careers."

Steve Flavell, Construction Manager at Morris Property, added: "It was a pleasure to welcome the students from Woodlands School to our Wem site. We hope this visit provided them with a better understanding of the varied and rewarding careers available in the construction industry."

The pupils at Woodlands School have been invited back in September to view the project in its final stages before handover.

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact Paige Eades on paige@morrisandco.com or on 01743 232224







We said Goodbye to our Year 11's

Ben put together a selection of
their highlights over the years!

Here are just a few.

We look forward to welcoming
you back on celebration evening!



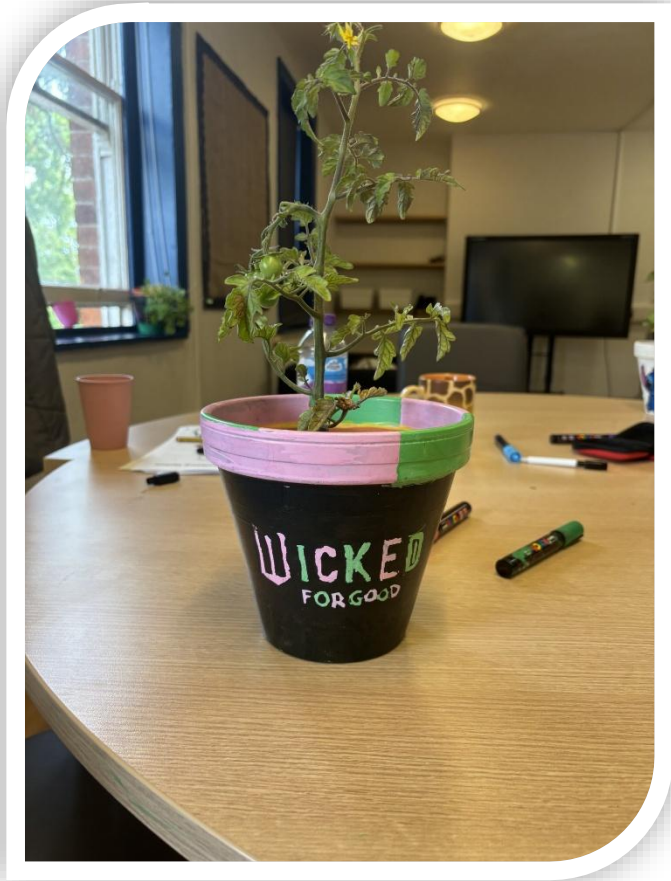


Leavers Assembly





Zane and Lacey from Olive class had plain terracotta pots in front of them, eyes wide with possibility.



They had two inspirations in mind – Lilo & Stitch, with its tropical charm and mischievous heart, and Wicked, the story of misunderstood magic and friendship.



They began with the base coat before adding the finished design. The finished pot is a celebration of everything they love painted with their own hands.

The Hundred Square

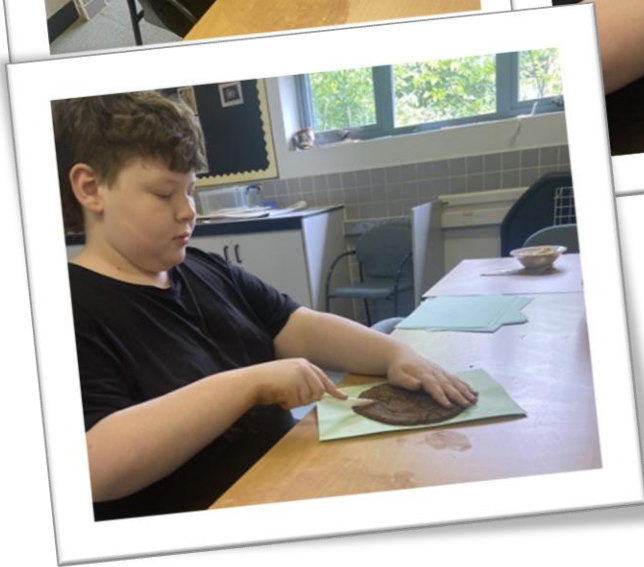


Zane sat in front of a set of a 100 cards. The challenge to arrange them 1 – 100 in a square. At first glance it looked like a sea of digits. But as he leaned in, eyes scanning with curiosity, he started. Top left “one,” he whispered, then “two, three, four...” Zane noticed a pattern begin to form, each row ended in a zero, each new row began with one higher in the tens column.

Next Zane looked for new patterns. “All the numbers in this coloumn end in 5” It wasn’t just a hundred numbers anymore. It was a map of patterns, a puzzle of place value and a playground for discovery.



Zane and Lacey have been making their own pizza's experimenting with different toppings.



Billy created a Greek-style tableau that contains symbols to tell a story - he created his own symbols and we discussed how this would have been used for the Greeks to pass on stories.

- Amy



Billy painted the symbols white to
make them stand out from the
clay.

- Amy



Billy was presented with his 20m swimming certificate and badge this week at swimming.

- Amy



Saplings 2 and 3 made a Summer Fruits Salad. They practised their knife skills and learnt about Food Provenance.

- Debbie J



WOODLANDS

**FREE
ENTRY**

School fair

**11AM
-1PM**

**THURSDAY
24TH JULY**



**BOUNCY CASTLES
MEGA SLIDE
BBQ
CAKES
ENTERTAINMENT
AND MORE!**

**FAMILY WELCOME
JOIN US FOR FUN AND LAUGHTER**

WOODLANDS SCHOOL





Shrewsbury Academy

CHANGE THE DATE!

*Due to the Shrewsbury Food Festival, the S4T Parkrun **has been moved to Saturday the 5th of July!***

Parkrun

**Get moving,
feel great,
and do
something
incredible!**



Who?

Calling all Parents to bring their children along (in their PE kits) to walk or run the 5k course.

Where?

The Quarry,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire,
SY1 1RN.

What do you need?

PE kit, trainers, enthusiasm and a small donation!
(There will be collection buckets nearby)

**Every
step counts!**

Shrewsbury Academy students are stepping up to support S4T our school's food bank — and we need **YOU** to join the mission!

Join us for Parkrun on Saturday 5th July at 9.00am and help make a difference!

All students under the age of 11 must run with an adult.

New Guide to Shropshire's Great Outdoors Explore Shropshire by Bike or Foot



It's not long until the school bell tolls for the last time until September and families will be looking for ideas to get outside over the summer holidays

Take a look at this new website www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk

- Use the handy search tools to find family walks or family cycle routes
- Favourite ❤️ your nearest country park.
- Get inspiration by checking out [Top Outdoor Experiences](#)
- Explore the events calendar for outdoor events near you

From Shrewsbury to New York (sort of) without leaving Shropshire's Great Outdoors

Did you know?

Shropshire has 5600km of public footpaths – that's the distance from Shrewsbury to New York but it can be daunting to know where to start exploring this amazing network of routes through our county.

Use the website search function to search by location or length of walk or cycle ride to create your favourite list of activities to try this summer.

This project has been funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk

For more information on anything you have seen in the newsletter or if you would like to speak to us, please email: sustainabletravelplanning@shropshire.gov.uk

Useful Resources

Visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF to sign up for the HAF e-newsletter. You will receive fantastic top tips, free resources, links to local services and opportunities.

next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help Shropshire Family Information Service (FIS). Information on local, regional and national services and organisations for children, young people and families.

Contact us:

HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk

FIS 01743 254400 / shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk

@ShropFamilyInfo, #HAFSHROPSHIRE, #HAF2025

This opportunity is provided as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme being delivered across Shropshire. Visit the government website for more information on the national programme.

Shropshire Council are not responsible for the content on the third-party websites that we provide links to (although all links are made in good faith). All the activities provided as part of the HAF programme are run by professional organisations delivering excellent high-quality programmes.

All organisations have safeguarding policies, DBS certificates, insurance and risk assessments in place.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF



Summer holiday fun and food in Shropshire

BOOK NOW

21 Jul - 1 Sep 2025



Summer Holiday Fun in Shropshire

Have fun with your friends, learn new skills, gain confidence and get involved!

Shropshire Council is working in partnership to run an exciting holiday programme this Summer, Shropshire HAF (Holiday Activities and Food).

Take part in sports, arts, cooking, forest schools and lots more fun activities, happening across the county. Free nutritious meals will be provided at each session.

There are free places available on the programme for children and young people aged 4 (in reception class or equivalent) to 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

There are a limited number of free places available for children and young people who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but meet a wider eligibility (see www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF email HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk for more details).

How to Book

Please book spaces directly with the organisations running the holiday clubs.

What you need to do:

1. Use the electronic **What's On Guide** and searchable **Timetable** to find which holiday club is suitable for your child/ren. Electronic copies of the Guide will be sent to you by your child/rens school and are also available at: www.shropshire.gov.uk/HAF.
2. Book onto activity by contacting the organisation running the holiday club direct, using the contact details in the Guide.
3. When making a booking, **please quote your unique HAF Code (see box below)**.
4. If your child/ren has SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) or receives any extra help at school, before booking onto activity, please contact the holiday club to discuss your child/s needs.
5. Any queries you have about your booking or the activities on offer, please contact the organisation running the holiday club directly.
6. If you meet the wider eligibility criteria, please contact, HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk for information about referrals onto the programme.

The unique code entitles your child/ren to attend 16 sessions of free holiday activity in Shropshire during the Summer holidays 2025. Please don't use this code to book onto more than 16 sessions of activity or to book onto multiple programmes of activity with different providers, happening at the same time.

This code is individual to your child/s school and is not transferable to other children. Eligibility checks are carried out on all bookings.

APZUR



Peer Support for Parent Carers

Tuesday 8th July and Friday 18th
July

9.30-11.30am

Wem Town Hall Cafe
(find us in the gallery)

A chance to relax and chat with others who understand.
through shared experiences



Relaxed Afternoon with Wem Albion Bowls

Saturday 26th July | 2pm - 4pm

Come and enjoy one of our most popular events of the year!

Join the Wem SEN Hub and Wem Albion Bowls for a friendly, inclusive afternoon where both young people and parents can pick up a bowl and give it a try.

Expect:

- ✓ A warm, welcoming atmosphere
- ✓ Gentle fun and friendly company
- ✓ Light refreshments for all

No experience needed—just come along and have a go!



🌸 Sensory Floral Workshop with Dasher Floral Creations 🌸

Monday 18th August | 10am-11.30am

Wem Town Hall (Upstairs)

Join the Wem SEN Hub and Dasher Florists for a calming, creative morning exploring flowers, fragrance, and fun!

This sensory experience is designed for young people to:

- ✓ Engage their senses
- ✓ Enjoy hands-on crafting
- ✓ Take home their floral creations

A relaxed, inclusive atmosphere where everyone can bloom!



@Wem SEN Hub

- Turn up on the day - no booking required!
(Exception of crafting and relaxed screenings)

However, we appreciate advance notice if possible.

- Let us know you're coming by joining our public Facebook page using the QR code

💬 Come connect, have fun,

and make memories with us this summer!

🌿 Stay & Play Sessions – Summer Drop-ins

Tuesday 22nd July & Tuesday 26th August

10am-12pm | Wem Town Hall (Upstairs)

Join us for two relaxed, unstructured sessions designed for fun and connection.

We'll bring along games, LEGO, train set and simple crafts—perfect for:

- ✓ Young people to play together or independently
- ✓ Parents and carers to relax with a drink and chat
- ✓ A calm, welcoming space for all

No pressure, no agenda—just turn up, unwind, and enjoy.



🎨 Crafting Workshop – SEN-Friendly Session

Friday 15th August | 2pm – 3pm

Wem Town Hall (Main Hall)

In partnership with Wem Town Hall,

the Wem SEN Hub is pleased to support a special SEN-friendly session as part of their summer crafting workshops.

- ✓ Calmer, inclusive environment
- ✓ Creative fun tailored for all abilities
- ✓ A great chance for families to get crafty together

🎟️ Wem SEN Hub has purchased a number of tickets for local families.

Request yours using the contact details for Wem SEN Hub overleaf.

Alternatively, tickets can be purchased directly from Wem Town Hall.

📞 Call 01939 232299

🔔 Booking is essential for this event.

🎬 Relaxed Film Screenings at Wem Town Hall

Join Wem Town Hall for a series of relaxed film screenings—perfect for families who benefit from a calmer cinema environment.

These screenings feature: ✓ Lower sound levels ✓ Dimmed lighting

✓ A relaxed atmosphere where movement and noise are okay

This summer's line-up includes:

- 🐉 How to Train Your Dragon (PG) 🦋 Elio (U)
- 🦖 Jurassic World: Rebirth (12A) Superman (12A)
- 😎 The Bad Guys 2 (U)

🎟️ Tickets available via Wem Town Hall Box Office.

📞 Call 01939 232299 ♿ Free carer tickets are available.



Family First netmums

Here's your free copy of the UK's
largest parenting title - Enjoy!

[CLICK HERE](#)

The image shows the cover of the 'Family First' magazine, Summer 2025 issue. The cover features a portrait of Ashley James, a blonde woman with blue eyes, wearing a blue sleeveless top. The magazine title 'Family First' is at the top in a large white serif font. Below it, 'FREE | SUMMER 2025' is on the left and 'Proud to partner with netmums' is on the right. The 'netmums' logo is in red. Several article teasers are present: 'Netmums' experts on smartphones and preparing for secondary school', 'KIDS EAT FOR FREE THIS SUMMER!', 'SUN SAFETY FROM THE BRITISH SKIN FOUNDATION', and 'Plan a summer day out with Tripadvisor's Top UK Destinations'. The name 'ASHLEY JAMES' is prominently displayed in large white letters. At the bottom, there is a quote about motherhood and body confidence, and logos for 'Clarks' and 'Kellogg's'. A dark grey banner at the very bottom reads 'Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle'.

Family First
FREE | SUMMER 2025
Proud to partner with **netmums**

Netmums' experts
on smartphones and preparing for secondary school

KIDS EAT FOR FREE THIS SUMMER!

SUN SAFETY
FROM THE BRITISH SKIN FOUNDATION

Plan a summer day out with Tripadvisor's Top UK Destinations
Tripadvisor

ASHLEY JAMES

on motherhood, body confidence and empowering the next generation of girls

Clarks Kellogg's

Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle

Like & follow us on

facebook

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue3-25-download>

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue3-25>



Headteachers Awards



Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Noah Hughes for adapting a recipe and it being a great success. – Debbie Jones
- Shout out to all of Saplings 3 for safe use of knife skills – Debbie Jones
- Riley has been participating in learning and reading aloud. He has been very patient and engaged well, taking praise when given. Riley also participated well in PE. - Syrene
- Romeo engaged well and reflective, lovely to see. – Syrene and Simon
- Primary have been working hard and really enjoying music and writing songs, using both the guitar and keyboard. Shout out to Joey for writing his own song. – Rachel.
- Oscar and Michael had a really good history lesson and enjoyed learning about Greek gods.
- Billy and Joey enjoyed a trip out to Wem park

- Leighton and Tyler H had a great PSHE lesson
- Ryan had a great PSHE lesson, very engaged.
- Tyler ST and Leo had a mature discussion about their learning and progress and were able to say what they were proud of.
- Romeo and Ollie both made a positive decision to step away from negative behaviour.
- Romeo has made an unsolicited sincere apology for a mistake he'd made.
- Romeo showed care about others by checking on a member of staff.
- Hayley had a productive conversation with Rhys, finding out that his dad is a really good cook!
- Tyler H is respectful and followed his plan
- Corey did a fantastic tour to a new learner, he was very welcoming.

Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk

- If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.
- Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.

Why not follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsShropshire/>

Or

Take a look at our website!

www.woodlands.school

Or

**Join the conversation - We love hearing from you!
Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions
with us.**

rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk

**If you need to contact us out of normal school
hours, please either email on the above address**

or call Rachel Bates on **07967 763324**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College