

Edition 15 : 17/01/25



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Michelle King - Headteacher



As we settle into the new term, there's already so much happening across the school. Year 13 students have been hard at work completing their mock exams, while Year 9 are beginning the

exciting process of exploring their options. We've also got a packed schedule of visitors and activities planned throughout the term, giving everyone plenty to look forward to.

In assemblies, we've been focusing on fresh starts and New Year's resolutions, encouraging everyone to reflect on how they can contribute positively to school life and support one another. This week, we've seen some truly heartwarming acts of kindness. One student has been helping a new classmate settle into school life, while others have stepped up to guide their peers toward making better choices. These small but significant actions not only make a difference to individuals but also strengthen our entire school community.

Looking ahead, we'll be concentrating on punctuality. A new system is now being put in place to track attendance and punctuality for every lesson. There's no reason for anyone to be late, and we'll be notifying parents if issues arise, therefore no news is good news on the punctuality front. Finally, we'd like to celebrate a fantastic achievement to end the week: a huge congratulations to the girls' badminton team for their spectacular win, becoming the Telford Schools Badminton Champions 2025.

Your hard work and talent have made us all proud—well done!

Here's to a successful and positive term ahead!

Safe Travel - Changes to School Day Consultation

The consultation is live for the 15min change to the school day.

I want to assure you this change is to accommodate safe travel to and from school. I can also confirm everyone is through and finished dinner well before 2pm, we have been tracking this for some time and everyone is served before 1:45pm.

The same learning hours will be in place.

Your views will be taken into consideration

Speaking To Each Other Should Always Be Respectful

At times there has been incidents where students do not talk and respond to staff appropriately, this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Sanctions will be put in place, and we would welcome your full support.

We know all students know what's right and wrong and we will be ensuring our expectations are always upheld and promoted.

Calendar and Trips



- Tue 21st Jan : Year 10 & 11 English Trip : Poetry Live Day
- Thu 23rd Jan : 6th Form Business Studies Trip to Cadbury World
- Thu 23rd Jan : Year 11 D&T Trip to Ikea
- w/c 3rd Feb : Year 11 & Year 13 Predicted Grades Snapshot
- Wed 5th Feb : Year 11 English Trip to see An Inspector Calls
- Thur 6th Feb : Year 9 Parents Evening

TRIPS

We are presently putting together potential / already in process trips for :

- Year 10 & 11 - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre Trip for Performing Arts Students to see Warhorse (20 March 2025)
- Year 7 & 8 - France Disneyland Paris and Paris <https://www.idsallschool.org/disneyland-paris-trip-presentation/> (April 2025)
- Year 8 - PGL (May 2025)
- Year 9 - France and Belgium Battlefields Trip (May 2025)
- Year 8 & 9 - Las Vegas Geography Trip (see Mrs Green in G3 for more information) (October 2026) <https://www.idsallschool.org/las-vegas-trip-presentation/>

- Year 10, 11 & 12 - Kenya Expedition (see Mr Pittam in G2 for more information) (Summer 2026)

Year 7 Inspired by Geologist Mr. Smith's Visit



This week, Year 7 students had the privilege of meeting Mr. Smith, a distinguished geologist, during his highly anticipated visit to our school.

The event proved to be an incredible success, sparking curiosity and excitement among the students.

Mr. Smith, who has extensive experience working in the Shropshire area—renowned for its rich geological history—delivered an engaging and informative session. He shared fascinating insights into fossils, their formation, and the geological wonders of Shropshire.

Highlights of the visit included:

- A captivating introduction to how fossils form and what they can tell us about Earth's history.
- An exploration of Shropshire's unique geological sites, with anecdotes from Mr. Smith's fieldwork.
- A hands-on experience with real fossils, which delighted the students and brought the subject to life.
- A lively Q&A session where students posed thoughtful questions about geology, fossil discoveries, and careers in earth sciences.

The session perfectly complemented the Year 7 science curriculum, enhancing students' understanding of Earth's processes and inspiring some to consider future studies in geology.

Celebrations in the Kitchen



Congratulations to Chloe, who is now a very well known face in the canteen serving the students at break and lunchtime. Chloe started her training with us in September 2023 and her cooking and knowledge is amazing.

In the last couple of weeks Chloe has completed her **Production Chef Apprenticeship Level 2!**

A huge achievement and congratulations from all of us.

Year 9 Vaccinations



Reminder that the year 9 (**3-in-1 Teenage Booster and Meningitis vaccination (DTP & MenAWY)**), student vaccinations are on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February

Please complete the online consent form that has been emailed home – the eConsent link will close at 9am on Tuesday 28th January.

From the Sixth Form



Today brings a close to year 13 Mock exams. Idsall Sixth Form prides itself in teaching pupils the importance of managing stress. Through their bespoke PSHCE programme students have been given guidance and practical tips around the connection between physical and mental health. They know the importance of eating sensibly, regular exercise and fresh air, sleeping sufficiently and how this has a beneficial impact on both body and mind.

A number of our 6th form chose to walk up the Wrekin during this stressful time, to support one another and to have some well earned time away from revision.

Badminton Victory



Congratulations to our girls' badminton team for their fabulous win at the Telford School Badminton Championship 2025 on Wednesday.

The girls played exceptionally well with a well deserved victory!

Congratulations to them all as they are now Telford School Badminton Champions!

Session Six Activities - Spring 2025

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| Monday's Session Six Activities | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Studyzone | 3.15 – 4pm | All Years | LRC |
| Girls Football |  | Year 7 & 8 | Grass Pitches |
| Badminton |  | Team Players Only | Sports Hall |
| Sports Leadership Training | <small>For students who are doing their leadership qualifications this year, although all Sports Leaders are welcome to attend</small> | | Old Gym |
| Footloose Acting Rehearsals | | All Years | D1 |
| Maths Revision | Week A | Year 11 | Rooms BAs, 6, 9, 10 & EN2, 3, 4, 6, 8 |
| Psychology Revision | Week B Starts 13 th Jan | Year 11 | Lecture Theatre |
| A Level Geography Revision | | Year 13 | G2 |
| Year 11 Revision Sessions | | | |
| | Week A | | Week B |
| | Maths | | Psychology |

| Tuesday's Session Six Activities | | | |
|--|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Studyzone | 3.15 – 4pm | All Years | LRC |
| Netball |  | All Years | All Weather |
| Boys Football |  | Year 7 | Grass Pitches |
| A Level History - Russia 1894-1924 | | Year 12 & 13 | H4 |
| A Level Chemistry Revision | | Year 12 & 13 | S3 |
| Science Revision | Week A | Year 11 | Invited Group S1 Open Revision S6 |
| Footloose Dance Rehearsals | | All Years | D1 |
| BBC Young Reporters | Week A | All Years | BA1 |
| Eco Club | Week B | Year 7 & 8 | S8 |
| Geography Revision | Week B | Year 11 | G1 & G2 |
| Computer Science Coding Club | Week B | Year 10 & 11 | B1 |
| Year 11 Revision Sessions | | | |
| | Week A | | Week B |
|  | Science | | Geography |

| Wednesday's Session Six Activities | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Studyzone | 3.15 – 4pm | All Years | LRC |
| Rugby | | Years 7 – 10 | Grass Pitches |
| A Level Maths Revision | | Sixth Form | EN2 |
| Year 11 Revision Sessions | | | |
| | Week A | | Week B |
| | History | | History |

| Thursday's Session Six Activities | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----|
| Studyzone | 3.15 – 4pm | All Years | LRC |

| Friday's Session Six Activities | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Studyzone | 3.15 – 4pm | All Years | LRC |
| | Week A | | Week B |
| | French | | |

| Lunchtime Sessions 1.40 – 2.10pm | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday | Sports leadership club | All Years | (1.45pm start) E4 |
| Friday | Footloose Singing Rehearsals | All Years | STA |

| PE Lunchtime Sessions 1.40 – 2.10pm | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| | Sports Hall | | Fitness Suite |
| Monday | Badminton | All Years | ----- |
| | Leadership | All Years | ----- |
| Tuesday | Badminton | All Years | ----- |
| Wednesday | Basketball | All Years | Years 7 – 13 |
| Thursday | ----- | | Years 7 – 13 |
| Friday | ----- | | Years 7 – 13 |

25
students
max

Please note that Session Six and Lunchtime activities may be cancelled at short notice.
For Session Six cancellations - you will be able to remain in school until the agreed time if needed.

Trip Updates

Disneyland Paris



Final payment for the Disneyland Trip is due Monday 20th January 2025.

If you have not completed and returned the consent form can you please do so as soon as possible. If you don't have your passport or GHIC (EHIC) information yet, please send the form without this and email the information as you get it. If you don't have a form, please ask your student to collect one from the school library.

Email is : cathy.leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk

We will send out a date for a parent / student meeting. This will be around the end of February so watch this space. This is when we have all the finalised information from the tour company.

We have had a couple of students who have had to drop out so if you have student in year 7 or 8 that is interested in the trip please contact cathy.leverington@mmat.co.uk.

Year 9 Battlefields

WW1 Battlefields Trip – thank you to all those who have expressed an interest – the list is now closed! 57 students have applied for 43 places; this means we will have to ballot to generate a final list. We appreciate that some students may be disappointed, however, should we run this trip in 2026, your child could have priority. Furthermore, if you wish to withdraw your child from the selection, please do so as soon as possible by emailing either Mrs Strachan ruth.strachan@ids.mmat.co.uk or Miss Evans Sophie.evans@ids.mmat.co.uk

Once the final list has been drawn up, parents and students will be notified by email. We will hold a Parents' Information Evening in the coming weeks to provide further details about the trip.

Ski Trip



2025

DRY SKI SLOPE SESSIONS

Students have been allocated to one of two sets of sessions for ski instruction on the dry ski slope at Madeley prior to the Easter Ski Trip to Austria.

Tuesday 21st January (4-6pm) & Tuesday 4th February (4-5pm)

Tuesday 28th January (4-6pm) & Monday 10th February (4-5pm)

Letters and consent have been sent out - some students have been switched session sets to enable other trips to be attended - please check the latest communication.

Please note that skiers are expected to wear appropriate ski socks, ski gloves, a long sleeved jacket and trousers.

Finally, if you have not completed and returned the consent form can you please do so as soon as possible. If you don't have your passport or GHIC (EHIC) information yet, please send the form without this and email the information as you get it.

2026

Ski trip for 2026 will be announced soon. Final destinations being discussed.

This trip will be open to current year 9 students and upwards.

Watch this space for more information!

Last Year GCSE Art Students



If you know any of last year's GCSE Art Students please pass on this message to them (a letter has gone out to them but in case they miss it):

The 2023/24 GCSE Art coursework and final pieces are ready for collection.

You can collect your work on either of the following dates:

- 24th January 2025
- 7th February 2025

Collection times on both days will be between 11:30 AM and 3:15 PM.

Please come to reception during these times to pick up your pieces. It may take us a few minutes to locate and deliver your work once you have arrived so allow approx. 15mins for your visit.

If you are unable to collect your work on these dates, kindly contact the school office to arrange an alternative time. However, due to limited storage space, we will only be able to hold the work until **28th Feb 2025**.

Safeguarding



This week's safeguarding focus relates to the use of the social media app Snapchat.

Snapchat contains features that as parents, we need to monitor closely if we chose to allow our child to access this app. These include disappearing messages, a hidden photo vault and more.

Please see infographic below for further information.

If you have any requests for future topics that you would like to be included in parent safeguarding focuses, please contact Mrs Reeve.

At the National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent is deleted 24 hours after it has been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called "My AI".

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnosis, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have added photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 6% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This hasn't been flagged by Snapchat – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called My Eyes Only. Users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder which is password-protected. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the "Memories" folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has features called "Discover" and "Spotlight", which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, content creators can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat's display isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the public, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's "disappearing messages" feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or images – an exciting feature but a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the "beauty" effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations, creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat's new filter has priority notification (users will get displayed even if a device is in "do not disturb" mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's "Family Center" lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've messaged in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Center for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on "Ghost Mode" and "Hide Live Location", and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger starts to chat with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or to sending sexual images to them, the child can log that these don't go to that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to share why they're reporting that user – such as unwanted or malicious messages, spam or misquoting on someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide in the app to help you understand how it works and any permissions they have to privacy. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you create an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about screen time and how to balance online and offline life. If they're sent into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately, talk openly and non-judgmentally about sending, emphasising its limited risks. Furthermore, explain how popular "challenges" on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety projects for schools. She has written various safeguarding policies and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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Social Media Safety and Awareness Session - Albrighton



The poster features a light blue background with the title 'Social Media Safety and Awareness' in large, bold, black font, flanked by double arrow symbols. Below the title, it says 'For young people with internet access and their parents!'. There are three illustrations: a woman on the left holding a pink phone, a person sitting on the floor in the center looking at a large smartphone, and a 'LIVE STREAM' icon on the right. At the bottom, there are icons for location, date, and time, followed by a list of bullet points and logos for West Mercia Police and Albrighton Parish Council.

Social Media Safety and Awareness
For young people with internet access and their parents!

Albrighton Library, Station Road
WV7 3QH

Friday 21st February 2025

10:00am to 11:00am

- Targeted at young people with internet access and/or their parents
- Group setting with opportunity to speak privately to the policing team after the event
- Social Media accounts, messaging people, posting/sharing content, accessing content etc.

West Mercia POLICE

Albrighton Parish Council

We have been asked to invite you on behalf of Albrighton Parish Council to a Social Media Safety and Awareness Session that is being hosted at Albrighton Library, in partnership with Shifnal and Albrighton Safer Neighbourhood Team. This event is aimed at young people with internet access and/or their parents and is an excellent opportunity to help educate local children/teenagers in preventative measures to keep them safe online as well as offline.

This event will be taking place on Friday 21st February 2025, at 10am in the Library Building, Station Road, Albrighton WV7 3QH. We have scheduled this to take place during half term in hopes that we can encourage teenagers to attend.

Taekwon-Do Classes

New Beginners Programme Starting



Mr Morris is starting up a new beginners programme in Taekwo-do on a Wednesday evening at Idsall School.

So if you are looking at trying something new why not go along - you get **two free trial classes!**

- *Offering Idsall pupils a 10% discount on monthly fees.*
- *Classes every Wednesday 6-7pm in the main hall at Idsall.*
- *Offering two free trial classes.*

INTERESTED ... contact Mr. Morris on 07969 996055 to book and for more information.

Contact us



Coppice Green Lane, Shifnal, Shropshire. TF11 8PD



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Idsallschool.org

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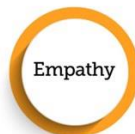
Our values :



Excellence: striving always for mastery and personal success



Integrity: consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



Empathy: embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



Creativity: inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



Equality: ensuring fair opportunity for all