



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

ISSUE 419

25th November 2022

Primary School Liaison

Each week, Mr Burrow of the Maths Department visits a local primary school to help prepare the Year 6 students for life at High School. He works on a variety of concepts and assists the primary staff in delivering maths teaching to different groups. This is a great way to ensure consistency in the teaching of maths between the different schools, and to ease the transition from primary to secondary school.

This week the visit took a different theme as part of the primary school's aspirations day. Along with Mrs Molyneux, Mr Burrow talked to the pupils about a career as a secondary school maths and science teacher. They discussed the pupils' aspirations and answered questions from reception all the way up to Year 6. It was an amazing experience for the pupils at one of our local feeder primary schools. We look forward to seeing them in Year 7 next September, and, who knows, one day at the front of the classroom!





Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Idris O has produced a wonderful analytical paragraph on the story of Sredni Vashtar. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Halima P has written a great diary entry in the style of Ms Johnstone from Blood Brothers. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Ayan Ahmed has annotated part of Great Expectations well. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Saleeka A has written a great response to an impression question. [Click here to view the first page](#) and [here to view the second page.](#)

Year 11

Alex D has written a great speech. [Click here to view the first page](#) and [here to view the second page.](#)

Reader of the Week

Year 7

Lorna S for her excellent reading of a non-fiction letter.

Year 8

Shahzaib N A for his fluent and confident reading of What Lies Between Us.

Year 9

Leah S for her efforts independent reading and completing many book reviews.

Year 10

Rayhan I for reading an extract of The Kite Runner clearly and fluently.

Year 11

Finley W for reading out his very powerful speech on Veganism!



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Science Enrichment Newsletter

Educake

Congratulations to Josh C, Izzy W, Henry P and Fatimah M, who scored the highest in Year 10 on their recent educake quiz. An incredible 24 students in Year 9 scored 100% on their quiz, well done to all of you. A quiz is now available for Year 8 students, as well as Years 9 & 10.

STEM club

This week saw three finalists competing to win the title of "Best new species!".

Shown is the winning entry, a "Semelion" designed by Safira, Safa, Khadija, Laiba, Romana & Karima.



This strange creature combines the strengths of a Seal and the camouflage capability of a Chameleon!!!

The group certainly showed their true colours with these creative ideas!

Primary visit

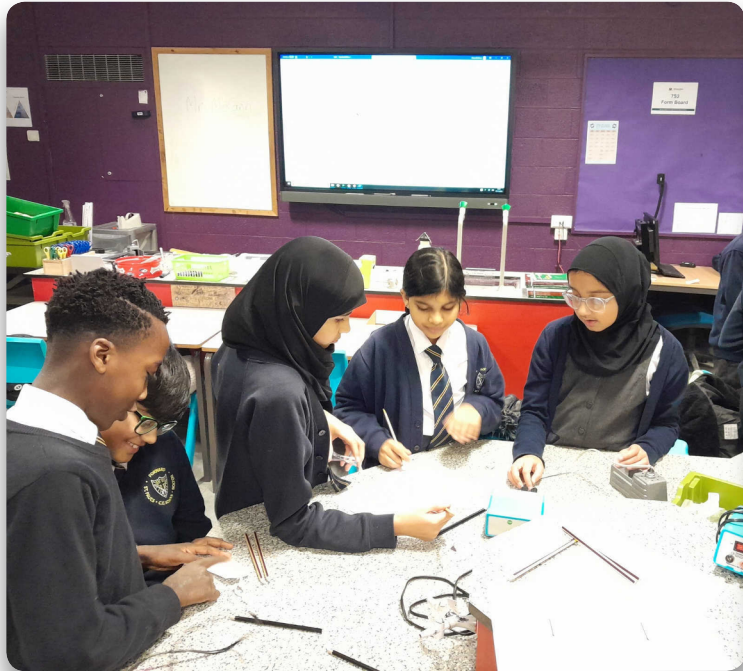
Mr McCann wowed students from St. Paul's Primary School (see pictures on next page), who learned all about light. Students found out what happens when light is reflected, refracted and also learned how to mix colours.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter



Astronomy

The Year 11 students were in school on Saturday, completing their Astronomy coursework by taking photographs of several prominent constellations and asterisms. They will then compare these pictures with those taken in a rural location, in order to investigate the effect of light pollution on astronomical observations. More information about light pollution and its effect on the night sky can be found here: <https://britastro.org/dark-skies/>

Space News

The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced its new batch of Astronauts. Included amongst the astronauts is John McFall, picked by ESA as part of a “parastronaut” feasibility study to see if people with some physical disabilities could fly in space. McFall, a British doctor, lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident at age 19, but went on to become a Paralympian in track and field. “Being an astronaut is a very exclusive thing to be, but having a disability shouldn’t rule you out,” said David Parker. With the Artemis programme planning to land the first woman on the Moon as well as the first person of colour, space travel and space travel seems to be becoming far more diverse.

Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator

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Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Girls Football vs Little Lever



Our KS4 football team secured their 2nd win of the season against Little Lever on Tuesday night ensuring their unbeaten run continued. A quick goal from Grace G settled the nerves instantly and the girls went on to secure an impressive 9-2 victory. Goals came from Fatima U (4), Grace G (4) and Izzy F (1). Next week the girls will face Harper Green on Tuesday (a) and Bolton St. Catherines on Thursday (h).

Up against an extremely strong Little Lever squad our KS3 team suffered their first defeat of the year. Talia D managed to score a couple of goals but it wasn't enough to keep their unbeaten record intact. The girls will need to dust themselves down as they are up against Harper Green on Tuesday and are taking part in the EFL cup on Wednesday!

A great effort, well done girls.

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SCHOOL

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Boys Football (Year 9) vs ESSA



Year 9 made light work of their game against ESSA in round 1 of the Bolton Cup this week and proceeded to the quarter final against Turton. Sharples were dominant from the start and Aashan fired the team into the lead within the first minute. This proved to set the tone for the rest of the game in what was a very dominant and one sided contest. Aashan scored another, followed by a fine goal by Bilal cutting in from the right, Yusuf slotted home from the edge of the box and Rowan scored an impressive hat trick. The team kept their discipline throughout and worked hard to keep a clean sheet; they will be looking to take their confidence into the next round in what will be their toughest test of the season so far.

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SCHOOL

Newsletter

Attendance Information

Reporting an absence:

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Attendance Data

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 94.92%

Year 8 = 91.79%

Year 9 = 94.83%

Year 10 = 92.05%

Year 11 = 93.24%

Best forms this week:

7Shar1 = 100%

8R = 98.70%

9E = 99.11%

10E = 98.02%

11S4 = 98.99%

398 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 29th
November: Year 11
photos - Year group
and individual

Wednesday 30th
November: The
Young Chef
Competition day

Thursday 8th
December: Year 11
Parents Evening
(16:00 – 19:00)

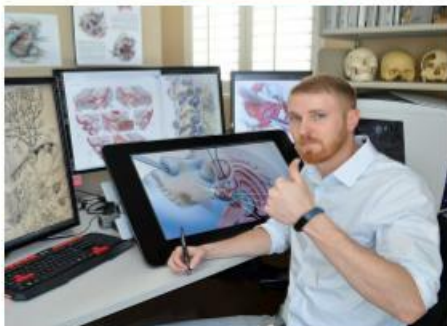
Career of the Week: Medical illustrator

Medical illustrators produce photographs, videos and graphical images for use in healthcare.

Average Salary: £ £25,654
Starter — £39,026
Experienced

Typical hours:
(per week) 🕒 39 to 41
a week

You could work: 📅 on call
on a rota



Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through a university course or working towards this role.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C).

Skills required:

- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Knowledge of the fine arts.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- Design skills and knowledge.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- Knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure.
- To be flexible and open to change.

Relevant Subjects:

- Graphics, Art, Health & Social Care & Science.

Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/carpenter>



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SCHOOL

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PE Lunch Time Clubs - October - December

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM | Y8 & Y10 Football (Big Astro) - AHM | Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM | Y7 Football - Boys & Girls (Big Astro) - GBA & SCU & AHM | Girls only Football (Big astro) - GBA & SCU |
| Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - GBA & SCU | Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - CCH | Just Dance- all years (SH) - GBA & SCU | KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - CCH | Y7/8 Football (Big astro) - AHM |
| Pilates (Gym) - CCH | KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR | KS3 Basketball (Gym) - CCH | | KS3 Basketball (SH) - CCH |
| | Just Dance (Gym) - GBA | KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR | | |



PE After School Clubs - October - December

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| KS3 Swimming | Yr 7/8 Football practice | KS3 Swimming | Badminton- all years | No clubs |
| KS4 Girls fitness suite | Basketball- all years | Yr 9 Football practice | KS4 Girls Football vs BSCA (h) | |
| Yr 9/10 Girls netball | KS3 & KS4 Girl's football v Harper Green (a) | Running club- all years | KS4 Boys fitness suite | |
| KS3 Thai boxing club- | Yr10 Sports Studies detentions/ALS | Y10 v ESSA Academy (a) KS3 Football Tournament @ Kearsley Y7 & Y8 Netball Training | | |

Week beginning 28th Nov

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

AGE RATING

PEGI
18

The Call of Duty (CoD) series is a worldwide gaming phenomenon, with millions of copies sold every year. While 2021's release, *Vanguard*, wasn't quite as well received, this latest entry – *Modern Warfare II* – has so far proved a massive commercial success. A sequel to the recent *Modern Warfare* reboot (and not to be confused with the original *Modern Warfare 2*, from back in 2009), the game is an online shooter which features – unsurprisingly – extreme violence, rendered in realistic graphics. Amid the explosions and political nature of the plot, there's much for parents to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, *Modern Warfare II* carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter – according to PEGI's wording – depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on *Modern Warfare II* in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against – or cooperating with – strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Modern Warfare II follows the 'battle pass' model of games like *Fortnite*. For a fee – usually around £10 – each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history": failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multiplayer mode in *Call of Duty* titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of any age to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, *Call of Duty* games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous *Modern Warfare* featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With *Modern Warfare II* offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending – and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance – and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays *Modern Warfare II*. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. *Call of Duty* fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays *Modern Warfare II* in multiplayer, you could try out the *Spec Ops* mode with them – formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website *Dexerto* and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechRadar*, among others.



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Sources: <https://peginfo/what-do-the-labels-mean/> | <https://www.augamemal/call-of-duty-modern-warfare-accused-of-rewriting-history-to-blame-russia-for-controversial-us-attacks>