



Weekly Bulletin 23rd March 2026

[Headteacher's Message](#)

The Importance of Next Steps and Careers

At this point in the year, it's vital that Year 9 students begin thinking carefully about their next steps and the pathways that will shape their future careers. Developing a clear sense of direction not only supports motivation in school but also helps students make informed choices that align with their strengths, interests, and long-term ambitions.

Year 9: Considering Vocational Options

Our Year 9 students are currently exploring their vocational options as part of the guided choices process. This is an exciting opportunity for them to reflect on what they enjoy, where their talents lie, and which qualifications will best support their future goals. We encourage all

families to discuss these options at home to ensure students feel confident and empowered in their decision-making.

Introducing Land Based Studies for Year 10

Following an extensive search for a suitable replacement for the discontinued Animal Care pathway, we are pleased to confirm that **Land Based Studies** will be offered to all Year 10 students from next year. This course opens the door to a broad range of practical, engaging experiences within the land-based and environmental sectors—an increasingly valuable field offering varied and rewarding career routes.

Aiming High: Eight Qualifications and Strong Outcomes

While choosing the right subjects is an important step, achieving **a full set of eight qualifications** and securing the **best possible grades** remains a top priority. Strong outcomes give students greater choice at college, apprenticeships, and beyond. We will continue to support every learner in meeting these expectations and reaching their full potential.

Key Dates



27th March - Break up for Easter 15:30

13th April - Start of the summer term

23rd April - year 8 and year 9 Loudmouth Theatre in school

23rd April - Year 7 parents evening

Safeguarding Focus: Keeping Our SEND Pupils Safe



Safeguarding remains a priority for our SEND learners, who may sometimes find it harder to recognise unsafe situations or share their worries. We provide extra pastoral support, safe spaces, and clear communication routes to help every child feel safe and supported.

Support for Families

If you need advice or help outside school, these local services may be useful:

Stay Well (Mental Health & Family Support)

Email: staywellnow@mpft.nhs.uk

Staffordshire Connects – Local SEND Services

Website: www.staffordshireconnects.gov.uk (search “SEND Local Offer”)

Shropshire SEND Local Offer

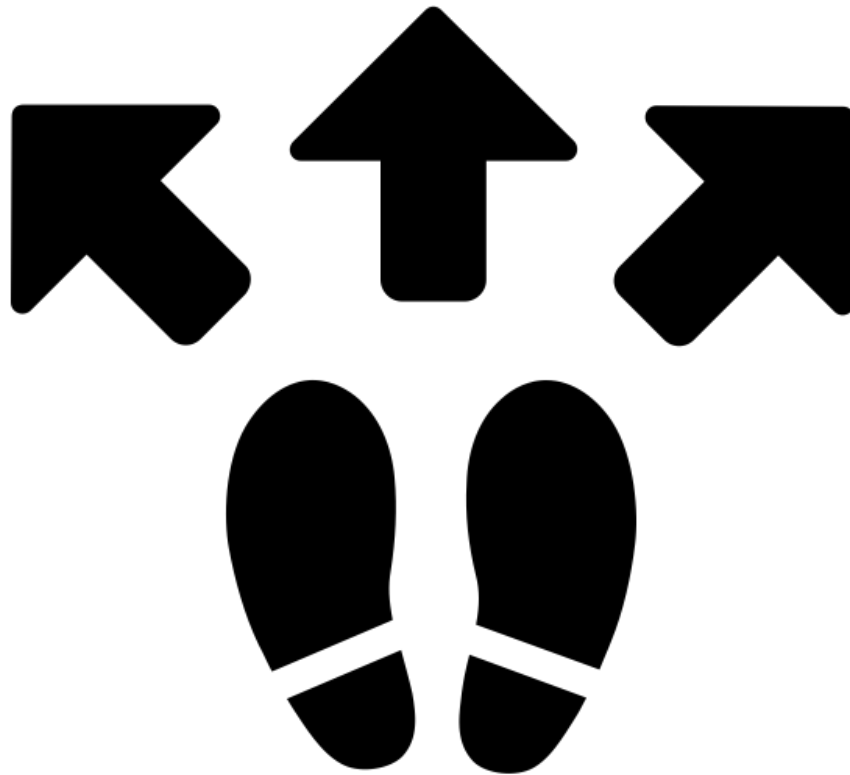
Website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer

If you ever have a concern about your child’s wellbeing or safety, please contact us at sen@ruralenterpriseacademy.com .We are here to help.

Focus: Keeping Our SEND Pupils Safe

The Safeguarding Team are DSL Mrs Bragoli, DDSL Mrs Fiddler, DDSL Mrs Shepherd, DDSL Mrs Moore, Miss Watkins

Year 9 Options



On Friday 27th March, there will be correspondence sent out around the year 9 next steps evening. The event was a part of parents evening and it was wonderful to be able to discuss the options available for our year 9 students in 2026.

The booklet will be sent to parents/carers through class charts, and will include information about the subjects on offer to year 9 students, as well as the process for options to be chosen. We aim for all parents, carers and students to know their assigned options before we break for the May half term.

If there are any further questions regarding year 9 options, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

Many Thanks

Dr Dan Horton, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum)

Year 10 Work Experience



As Year 10 students begin preparing for their work experience placement, we want to take a moment to highlight just how valuable this opportunity is—not only for them, but for their future pathways. For our Year 10 students, work experience will occur during the last week of the summer term - **July 13th -17th**.

For many of us, work experience was a *rite of passage* during our own school days. It was often the first real taste of the working world: discovering new environments, meeting professionals, and realising the expectations that come with employment. These early experiences can spark interests, build confidence, and help young people make more informed choices about their future education and careers.

Today, work experience remains just as important. It helps students to:

- Develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, punctuality, and responsibility.
- Gain insight into a workplace and how organisations operate.
- Explore potential career options, even ruling things *in* or *out* before making post-16 choices.
- Build independence and maturity, learning how to adapt to new routines and expectations.

How Parents/Carers Can Support:

To support your child in securing their placement, please ensure the following steps are completed:

1. **Collect a Work Experience Form:** Forms are available from **Dr Horton** or **Mr Singh**. This form must be completed and returned once your child has confirmed a placement.
2. **Check That the Workplace Is Expecting a Call:** All placements will be contacted by the work experience agency to verify details. Please ensure the employer is aware of this and is happy to confirm the placement when contacted.
3. **Confirm That Appropriate Insurance Is in Place:** The employer must have suitable insurance — most importantly **Employers' Liability Insurance** — to cover the student during their time on site. Without this, the placement cannot go ahead.

Work experience is an invaluable opportunity that helps shape young people's future options and builds their confidence. We appreciate your support in helping our Year 10 students make the most of this exciting milestone.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Dr Horton or Mr Singh.

Exploring Rural Careers

At The Rural Enterprise Academy, we specialise in preparing young people for the diverse range of careers available within the rural industries.

The rural sector now offers more opportunities than ever before—not only in traditional roles, but also in cutting-edge areas such as technology, sustainability, and the continually evolving

food production sector. These roles are shaping the future of the UK's landscapes, communities, and economy.

For many of our students, living and learning in a rural setting is a core part of their identity. Today's young people have the unique opportunity to turn that heritage and interest into a rewarding and meaningful career.

Rural industries have far more variety than many people realise. Alongside well-established pathways such as agriculture, horticulture, and animal care, students can also explore fast-developing areas including:

- **Environmental & Conservation Roles** – Habitat management, ecological surveying, and environmental consultancy.
- **Agri-Tech and Modern Farming** – Precision farming, GPS-guided machinery, and livestock technology.
- **Land-Based Engineering**
- **Sustainable Land and Woodland Management** – Forestry, land stewardship, and estate management.
- **Food Production and Supply Chain** – Farm-to-fork roles in production, processing, and logistics.

These sectors represent just a few of the exciting new opportunities that an interest in the rural world can lead to—not to mention the careers that haven't even been realised yet.

Parents and carers can offer valuable support simply through conversation with their children. What areas capture their interest—wildlife, machinery, food production, or environmental issues? Visiting local farms, country parks, agricultural shows, and land-based businesses can also spark curiosity and broaden understanding of modern rural work.

Work experience will undoubtedly provide further insight into these fields and help students determine whether a rural career pathway is right for them.

For further information about rural careers, please do not hesitate to contact **Dr Horton** or **Mr Singh**.