



Shirley News

February 2019

Shirley High School Performing Arts College
 Shirley Church Road
 Croydon
 Surrey
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Special Dates of Interest:

Friday 15 February 2019

School closes for half term one week

Monday 25 February 2019

School opens after half term

Monday 25 February 2019

Year 11 PPE Exams

Thursday 7 March 2019

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 11 March 2019

Year 8 Exams Week

Monday 11 March 2019

Year 11 1:1 Meetings

Monday 18 March 2019

Year 12 1:1 Meetings

Monday 18 - 22 March 2019

Year 13 A level

Class Assessments

Thursday 21 March 2019

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Friday 29 March 2019

Year 13 Written Reports published on Sims Parent App

Monday 1 April 2019

Year 13 1:1 Meetings

Monday 1 April 2019

Year 8 Reports published on Sims Parent App

Tuesday 2 April 2019

Year 8 Parents' and Options Evening

Friday 5 April 2019

School closes for Easter Holidays

Tuesday 23 April 2019

Year 11 & 13 only

Wednesday 24 April 2019

School opens for Summer Term

Dear Parents / Carers

Our Ofsted Inspection Report will be published later this week on the Ofsted website and we will provide a link to it on our own website [click here](#). A printed copy can be requested from reception if required. The Ofsted framework has as its aim, quite rightly, to ensure that every school is consistently good or better. The Ofsted team worked closely with the senior leadership team, staff, governors and our students and have made a judgement, recognising our many strengths and indicating the areas that require improvement.

The Ofsted team recorded the following strengths:

- This is an inclusive community where pupils feel safe and happy.
- Leaders show a deep commitment to nurturing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They have created an inclusive culture where pupils show high levels of respect for themselves and each other.
- The behaviour of pupils is good.
- Systems to support behaviour are effective.
- Leadership and line management of the sixth form is very effective. Leaders are ambitious for students and possess very good knowledge of each student in the sixth form.
- Students in the sixth form make good progress and are well supported in their applications for university and employment.
- The performing arts continue to make a rich contribution to the school's culture and ethos. Pupils enjoy music, drama and dance lessons, as well as the performances and shows that take place throughout the year
- Leaders oversee a vibrant extra-curricular programme. Pupils value this provision.
- Leaders communicate effectively with parents. Parents believe strongly that their children are happy at the school. Parents and pupils value the school's nurturing and inclusive culture.
- Governors make a positive contribution to the school's culture and ethos, for example, by meeting with student leaders. Governors have a good understanding of the local context and support the school in enabling pupils to stay safe, in school and in the community.
- Pupils take an active role in sustaining the school's culture of safety and well-being. A significant proportion of sixth-form students are trained to mentor younger pupils. Anti-bullying ambassadors are visible and effective.
- Pupils have a good understanding of diversity, and describe the school as a place where they can develop as individuals. They have faith in the guidance that teachers and leaders provide on staying safe, in school and beyond.
- Attendance has consistently been better than the national average in recent years, and remains high this year.
- Progress in the sixth form has exceeded national rates of progress for several years, and this continues. This means that students leave with good grades, which enable them to secure places at sought-after universities and employers.
- Sixth-form teachers and leaders are ambitious for their students. They pay close attention to students' career intentions, and support them in achieving them.
- Expectations of students are high and they are expected to work hard. Students make good use of study periods to work independently, and they are frequently set challenging homework.
- Teachers possess excellent subject knowledge. Students value the personalised guidance they receive from teachers, and the fact that teachers are accessible and supportive outside of timetabled lessons.

Despite the strengths outlined above, Ofsted has judged that the school requires further improvement so that it is good in all aspects. To do this we will continue to focus on strengthening the quality of teaching, accelerating the achievement of students and, in particular with your help, stretching and challenging students at KS4 to get the highest grades. We have clear plans for the further improvement of the school. Many of these have already been put in place, such as a change to our entry policy for GCSEs and the development of resources and implementation of initiatives to support the revised curriculum in Maths. We are confident that the progress of higher attaining learners will significantly improve in 2019 and that the school will produce record GCSE results to add to our continued success at Post-16.

Yours sincerely

N M Barrow
Principal

M West
Chair of Governors

2018 Alps Certificate of Outstanding Progress

Shirley High School Performing Arts College

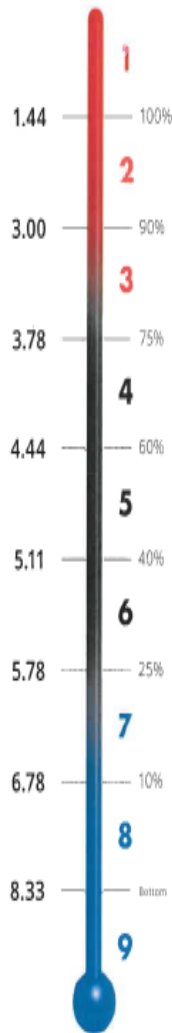
TOP 15%
Nationally

3 Year
T Score = 3.22

Well done!

Mary Ahern
Chief Executive

National position compared to the A level outcomes
of 2,817 schools and colleges in the UK



Alps Helping students aim higher

Shirley High Sixth Form

Outstanding Results
Why go anywhere else?
INTERVIEWING NOW



*Sixth Form leaders ensure that learners are taught well
and make good progress - Ofsted - February 2016*

**A Level 76% A*-C,
BTEC Level Three 97% Distinction*- Merit**

100 % PASS RATE

Year 13 Sixth Form BTEC students completed their two week work experience placements in January.

The group consisted of BTEC UPS students because they are not currently involved in exams they were able to go during the Pre Public Exam period in sixth form.

We received some very positive comments such as "pleasure to have in the office, always happy – very productive".

"Always helpful and takes on all tasks issued to him with a positive attitude".

Work experience is an important preparation for both university and employment. Although work experience is not always possible in the area of interest it can provide evidence of skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

Mrs C Kelly - Sixth Form Administrator



I have been in the Cadets for almost 4 years and it has been a great experience. Since joining the Cadets, I have changed as a person and it has impacted on me in a positive way. I have fun doing lots of activities and competitions. As a Cadet, we learn about first aid, how to arrest people and check the speed of a car.

This gives us, as Cadets, a chance to get together with other Cadets from different boroughs and networks.

There are more than 100 Cadets in the borough of Croydon from all different backgrounds. I would encourage more young people to be involved with their local Cadets because it has such a positive impact in the community.

Shawntai Senora 11L



Mucky Bubs for under 1's (Term time only)

Every Tuesday 10.30 am - 11.45 am

Does your child love getting their hands dirty while exploring the world around them?... We've got it covered! Messy play helps children develop in their own ways including being able to express their feelings and experimenting with a variety of textures.

Please bring with you a spare change of clothes for your children

Little Tenderfeet - Transition

Is your child starting Pre-school or nursery? This can be a difficult time for both parents and children full of new opportunities and many challenges.

This new 4 week course will focus on promoting independence, looking at routines and offering tips and advice including a special visit from the DENTAL NURSE WHERE YOU CAN COLLECT YOUR FREE TOOTHBRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE.

PLEASE BOOK ONTO THIS FREE COURSE – SPACES LIMITED

Thursday 28 February - 21 March 2019

1.00 pm-2.30 pm

Bookstart

Bookstart is a programme aimed at families that require support to develop a love of stories, books and rhymes. The programme runs for 3 weeks in which the children will have access to a range of activities to enhance their engagement with their families and to build their confidence around reading and listening to stories.

Each week the children will read a different story and be able to take the book home with them. Within the session the children will have the opportunity to make a buggy book of rhymes, a lion mask and a space rocket (one each week) which will support their early learning, language and development.

PLEASE BOOK ONTO THIS FREE COURSE – SPACES LIMITED

Monday 25 February - 11 March 2019

1.00 pm - 2.00 pm



Shirley Children's Centre

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS / CARERS SAFEGUARDING

Would all parents / carers please sign in at Reception if entering the school building for any reason, at any time of day, even before or after school. This is for security and safety reasons.

Also a reminder, please, do **NOT** drop students off by car **inside** the school grounds or **outside** the school at the gates as this causes congestion and is also a hazard to students and other road users. **Due to congestion, please do not use the staff car park.**

Thank you for your help with these issues.

N M Barrow - Principal

YEAR 7 CASTLE COMPETITION

We are so proud of your efforts. The standard really was the best ever! The main winners have been selected and the History Department are extremely impressed. If the first prize winners for accuracy and effort see their History teacher they will arrange for you to see Mr Barrow so your name can be added to the Book of Excellence.

Accuracy winners

- Caleb Baugh (7L)
- Sofie Hristova (7S)
- Keana Murray-Laguda (7R)
- Isaiah Murray-Awotona(7R)



Effort Winners

- Jay Luong (7E)
- Theu Herouvim (7R)
- Harley Walker(7I)



Runners-up (effort and/or accuracy)

- Charles Mashuta (7R)
- Liam Ruddock (7S)
- Nickolas Zanetta (7S)
- Jael-Carys Caiquo (7Y)
- Julia Bryk (7Y)

The following students have been recognised for their outstanding work in particular subjects.

- Their names have been entered in the School's Book of Excellence.....*
- Sophia Nathanael 10H.....Winning the Festive Cake Competition*
- Lilleyah Vigus 8L.....Winning the Festive Cake Competition*

Nathan-Louis Harrison 7R.....Ancient Greek Gods Project

Kavita Sabeson 11Y.....Exam Intervention Course

Jael-Carys Caiquo 7Y.....Nelson Mandela Research

Jay Luong 7E.....Motte & Bailey Castle Competition Winner

Theo Herouvim 7R.....Motte & Bailey Castle Competition Winner

Valentine's Day - Thursday 14 February 2019

Over 200 cookies were sold, all baked by the outstanding in-house Catering Team led by Mrs Frost.

A big thank you to Emily for designing the flyer and generating sales and Christina, Amarni and Crystal for helping to ensure the cookies reached the right people!

The proceeds of this event will go towards the Year 11 Prom.

Mrs Samuels and Mrs Dye (Pastoral Support Assistants)





What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

 Universal, suitable for all ages	 Parental Guidance required	 Suitable for people aged 12 and over	 Suitable for people aged 12 and over, where no strong sex or violence is depicted by an adult
 Suitable for people aged 15 and over	 Suitable for people aged 18 and over	 Adult content only available in specially licensed cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

 www.pegi.info	 www.pegi.info	 www.pegi.info	 www.pegi.info	 www.pegi.info
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PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info



National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061



Times:

am session from 10:30am to 11:45am

pm session from 12:45pm to 2pm

BUS DAY



Meeting point:

Fairfield Halls bus stop Z1/Z2

If you want to learn what to do in different situations while on public transport then this short activity is for you. Bus day runs once a month and we run morning and afternoon sessions.

Date: 20th September 2018

18th October 2018

15th November 2018

17th January 2019

21st February 2019

21st March 2019

16th May 2019

20th June 2019

18th July 2019

To book please contact Travel Training Team on 0208 604 7578

Or e-mail: traveltraining@croymdon.gov.uk



Together we can make a difference

Parents In Partnership

The next Bus Day will be on Thursday 21 February 2019.

The Bus Day is a way of showing young people the ways to travel safely in their community. TfL staff are on hand to provide further information and to answer any questions.

They will show how to manage different situations and also practise crossing the road safely.

The morning session starts at 10.30 am and finishes at 11.45 am.

The afternoon session starts at 12.45 pm and finishes at 2.00 pm.

The starting place for both sessions is bus stop Z1 and Z2 outside Fairfield Halls on Park Lane. Parents/carer are expected remain with and supervise their child throughout the session.

If any parent/carer would like attend [the carer attending with the young person should be over 18 years], they should contact the travel training team (traveltraining@croymdon.gov.uk) with their:

- Name (parent/carer)
- Child's name -
- Contact number (parent/carer)
- An email address so that the booking can be confirmed

Upcoming Events

**Young Poets Competition,
Spring 2019**

**World Book Day Celebrations
and Shirley's first 'Read Across
Shirley Day' – 7 March 2019**

**Literary Alliance Buddy Reading
Initiative, January 2019**

**Shirley High School Caught
Reading Initiative, January 2019**

**Shirley High School Book Fair,
28 March – 4 April 2019**

**Whole School Spelling Bee
July 2019**

“By failing to ensure all young people have the literacy skills they need to access their education, we could be depriving them of the opportunity to succeed both academically and in life.

Children’s reading must be supported throughout their time at school to help them succeed across curriculum”

The National Literacy Trust (UK), defines reading for pleasure, also referred to as independent, leisure or recreational reading, as:

Reading we do of our own free will, anticipating the satisfaction we will get from the act of reading.

LITERACY NEWS

Young Poet Competition with the National Literacy Trust

On Monday 28 January 2019, students from 8S visited The Charterhouse to attend a poetry workshop with the National Literacy Trust. The students, who are studying elegies in their English class, were given an amazing opportunity to tour the venue. They are learning how to write poems, and what better way to learn than to be inspired by the sights and scenes of the Charterhouse ‘a living legacy in the heart of London’?

Students are now anxiously awaiting their visiting poet who will offer advice and assist them in publishing their poems in the second half of the Spring term.

Thank you to Mrs Griffiths (English Teacher) and Ms Saul (Specialist Teaching Assistant) for taking our students and to young Annelie Najorka 8S for her comprehensive report on the last pages of this section.

Four weeks and counting...!!

You heard it. Let the competition begin! There are four weeks to our World Book Day celebration. The theme for WBD 2019 is ‘Share a Story’. Staff and students will all dress up as their favorite book characters and share a section of their stories in our Read Across Shirley activity and Rendition. Students will also be issued with book tokens towards purchasing their favourite books at their local book stores or at our annual book fair. At the end of the day, students and staff will vote for the best student and staff costumes.

Books, Books and more Books!

Join us on Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2019, for the launch of our annual book fair. Our book fair, in collaboration with Scholastic Books, promises to be a memorable week where students compete for gift vouchers and purchase their desired books at reduced costs. We encourage parents / carers to visit the school to view and order books.





Did you know? SPAG is worth 20% of the Writing marks for GCSE English Language. SPAG is worth 5% of your English Literature, History, Geography and RE marks.

Have you ever wanted to assume another identity? Live through a historical event? Explore the Arctic Circle? Reading a novel is about personally inhabiting the world of your characters, no matter how different from your own reality. (Adlit, 2018).

Meet Mrs Pilarchie



Mrs Pilarchie is 3rd in English and Whole School Literacy Coordinator

Charge:



Be your child or students' reading role model today.

Literacy Alliance on the move!

Wow! Buddy Reading has been caught reading. Members of the Literacy Alliance Club participated in their third week of Buddy Reading and what an amazing impact they have had since the start of our initiative! Our Buddies will support Year 7 students throughout the Spring term providing a friendly and supportive offer.



We value our Buddies highly and recognise the outstanding contribution they make to ensure Shirley High School is a happy and safe school. Buddies are there to be a friend, someone to rely on and mentor to the Year 7 students. In return our Buddies develop a range of inter personal skills as well as enhanced responsibility.

"Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002)."



Members of the Literacy Alliance Club with their Year 7 mentees. At the centre of the photograph is Ms Sarpong (SSA) who supervises the group.

EQUIPMENT CHECK!

Has your son / daughter got a reading book in their bag that is suitable for their reading ability?



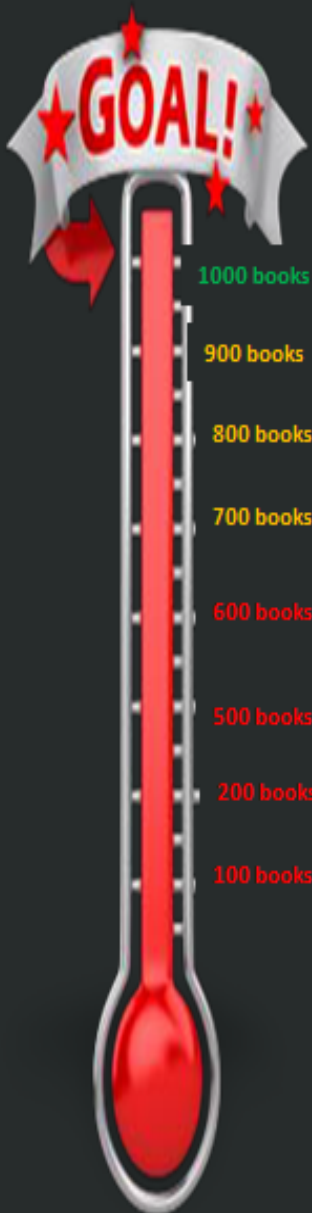
Literacy and GCSE!

Whether you teach PE, Science, History or Geography or a parent / carer of a student sitting a GCSE, you will need to get to grips with the literacy requirements of the new GCSE specifications. (National literacy Trust, 2018).

Here are a few command words used in GCSE exam questions to get you started:

Analyse Separate information into components and identify their characteristics	Criticise Assess worth against explicit expectations	Deduce Draw conclusions from the information provided
Describe Set out characteristics	Evaluate Make a judgement based on the evidence available	Explain Set out purposes or reasons
Interpret Translate the information you have into a recognisable form	Prove Demonstrate validity on the basis of evidence	State Express in clear terms

Our Book Fair Goal...



Websites:

- ✓ <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/steps-to-success-in-science/literacy-resources>
- ✓ <https://www.missbsresources.com/maths-resources/literacy-within-mathematics>
- ✓ <https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/community/collection/63166/im-proving-literacy-and-mathematical-skills-science>

ONE MUST ALWAYS
 be careful of
BOOKS,
 WHAT IS
 & *inside* them. FOR
WORDS
 HAVE THE
Power
 TO CHANGE US.
 — TESSA DRAY



Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school.

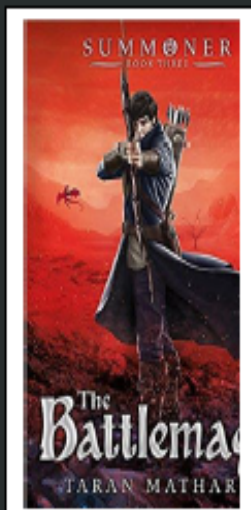
— Beverly Cleary —

Books available at Book Fair:

Discover Feminism



Summoner Series



Year 8S students listening keenly to a lecture at the Charterhouse

This term in English, we have been focusing on poems and elegies. Therefore, our form was chosen to go on a free trip to the Charterhouse. Our teacher, Mrs Griffiths prepared us for the visit. Our visit was based on the Black Death, also named the Bubonic Plague, an outbreak in the 14th century so we knew most of the facts.

We had to arrive a little earlier at school in order to get the Charterhouse in time, the coach left school at 8.15 am. Due to light traffic, we arrived nice and early so we were able to look around. We saw a whole film crew who asked us if we were the children actors; sadly, we said no. There were people dressed up, horses, lots of vans and various crew members walking around. We were asked to wait in a round piece of garden area.

We were then led into the Charterhouse. We visited many rooms; the first one was really a cold hall where monks stayed and walked in silence. Four kind women informed us of many facts about the Charterhouse. They said that on the green where we were, the Black Death victims had been placed into a pit, approximately 1000 victims! Then we were led into a Tudor dining room. There were golden chandeliers and neatly arranged tables and chairs.

Afterwards, we split into groups to complete a few tasks. One group went into a room and saw a skeleton from a boy about 15 - 21 years old. No one knew his name; they just knew that he died from the Black Death. We then wrote questions that we had for the skeleton. The other group went into a chapel and saw a large monument full of colors: black, red, yellow, green and gold as well as little figures and statues.

We wrote about what life and death is to us and then switched groups where we went up some creaky, wooden stairs and entered a hall with lots of wooden chairs. We sat on the floor and with our notes from the skeleton and monument, we created an elegy. We later had lunch and said farewell to the Charterhouse.

We are now adapting our elegies in class and waiting for a poet to listen and improve them.

Mrs C Pilarchie - 3rd in English and Whole School Literacy Coordinator