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Information Station

- **Winter half term**— End of term 19th December back to school Thursday 4th January 2024
- **Term dates** for 2023/24 are available here: <https://thekeystoneacademy.org/school-holiday-dates/>
- **Uniform** either contact the school office by email or phone for more Information, or orders can be made online at: www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk. Please name your child's clothing
- **School Meals**—Did you know that you can now pay for your child's dinner money on the Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App? The new menu will be available on our website soon.



NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11

December 2023

After a fabulous first half term in our brand new school building, I am delighted to share some of the events and activities that have been taking place at Keystone.

Despite the anticipated disruptions during and following the move, it has been fantastic to see how quickly our pupils and our staff have settled into the new space. We are enjoying learning how to use the new spaces and are looking forward to developing our specialist areas both within and outside the school, in the coming months (and years).

We are looking forward to welcoming two new teachers to our school in January, alongside an increasing cohort of new children. You can find out more about Mrs Johnson and Mrs Rowsell towards the end of the newsletter. We will begin transitions for another 15-20 children next term taking our numbers close to our planned growth of 90 for this year across both primary and secondary.

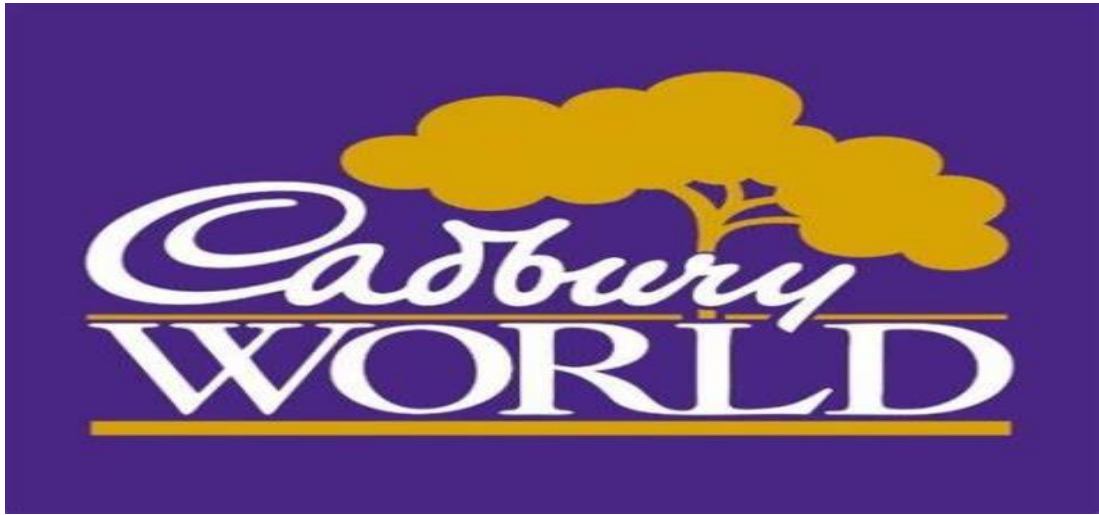
We have also included a copy of the newspaper article printed in the Shropshire Star when we opened in case you missed it. It was a real pleasure to meet Kirsty Hurst-Knight who is a clear advocate for the SEND community.

I would like to take this opportunity thank you all for your continued support and to wish you all well over the Christmas period. Whether you are enjoying busy family get togethers, or a quiet low-key break. I hope you all enjoy some peace and happiness over the coming 2 weeks. We will look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Thursday 4th of January.

Best Wishes

Ali Bellaby

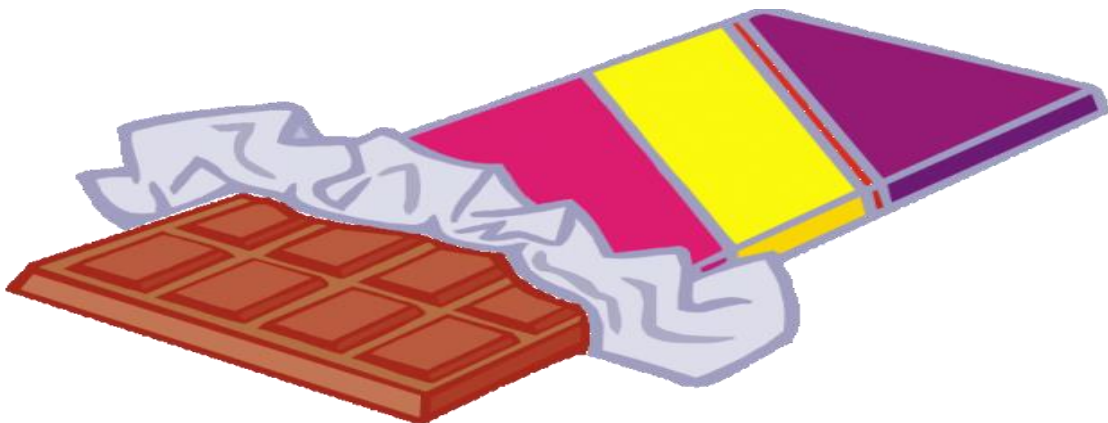






KS4 students enjoyed an offsite excursion to Cadbury World in Birmingham in October where they had the opportunity to learn about the mass manufacture and distribution of our favourite sweet treats .

This links into the current studies in Food Technology, Design and Technology and Art and Design. Fun was had by all and they got to eat lots of chocolate !



Anti Bullying Week

In our first full week in the new building, Keystone staff and students made a noise against bullying as part of a national Anti-Bullying week campaign. Students came up with ideas for heroes to make a stand against bullying in their form times and discussed how bullying can impact the lives of those involved and those caught on the periphery during their PSHE lessons.

Standing in solidarity, recognising that we are all odd in our own way, we wore a delightful array of odd socks on Monday 13th November, raising money for the anti-bullying alliance.

Throughout the week, it was a pleasure to see students going out of their way to demonstrate kindness and respect to those around them.



Design and Technology



The year 7's have had a mixed bag this term of trying new workshop machinery and techniques. The photos show a project where the pupils glued together small pieces of MDF with wood glue, and clamped together in the bench vices, to form a cube. Once dried they then sanded the sides and rounded the edges so the cube would tumble more like a dice. This enabled them to use the electric sanding machine and sanding plates. The mini project was finished with their own design on each face of the cube.



Christmas Lunch

On Friday 1st December we all enjoyed our Christmas lunch marking the festive season in our Christmas jumpers. The Darwin and Tajiri classes enjoyed a quieter lunch with the pulling of crackers and sharing of festive jokes. Fun was had by all.



Every Christmas dinner needs ketchup!





A Big Welcome To Keystone



Jenna Johnson—PE Teacher

I have accumulated over a decade of invaluable experience in the field of physical education. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with students ranging from the tender age of three to the more mature age of eighteen, thereby accumulating a vast range of expertise. I studied sport management at the University of Central Lancashire and went onto Wolverhampton university to complete my graduate teacher programme. My area of specialisation predominantly revolves around Physical Education and sports, a discipline that I wholeheartedly embrace and strive to instil a lifelong passion for in my students. Over the years I have actively competed in many sports and presently, participate in netball and rounders leagues in Shrewsbury. In addition to this I enjoy exploring the world with my family and have a massive zest for life. I am looking forward to sharing my passion with all the staff and pupils at The Keystone Academy.





Lizzie Rowsell—Primary Teacher

Hello, my name is Mrs Rowsell and I'm really looking forward to joining Keystone Academy, in January. I am currently a year 5 teacher, at a local primary school in Shrewsbury. I qualified as a teacher in 2011, and since then I have briefly worked as a house parent, a SEND teaching assistant and for 8 years, as a teacher. I love being a teacher, as it's so rewarding to see children develop, not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. My classroom is always a safe, welcoming, and consistent space, that allows children to truly be themselves, in a secure and nurturing environment. In my spare time, I love to bake, craft, and read books. You will also see me cycle to school, as I've taken the leap of faith of selling my car and swapping to a greener mode of transport. I live with my husband and daughter, and we have recently got two kittens called Tommy and Lily.



I can't wait to meet you all properly and be part of the Keystone family.





PETER PAN

On Thursday 7th December, Miss Seabury and Mr Gray had the privilege of visiting Ruyton XI Towns to watch Jake (one of our Year 7 pupils) in the Pantomime, Peter Pan. Jake played the character of John, and was outstanding in his performance, speaking his lines clearly and joining in the songs and complex dance routines. We would like to say a huge well done to Jake and it was lovely to share this experience with himself and the family. The family all had roles with Jake's father directing the panto and his mother and brothers playing their parts too. It was an incredible evening, and we look forward to watching Jake's acting develop here at Keystone.



STFC Women's Team




Shrewsbury Women's Football Game

Shrewsbury Town's women's team kindly invited the school community to join them for a friendly against Derby early in December. A group of about 30 comprising of families of both staff and students took part in the afternoon. Some were seasons football fans, for others it was their first time watching a game. It was a great game, closely fought, unfortunately Shrewsbury went down 3-2 in the closing quarter. Despite their loss the team were able to muster the energy and enthusiasm to great our students on the pitch, cheering them on during a penalty shootout and posing for pictures at the end of the game. We are all looking forward to returning for another game later in the season.

CATERING NEWS

We are pleased to confirm that from January we will have on-site caterers. We will be working with a company called Caterlink who will be preparing, cooking and serving freshly cooked meals each day. Below you will find further information about Caterlink. The menu will be sent home before Christmas and will also be uploaded to our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, including allergies and dietary requirements, please contact the school office in the first instance.



**WELCOME TO
CATERLINK**

**WE ARE REALLY EXCITED TO BE
WORKING WITH YOU!**

GREAT THINGS WE DO EVERY DAY

FRESHLY PREPARED DISHES DAILY – We pride our self on using the highest quality products using highly trained teams to prepare and cook fresh dishes daily using raw ingredients to assemble tasty, nutritious dishes.

FOOD FOR LIFE SERVED HERE – We are proud of our Food for Life Served Here catering mark having been the first contract caterer to be accredited with the prestigious award back in 2011. We operate at Silver grade as standard across our business and serve Gold standard meals where advertised.


LOCAL SUPPLY – We use local suppliers and produce where possible and when in season within our menus.

ORGANIC – We source a percentage of organic meat, fruit and vegetables in line with Food for Life Served Here, Silver requirements.

BRITISH FIRST – We have a Red Tractor and British First Policy. This means that the meat products are fully traceable from farm to fork.

FREE RANGE – We make sure all of our Pork (where on the menu) and eggs are RSPCA Assured

MSC FISH – We responsibly source fish and will bring this approach to your school. All of our fish is sourced from sustainable sources in line with guidelines set by the Marine Stewardship Council. All of our Tuna is pole and line caught, and we do not source any fish that is on the Fish to Avoid list.



Caterlink, Hop House,
Lower Green Road, Pembury,
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info@caterlinkltd.co.uk
www.caterlinkltd.co.uk

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Welcome to
Caterlink



GREAT THINGS WE DO EVERY DAY

FRESHLY HOMEMADE BREAD - We cook bread daily and also use flavoured breads to bring new flavours to your children's palates.

INNOVATION AND MENU PLANNING - In line with Children's Food Trust recommendations, Caterlink have reduce the sugar within our desserts, ensuring that all contain 6.5g of free sugars or less.

HELPING TO SAVE THE PLANET - We have developed a number of 50% plant-based protein dishes to our menus these are also a good source of protein and help reduce green house gasses than using meat and dairy.

PLASTIC REDUCTION - We are keen to be leaders in reducing plastic within our kitchens and have removed the use of clingfilm, plastic cutlery, cups and reduced packaging from our suppliers.

ADDED BENEFITS!

ASSEMBLIES - We deliver assemblies to cover a wide range of topics such as healthy eating, hydration and food waste, some of which include live cooking demonstrations.

CHEFS ADOPT A SCHOOL - Our Development Chefs host these sessions up to 3 times year, where pupils learn to cook from raw basic ingredients including bread making, whilst exploring the 5 senses.

KITCHEN GARDENS - Through our WSH Charitable Foundation, we are able to offer kitchen gardens where pupils can grow vegetable and herbs. This helps children understand where fresh produce comes from.

TASTER SESSIONS - These are hosted at the end of the school day to allow parents and guardians the opportunity to try dishes on the menu. We also ask for feedback on our dishes to help shape our menus for your school.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

You can also keep in-touch with us through our web site, where we advertise menus, job vacancies and news. Allergy and intolerance forms can also be downloaded from our web site; www.caterlinkltd.co.uk

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Shropshire STAR

Shrewsbury's new purpose-built SEND school opens doors to learners.

Parents, teachers, and students at a new special school gathered for a sneak peek at the state-of-the-art facilities on Tuesday.

Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight and headteacher Ali Bellaby with families at the new Keystone Academy




The Keystone Academy at Bow brook in Shrewsbury threw open its doors for the first time on Tuesday, to give the families of 70 pupils a look at the new special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school.

The new school, which will accommodate up to 120 neurodivergent pupils aged four to 16 with a range of social, emotional, and mental health needs, will officially open on Wednesday.

The opening of The Keystone Academy marks the final stage of a project that included Bow brook Primary School and the SEND school after both were given planning approval in September 2022.

The school features a range of modern and inclusive educational facilities including outdoor learning areas, a variety of sensory spaces and a colour palette that research shows support and soothes neurodivergent learners.

Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Cabinet Member for Children and Education said: "I am delighted to see The Keystone Academy now opening its doors at its new purpose-built school and welcoming its first pupils.



“This is an exciting development that will enable Shropshire children with SEND to access high quality specialist provision within the community of Shropshire and will support children to prepare effectively for life as an adult.

“The academy is one of several projects we are investing in to secure high-quality and sustainable provision of primary and secondary places in the town and surrounding areas.

“With the number of pupils with SEND requirements – both in Shropshire and nationally – rising steadily, this is a fantastic opportunity to build a school which caters for the needs of those pupils. It will also complement the provision already in place in the county.

“This is a fantastic new chapter in our development to future-proofing school placements, for our SEND children and young people, for the foreseeable future.

“I’d like to wish all pupils and staff the very best on their first week at their brand-new school.”

Shropshire Council applied for and secured Department for Education (DfE) funding for a SEND Free School.

After a competitive process, the Youth Engagement Schools Trust secured DfE approval to operate the school. The council will continue to commission places at the school.

Headteacher, Ali Bellaby, said: “I am delighted to be opening our brand-new school, with a wonderful environment which is purpose-built for the needs of our fabulous pupils.

“For those children (and staff) who joined The Keystone Academy in our temporary school last academic year, this is both incredibly exciting and a bit nerve-wracking, as change can be scary.

maximise the learning potential for all our learners, adapting to their individual needs. This is such an exciting time!”



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.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/parentscarers/information-and-resources/ 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

 @ShropFamilyInfo, #HAFSHROPSHIRE, #HAF2023

 www.facebook.com/shropshireFamilyInfo

FIS 01743 254400 / shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk

This opportunity is provided as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme being delivered across Shropshire during 2021 to 2024. 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 listed are provided by professional organisations delivering excellent high-quality programmes.

All organisations have safeguarding policies, DBS certificates, insurance and risk assessments in place and will be following government guidelines regarding COVID-19.

