

# TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Headteacher's Message

**Lucie Wainwright**

As we approach the festive season, we reflect with pride on the incredible young people who make our school such a special place. Their achievements, resilience, and enthusiasm continue to inspire us every day.

This time of year reminds us of the strong sense of community that defines our school. Together—students, staff, and families—we have built excellent relationships that allow us to thrive and aim high. By working in partnership, we ensure that every young person is supported to reach their full potential.

On behalf of everyone at the school, we wish you a restful, joyous break filled with peace and happiness.

Thank you for being part of our journey, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.



[www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk) - 01773 872391

# Chair of Governors - Peter Wragsdale

As of the 31st of December, sadly I will be stepping down as Chair of Governors due to increasing work commitments. Serving in this role has been an incredible privilege, and I have greatly valued the opportunity to work with such dedicated staff, supportive parents, and inspiring students. I am proud of all we have achieved together and wish the school every success in the future. Jill Smith, Vice Chair will kindly take on the role of Acting Chair until a permanent successor is appointed.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we would also like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas period.



## Attendance Awards

Congratulations to all students who have achieved 100% attendance this half term! Your commitment, reliability, and positive attitude to learning have not gone unnoticed. Coming to school every day, on time, shows real dedication and helps you make the most of every opportunity. Well done to our Attendance Award winners – you should be very proud of this fantastic achievement. Keep up the great work!



# Year 7 Adventure Day at The Mill – What a Blast!

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Our Year 7 students had an incredible time at The Mill Adventure Base, taking on thrilling challenges and making unforgettable memories! From splashing through water games on rafted canoes to scaling Jacob's Ladder and the towering rock wall, the day was packed with laughter, teamwork, and courage. Many students pushed themselves to new heights—literally—on the Leap of Faith and zip line platform, showing amazing determination. As Sophie from 7B summed it up perfectly: “I would definitely recommend this trip because, if you like a challenge, it is an amazing experience, and I would totally go there again!” With so many smiles and stories like this, it’s safe to say this adventure was a huge success and a day to remember!

**Mr Allbright – Head of Year 7**



# Year 8 Trip to Lea Green – A Memorable Adventure

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Year 8 trip to Lea Green was an unforgettable experience packed with adventure, teamwork, and personal growth. Students embraced the challenge of learning new skills during bushcraft sessions, where they built fires and explored the natural surroundings.

The low ropes course tested everyone's ability to work together, encouraging support and cooperation through tricky obstacles. These activities helped build confidence, trust, and resilience among the group.

Team-building exercises brought the whole year closer, fostering communication, collaboration, and plenty of laughter along the way. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones, try something new, and strengthen friendships.

In total, 176 students attended the trip, accompanied by their Year 8 Form Tutors, Teaching Assistants, Head of Year, and SLT Link. A huge thank you to everyone who made this experience possible!

**Mr Tomlinson – Head of Year 8**



# Spanish Tapas

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 15 of our students from years 8, 9 and 10, took part in a tapas experience visit. We visited Escabeche restaurant in West Bridgeford and enjoyed a variety of tasty tapas dishes. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to try new foods and get a feel for the Spanish culture. As always, our students were a credit to the school and it was amazing to see them being brave and trying new flavours!

**Miss Sheffield - Global Teacher (MFL)**



# **Oxford University Trip**

## **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The Oxford University trip was the first time Tibshelf students were invited to go to St Edmund Hall Oxford as part of their raising aspirations and outreach programme.

The students left early at 7:20am in order to arrive in Oxford for 10:30am. They had a great day with student ambassadors and took part in critical thinking and chemistry exercises throughout the day. The students were amazing and used their expertise well to fully engage with the challenges of the day. St Edmund's were really impressed with their attitude and engagement and could see our students at the worlds best university (ranked number 1).

As part of the trip they were taken on a tour of the college and ate in their famous dining hall catered by a Michelin star chef.

They had a brief tour of Oxford and returned back to school at 6:30pm.

**Mr Gonsai - Deputy Director of Science Progress**



# Bolsover Youth Council

## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Student Councillors Take Part in Team-Building Event at The Arc, Clowne

In November, six of our student councillors from Years 8-10 attended an exciting team-building event at Bolsover Council Offices, Clowne. The day began with an opportunity to meet pupils from all secondary schools across the Bolsover District and take part in a series of fun and challenging activities.

From lining up in birthday order to crossing a space using crates and building a balloon tower, the students worked together to solve problems and strengthen teamwork skills. The most challenging—and messy—task was designing a structure to protect an egg from cracking when dropped from a height!

After the activities, pupils gathered in the Council Chamber for inspiring sessions with guest speakers. The first session was led by Kellie, the Youth Council Leader, where students collaborated to create this year's Youth Council manifesto. Key priorities included improving mental health support, promoting diversity and inclusion, and providing safe spaces for young people to share ideas.

The final session focused on leisure and healthy lifestyle choices in Bolsover. Students completed a questionnaire, and their input will help professionals develop a strategic leisure plan for the district. There will be three more meetings throughout the year where pupils will return to the Council Chambers to discuss current issues and continue shaping positive change.



# Cross Country Success at Sherwood Pines

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Our students recently took part in the district cross country event at Sherwood Pines and delivered outstanding performances! The majority of our runners qualified for the next round by finishing in the top 12 within our district—a fantastic achievement.

A special congratulations goes to Arthur P, Darcie O, Jack H, Jayden H, and Freya P, who all placed in the top 3 for their age group and proudly earned medals for their efforts. Well done to everyone who represented our school with such determination and team spirit!

**Mrs Tomlinson – PE Teacher & Deputy Director of Personal Development**



# Celebrating Our Former Year 11 Students!

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Congratulations to our amazing former Year 11 students! It was fantastic to see so many of you last night collecting your GCSE certificates and celebrating your hard work and success. We are incredibly proud of everything you've achieved and the dedication you showed throughout your time with us.

Wishing you all the very best for the exciting journeys ahead—keep aiming high and chasing your dreams!



# Festive Fun at the Frankfurt Christmas Market



On 5th December, 48 students embarked on a magical trip to the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham to soak up the festive atmosphere. The market, famous for its traditional German stalls and vibrant holiday spirit, offered students the chance to sample authentic seasonal treats such as bratwurst, pretzels, and delicious German pastries.

Alongside tasting the festive delicacies, students enjoyed browsing the beautifully decorated stalls, picking up unique gifts and ornaments to take home. The trip was not only a wonderful cultural experience but also a great opportunity for students to bond and celebrate the season together. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and represented the school with pride, showing excellent behaviour throughout. A big thank you to the staff who organised this memorable outing—it was the perfect way to kick off the Christmas celebrations!



## Spreading Festive Cheer: Our Choir Shines at Secondary Sing Aloud

This December, our school choir had the fantastic opportunity to perform as part of the Secondary Sing Aloud massed choir. This event brought together school choirs from across Derbyshire to perform at the Crooked Spire in Chesterfield for the Carers Association, followed by an evening performance at the Fraser Academy in Shirebrook.

The event was a huge success! The choir sounded amazing, with almost 200 students coming together to perform a wide-ranging repertoire, including some festive favourites.

**Mr Brown - Music Teacher**



# Christmas Coffee Morning

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



Students from a range of year groups showcased their singing and dancing skills at our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. Parents enjoyed a mince pie and hot cup of coffee whilst watching our students perform songs and dances developed in lessons. It was a pleasure welcoming all in attendance and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas.

**Mr Wathall - Assistant Headteacher**





# Delicious Highlights from Our Autumn Canteen Specials



This term, our school canteen has treated students to a fantastic range of themed menus and seasonal delights!

- Pizza Day (2nd October) was a huge success, with plenty of slices enjoyed by all.
- Oktoberfest Takeaway Tuesday featured smoky Bratwurst hot dogs and crispy golden potato wedges—an absolute favourite!
- British Food Fortnight (26th September – 12th October) ended with a crowd-pleasing menu of fish & chips, jumbo sausage rolls, pizza, and more.
- Throughout October, students enjoyed autumn breaktime treats of hot chocolate and cinnamon buns every day.
- Day of the Dead (4th November) brought a vibrant selection of dishes, including chilli & rice, roasted veg tacos, cheesy chicken quesadillas, and sweet treats.
- We rounded off the season with a Bonfire Night menu featuring hot dogs, potato puffs, and a comforting toffee apple sponge with custard.

And to top it all off, our kitchen team successfully passed their health & safety inspection with a 5-star rating—a fantastic achievement that reflects their hard work and dedication!

A big thank you to our catering team for making lunchtimes extra special this term!

## FOOD HYGIENE RATING



# Festive Feast for Staff and Students!

On 10th and 11th December, the school was buzzing with festive cheer as staff and students enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner! From roast turkey and pigs in blankets to creamy mash and all the trimmings—there wasn't a sprout left! To top it off, Christmas pudding with custard and mince pies made the perfect finish.

A huge thank you to our amazing canteen team for making this much-loved tradition so special once again!



# Christmas Boxes - Supporting Communities Near and Far



This term, our students have shown incredible generosity by contributing to two important charity appeals:

- Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal – We sent 40 boxes filled with gifts and essentials to children living in poverty or war-torn countries across the world.
- Sheffield Shoebox Appeal – We donated 5 boxes to support adults in our local communities (Sheffield, Chesterfield, and Dronfield) who are homeless, in refuge, or facing crisis.

A special mention goes to Form 8B, who created the most boxes with an amazing 6 contributions, closely followed by 8F and 7B, who each made 5 boxes. Thank you to every student and family who helped make a difference!

**Mrs Tomlinson – PE Teacher & Deputy Director of Personal Development**



**Community Spirit**

## Personal Development Days

The school will be hosting two more Personal Development Days throughout the year aimed at connecting students from various year groups with employers through interactive sessions. This initiative provides students with insight into different careers and workplace skills. Any employers interested in getting involved and building a school partnership are encouraged to contact [g.thorpe@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:g.thorpe@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk).

## Dance Workshop

On Friday 21st November, Year 9 and Year 10 BTEC Dance students took part in a dance workshop focused on contemporary dance. The session covered key techniques and gave students the opportunity to explore and create their own motifs, enhancing both their skills and creativity to support their BTEC Dance studies.



## Careers Fayre

A Careers Fayre was held on 14th October for Year 10 and Year 11 students, giving them the opportunity to explore a wide range of future pathways. Representatives from various sixth forms and colleges attended, including Tupton, Chesterfield College, West Notts College, St Mary's, and Ashfield, alongside organisations such as the Army and the G3A Football Academy. The event allowed students to ask questions, gather information, and begin planning their next steps with confidence.

# Work Experience

A reminder to Year 10 parents to support their child in securing a work experience placement. Work experience is scheduled for 20th–23rd July 2026. Once a placement has been found, parents and students should complete the form available via this link: [Work Experience July 2026 - Placement Information](#).

A list of potential employers, FAQs, and other helpful documents can be found on the school website to assist in the process.

[Work Experience information](#).

## **Post 16**

For Year 11 students and parents, here are the remaining open evenings for exploring post-16 options.

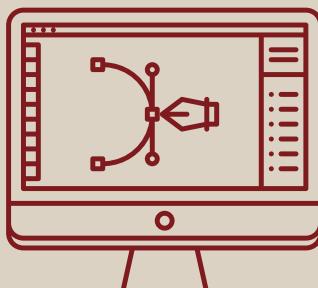
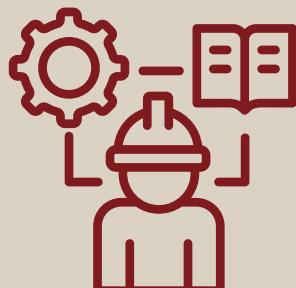
### **Chesterfield College**

- A-Level Open Evenings on Tuesday 3rd March 2026, both from 4–7pm.

### **West Notts College**

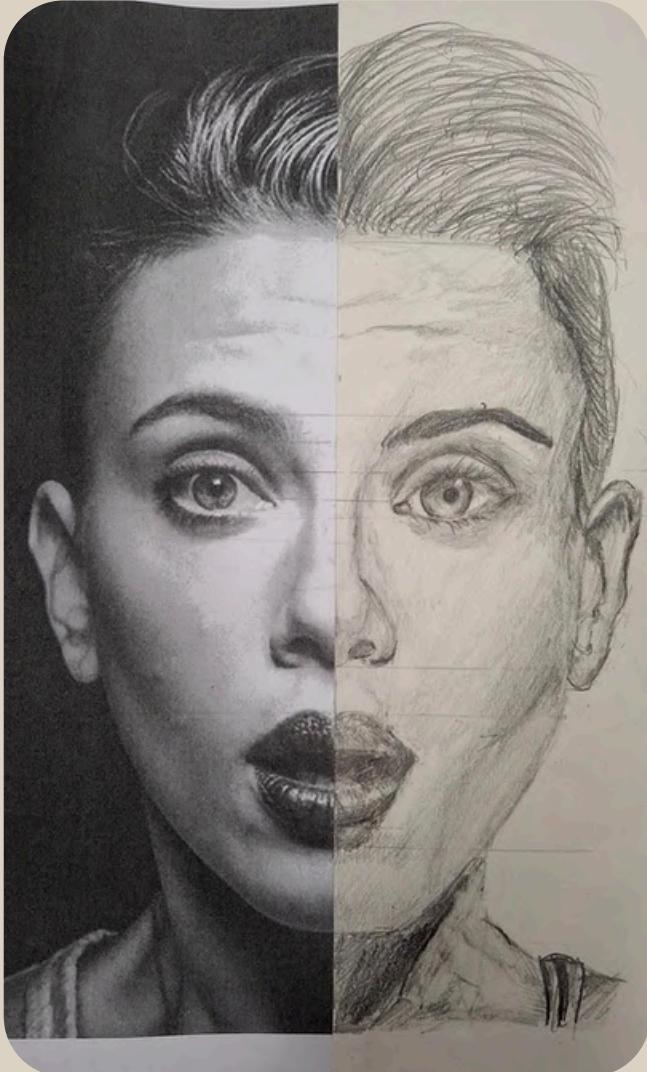
- A-Level Open Event on Thursday 15th January 2026 from 5.30–7.30pm
- College Open Event on Saturday 24th January 2026 from 10.00am–1.00pm
- Apprenticeship Information Event on Thursday 19th March 2026 from 5.30–7.30pm.

These events offer students and parents the opportunity to explore courses, meet staff, and gather essential information for their next steps. If your child is unsure on their post 16 pathways please request a careers appointment from Mrs Tomlinson.



# Celebrating Creativity: Year 8's Stunning Pencil Drawings

Year 8 students have created a stunning collection of pencil drawings that demonstrate impressive skill in shading, texture, and proportion. Their work shows great attention to detail and creativity, with careful use of light and shadow to add depth and realism. These pieces are a fantastic example of the talent and dedication within our art classes.



# Years 9 and 10 Reading Mentors

Nineteen Tibshelf School students from across Years 9 and 10 have begun working with local primary schools on a half-termly basis, helping to develop the reading skills of pupils in Years 5 and 6. Our fantastic students have visited Pilsley Primary School, Town End Junior School and Westhouses Primary School, listening to pupils read and encouraging them on their reading journeys. The primary pupils record their feelings about what they have been reading in special Reading Response books and discuss book choices they have made, with their mentors.

Pupils have been chosen for this role of Reading Mentor because of their love of books and their ability to pass on that enthusiasm to the Tibshelf pupils of tomorrow! Feedback has been encouraging from the primary schools with teachers describing how our students have developed productive relationships with the younger pupils, allowing them to respond positively to reading and books.

The Reading Mentors programme has developed as part of the 'Building Bridges' Project which seeks to share good practice between Tibshelf School and our feeder schools in the teaching of reading and writing. The project helps to smooth the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 in English, building the foundations for a successful Key Stage 3 and beyond.

All four schools involved in the project will benefit from more pupils discovering the magic of reading and our Reading Mentors are developing some valuable life and leadership skills such as using questioning techniques, modelling and displaying empathy.

A writer once said that 'There is no friend so loyal as a book'. Well, if that is to be believed, our fabulous Reading Mentors are helping to ensure that there will be many more friendships forged in our school over the next few years!

**Mr Moon - Deputy Director of English Progress**

## Reading Mentors

**Year 10** - Esther L, Lewis C, Maisy W, Amelia H, Humphrey T, Tori B, Lennon M, Olivia W and Lilly-Mae B.

**Year 9** - Jak L, Theo C, Oskar F, Ava A, Chloe E, Reece M, Laila M, Gene Q and Dominic P.



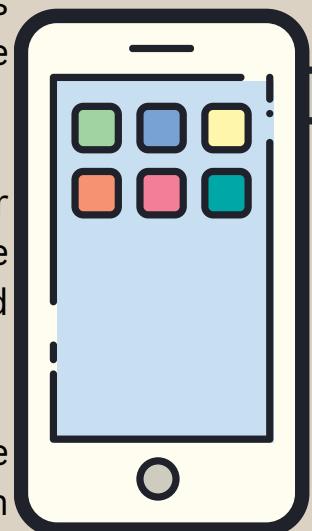
# Information

## Stay Connected – Turn On Your Notifications!

Arbor makes it easy to stay informed about your child's school life. Log in to Arbor to view and update your child's information, check details about trips, attendance, and see positive and negative behaviour marks—all in one place.

The Parent Portal works best on Google Chrome (computer or laptop), and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and above).

If you have any questions about Arbor, the App, or the Parent Portal, please contact the school office. When emailing, include the type and model of your phone. To safeguard student data in line with GDPR, Arbor only works directly with schools.



### ParentPay Reminder

Please remember to use our secure online payment system, ParentPay, to pay for school lunches, purchase resources and equipment from the ParentPay Shop, or make donations to charity events.

If you have any questions, concerns, or experience difficulties using ParentPay, please visit our website for further details or contact the Finance Office.

Email:

[finance@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:finance@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

A member of the Finance Team will be happy to assist you.



ParentPay

### Mobile Phone Policy Reminder

If a student brings a mobile phone into school, it must be switched off and stored securely in their bag. If a phone is seen anywhere on the school site during the school day—including social times—it will be confiscated and placed in the Focus Room. The phone can be collected at the end of the day. Persistent breaches of this policy will be treated as defiance and will result in escalation through the behaviour ladder.



# Uniform and PE Kit Expectations

Students should arrive at school in full school uniform every day, including ties and blazers.

If you are unsure whether or not certain items of uniform meet our uniform requirements, please check on our school website.

## School Uniform.

As part of Health and Safety guidance, classrooms must remain well-ventilated, which can make them cooler than usual. We have taken measures to help mitigate this, but coats are not to be worn in lessons.

Full details of our uniform and PE kit requirements can be found on our school website:

<https://tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk/information/uniform/>



# Attendance and Illness at School

## **Reminder from our Attendance Officer**

- If we have not received communication regarding an absence before 8:30am, it will be recorded on your child's Arbor account as an unauthorised absence.
- Students must be in tutor time by 8:30am. Anyone not present will receive a late mark.

## **Illness During the School Day**

- If your child feels unwell, they should inform their teacher. A First Aider/Medical Officer will then be contacted.
- If the First Aider feels your child is too unwell to remain in school, they will contact parents/carers directly.
- If your child is on medical evidence, the First Aider/Medical Officer will seek permission from the Head of Year before any decision is made.

**Important:** Students should NOT contact home themselves without permission from their Head of Year.

## Reminder from our Medical Welfare Officer

### **Medication in School**

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please complete the required form. This form is available on our website, from Reception, or you can send a signed letter with clear instructions.

Please note: A separate form must be completed for each type of medication.

### Medication Form

### **Healthcare Plans**

If your child has a diagnosed medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, please ensure a healthcare plan is completed annually and shared with our Medical Welfare Officer, Mrs Marshall.

Any changes to the plan must be updated with the school as soon as possible



## **Key Dates - 2026**

### **January**

**5th** - School re-opens

**7th** - Manchester City Football Experience

**7th - 8th** - MFL Speaking PPEs

**12th - 23rd** - Y11 PPE Series

**16th** - Derbyshire Cross Country

**21st** - Y9/10/11 Netball at Frederick Gent School

**28th** - Y7/8 Netball at Tibshelf Community School

**29<sup>th</sup>** - Sports Leaders are supporting Y1/Y2 Infants

**30th** - Boccia at Tibshelf Community School / Indoor Kurling at Tibshelf Community School

### **February**

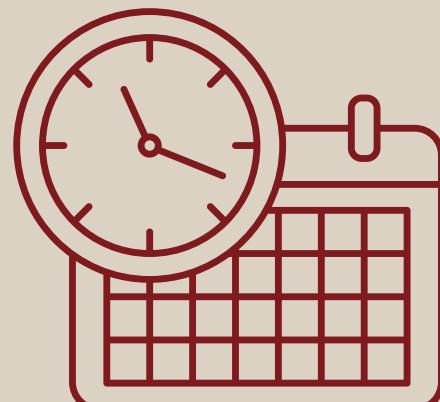
**4<sup>th</sup>** - Sports Leaders are supporting Y5/6 Juniors

**6<sup>th</sup>** - Y9 Road Safety Sessions

**11th** - KS3/4 Indoor Rowing Plus

**24th** - Y8 Options Evening

**25th** - Y7/8 Girls Rugby Festival at Tupton RUFC



## Communication with Parents

To keep you informed, we regularly update our website:  
[www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Our main method of communication is through the Arbor in-app messaging system. Any communication that includes an attachment will be sent via email.

Please ensure we are notified of any changes to your email address by contacting us at: [info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

You can also follow us on our social media channels for updates and news.



## Contact Details

Please ensure that if you change your mobile number or address, you notify the school office by calling us or emailing [info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk) with your updated details.

We have found that some parent/carer mobile numbers are out of date, and it is essential that we can contact you quickly in the event of an emergency.

## Contact Us

Doe Hill Lane

Tibshelf

Alfreton

DE55 5LZ

Tel: 01773 872391

Email:

[info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

[www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### Telephone Options

Option 1 Report Student Absences

Option 2 Report Staff Absences

Option 3 Site Staff

Option 4 Leave a message for Reception

Option 0 Speak to Reception

# TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# CHARACTER VALUES



Resilience



Respect



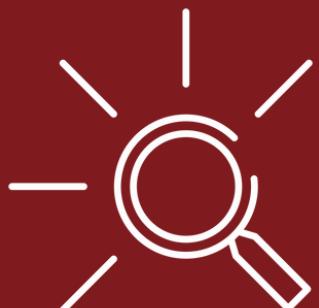
Positivity



Integrity



Community Spirit



Curiosity