



IDSALL NEWS *edition 49*

19 December 2025

Calendar

- Fri 19th Dec : School Break Up at 3.10 pm
- Mon 5th Jan : Back to School
- w/c 12th Jan : Year 13 One Week Study Leave
- w/c 12th - Fri 16th Jan : Year 12 & 13 Two Week Exam Block
- w/c 19th & 26th Jan : GCSE Practical Exams
- Thu 29th Jan : Careers Fair - 9.10 to 13.00
- Thu 5th Feb : Year 9 Options & Parents Evening
- Tue 10th & Wed 11th Feb : Year 9 Vaccinations
- Mon 16th Feb : Half Term
- Mon 23rd Feb : PD Day
- Tue 24th Feb : Collaboration Day
- Wed 25th Feb : Start of Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams

- Thu 26th Feb : Year 10 Parents Evening

Contents



- Calendar & Events
- Headteacher Comments
- Year 7 News
 - A Message from your HOY
 - Christmas Community Challenge
 - 7CHA Cake Sale
- Year 8 News
 - A Message from your HOY
 - Will Competes in Nationals!
- Year 9 News
 - A Message from your HOY
- Year 10 News
 - A Message from your HOY
- Year 11 News
 - A Message from your HOY
 - Faye Plays for County
 - Flame Tests in Action
- Sixth Form News
 - A Message from The Sixth Form Team
 - The Reindeers
 - Gnome Quiz 2025

- Sixth Form Book Club
- **OTHER IDSALL NEWS**
 - Celebrating Success and Wishing Good Luck
 - Sparx Reader
 - Cooking Club
 - Local Governing Body - End of Term Update
 - The Service Network
 - Ex Students Visits
 - From the PE Department
 - Rain Doesn't Stop Play for Year 8 House!
 - Badminton KS3 Qualifiers
 - Yr 9 CVL League
 - Grinch Visits PE
 - Trips Update
 - Disneyland 2026
 - Safeguarding
 - Work Experience 2026
 - Think Which Service
- What's On In The Local Area
 - Shifnal Events
 - Taekwon-Do New Beginners Programme
- Contact Information

Michelle King - Headteacher





Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we approach the end of a busy and successful term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and hard work across our school community. This term has been filled with learning, growth, and opportunities for our students to shine whether through academic progress, enrichment activities, or contributions to our wider school life.

I am incredibly proud of the resilience and commitment shown by both students and staff. Together, we have continued to uphold high standards and foster a culture of kindness, ambition, and respect. Thank you to all families for your ongoing support; it makes a real difference in helping every child thrive.

This week we were delighted to host a special Christmas Dinner for pupils from Shifnal Primary School, organised and served by our amazing Sixth Form students. Their hard work and enthusiasm made the event truly memorable and showcased the leadership and community spirit we value at Idsall.

Following this, we enjoyed our very own Idsall Christmas Dinner, where students and staff came together to share a festive meal and celebrate the end of a successful term. It was a wonderful occasion that reflected the warmth and togetherness of our school community.

End of Term Arrangements School will finish at the normal time of 3:10pm on the last day of term, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January. Wishing you all a restful Christmas and New Year

Year 7 News

A Message from your HOY



Christmas Community Challenge



Wow, just wow! Mrs Reeve is so so proud of Year 7 – especially the “Christmas Champions” who volunteered to help organise and lead their tutor teams in the year 7 Christmas Challenge.

There were bake sales, sweet sales, guess the sweets in the jar competitions, a Christmas craft event, shoe boxes filled with toys and craft for children, as well as encouragement to bring in cash or items for the foodbanks. In total, 12 shoeboxes of presents, and 5 large boxes of food and health items were donated, as well as over £450 in cash being raised / donated.

£450! What an incredible feat in just 2 weeks.

On Tuesday 16th December, Mrs Reeve, Mrs Case and Mr Doody had the pleasure of taking a selection of the Christmas Champions with us to deliver all the items and money to Shifnal Foodbank and Telford Crisis Support. Whilst there, pupils were given a brief tour and had it explained to them how these charities work, and what their donations will be used for.

A big well done to all involved.











7CHA Cake Sale

Delicious treats were up for grabs this week when 7CHA did a cake sale towards their Christmas Community Challenge. Well done 7CHA!





Year 8 News



A Message from your HOY



As we come to the end of term, I want to recognise the hard work and effort shown by our Year 8 students.

There have been some great achievements, including fantastic results from the girls' football team and a successful music show and the preparations for the Christmas concert – well done to everyone involved!

Thank you to all Year 8 students for your commitment this term. Enjoy a safe and peaceful break, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Ms Ryan



Will Competes in Nationals

It is fabulous to have copies of some of the official photos of Will P, year 8 whilst he competes in the National Schools Ski Championships!

Will has recently competed in the National Schools (North) Indoor Ski Championships where he secured a 6th place for Idsall and in the National Schools Outdoor Ski Championships where he secured a 5th place for Idsall.

Fantastic results! Well done Will!





Year 9 News

A Message from your HOY

As we come to the end of this term, Mrs Griffin and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by our Year 9 students.

This term, Year 9 have consistently been praised by the Senior Management Team for their excellent behaviour and conduct, particularly during assemblies and fire drills. Their maturity and respect have been a real credit to the year group and to the wider school community.

Students have also shown excellent engagement during Extended Team Time, producing thoughtful and meaningful work through their PSHCE projects. In addition, we have seen fantastic participation and achievement across a range of enrichment activities. Year 9 students have represented the school brilliantly in sport, with many demonstrating teamwork, determination, and school spirit. We are also proud of the number of students who auditioned for and secured roles in the school show, showing confidence and creativity. Throughout the term, students have made great efforts in the ongoing languages quizzes, demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment to their learning.

Year 9 students have also engaged very positively with a number of important assemblies this term, including army and careers-focused assemblies, where they showed maturity, interest, and thoughtful engagement. In addition, their involvement in the Remembrance Day assembly was conducted with respect and sensitivity, and they should be commended for the way they represented the school during this important occasion.

The year group has also shown a strong sense of community spirit. There was excellent participation in Christmas Jumper Day, and students made generous and thoughtful contributions to the Christmas hampers and the local food bank, reflecting the kindness and compassion within Year 9.

Overall, it has been a very positive and successful term for the year group, and we are proud of all that they have achieved.

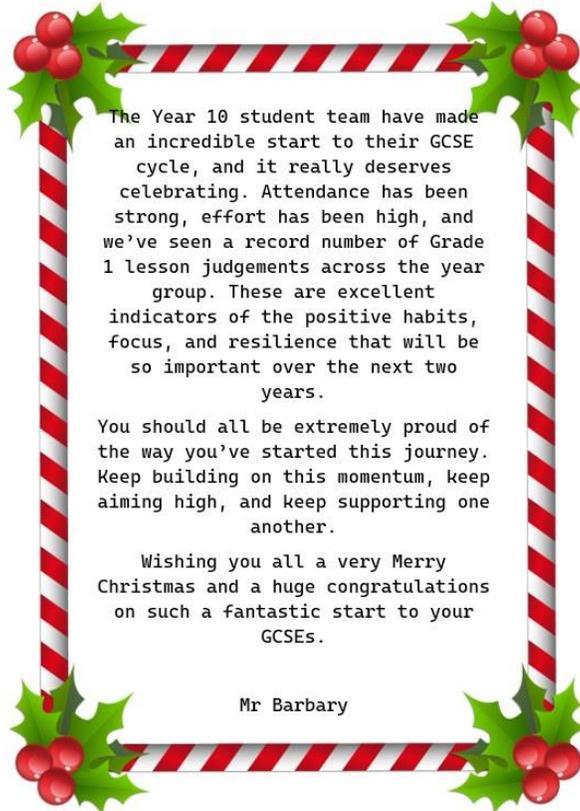
We would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the new term.

Ms Woolley & Mrs Griffin

Year 10 News



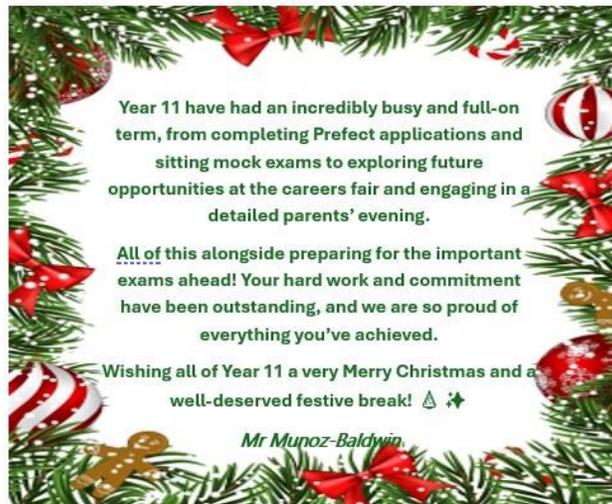
A Message from your HOY



Year 11 News



A Message from your HOY



Faye Plays for County

Year 11 Faye A made her second appearance for Shropshire Schools' and Colleges' FA on a cold Monday night away in Derbyshire. A massive achievement to be picked for the team. Faye has shown determination and worked hard for her place.

Faye did Idsall proud, played well and put on a strong performance in defence.

We look forward to seeing Faye play for the county team again in the New Year! 🏀

Well done Faye!

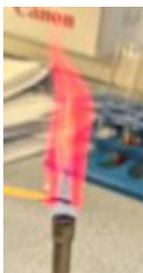


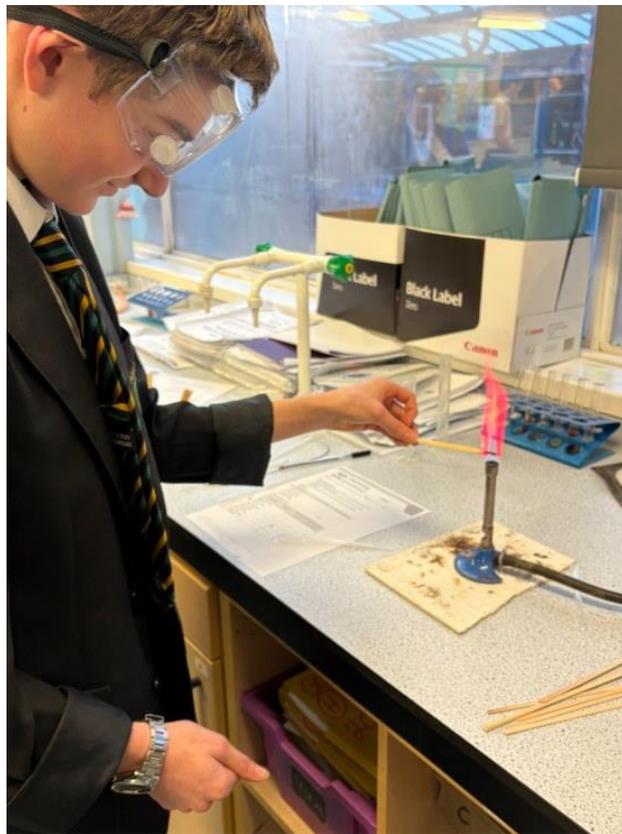
Flame Tests in Action

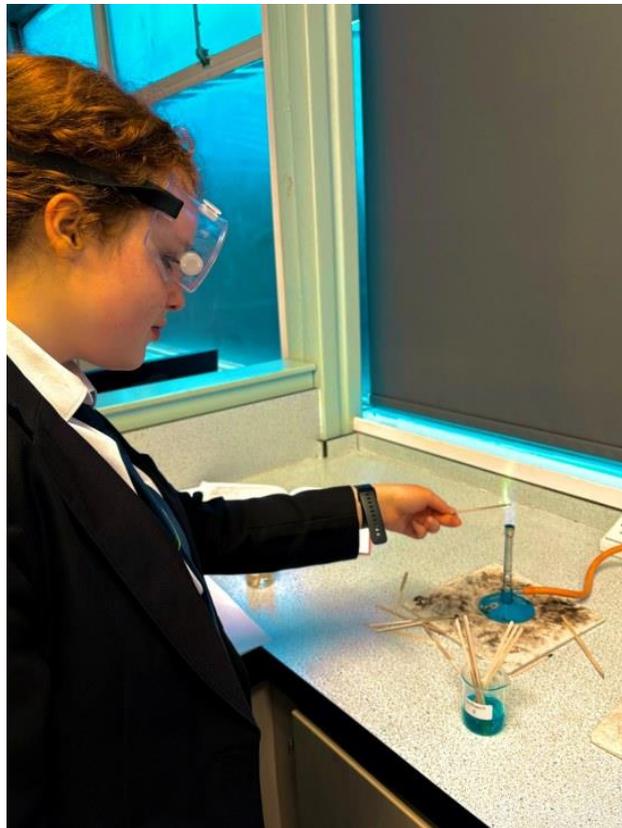
Year 11 students recently took on the challenge of identifying unknown compounds using a range of chemical tests.

Starting with flame tests to reveal metal ions, they then moved on to reactions for anions, piecing together clues like real scientists.

Bright colors, careful observations, and logical thinking made this practical a great way to bring chemical analysis to life.







Sixth Form News

A Message from The Sixth Form Team



The Reindeers

In the traditional way, the Sixth Formers all dressed up for the last day of term. It has been great to see them all in costume, jumpers, face paints and so much more however if Santa is looking for 4 of his Reindeers, I think the Grinch has stolen them!



Gnome Quiz 2025

In line with a long held Idsall Sixth Form tradition at this time of year, we held our annual gnome quiz this week.

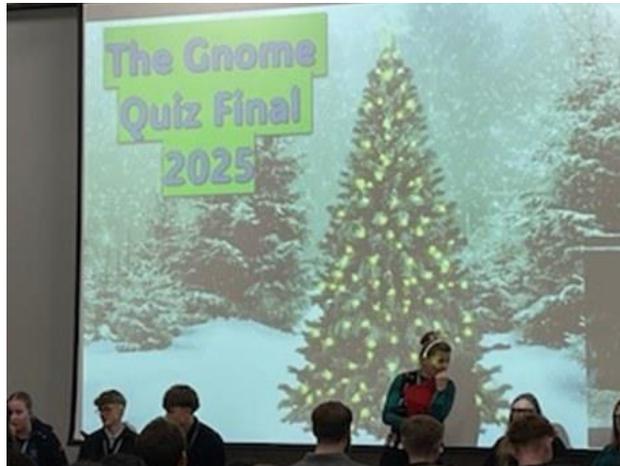
The initial quiz heats saw 6 Sixth Form teams whittled down to 4. While the semi-finals saw smaller teams of students show off their knowledge on a range of issues from 2025, including politics, sport and culture.

The final, which was made up of a mix of current affairs and festive based challenges, saw a battle between 6RST and 6SCO.

It was a very close final, but in the end only one team could take the gnome home!







Congratulations to 6RST and their final team of Jess, Kazy, Toby and Zak, who celebrate the gnome and the glory for 2025!



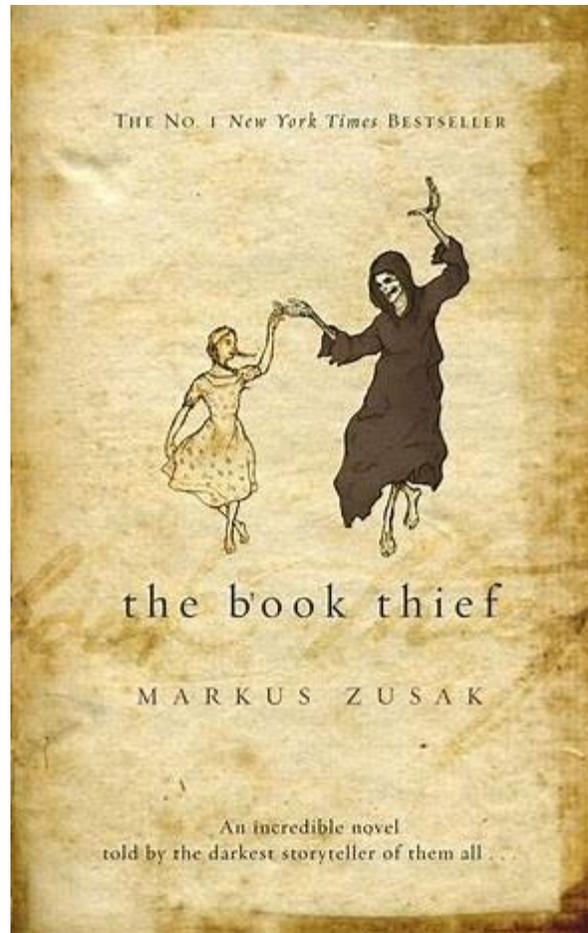
Sixth Form Book Club

On Wednesday, Sixth Form book club had their monthly meet to discuss 'The Bell Jar' by Sylvia Plath.

It was interesting to find out different interpretations of the themes running through the book. The Bell Jar is the story of a young woman dealing with some very real [mental health](#) concerns. Looking at the bigger picture, however, the book considers what it was like to be a woman in 1950s America.

The next book will be 'The Book Thief' by Marcus Zusak.

Discussions around this novel will be in BA1 on Wednesday 28th January 2026. Everyone is welcome to come along!



OTHER IDSALL NEWS



* Celebrating Success and Wishing Good Luck!

A huge **well done** to the eight ITT students from the University of Wolverhampton who have completed an amazing Phase 1 placement here at Idsall School. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment have made a real impact, and we're proud of everything you've achieved.

As you move on to the next stage of your training, we wish you the very best of luck. Keep building on the fantastic start you've made—we know you'll continue to inspire and succeed!



* Sparx Reader Weekly

Below is this weeks Sparx Reader leader board! Congratulations to you all on your achievement and well done to all those that are taking part!

Year 7	1	Mila D
	2	Rhiannon L
	3	Poppy L
Year 8	1	Logan RP
	2	Vaishnavi K
	3	Wesley G
Year 9	1	Lilly-Mai R
	2	Rahman KK
	3	Lacey J
Year 10	1	Amrit K
	2	Will M
	3	Ameleah W
Year 11	1	Akhtiyar KK
	2	Rafe S
	3	Lucas H

Sparx Reader This Term!

Huge Congratulations to our Prize Winners for the most SRPs this term!

They are:



- Y7 Mila D 10632
- Y8 Vaishnavi K 8406
- Y9 Lilly-M R 9747
- Y10 Amrit K 2007
- Y11 Martin J 2438

* Cooking Club

This half term the year 7 and 8's have been busy in cooking club and have made some wonderful treats for their families! They have been cooking sausage rolls, mince pies and chocolate yule log and they all look delicious!



























*** Local Governing Body – End of Term Update**

As we reach the end of the autumn term, we wanted to share a brief update on the work of Idsall's Local Governing Body (LGB). As governors, we are all volunteers who give our time to support, challenge and champion the school.

At the start of the term, we welcomed two new Community Governors, Ryan Phillips and Victoria Mantle, who have joined the board for a four-year term.

We have held two full LGB meetings this term, where governors heard from the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team, reviewed pupil progress, contributed to strategic discussions, and supported the school in planning ahead.

At our first meeting of the academic year, we also elected the board's officers for 2025/26. Sophie Brady has been appointed as Chair, and Jennifer Higson as Vice-Chair, both for a 12-month term. In addition, the school has run a Parent Governor election to fill the current vacancy. Many congratulations to Josephine Edwards-Sherwood on her successful appointment.

Alongside formal meetings, each governor holds a link role connected to the [Trust's strategic priorities](#). Throughout the term, governors have carried out a number of link visits, meeting with the relevant member of SLT to understand progress, offer challenge, and provide support. Link activity this term has covered areas such as Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Attendance, SEND, People First, Belonging, Pupil Premium, and SLT Wellbeing, as well as participation in an Ofsted preparation workshop. A short summary of each visit is shared with the full governing body at the following meeting.

Governors have also attended a variety of school events in order to stay connected with daily life at Idsall. These have included the September Open Evening, Macmillan Coffee Morning, a cross-country event, Sixth Form Open Evening, staff training, Sixth Form Parents' Evening, Year 11 Parents' Evening, and Idsall's Christmas Concert.

We wish all families and staff a restful and joyful Christmas break and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to continuing our work in the spring term.

You can find out more about Idsall's Local Governing Body [on our website](#)

*** The Service Network**

The Service Network starts up again on Thursday 8th January in the library. This will run for 4 weeks. The 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

This service is set up for students who have a parent in the armed forces.

Please see Ms Bailey-Williams for more information.

*** Ex Student Visits**

We were delighted to welcome a former student back into school on Wednesday. Kiri Meredith came in to speak to our aspiring medics from year 11 and Sixth Formers to inspire them. She spoke to students about applying for a degree in Medicine, tackling the UCAT, and what life is really like as a medical student.

The session was highly engaging, with students asking thoughtful questions about university life, subject choices for Medicine, and how to make their personal statements stand out.

It was a motivating and informative experience for all involved and we thank Kiri for giving her time and expertise in coming into Idsall to help our students.

They now go into the School Games Finals representing East Shropshire.

Fantastic result!



Yr 9 CVL League

Last week year 9 boys B team travelled to the Telford schools CVL League where they played 2 games.

They won 1 of the games!

Mr Goodison enjoyed seeing the boys play some great football, showing their development.



Grinch Visits PE

Happy Christmas from year 7 girls house football in PE. Totally ruined by the Grinch who does not have tekkers what so ever!

They absolutely loved this surprise visit 😊

Have a good one.

PE TEAM x



* Trips Update

Disneyland 2026



Thank you to all those that have completed the consent / passport / GHIC information. Please send to me when completed. If you want a paper copy, please ask your child to collect one from the library.

Any questions / queries, please email Cathy.Leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk.

* Safeguarding



This week's safeguarding notice is to draw attention to a variety of services that are able to support you at Christmas time, should you need it.

Children's Services First Point of Contact – Shropshire: 0345 678 9021

Children's Services First Point of Contact – Telford and Wrekin: 01952 385385

Shelter UK - homelessness: 0808 800 4444 or [Home - Shelter England](#)

Foodbank: Shifnal: 07562 384965 or shifnalhelpfoodbank@shifnalbenefice.org.uk

See below infographic for various mental health support services.

Mental Health Support over the Christmas Period

Christmas can be a daunting time, and a time you might feel more pressure to feel or be a certain way. Make sure you are kind to yourself over the Christmas period, and know it is okay to struggle and to talk about your feelings.

SAMARITANS	Samaritans- Support for anyone that needs to talk, offers 24/7 support by phone- 116123
shout	Shout: Provides free, confidential 24/7 crisis text support. Text SHOUT to 85258 to connect with a volunteer.
kooth	Kooth offers free, confidential and anonymous online support and counselling for 11-23 year olds. Their team will be available to provide mental wellbeing support over the festive period.
NHS	Call 111 or visit NHS 111 online for advice if you experience a significant change in your mental health and are not already receiving care from mental health services.
Beat Eating disorders	Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder. Call 0808 801 0677.
childline ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME	Childline provides a confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem. Call: 0800 1111 anytime
PAPYRUS PROVISION OF TOWN PAROCH	Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person. Call: 0800 068 3131 or text: 07860 039967 (9am-midnight, 365 days a year).
THE MIX	The Mix provides free, confidential support for young people under 25. Call: 0808 808 4994 (3pm-midnight every day) or email.
NHS Urgent Mental Health Helpline	Call 0808 196 4501 for free, 24/7 advice, support, and triage from a mental health professional for all ages.
Bee Emotional Health and Wellbeing	you can call the 24/7 urgent mental health helpline at 0808 196 4501.

Information & Support | Influence & Change

* Work Experience 2026

Work Experience is 29 June - 3 July 2026 for students in years 10 and 12.

The date for details to be uploaded to Unifrog is Friday 27th March 2026.

Work Experience – Year 10

- Please can you ensure your child uploads their work experience placements to UniFrog by February half term.
- They have access to login to this.
- Any problems, please ask to see Miss Martin or Mrs Boyd

* Think Which Service

We have been asked to put this in our newsletter for parents to help guide people to use the right service for the right reason. Created by the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

More information at thinkwhichservice.co.uk

thinkwhichservice.co.uk

NHS
Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin

**This winter, Think Which Service
to use for the right help, fast**



SELF-CARE	Common ailments and illnesses
111.NHS.UK	Urgent medical help or advice that isn't life threatening
PHARMACIST	Health advice and over the counter medicines
GP	Symptoms that won't go away
MINOR INJURY UNITS	Walk-in service for urgent care
999 A&E	Life-threatening emergencies

WHAT'S ON IN THE LOCAL AREA



Shifnal Events

Here's a reminder of the fantastic events happening in Shifnal right through to the end of the year.

It's brilliant to have these events for all to enjoy, so get involved, support local, and most of all — love local.

[#LoveShifnal](#) [#shifnal](#) [#supportlocal](#) [#lovelocal](#)

14 DEC	Christingle The annual Christingle service at St Andrew's Church will begin at 5pm - everyone welcome.
21 DEC	Christmas Carol service A beautiful Christmas Carol service will be held at St Andrews Church at 6pm. Enjoy singing festive carols, everyone welcome.
24 DEC	Christmas Carols Singing Christmas Carols in Shifnal town centre on Christmas Eve at 5-30pm. A festive Shifnal tradition!

Try Something New! Taekwon-Do FREE CLASSES!

Congratulations to Mr. Morris on achieving **6th Dan**. This is an amazing achievement showing dedication and commitment to the sport.

Do you feel like trying out a new sport .. if so, why not go along, two free classes so you can try it before you join!

INTERESTED ... contact Mr. Morris on 07969 996055 to book and for more information.

Beginner Enrollments from Wednesday 7th January






TAEKWON-DO CLASSES for NEW BEGINNERS

**AGES
5+**

classes every **Wednesday** at
Idsall School, Shifnal



to **find out more** and book your
two FREE trial classes, call
Mr Neil Morris (VI Degree)
mobile: **07969 996055**
email: **neilmorris14@btinternet.com**



or scan the QR code to
visit our Facebook page!

**LEARN
SELF-DEFENCE**

**HAVE
FUN!**

**IMPROVE
YOUR FITNESS**



Contact Us

IDSALL SCHOOL

"Great oaks from little acorns grow"

Part of MARCHES TRUST ACADEMY



Coppice Green Lane, Shifnal, Shropshire. TF11 8PD



01952 468400



admin@ids.mmat.co.uk



Idsallschool.org

Michelle King BA MA NPQH NPQEL

Our values :



Excellence: striving always for mastery and personal success



Integrity: consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



Empathy: embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



Creativity: inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



Equality: ensuring fair opportunity for all