



## IDSALL NEWS .... edition 55

27 February 2026

### Calendar

- Thu 5th Mar : World Book Day
- Fri 13th Mar : Sleep Out At Idsall for 4All Foundation
- Thu 19th Mar : 6th Form Parents Evening
- Thu 26th Mar : Year 11 Parents Evening

- Mon 30th Mar to Fri 10th April: Easter Holidays

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## Michelle King - Headteacher



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### Dear Parents, Carers and Students

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Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been great to see students return with energy and focus as we begin this next half term together.

Our Year 11 students have made an excellent start to their final round of mock exams. Their attitude, calmness and determination have been impressive, and staff have been really encouraged by the purposeful atmosphere across the exam rooms.

This week also marks the formal introduction of our Phone-Free School model. Despite some minor settling-in challenges, it is going well. We are already noticing a positive shift in students' focus, with fewer distractions. Thank you for your continued support it is making a real difference already. We hope to share early impact and feedback with you towards the Easter holidays, once everyone has had time to fully adjust to the new system.

The consultation on the school day for September 2026 has now closed. We are currently analysing the responses carefully to ensure we make the right educational decision for our school community and for all schools across the Trust. Once every school has completed their consultation, we will share the collective outcomes and the final informed decision. What I can share at this stage is that responses at Idsall were very evenly split between Model 1 (five equal days) and Model 2 (an early finish on Fridays).

Thank you, as always, for your engagement and ongoing support. We look forward to a successful half term ahead.

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### *Idsall Goes a little Greener*

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#### **Canteen Update: Reducing Waste and Becoming More Environmentally Friendly**

As part of our ongoing work to reduce waste and make our school more environmentally friendly, we will be trialing washable, reusable food baskets in the canteen instead of single-use cardboard containers.

This small change supports our drive to meet the desired food standards around sustainability and will significantly cut down the amount of waste produced each day. Our students have been very vocal in championing greener approaches across the school, and we are pleased to be taking this step forward together.

We'll be reviewing the trial carefully over the coming weeks to see how we can enhance this further. We are also hopeful that the reduction in disposable packaging will help

## **Year 11 News**



### *Well Done Year 11*

A huge well done to all of you for your amazing focus during the revision sessions on Thursday 11th February. Your behaviour was impeccable throughout the day, and it was brilliant to see how engaged you were with every activity.

Thank you for your effort, positivity, and participation; you represented yourselves and the year group brilliantly.

Keep going, Year 11; you're doing yourselves proud!





## Sixth Form News

### Sixth Form Barcelona Trip: A visit of Culture, Cooking, and Creativity

Last week, students from our sixth form had the exciting opportunity to visit Barcelona, one of Europe's most vibrant and artistic cities. The trip was packed with culture, food, history, and hands-on experiences that made it unforgettable.

#### Arrival in High Winds

We arrived in Barcelona to extreme weather conditions with the advice to stay inside until the evening. This gave students the time to unpack and plan the free time they were going to have that afternoon in Catalunya. They explored the shops and found their feet before our first evening meal of Tapas in Nuria.

#### Walking in Olympic Footsteps

Our adventure on Friday began at Olympic Stadium, home of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Standing on the track and looking out over the stands gave everyone a sense of how incredible it must feel to compete on such a world stage. We also visited the nearby Sports Museum, which offered interactive exhibits and celebrated athletes from many different sports.

#### Exploring Parc Güell

We then had lunch by the seafront before heading over to Parc Güell, the famously colourful park designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí. Despite the rain, students were amazed by the mosaic-covered benches, playful sculptures, and breathtaking views over the whole city. It was

the perfect place to learn about Gaudí's imaginative style while enjoying some sunshine and photo opportunities.

### **The Iconic Sagrada Família**

Next, we visited Gaudí's most famous masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. Its soaring towers and detailed carvings left everyone speechless. Inside, the stained-glass windows filled the space with a rainbow of light. Even though construction began in 1882, the church is still not quite finished, which fascinated the students and sparked lots of discussion with our guide about architecture, patience and Gaudí's favourite number being 7.5!

### **A Sweet Stop: The Chocolate Museum**

Saturday started with a visit to the mouthwatering Museu de la Xocolata, or Chocolate Museum. Students followed a chocolate-themed trail where they discovered how chocolate is made and how it arrived in Europe. The chocolate sculptures—ranging from animals to famous characters—were a huge hit, and everyone enjoyed the free samples!

### **Cooking Traditional Paella**

One of the highlights of the trip was a hands-on paella-cooking workshop. Students learned how to prepare Spain's most famous dish, complete with saffron rice, vegetables, and seafood. Working together with chef Karen added to the fun, and the best part, of course, was getting to eat what they created.

### **Beach Time**

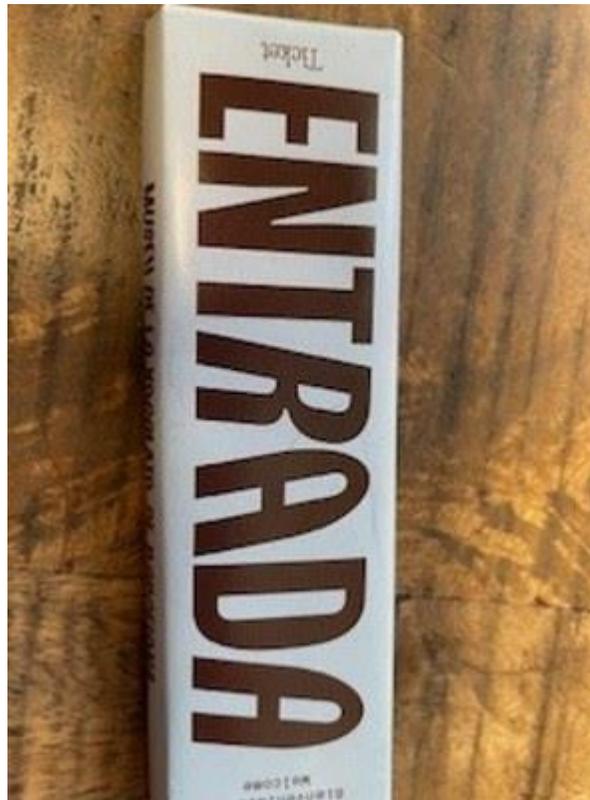
The weather was so lovely on the Saturday afternoon, we even managed to fit a few hours into seeing the beach and harbour. Some students played beach volleyball, others football with some just taking in the sunshine.

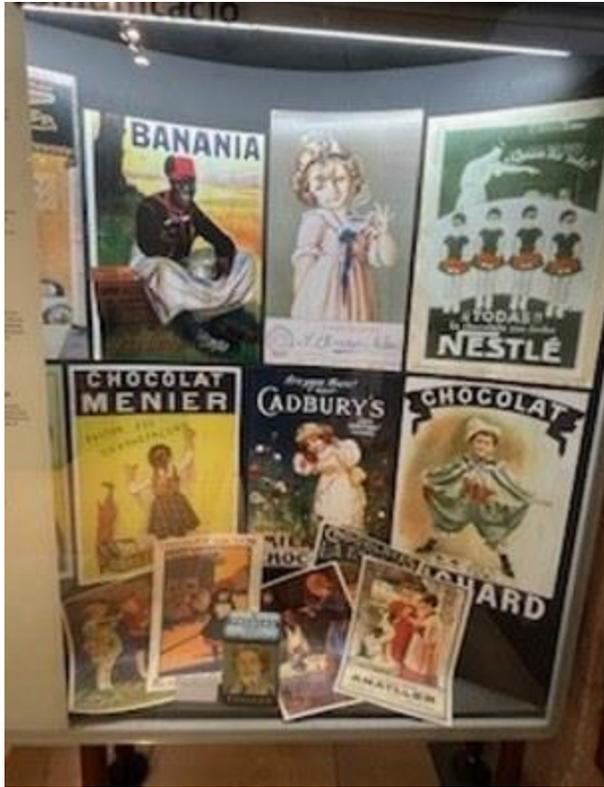
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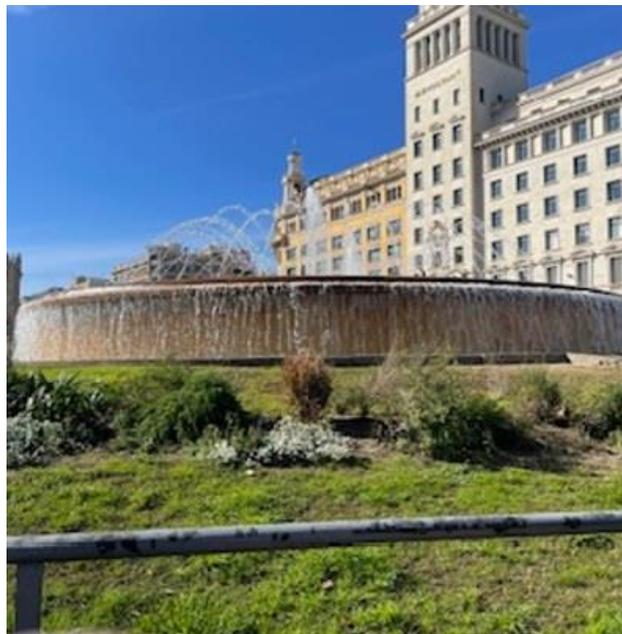
### ***A Trip to Remember***

*From cooking and sports to art and architecture, the trip gave students a richer understanding of Spain's culture and history. Everyone returned home tired but full of new knowledge, shared memories, and plenty of photos. It was truly a trip to remember!*

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## A-Level of the week - what our current pupils think about their post 16 subjects

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### *Further Mathematics*

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Did you know we now offer Further Mathematics as an A-Level at Idsall? It is a subject delivered to pupils across the Open 6 with a blend of lessons on teams and half termly check-ins with a tutor.

While Further Maths A Level builds on and relates to the A Level Maths syllabus, it is a whole separate A Level which, as the name suggests, goes beyond Maths and pushes students to apply their knowledge in new and complex ways.

Further Maths counts as a whole additional A Level. It explores topics from Maths A Level in greater depth, as well as introduces new topics. The Further Maths A Level syllabus covers topics such as complex numbers, matrices, discrete mathematics, mathematical and hyperbolic functions. The Further Maths A Level is designed to challenge students to develop their problem-solving skills in maths and to be able to apply concepts in new ways, with less guidance.

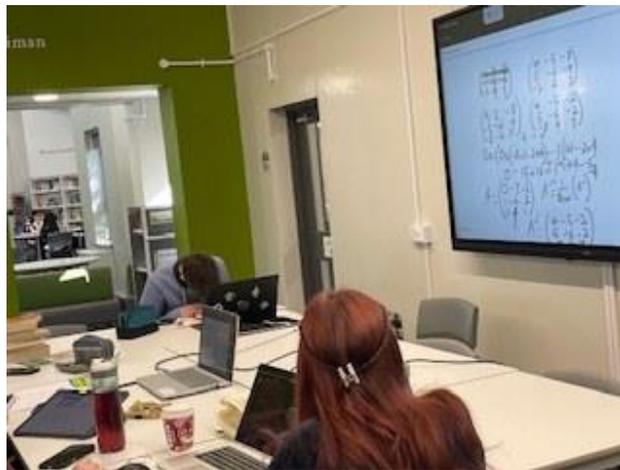
There's no doubt that Further Maths A Level is difficult and will present challenges to even the best Maths candidates. It is designed to be an extension of Maths A Level and therefore harder. However, if you really enjoy studying Mathematics, including some of the challenges it involves, you will likely find Further Maths immensely rewarding.

For those intending to go to university, Further Maths is particularly favourable for: Engineering, Sciences, Maths, Computer Sciences and Economics.

If you're looking to study one of these courses at Oxbridge or another top university and you have the option of taking Further Maths A Level at your school, you should strongly consider it as it will help set you apart in a competitive applications process. Further Maths A Level can also give you a head start in these subjects at university as it will introduce some of the content you will encounter at degree level.

#### ***What our pupils have to say:***

- *"I picked this subject because I have always had a passion for maths and love the subject. I also find it incredibly fascinating to learn about and willingly study for it." Tiff (year 12)*
- *"I wanted to do further maths as I have a natural curiosity and enjoy problem solving and this will help set me up with a solid foundation for later studies." Coby (year 12)*



## OTHER IDSALL NEWS



### \* **Languagenut Competition**

Congratulations to all who took part in the Languagenut competition. There were 197 entrants in total. The top 3 students were all in Year 10.

- ***1st Millie Hollingsworth***
- ***2nd Leon Holtom***
- ***3rd Grace Collins***
  - The highest score in year 7 was Katie Jones

- The highest score in year 8 was Holly Wilson
- The highest score in year 9 was Ellie Rawlings
- The highest score in year 11 was Lydia Smith.

Certificates and prizes have been distributed to the winners.

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*Well done to all who took part!*

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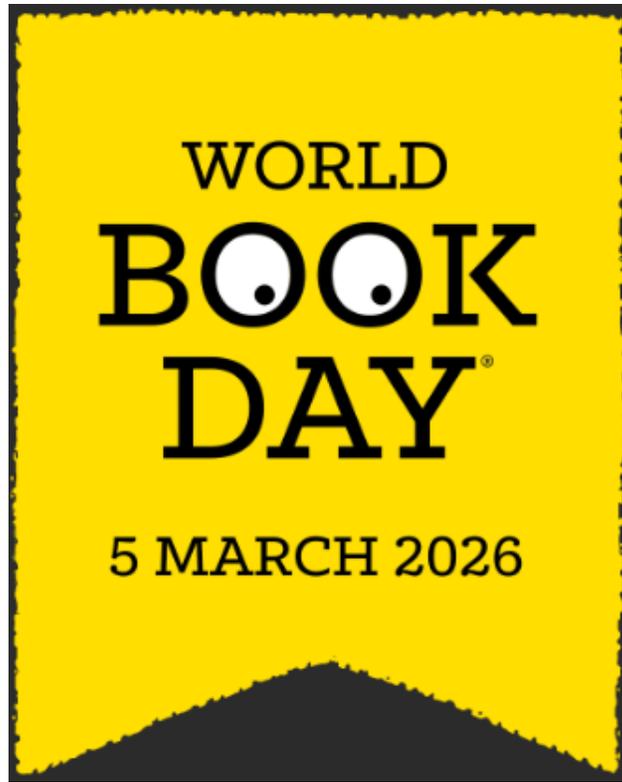
### **\* World Book Day**

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**, and all students from **Year 7 to Year 13** are warmly invited to dress up as their favourite book character.

Our staff will also be joining in by dressing up in departmental themes, and students will have the chance to vote for their favourite staff department of book characters.

We look forward to a fun and creative day that celebrates our love of reading across the whole school community. Students do not have to join in, and should attend school in their standard uniform if they are not dressing up as a book character.

There will be prizes available for the most creative student costumes.



\* Sparx Reader Competition



Year 7	1	Thea B
	2	Katie J
	3	Neva J
	4	Maiya S
	5	Isla M
Year 8	1	Olivia J
	2	Daniel B
	3	Jacob S-Y
	4	Joseph B
	5	Maximus P
Year 9	1	Daniel J
	2	Lilly-Mai R
	3	Darcy P
	4	Mia V
	5	Jemima E

### \* From the PE Department



### Ethan Plays for County

Representing Shropshire against West Midlands, the lads battled to a brilliant 3–2 win. Ethan T, year 9, played superbly and did both Idsall and himself proud.

What a performance! 🏆🔥



## \* Trips Update

### Disneyland 2026 - Parental Meeting



**Thank you to all those that attended the Disney meeting on Wednesday.**

As promised please find attached a copy of the powerpoint that I went through which hopefully gives you all the information that is needed.

If there are any changes nearer the time I will email out to all parents, however do keep an eye on the newsletter for any updates!

All passports and GHIC's should now have been handed in and these will be kept safely in the school safe until we go.

**I FORGOT!** A good item for your student to bring is a good powerbank. They will be in Disney for 12 hours and after taking lots of photos and messaging friends and family it really does drain phone batteries, so being able to charge it up is very handy.

Any questions / queries, please email [Cathy.Leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk](mailto:Cathy.Leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk).

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The link : <https://tinyurl.com/idsall-disney>

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### \* **Enrichment Trips**

Please note the closing date for these trips has now expired.

If you did not complete the form, your child will automatically be placed on the school based activity.

### \* **Safeguarding**



*This week is Child Exploitation in Shropshire*



## Child Exploitation in Shropshire

How to recognise if your child is being exploited, and  
what you can do to reduce the risks



### What is exploitation?

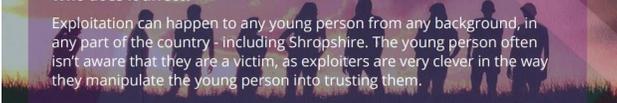
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Are you concerned about changes in your child's behaviour? Have you noticed that they may be feeling under pressure from influences from outside your family home? Realising that your child could be being exploited can be distressing, but help and support is available.

Exploitation is a form of abuse, it occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult into any activity that results in an advantage for the perpetrator. Specific types of Exploitation include **Sexual Exploitation**, **Criminal Exploitation**, and **Financial Exploitation**.

**Who does it affect?**

Exploitation can happen to any young person from any background, in any part of the country - including Shropshire. The young person often isn't aware that they are a victim, as exploiters are very clever in the way they manipulate the young person into trusting them.



#### What are the signs?

- New friendship groups, who may be older in age
- Engaging in sexual activity, including exchanging indecent images
- Missing episodes, when you don't know their whereabouts
- Receiving gifts & rewards, including drugs, alcohol, food & clothing
- Increased secretiveness, particularly around phone use
- Disengagement from school, hobbies & family
- Use of drugs or alcohol, perhaps without the means to afford this
- A decline in mental health, possibly becoming more aggressive
- Possession of a weapon, and/or committing low level crimes

#### To find out more, visit our webpage:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care-and-health/child-exploitation>

### What can I do as a parent or carer?

- Discuss differences between healthy and unhealthy friendships and relationships
  - Stay alert to any changes in behaviour which may indicate that they are feeling under pressure
  - Carefully monitor any episodes of staying out late or not returning home - call the police to report your child missing if you do not know where they are (see details overleaf)
  - Be aware of who they are spending time with and encourage them to keep in touch by texting you when they are out in the community
  - Talk openly to your child about keeping safe and listen calmly if they confide in you
- 
- Regularly check the young person's possessions for drugs and any unexplained money or gifts
  - Install online safety features and apps on their devices
  - Check in with parents of their friends
  - Be cautious of any older friends or friendships where there appears to be a power imbalance
  - Check in with school or college to see if they have noticed any changes in behaviour
  - Share any concerns with school or college staff

**Report concerns about a young person**

Shropshire's **TREES (Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire)** Team are based within Children's Services. We are committed to identifying young people who are at risk of exploitation, and supporting professionals and families to reduce these risks. It is recognised that these risks are out in the community, rather than within the family home. This is what is known as **Contextual Safeguarding**.

We can offer social care support to families where appropriate, or we can signpost to another support service such as a substance use service, early help or diversionary activities - with the aim of disrupting exploitation and reducing the risks going forward.

**Call 0345 678 9021 or 0345 678 9040 if out of office hours**

**Report concerns about potential exploitation in your community**

Information about perpetrators and locations of concern is crucial to help us build up a picture of Child Exploitation in Shropshire, and allows West Mercia Police and Children's Services to work together to safeguard children and make our communities a safer place to live.

**If anyone is at risk of immediate harm:** Call 999

**To share non-urgent information:** Call 101 or visit the "Tell Us About" section on [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

**To report information anonymously:** Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

## \* 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

## \* Students Who Use School Transport

Please find below the latest guidance for behaviour on school transport to and from school. This is a copy of the Shropshire Council Behaviour on School Transport Policy.

If your students uses school transport please have a read at the transporation guidance below :

## Shropshire Council Behaviour on School Transport Policy

Safe and respectful behaviour on school transport is critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of all passengers and staff. This policy establishes clear expectations and responsibilities for pupils using home-to-school transport, emphasizing safety, mutual respect, and zero tolerance for dangerous or abusive conduct. It aligns with legislation such as the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and fosters cooperation among the Council, schools, parents, and transport staff to maintain a safe, orderly environment on school buses and other transport modes.

### Scope and Principles

The policy applies to all pupils using Council-arranged transportation, including mainstream and special educational needs transport. It supplements school behaviour policies and travel conditions, making good conduct a condition for riding the bus. Positive behaviour is encouraged, while unsafe or disrespectful behaviour results in sanctions.

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Pupils – Expected Behaviour

Pupils must always follow the driver's instructions, use their assigned vehicle and stop, and carry a valid bus pass daily where issued. Boarding and disembarking must be done safely and orderly, with adherence to the Green Cross Code when crossing roads. During the journey, pupils must remain seated, wear seat belts where provided, keep aisles and exits clear, and refrain from distracting the driver. Respectful behaviour towards drivers, assistants, and fellow passengers is mandatory, with bullying and abusive language strictly prohibited. Eating, drinking, smoking, and vandalism are forbidden, and misuse of emergency equipment is a serious offence. If a pupil misses their bus, they should report to school staff and contact parents rather than attempting alternative travel independently. Any concerns or incidents should be reported promptly to parents, schools, or the Council.

#### Parents/Carers – Responsibilities

Parents and carers play a vital role in reinforcing good behaviour and ensuring safety. They must ensure children travel safely to and from bus stops, supervise young or vulnerable pupils, and have contingency plans for delays or missed buses. Parents should ensure children carry valid bus passes where issued and understand the importance of using designated routes without requesting unscheduled stops or unauthorized riders. They are encouraged to discuss and reinforce the bus conduct rules, support school and Council discipline efforts, and ensure children do not carry prohibited items. Parents are financially



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liable for any damage caused by their children and should maintain communication with schools and the Council to address any issues or concerns.

#### Schools and Council – Responsibilities

Schools treat travel [behaviour](#) as an extension of the school environment, communicating transport rules and integrating them into overall [behaviour](#) policies. They have authority to discipline pupils for conduct on the journey to and from school and cooperate with the Council in managing incidents. Drivers maintain order through instructions and report incidents, while passenger assistants supervise and support pupils, especially those with special needs. Both schools and the Council promote positive [behaviour](#) and maintain open communication with families about [behaviour](#) expectations and incidents.

#### Unacceptable [Behaviour](#) and Prohibited Conduct

The policy prohibits aggression, bullying, abusive language, dangerous distractions, refusal to obey safety rules, vandalism, theft, throwing objects, substance use, unreasonable [behaviour](#) toward staff, and other illegal or dangerous acts. Such [behaviours](#) are considered serious breaches and will lead to disciplinary action. Some [behaviour](#) may also require the involvement of the police. [Generally](#) a sanction will only be applied after investigation of an incident (however where there is a serious health and safety risk an immediate sanction may be applied).

Examples of the type of [behaviour](#), which will invoke a [sanction](#), are listed [below](#):

- Bullying/harassment/intimidation (physical and/or verbal)
- Distracting/assaulting the driver
- Failure to follow instruction from the driver
- Standing forward of the driver
- Using the emergency exit
- Drug misuse
- Moving around the vehicle
- Sitting in the stairwell
- Throwing objects inside the vehicle or out of the windows
- Health and safety breaches (including tampering with safety equipment such as emergency exits, CCTV cameras, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, first aid box)
- Smoking
- Spitting
- Verbal abuse - swearing



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General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

- Bringing unsafe objects onto the vehicles (i.e. pen-knives, cigarette lighters)
- Playing personal stereos without headphones
- Assaulting the passenger assistant
- Vandalism/damage to the vehicle (criminal damage will be reported to the Police and parents will be held responsible for any damage caused to the vehicle)

This is not an exhaustive [list](#) and each incident will be investigated on its own merit.

#### Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We [recognise](#) that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may display a wide range of [behaviours](#) as a result of their individual needs, and we understand these situations can sometimes be stressful for families and children. Our team is committed to working collaboratively to support each child's needs and create the safest and most supportive environment possible for every pupil.

We rely on parents/carers keeping us informed about their child's needs, which helps us respond effectively and deescalate scenarios swiftly if required. We also work closely with schools to assist when necessary, and we appreciate their continued partnership in managing individual [behaviours](#).

There may be times when a child or young person's [behaviours](#)—including those that are challenging, disruptive, or present a safeguarding concern—make it unsafe for them, fellow passengers, or transport staff to continue travelling on school transport. In such instances, we will discuss alternative options and may offer travel assistance in the form of a Personal Travel Budget (PTB). A PTB is financial support provided to families so they can arrange suitable travel for their child. If this becomes necessary, we will contact you directly to explain the process and support you through the next steps.

#### [Non-Entitled Pupils Accessing TSPS](#)

Those pupils who have no entitlement to free school transport but access our Temporary Seats Payment Scheme may be permanently withdrawn from the scheme where there is repeated poor [behaviour](#). Parents will then be required to make their own arrangements.

#### Consequences and Enforcement

[Misbehaviour](#) leads to graduated consequences:

- **On-the-spot corrections:** Drivers or passenger assistants issue verbal warnings for minor issues, expecting immediate compliance.



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- **Reports and investigations:** Significant or repeated incidents are reported and investigated, including the use of CCTV footage where available and witness statements.
  - **Warnings and parental notification:** First-time or less severe incidents result in warning letters sent to parents, emphasizing the importance of good conduct and potential escalation.
  - **School disciplinary actions:** Schools may impose sanctions aligned with their policies, including detentions or exclusions, coordinated with the Council.
  - **Temporary suspension of transport:** For dangerous or persistent **misbehaviour**, transport privileges may be suspended for a defined period (usually starting with one week and increasing incrementally), with parents responsible for alternative arrangements.
  - **Permanent withdrawal of transport:** Extreme or repeated misconduct can lead to permanent exclusion from Council-provided transport, requiring families to arrange their own travel. This is a last resort after other measures fail.
  - **Support and alternatives:** The Council may offer alternative transport solutions or budgets for eligible pupils during suspensions, focusing on safety and attendance continuity.
  - **Reinstatement and **behaviour** agreements:** Temporary bans may end with review meetings and **behaviour** contracts; permanent bans may be reconsidered upon evidence of improved **behaviour**.
  - **Restitution and legal action:** Parents are liable for damages caused by their children, and serious offences may involve police action, including criminal charges.
  - **Appeals:** Parents can appeal long-term transport exclusions through a formal process, with decisions reviewed by a panel. Appeals should be emailed to [schooltransport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@shropshire.gov.uk) or for children with SEND [special.transport.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:special.transport.team@shropshire.gov.uk)



www.shropshire.gov.uk  
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

## 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](#)

### Try Something New! Taekwon-Do ..... FREE CLASSES!

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.***

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2 Free Classes and 10% Discount for Idsall Students! So why not give it a try!

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## 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](mailto: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





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Idsallschool.org

Michelle King BA MA NPQH NPQEL

## Our values :



**Excellence**

**Excellence:** striving always for mastery and personal success



**Integrity**

**Integrity:** consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



**Empathy**

**Empathy:** embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



**Creativity**

**Creativity:** inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



**Equality**

**Equality:** ensuring fair opportunity for all