



IDSALL NEWS edition 59

17 April 2026

Calendar

- Wed 22nd Apr : Yr 7 & 8 Residential Ingestre Hall Parent Meeting
- Wed 29th Apr : Idsall's Got Talent
- W/C Mon 27th Apr : External Exams Begin
- Tue 28th Apr : Dress For Your Dream Career
- Thu 30th Apr : Year 8 Parents Evening
- Fri 1st May : 4 All Foundation Sleep Out
- Fri 1st May to Mon 15th Jun : Main Exam Period

- Tue 5th - Fri 15th May : Year 7 Bikeability
- Tue 5th May : Year 6 Uniform Evening
- Monday 18th May : Year 13 Study Leave Begins
- Mon 1st & Tue 2nd Jun : Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- Thu 4th Jun : Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thu 2nd Jul : 6th Form Parents Evening
- Mon 6th & Tue 7th July : Year 6 Transitions Days
- Tue 14th & Wed 15th July : School Show "Beauty and the Beast"

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Michelle King - Headteacher





Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Easter break and that students have returned refreshed and ready for the term ahead. As always, this final part of the academic year is an important one, and we look forward to working together to support our young people as they continue their learning.

At the very start of the holidays, a group of our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Disneyland Paris. The trip was a huge success, with students embracing new experiences, demonstrating excellent behaviour and making memories that will last a lifetime. It was wonderful to see them represent the school so positively, and I would like to thank the staff who supported the visit and the families who made this opportunity possible.

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who have taken part in the School Day Consultation. We are now in the final stages of reviewing feedback, and the outcome of the consultation will be shared with all parents in the coming week. We appreciate the time taken to engage with this important process and value the thoughtful responses we have received.

The Summer Term is always busy, with exams, assessments, enrichment opportunities and moments to celebrate success. We are looking forward to a positive and productive term and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Year 7 News



Poetry

Last term, the year 7 Students were asked to write a poem about somewhere they love as part of their study of Poetry about Place and Home. Students were inspired by the poetry of Grace Nichols, Sujata Bhatt, Lemn Sissay and Emily Clarke.

We had some amazing pieces - attached are some images of just a few of them. Hope you enjoy them as much as we did.

SHIFNAL

Oh Shifnal your love is special,
You are like my best friend,
You hugged my like a teddy bear,
All the way until the end,
Surrounded by loads of farms,
You took me in with open arms,
Embraced me and taught me,
Oh Shifnal your love is special.

Harry

SHIFNAL

Thank you lovely Shifnal
For keeping me safe and sound
Since I was little you've been my home
You are the best place around

By Caleb

ABERSTWYTH

Oh how I love Aberystwyth
We used to have so much joy
We would talk, splash and laugh
Oh how I do miss you, you could nether annoy

I remember playing on your sand
Eating ice creams on the land
Walking hand in hand
The picture of you will always be on my nightstand

Oh Aberystwyth thank you
Your sky's were always blue
Your sea mostly cold
But still I loved you

Aberystwyth a lovely place
I will nether forget you
Even though you are not my birthplace
I love you just the same

Mollie

BEAUMARIS PIER

An ode to Beaumaris pier,
Reaching out to the Menai strait,
Spending my days here,
Catching your crabs is great.

An ice cream on the street,
Playing pool in the Bold,
The waves hitting my feet,
When its windy its very cold.

Hanging out in the park,
Next to the castle walls,
I'm sad when the sky falls dark,
And my home time calls.

Phoebe

Bikeability - Free Opportunity for Year 7!

We have a free opportunity for all of Year 7 to participate in Bikeability Level 3 on 5-8th May, or 11-15th May 2026.

Students will learn more advanced skills, including how to:

- **Use the best riding position** for any situation.
- **Ride alongside** other cyclists.
- **Ride on more complex roads.** This might include busier roads, more complicated junctions or faster roads with speed limits above 30mph.
- **Negotiate more complex roads.** For example, junctions controlled by traffic lights, multi-lane roads or cycle lanes.
- **Respond confidently** when a situation changes. For example, when a vehicle pulls out in front of you.

Bikeability Level 3 is taught in smaller groups or one-to-one so every course is tailored to a riders' needs. It might focus on a skill you might want to practice more, or a tricky road where you travel often.

Students are encouraged to bring their own bikes and helmets, but may borrow equipment if they inform us in advance.

If you would like your child to participate in this free course, for which they will be awarded a certificate to confirm, please fill in the consent form below:

<https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/fox-worry-layer>

All courses will take place during the school day, and students will need to wear their PE kit on the day they are allocated (which will be confirmed once we know numbers interested).

Year 8 News



Well Done Niamh

A huge well done to Niamh Cassidy, year 8, for her continued kickboxing success! Just before we broke up for the Easter break, Niamh competed in the 4 Nations Kickboxing Championships. Niamh was awarded 1st place in the Points and Light Con categories 🏆 as well as another 3rd place in Points 15-17 🏆

We're incredibly proud of Niamh and her dedication to her sport - Go Niamh! 🙌



Year 10 News

GOLD for Casen!

We are incredibly proud to share that after Casen Thompson, year 10, won Gold in Round 1 of the British Cycling Lloyds National Series

Casen has proved that dedication and hard work can result in truly remarkable achievements.

The event was held at the RAF Shawbury Olympic Stadium 🏆🌟

It is an extraordinary milestone, as he begins his first year on the GB BMX Freestyle team, currently holding first place in the under-15 boys category is an incredible accomplishment.

As a school we congratulate Casen and look forward to supporting him as much as we can as his talent, hard work and dedication to the sport, taking him further in the future!









Sixth Form News



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

Psychology

This week year 12 students have been looking at theories of attachment and bonding. Part of this includes caring for their very own egg babies.

Egg Baby Project!

You need to:

1. Decorate your egg
2. Give your egg a name
3. Look after your egg for 1 week; this includes taking it everywhere you go & keeping it alive!
4. Document the fun things you and your egg baby get up to

Studying A-level Psychology can be beneficial because:

- It teaches a broad range of subjects, including social and cognitive psychology, child development, and psychology beyond typical behaviour.
- It provides analytical skills, essay writing, and scientific research methods.
- It improves teamwork, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- It enhances critical thinking and understanding of research methods.
- It prepares you for university study and future careers.







Sixth Form Volunteering in the Local Community

St Andrews's church in Shifnal hosts messy church six times a year, usually after school on a Wednesday or Thursday, but the Easter session is held on Good Friday.

Idesall Sixth form has supported Messy church for a number of years, where pupils give up their time to run activities for younger children and their families - allowing parents to join in with sessions

For more information and the latest dates you can reach us at the following e-mail address:- shifnalmessychurch@gmail.com





Toby the Pathogen

Year 12 Biology students recently tackled the immune system in a creative way by turning it into a short play. Featuring “Toby the Pathogen” as the infection, students took on the roles of key immune cells to act out how the body responds.

This engaging approach helped bring a complex topic to life, making it easier to understand and remember.

A brilliant example of learning through creativity and collaboration.



OTHER IDSALL NEWS



* Disney Photos

After an absolutely amazing trip to Disneyland with some fantastic year 7 & 8 students we thought we would share some of the photos that we took during the trip!

For the parents of those students we have yesterday emailed out a link with all the photos on that you can download. This link will only remain available for a couple of days so if you want the photos please download today from the email.















* Easter Egg Raffle

Before the Easter Holiday students of the Music Department held an Easter Egg raffle to help support future arts and music events including our summer production of "Beauty and The Beast" and Music Showcase concerts. The student led initiative raised over £50 in 2 days.

Pictured here are Saphy, Sophie, Rebecca and Alex and some of the eggciting prizes before delivery to the winners!



* Sparx Reader Competition



Congratulations to our winners from last terms Sparx Readers Competition! Below are the top 10 pupils who all won a fabulous Easter Egg!

Well done to you all. Start reading now for the next competition.

Lilly-Mai	Year 9	9U/En1	57,678
Wesley	Year 8	8A/En2	51,125
Jemima	Year 9	9A/En2	27,010
Alexander	Year 7	7U/En2	18,068
Olivia	Year 8	8A/En2	17,841
Vaishnavi	Year 8	8U/En3	16,960
Thea	Year 7	7A/En2	15,159
Mia	Year 7	7A/En1	15,145
Maggie	Year 8	8A/En1	14,457
Mila	Year 7	7A/En4	13,796



* Ingestre Hall - Year 7 & 8 Residential

Letters and emails have gone out this week to introduce year 7 and 8 students to a residential trip that is taking place in October 2026. This trip is designed for students interested in the Arts - Music, Dance, Drama and Art.

It is a 3 day residential during which students will be taking part in workshops throughout the days in their chosen subject ending with a chance to show their performances / work to everyone on the trip.

This promises to be an exciting adventure for the students whilst they develop their skills in practical and skill-based workshops whilst in the beautiful surrounding of Ingestre Hall which is a 17th century Jacobean mansion.

For more information on this trip please collect a letter from Mrs Leverington in the library - they have been emailed out to all parents.

Parental briefing for more information is in the main hall on Wednesday 22nd April.



* 4 All Foundation Sleep Out

On **Friday 1st May 2026**, staff and students will be swapping their cosy beds for sleeping bags as they spend the night **sleeping outside at school!** This special event is all about raising awareness of people in our society who do not always have a safe or secure place to stay.

Our students are also working hard to raise money through sponsorship, with all donations going to the **4 All Foundation**. This amazing charity supports vulnerable young people by creating resources and providing safe places where they can feel supported and cared for.

As our **Trust charity**, we are incredibly proud to support the work they do.

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference and is very gratefully received. Thank you for supporting our students as they step out of their comfort zones to stand up for others!

Please, if you can donate, please do so on the link below :

https://www.justgiving.com/page/idsallsleepout2026?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL



* **Idsall's Got Talent**

Our students will be **showcasing their amazing talents** on **Wednesday 29th April at 6pm** at **Idsall School**, and it promises to be a brilliant evening of entertainment! With a wide variety of acts on offer, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The evening will be expertly hosted by our **wonderful Sixth Form team**.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along and support our talented students.

We hope to see you there for a fantastic night of creativity and confidence on stage! Students will be selling refreshments to raise money for our Trust charity, 4 All Foundation.

Places can be booked here: [Idsall's Got Talent - Wednesday 29th April 2026 – Fill in form](#)



* Dress for Your Dream Career Day

Our **wonderful Sixth Form team** have come up with a fantastic idea and requested a **“Dress for Your Dream Career Day”!**

Students and staff are encouraged to come to school dressed in an outfit that represents the career they aspire to in the future.

Whether that's a uniform, a smart suit, or something creative, we can't wait to see everyone's ambitions brought to life!

The day will also include a focus on exploring different career paths. Our recent careers survey shows that some of the most popular future careers among our students include **sport, fashion, the Army or RAF, policing, architecture, law, and dentistry.**

If students do not wish to participate, they should attend school in their usual uniform on this day; it is not an own clothes day.



* **Grace Prepares for London Marathon**

In less than 10 days, Grace Ashwell, an ex Idsall student, will take on the massive challenge of the London Marathon. Grace was diagnosed with cancer just 4 years ago whilst studying for her GCSE's after persistent back pain symptoms, tests revealed Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma which spread to her lungs and bones.

Now she is taking on the London Marathon to raise money for the Molly Ollys Charity.

Please follow the link and read Grace's story :

['I'm a Shropshire teenager who was diagnosed with cancer when I was 15 - now I'm about to run the London Marathon to raise money for a cause that helped me through my illness' | Shropshire Star](#)



*** From the PE Department**



Year 11 County Cup Final

Fantastic news! Congratulations to the year 11 football team who, on Wednesday evening, beat Madeley Academy 2 v 1! This means they have progressed into the County Cup Final!



U13 Host Thomas Adams

Our U13 girls hosted Thomas Adams in the quarter final of the County Cup today.

They battled through the match with no subs and showed incredible teamwork and resilience.

After a 1-1 draw (thanks to Thea's goal!) and extra time, the girls kept their cool in the penalty shootout.

Brilliant penalties from April, Ruby & Layla, plus a sensational save from Lucy, secured a 3-0 win!



Miss Logan and Miss Broughton couldn't be prouder of their effort.

On to the semi-finals! 🏆 ⚽ 🤝



Year 7 Netball

A fantastic first tournament for our Year 7 netball team! 🦵 ✨

The girls were brilliant both on and off the court—full of energy, teamwork, and positivity throughout. Most importantly, they had a great time and showed real promise.

Big things to come for this talented squad! 🏐 🔥



Year 7 Grade 1's after Cricket!

Huge shoutout to our amazing Year 7A girls who were nominated for Grade 1s after today's cricket lesson! 🏏 ✨

Absolutely outstanding, showing true sports values through your leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship—all while having fun and supporting each other every step of the way. We couldn't be prouder! 🙌 ❤️



Year 8 House Badminton

Year 8 Girls House Badminton 🏸

Some brilliant play on display, fantastic team spirit throughout, and excellent officiating.

A great event all round—well done, girls! 🙌

In the doubles the games were very competitive with Wrekin in 4th, Caradoc in 3rd, Ragleth in 2nd and Longmynd coming in 1st!

Fabulous house event - well done to you all.





Year 10 Football District Cup

Year 10 boys beat HLC 5-3 in the semi-final of the Telford district Cup before the Easter break. Man of the match was Jude Hodson with 3 goals and an assist on his first game for Idsall school.

Fantastic team effort from all the boys in the year 10 football team who will now progress into the Final at the Telford Bucks Head stadium after the Easter break.

Sorry no photo but hopefully will have one for the Final match!

Year 11 House Volleyball

Ms Broughton has sent me pictures she took of year 11 house volleyball. All were amazing and played superbly. The competitiveness of the group was brilliant to watch and lots of fun.

Well done to those girls taking part.





Referees and Linesmen/Lineswomen!

Joe, Jessie, and Austin recently travelled to St Andrews to take on the important roles of referees and linesmen/lineswomen. They officiated the Under 11's semi-final match against Grange Park, demonstrating great responsibility and composure throughout the game.

Although St Andrews were unfortunately defeated, both schools commented on how professional, fair, and composed the Idsall students were in their roles. Their conduct and dedication did not go unnoticed—they truly represented the school with pride.

They are a real credit to Idsall School. Well done to all involved! 🙌



*** PE Session 6**

Why not go along, try a new sport, join a school team and make some new friends! Just bring your kit, enthusiasm and give it a go!

Please see the list of session 6 activities the the PE team have on offer.



* Governance Comings and Goings!

The LGB are looking forward to working with Mrs Griffiths. Here is a little bit about Mrs Griffiths and why she will be perfect for the role:

With a career in financial crime, Mrs Griffiths moved into education after having her boys and settling in the local area. In 2025, Mrs Griffiths joined Idsall, stepping into a Safeguarding and Mental Health role. Having a previous role of staff governor in a primary setting, she is keen to continue to support staff and students in secondary education.

Mrs Griffiths is a keen gardener with a passion for wildlife, rugby and mountain bikes

* Safeguarding



Understanding the Manosphere

Key Message
The Manosphere is not just an online trend. It is linked to misogyny, radicalisation, and domestic abuse. Early education and open conversations are key to safeguarding young people.

What is the Manosphere?

The manosphere is not one website or group. It is a network of online communities, influencers, forums and social media spaces that promote misogyny, anti-feminist ideas, and harmful beliefs about gender roles.

These communities exist across platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Discord, Reddit, gaming platforms and podcasts.

They often target boys and young men, offering advice on dating, masculinity, success and relationships - but frequently promote control, entitlement and hostility towards women.

Who is in the Manosphere?

The manosphere is often split into four main groups:

- Incel (Involuntary Celibate)** - Men who believe they cannot find romantic or sexual partners and blame women for this. Some communities promote resentment, entitlement to women's bodies and hatred towards women.
- Men's Rights Activists (MRA)** - Groups who believe men are discriminated against, especially in family courts and relationships. Some use this to justify hostility towards women and deny violence against women and girls.
- Pick-Up Artists** - Influencers or "dating coaches" who teach men how to manipulate women into relationships or sex. They often describe relationships as a game of control and power.
- MGOW (Men Going Their Own Way)** - Groups who believe society is biased towards women and men should avoid relationships with women completely.

Core Beliefs of the Manosphere

Despite different groups, many share the same ideas:



The "Red Pill"

The belief that feminism has given women too much power and that men are now the oppressed group.



Alpha vs Beta Males

Men are told they must become dominant "alpha males" and avoid being weak "beta males".



The 80/20 Rule

The belief that 80% of women want only 20% of men, encouraging resentment and competition.



Zero-Sum Thinking

The belief that women gaining rights means men lose rights.

Why Does It Appeal to Young People?

The manosphere often attracts boys and young men who:

- Feel lonely or isolated
- Struggle with confidence or relationships
- Feel rejected or unsuccessful
- Want money, success, status or relationships
- Are influenced by online influencers and algorithms


It often offers:

- A sense of belonging
- Someone to blame
- Simple answers to complex problems
- Role models showing wealth, power and control.



Red Flags: Manosphere Influence

- Talking about "alpha males" or the "red pill"
- Saying feminism has ruined society
- Saying men are oppressed
- Blaming women for men's problems
- Talking about the "80/20 rule"
- Increasing anger towards women or girls
- Viewing relationships as power or control
- Watching misogynistic influencers
- Becoming secretive about online activity
- Spending long periods on forums, Discord or gaming chats



Supporting Young People

Talk early - Discuss healthy relationships, respect and equality.


Challenge harmful language - Do not ignore misogynistic jokes or comments.


Teach media literacy - Help young people understand algorithms and online influence.


Provide positive male role models - Promote healthy masculinity and emotional expression.


Create safe spaces to talk - Many boys involved feel lonely, rejected or insecure.

Report harmful content - Use platform reporting tools where appropriate.

 @kidsonlineworld

 @kidsonlineworld

 @kidsonlineworld

 kidsonlineworld.co.uk

KIDSONLINEWORLD
PARTNER OF ECP SAFEGUARDING

KidzOnlineWorld - Further information and guidance
If you discover criminal content when online, then report it directly to the police or the National Crime Operations Centre.
If you're worried about online exploitation, then report directly to the police or contact CEOP.

What's On In The Local Area





GIRLS HARD & SOFTBALL CRICKET AT SHIFNAL CRICKET CLUB



All ages • All abilities • Everyone welcome!
Led by a female ECB Core Coach

Looking for a fun, friendly sport where girls can make new friends, learn new skills, and build confidence? Join **Girls Cricket at Shifnal Cricket Club** and be part of a growing, supportive community!

Why try Cricket?

- Sessions led by a **female ECB Core Coach and current County player**
- Teams for **hardball and softball cricket**
- Fun and inclusive sessions for beginners and experienced players
- ECB qualified, friendly coaches
- Build confidence, teamwork and fitness
- Make new friends and be part of a real team
- Training sessions and matches throughout the season.
- Girls of **all ages and abilities**
- Beginners absolutely welcome – no experience needed!



Get in touch

Email: shifnalgirlscricket@gmail.com
Phone: 07341 250889
Follow us: [f](#) [@](#)

Come and give it a go –
your cricket journey starts here!

Shifnal Cricket Club
The Cricket Pavilion, Priorslee Road,
Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 8HD



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

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