

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you all regarding exciting news for Shrewsbury Academy, part of the Marches Academy Trust. I am very pleased to inform you, that we are working alongside Helen Ball and Shrewsbury Town Council, to support the future planning of the Moston Road recreation ground.

Shrewsbury Academy staff and colleagues within the Trust, have been attending meetings with Shrewsbury Town Council to look at how the partnership work can support the development of the site to enable school and community use. Shrewsbury Academy became part of the Marches Academy Trust in September 2019, and I am proud to be part of a Trust with an excellent record for education and raising standards. We want our students to access the best education possible and being part of such a strong multi academy trust, will only support with our future in developing students' education further.

As you all know, it is an exciting time for Shrewsbury Academy who are working with the Department for Education to improve the facilities on site and to offer improved resources for our students and community. We are hoping that, following these improvements, our student numbers can be increased to cater for 1127 students. We are awaiting further plans from the Department for Education. As soon as these plans are available, I intend on releasing them to show the positive impact it will have for our community.

Shrewsbury Academy approached Shrewsbury Town Council to ask whether a partnership can be arranged to enable the Moston Road recreation ground to be developed to allow school and community to use the space. This is still in the initial discussions phase which also involves student voice and feedback.

Although these ideas are in their infancy, I wanted to share some of our thinking with you:

- We would like to see walking and cycling routes around the recreation ground to encourage us all to be more active from walking the dog or running, to using it as an orienteering track or cross country. There have been some fantastic examples of similar paths that the Town Council has installed on other recreation grounds
- We would like to work with our students to create a quiet area for reflection and contemplation – and with the Town Council our students can help to plant the area and look after it so that the whole community can benefit
- We would like to provide real opportunities for our students and their families to have access to nature areas on their doorsteps so that we can all care more for wildlife and appreciate the area around us
- We have also discussed how we can support our local sports teams by creating spaces for weekend sports activities and areas for training squares. This again would be for community and school use. Town Council staff have also given us some really good ideas about how we can maximise the greenspace we have within the school grounds and how we might maintain it differently so we can use it for longer
- **There is certainly no intention to erect any fencing around the grounds as we see this as a community project that will support us all**
- **There is certainly no intention for the Moston Road Recreation ground to be transferred to the school so that it is lost to the community. The Town Council will still own it and maintain it, but it is the added value that we can collectively bring to make it a better place for everyone**

Working with the Town Council can also bring other benefits to our school:

- We have spoken about how our students can have access to the Town Council's Nursery to help them learn more about plants and trees
- We have spoken about how the Town Council can give Work Experience opportunities and potentially Apprenticeships to our students who are interested in working for a Council
- We have spoken about how our students can be involved in some of the wider planning for our town through the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan

I am proud of how we, as a school, are working with our community. We want to be a place of learning and experience within our community hub and have already established:

- Shrewsbury Town in the Community offering football on a Friday evening
- The Pauline Quirk Academy of Performing Arts using our site every Saturday – winning two full bursary payments to send two students to their Academy for a year
- Police Cadets using the site on a Thursday evening

I have recently attended a meeting with Shrewsbury Juniors Football Club to look at how we at Shrewsbury Academy can work with the club to offer facilities, support with marketing and use of the site for events.

I am truly excited by the development of our school and its future, and I am proud to be the Head of School at Shrewsbury Academy. If you would like to be more involved in the planning and idea generating elements of this exciting project with Shrewsbury Town Council, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ideas can also be discussed at future meetings.

Miss Julie Johnson
Head of School



DATES

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events.

Click [here](#) to view our term dates.



NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our news.

Why not also follow us on Facebook @[ShrewsburyAcademy](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff and school celebrations, to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow @[MarchesAcademyTrust](#).



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