

Sheffield Park Weekly News



Dear families,

I do hope that this weekly e-mail finds you safe, warm and well. I am delighted to have seen the very positive way that the vast majority of students have returned to the academy since the beginning of 2026.

The way that our students settled back into routines this Tuesday on their return day was pleasing: we saw a very quick return to routines, and we know that the re-induction to our routines on Tuesday when we compare this to the same day and week in 2025 were a lot smoother. As it stands the academy will open as normal on the morning of Monday 12 January 2026 - we will notify families if anything changes.

Kind Regards,

Rob Watson

Snow Day - Friday 9 January 2026

As principal, it is never easy to make the decision to close a school for a day. I want you to know that the decision was considered very carefully. The academy's site manager was on site from midnight assessing and clearing where possible. When snow stop falling at approximately 3-4am, further colleagues were on site too. I was at school early this morning and was able to assess the safety of the grounds myself with site staff.

Our gritting and snow plough contractors did come in the early hours, and then again later. Our site was safe in parts, but not in others, despite many peoples' best efforts. We were also very concerned about local roads and pavements, which we have no control over. The decision to close for the day was in order to ensure safety for students, families, and our staff. I am confident this decision was made as early as possible, but also late enough that it was not made too quickly.

We are pleased we remained open for our Year 11 and Year 13 students (a small number in both groups) who had formal external exams today, which needed to be sat. I would like to thank staff who have come to work to ensure these took place today.



Year 11

Year 11's need to continue to work hard. Here's what they all need to do:

- Be in school every day
- Complete all classwork and homework
- Have a revision plan and be following it - Year 11s should be revising daily and at weekends on order to get their grades
- Go to every after school 'Success Session' - staff provides this without extra pay to students to really help them
- Attend all Saturday sessions they are reminded about
- Attend all holiday revision sessions they are reminded about (there will be February, Easter, and May holiday sessions for Year 11)
- Show excellent behaviour and organisation every lesson, every day



Year 10 Mocks begin Monday 12 January 2026.

Students/ parents are being sent further information about this today (Friday), as some of this was due to be distributed today in school.

Attendance

Thank you for supporting such a strong start to the half term with attendance, especially during the recent cold weather!

We really appreciate the commitment shown by families in ensuring students are in school and ready to learn each day. This new term offers a valuable opportunity for a reset and a fresh start, particularly for those students whose attendance was not as strong in Term 1.

By working together, we can help every student build positive habits and make the most of their learning this half term.



Year 7/8/9 Mid-year Assessments

Over the coming weeks Year 7, 8, and 9 students will complete common assessments in a range of subjects.

- They need to try their best in every assessment
- Assessments will be given a percentage result for students to understand how well they have performed
- Students need to attend every day - if they miss a day and an assessment we endeavor to find a way to get them to catch up, but this can be difficult
- Students' Term 2 report home will contain information about students' assessment outcomes and their ATL - Attitude T Learning

Admissions Policy Consultation

We are obliged to update and write our Admissions Policy at regular intervals. We have recently re-written our Admissions Policy. This is the policy which will be in place from 2027. There are only minor changes to our current policy. This has been written in conjunction and consultation with Sheffield Local Authority. You are able to view the proposed policy and provide feedback here:

[Consultation](#)

Skirts

A reminder that clarity around skirts which can be worn in our academy can be found here and in students' planners: [Sheffield Park Academy > Information > Uniform](#)

If a student chooses to wear a skirt (instead of trousers), the uniform guidelines need to be followed. The uniform is designed to be professional in its look. If students do continue to wear skirts that are not professional in look (i.e. if they are not at knee length or below, are not of the correct material), we may need to consider removing skirts from the school uniform in the future and having trousers as the single uniform item for wearing on the lower half of the body. If we felt that this was a step we needed to consider taking, we would consult with parents and families to gain their view. If correct skirts are worn in the expected manner, we are very happy for skirts to continue to be a part of our uniform.





Sheffield Park Academy
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Contact Us

📞 0114 239 2661

✉️ info@sheffieldparkacademy.org

🌐 www.sheffieldpark-academy.org