SPA Weekly News

Dear families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

As students return to school next week, I would like to thank you again for working with us to support your child at Sheffield Park Academy. Working together with you to have the highest standards for all our children is the aim for all of us.

I am now moving into my 8th half-term as Principal at SPA and I am very pleased with the quality of behaviour, uniform, effort and work that we are seeing from students - we are really focusing on 'raising expectations' for SPA students this year and it is working.

In the coming weeks and months, I am going to start enabling parents/carers to book a tour of the school during the school day so you can see just what SPA is like when students are learning and working in lessons - it's really great to see it in action.

We continue to talk about, develop, and emphasise our character values every day at SPA - **Community**, **Ambition**, **Respect** and **Endurance**.

Kind Regards,

Rob Watson

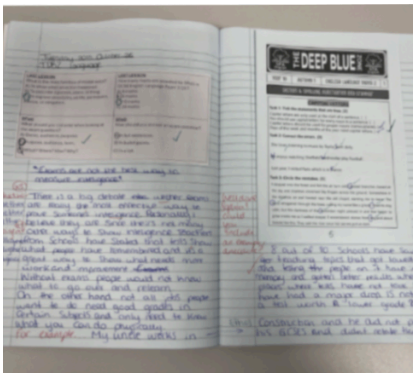
Return to School

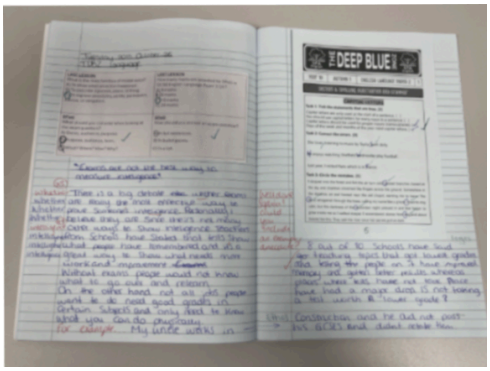
- Students return to SPA at their normal time on **Tuesday 3 November 2026**
- Students should:
  - Come in full uniform
  - Make sure they are wearing their tie and their lanyard
  - Arrive at school NO LATER than 8.35am - any later means they will be late getting to their yards for 8.40am (and students should be on yards, stood in lines at 8.40am)
  - Bring a fully stocked pencil case (please ensure they stock these over the weekend ready for next week)
  - Bring their school planner
  - Bring a school bag - all students need a bag for school
- All our details about uniform and equipment can be found here: **Sheffield Park Academy > Information > Uniform**

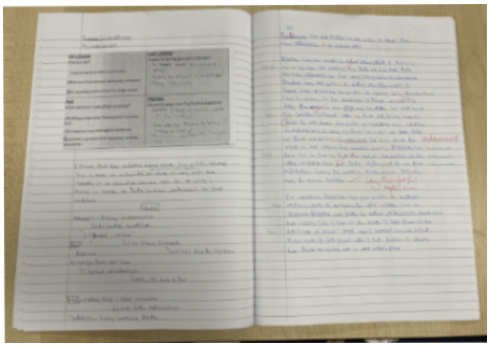
The Blue Zone

- We are VERY proud of our students' Blue Zone work:
  - Every lesson, every day
  - At least 8 minutes, sometimes longer
  - 100% independent work - no extra help and no corrections take place during The Blue Zone (but they do afterwards)

- Students working very hard on tough concepts and content
- This is a very unique thing to our school
- Why do we do it?
  - It prepares students for later life - when they are at work or a college, they will need to work independently
  - It helps students learn and study harder
  - It helps students to get ready for tests and exams and takes away some of the nerves they get in these situations
- Some examples of recent Blue Zone work can be seen below - note the amount, the quality, and the high levels of presentation standards that you see:







The BEST Blue Zone - COMING SOON!

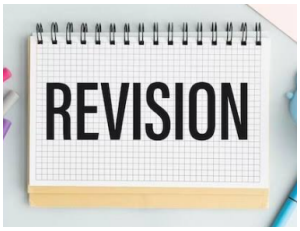
- Every lesson, every day - teachers will award some students with a sticker on their Blue Zone work and decide on some work to the **'The Best Blue Zone'**
- This will be given for:
  - High levels of effort
  - High levels of quality work
  - Improvement in Blue Zone quality work
  - Great presentation levels



- Students will then:
  - Be able to come to 'The Best Blue Zone' table once a week
  - Talk to and tell a member of staff at the desk about their 'Best Blue Zone' piece of work
  - Show the member of staff the piece of work
  - Get a prize for the work
  - And go in a prize draw for a chance to win a big prize!

Year 11, Year 11, Year 11

- **How can Year 11s get their best mock grades in the upcoming mock exams (starting Monday 9 November 2026)?**
- **Come to school every day**
- **Come to every Success Session after school**
- **Come to every Saturday session**
- **Do ALL homework**
- **Do SPARX maths homework and revision - do it every day!**
- **Revise - ask for help on HOW and WHAT to revise if they are not sure...**



Christmas is Coming

- It may seem a long way away, but it will come upon us soon...
- It is important we acknowledge Christmas in our school calendar - a very key British tradition as well as a time of reflection and faith for many in our community.
- However you and your family celebrate and/ or acknowledge Christmas, we know it means different things to different people.
- For us at Sheffield Park Academy it is absolutely about the Character Value of **Community**:
  - Spending time together
  - Looking after each other
  - Celebrating our differences and our similarities (like we do on Culture Day, Community Day, and Yorkshire Day).
  - It is also a time to think about those who may need help and support at this time of year in our local community.
- Some things that will be happening:
  - **Winter Festival - Sunday 22 November 2026 at SPA**
  - Our school Christmas trees will go up just before 1 December, so students have 3 weeks to enjoy these before the Christmas break.
  - **Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December is our annual Performing Arts show** at SPA
  - **Christmas Dinner day is Friday 11 December 2026**
  - Final day of term is **Friday 18 December, Christmas Jumper Day** (charity donations, please) for those who wish to take part. **School will close at 1.15pm** (end of period 3).



Complaints Policy

- Our complaints policy has been updated for this academic year.
- There is a new section about the use of Artificial Intelligence in complaints sent to the school.
- We ask that families do not use AI to write a complaint - these can be inaccurate and take too long to respond to. We recognise that when a parent sends us a complaint, the best course of action is to resolve this for all parties, as quickly as possible. If the complaint includes AI, this often makes the response time much longer than needed.
- Ultimately, we want to respond as quickly as possible to help you and your child AI.
- We ask that families use Appendix E on the complaints policy to submit a formal complaint - by using this form, we are able to help you much more quickly.
- A formal (Stage 2) complaint can take up to 30 working days to receive a outcome letter from the school.

School Drop Off

- We have had some complaints from local residents about parking and use of the local roads at school drop off and pick up times.
- We ask that parents and carers:
  - Do not park or pull up on double yellow lines
  - Do not cover our park/ wait over driveways
  - Do not park on pavements
  - Do not speed
  - Watch out for students, local residents, crossing roads and on pavements.
  - Do not access and wait to pick up their child in our car park on Beaumont Road North - this is only for those children where we have agreed families can drop off/ pick up in our car park (i.e. where there is a disability or similar so using the car park is needed).
- All in all, using the local roads safely is about protecting SPA students and ensuring their journeys to and from school are safe.



Building Works

- Our major building works are about to start on site:
  - Construction of a 3 storey extension to the back of site - adding 6 classrooms
  - Doubling the size of the main school toilets
  - Adding an extra indoor dining space
- All of this does mean some changes to routines for students in school - these will be explained on **Tuesday 3.11.26.**
- In fact, the changes, mean slightly more toilet cubicles available at break and lunch from next week onwards.



Sheffield Park Academy
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Part of United Learning

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