

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers

A happy new year again to you all and I hope that you have had a good start to 2022. I was reminded of how lucky I am to live in our beautiful city this weekend by re visiting the beautiful Peace and Winter gardens which I was interested to discover had helped Sheffield win an award as the best in Europe for its commitments to tropical plants and trees and had also beaten London's South bank to a design award, well deserved in my humble opinion (my Sunday was slightly less pleasant seeing Arsenal deservedly dumped out of the FA Cup by Forest). It also reminded me of Miss Headford and our careers focus for this term which – in line with our mission statement of creating Sheffield's influential young leaders of tomorrow-is to look at career paths that make a difference to the environment and combat climate change. Mrs Preston and Miss Lennon led a group of students to do tree planting in Manor Park Centre to kick off our community activities for 2022.

It has been really lovely to have all students back in the building and the behaviour has been really good since we returned with students really buying into our new rewards system linked to our school values. Beyond the end of year rewards trip, there are some fantastic prizes to be won for those who have excellent attendance, do their homework and are determined to improve their behaviour alongside helping others within our community. At the start of this new year, it is a clean slate for everyone, so every student has the chance of attending our end of year rewards trip and winning both prizes and recognition if they do the right thing.

### **Wellbeing**

I know that wellbeing- including mental health- has been an issue for many students and families over the pandemic. I am really determined to support students with this, and I spoke with student leaders in Years 10-12 today about leading a focus group on how we can improve both student wellbeing and alert them to forms of harassment. They will lead assemblies to each year group next week to feedback their findings.

Something that I have personally found of comfort during the pandemic is the Netflix series on meditation called 'Headspace'. I would wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone curious on the benefits of meditation.

### **Communication**

The parent survey confirmed that this is something that we still need to improve on, and I am determined to improve this for you in 2022. We will shortly share a revised flow chart on who and how to contact the person you need in school with improved timescales for getting back to you. Where you do not feel this is being done or of course, should you have any other complaint, you absolutely have the right to contact me, I want to make that really clear to parents. With this in mind, I wrote to you before Christmas about a parental leadership focus group to offer feedback on suggestions on how we can improve home school - communication. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact my PA Mrs Goddard to arrange a phone call with me.

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**Principal: Mr R. Freeman**

### Cinema night

It was a real pleasure meeting you at our wonderful Performing Arts show in December and the Year 11 parents evening which was our best attended ever. There are still many of you that I have not met however due to COVID and – beyond formal Parents' evenings- I would like to invite you to a cinema night in early March- COVID permitting - where I can spend some time with you. I will serve the popcorn and will take a consensus in advance on the film from what parents would like to see.

We are looking to hold these events on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – 6.30pm until 8.30pm.

You can register your interest using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sheffield-park-academy-cinema-evening-tuesday-8th-march-tickets-244335663547>

I really look forward to getting to know more of you and wish you a continued good start to 2022.

Kind regards



Mr Freeman  
Principal

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