



## Dear families,

I hope that you and your children had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. It was great to see so many of our students return last week in positive spirits - ready for the new school year ahead.

We are so proud of the way Sheffield Park Academy is moving forward and the brilliant improvements to our school last year - this year we are working hard to raise expectations of what we can all achieve even further.

I am looking forward to seeing you visit the academy over the coming weeks and months at year 11 events, parents' evenings, Year 6 Open Evening, our Performing Arts evening in December, Music Gigs, and many, many more events!

Our Academy Character Values remain at the very centre of our work for your children - **Community, Ambition, Respect and Endurance**.

**Reminders** of our uniform policy and equipment and appearance expectations can be found here: [Sheffield Park Academy > Information > Uniform](#)

Kind Regards,  
Rob Watson

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## Welcome New Students!

- Well done to our new Year 7 students on a great start last week: brilliant uniforms, excellent behaviour, great start to work in lessons.
- We were also pleased to welcome our new cohort of Year 12 students - lots of these were from our previous Year 11 cohort, whilst a really good number have come from different schools to join our VI Form.



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## Year 11

- There are just 39 school days until the 1<sup>st</sup> set of Year 11 mock exams - not long!
- What should Year 11s do to maximise their success this year?
  - Attend school every day
  - Work hard every lesson
  - Complete all homework - 100% of it - homework is there to get students ready for GCSEs
  - Attend after school success sessions - students who attend these get better results in mocks/ exams
  - Attend Saturday morning success sessions
  - Attend holiday success sessions

- **Year 11 Attendance - why attend in Year 11?**
  - **Y11 attendance at 90% or above = DOUBLE the chance of a student passing GCSE Maths and English.**
  - **LESS than 90% attendance in Year 11 = HALF the chance of a student passing GCSE Maths and English.**
  - **Year 11s who attend well at SPA get the qualifications they deserve.**



Year 11 have lots and lots of opportunities for extra support and success at SPA - we ask parents to help us get their Year 11 child to take these opportunities.

Community Ambition Respect Endurance



## Disruption-Free Learning

- Our aim is to ALWAYS have disruption-free lessons at SPA. We remind our students of this very regularly.
- This is why we have our system in lessons of 'Warn/ Remind/ Remove'.
- We give students chances to get things right - we know everyone makes mistakes.
- However, if a student disrupts too much, they are removed from the lesson - we know parents and carers don't want their child's lessons and learning disrupted by other students.

## The Blue Zone

The Blue Zone happens every lesson, every day, every subject. It is:

- A 100% fully independent piece of work.
- Silent work.
- Work completed in blue pen.
- Tough and challenging work.
- Students get help before The Blue Zone to make sure they can do it, BUT no extra help during The Blue Zone can be given - we want students to learn to be independent



- By doing The Blue Zone 4 times per day, 20 times per week, for 39 weeks a year, then across 5 years - young people will find their GCSE exams and mocks so much easier!

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## New Building Changes

Our building has been transformed inside (and out!), and our students have now started to see this - we hope they are pleased with the new 'look and feel'! Why have we done this? Well, students deserve an excellent building which is bright, attractive, and inspiring!

Other things that have happened:

- New stools in all science labs
- Redecoration of the main atrium in the middle of school
- Full redecoration of the boys and girls PE changing rooms
- 4 brand new IT suites
- Brand new student reception area
- A bigger Year 8/9 yard at the back of school
- A new reception for families when they visit

We hope students enjoy these new and improved facilities!



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## Social Media Updates

Please do make sure you are following us on social media for key updates about return to school and/ or exciting updates about the building work taking place at SPA in the coming weeks and months!

