

Sheffield Park Weekly News



Dear families,

Thank you for continuing to support your child by making sure they come to school every day and work hard. We know January can be a difficult time for many families, so we really appreciate your support.

At Sheffield Park Academy, we expect all students to show our CARE values every day:

Community, Ambition, Respect, Endurance

As we continue our efforts to be **One Community, One Park.**

Please read our weekly newsletter, sent to Parents via Arbor, which shares some of the key news and events from Sheffield Park Academy this week and across the next few weeks.

Kind Regards,

Rob Watson

Planners and Pencil Cases

We are really pleased to share that every Year 8 and Year 9 student had their planner with them at Friday morning line-up. This is fantastic and shows great responsibility from our students.

Because students had the right equipment:

- **There was no disruption to learning**
- **Students could earn reward stamps**
- **Staff could start lessons on time**

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting this at home.



Social Media and Online Safety - Support for Parents

Many students now have a smartphone or other device. These can be useful, but they can also bring risks.

The **NSPCC** has helpful advice for parents and carers about children and technology: [Children and technology – NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/children-and-technology/)

Some possible risks of social media and smartphone use include:

- Online bullying or unkind messages
- Seeing content that is not suitable for their age
- Seeing violence or aggressive behaviour online
- Being targeted or exploited by others
- Spending less time with family and friends in real life



What parents can do to help keep children safe online:

- Block the app or website if there is a problem
- Block the person involved
- Delete the app from your child's phone
- Report the issue to the app or website
- Report concerns to school
- Contact the police if needed

You can also:

- Limit when and where your child uses their phone (for example, not in bedrooms)
- Set parental controls on the phone
- Check the phone regularly — parents are in charge of the phone
- Use family accounts or keep passwords if you allow access to certain apps

More help is available here: [Online safety – Childline](#)

Year 13 Mock Interviews

We are delighted to share that our Year 13 students recently took part in a series of mock interviews with representatives from local businesses.

These interviews provided students with valuable, real-world experience of formal interview situations. They had the opportunity to present themselves professionally, respond confidently to questions, and discuss their skills, aspirations, and career interests. It was great to see how much their confidence and self-awareness has grown. Many students took on board feedback from last year, showing clear improvements in their approach and presentation.

We are so proud of all our students, who conducted themselves in a professional and mature manner throughout the process. Feedback from our business partners was extremely positive, including comments such as:

“

“What an asset to your Sixth Form.”

“Clear, concise, and easy to understand.”

“Great communication, confident — best interview of the day.”

“Very mature way of thinking, a credit to you all.”

“Really confident, clear path plan for life, enthusiastic about future goals.”

”

We are very grateful to our local business partners for giving their time and expertise to support our students. Experiences like this play a vital role in preparing students for university interviews, apprenticeships, and employment.

Thank you for your continued support and for celebrating the achievements of our Sixth Form students with us. **You can find out more about our Sixth Form here - [Home](#) | [VI Form](#).**



Year 11 - Important Information!

There are now **19 school days** left until Year 11 Mock 2 exams begin.

Well done to:

- Over **120 students** who attended after-school Success Sessions
- Students with **100% attendance** last week
- Over **60 students** who attended Saturday Sessions

What's coming up:

- February half-term revision sessions
- GCSE Success Evening – **Thursday 5 February** (all Year 11 students must attend)

Important reminders:

- Year 11 students should revise **every day** — little and often works best
- Every lesson now includes exam content
- Missing lessons means missing marks



Please remember:

If a student does not achieve **Grade 4 or above** in GCSE English or Maths, they must resit these subjects after Year 11.

Community Update

I do want to mention the event in the local community after school on Monday last week which involved some Sheffield Park Academy students.

I want you to know that our staff acted as quickly as possible when we were made aware of this event: staff attended and were given support straightaway. Senior members of staff and I have worked with families and students affected all week. It is important you know that we take any acts of unacceptable behaviour (whether this are physical or verbal) in the local community or on our school grounds extremely seriously. Any students involved in any events like this or similar are sanctioned in line with our behaviour policy



We expect all students at Sheffield Park Academy to show our Academy Character Values of Community, Ambition, Respect, and Endurance at all times.

We spent significant time last week and will do the same next week to reassure and educate all our students on community and school behaviours. For instance, it is important that no student joins or follows a group of students either in or out of school if they see one gathering - even just 'being part of the crowd' adds to problems and students should not be involved in this. The behaviour policy is followed for any student who does this.

Talking our way into The Blue Zone

We would like to celebrate the fantastic learning behaviours we are seeing in lessons across the school, particularly through our use of a strategy called **Turn and Talk**.

Turn and Talk means:

- Students think about a question
- They talk to a partner
- They share ideas before working independently

This helps students:

- Build confidence
- Explain their thinking
- Feel ready to work on their own



Teachers are seeing students work more confidently and independently during **The Blue Zone**, which is the independent part of lessons. This is especially powerful for students who may find it harder to speak in front of the whole class, as Turn and Talk gives them a structured and supportive way to prepare.

Character at Sheffield Park Academy

Character is everything we say, do, and believe in. At Sheffield Park Academy everything we do revolves around our 4 Academy Character Values of Community, Ambition, Respect, and Endurance. We speak about them every day and remind our students HOW to show these values as much as possible - we talk about them at line ups, on corridors, in form time, in lessons, in meetings - every time a student gets a reward stamp, they are getting this for demonstrating our CARE values (one of them or all of them).

Community, Ambition, Respect, Endurance

Contact Us