

# Newsletter – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020



**Sheffield Park Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and that you are managing under the restrictions that we have been placed under.

There are a number of important processes that take place in school over the Summer term and I would like to provide some reassurance to the pupils affected about the measures that are being put into place to make sure that everything can proceed as normal when we return to school.

## **Year 6 into Year 7 Transition.**

We are working with our feeder primary schools to put in place a programme of activities to ensure that our 'new' Year 7s receive all the information that they need, can meet their new teachers and key staff online and can start to feel part of our school community. We will be writing to these children and their parents in the next few weeks and will contact them regularly to keep them up to date with the arrangements being made.

## **Year 9 Options Process**

The Year 9 Options process will be replicated as best we can 'online'. All Y9 pupils will have an 'options meeting' with a member of staff and their parent to discuss the choices available and to receive careers guidance. Information will be shared with parents and pupils in advance. This will mean that current Year 9 pupils will be able and ready to commence their GCSE studies in September (all being well by then!)

## **Year 11 and Year 13 GCSE / BTEC L2 / A Level / BTEC L3 Students**

The DfE has now made a formal announcement about how qualifications will be awarded this year

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> )

## **Places in VI Form (Year 12) from September**

We hope to be in a position to invite all of the Year 11 pupils who meet the qualifying criteria for A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses to start studying towards these qualifications in the next few weeks. To this end, teachers are planning 'bridging units' that will close any learning gaps left from Year 11 and provide an introduction to the content covered at A Level. We will be contacting pupils individually to make these arrangements. Given the lost learning time this academic year, we believe that it is really important to capitalise on this opportunity to give them a head start on the next part of their academic journey.

We are also working hard to ensure that courses of study and support, including careers guidance, are in place for those Year 11 pupils who do not intend to study Level 3 courses with us next year or who intend to access apprenticeships.

## **Free School Meals**

Also contained within this newsletter is information about free school meals provision. As you will see, we have opted to participate in a voucher scheme with EdenRed. We have chosen the voucher scheme because we believe that this is the best way of ensuring that all families who are entitled to can access free school meals. It has been a significant undertaking, both on the part of the school's admin staff and, I'd imagine, the Department for Education. Given the speed at which it has been set up, it would be reasonable to assume that there might be some issues or disruptions to the service initially. If this is the case, please do communicate with us through the [adminwork@sheffieldparkacademy.org](mailto:adminwork@sheffieldparkacademy.org) email address and we will do everything we can to support you.

Finally, as I am sure that many of you will be aware, one of our local Councillors, Pat Midgley passed away last week as a result of the Coronavirus. Cllr Midgley was a tireless advocate for our community and was highly respected and appreciated by everyone who came into contact with her. Our sincere condolences go to all of her family and friends.

Wishing you all the very best,

Mr C. Dillon,  
Executive Principal



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## Welcome from the Principal

Welcome back to the summer term. This isn't quite how we had imagined the term to start but we will continue to run our online school. It is important in these strange times that students keep some structure to their school days, and we have planned a timetable which will support with this. All year groups have work to complete and we would be grateful if you could encourage your child to do this.

When we do come back to school it will help students to manage the change if they have been learning during their time at home.

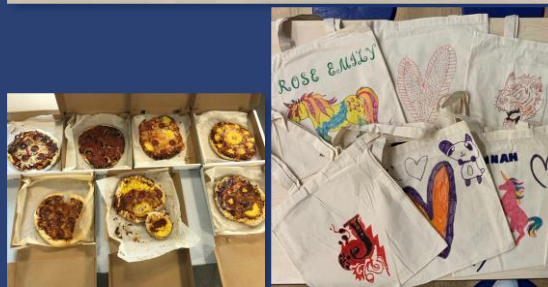
Please stay safe and follow the Government advice -

- stay at home, only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- if you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms

Mrs D. McShane  
Principal

## Easter Activities

The students who have been in school over the Easter holidays have been taking part in a number of activities, these are a few of the things they have made



## Useful links

We are constantly updating our website with up to date information and links to other sites which may be of use.

Recent additions include:

The calm zone -

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone>

Think for the Future - [Online delivery timetable](#)

Sheffield Futures - information can be found [here](#).

**Access our full website here**

<https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/learning-from-home>

## Free School Meal Vouchers

We confirm that we have ordered the vouchers which you should now be receiving, however, we are aware that there have been issues and delays in the vouchers being activated due to the high demand, Edenred are doing their best to cope with this.

Those parents without an email address will receive postal vouchers from school.

If you are having difficulties please contact us via the [adminwork@sheffieldparkacademy.org](mailto:adminwork@sheffieldparkacademy.org) email address and we will do everything we can to support you.

## A levels and GCSE Qualifications

We have received the details regarding how GCSE and A level qualifications will be awarded. Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students should have received a letter explain this. If you did not receive this, please contact school and we will send it out to you.

## ICT Support and FAQ

ICT technical support is available for anyone having trouble accessing home learning.

Please read the attached Frequently Asked Questions document before submitting an email. [The FAQ document can be found here.](#)