

# Newsletter – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020



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

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I hope that this latest edition of our newsletter finds you all safe, well and starting to enjoy the additional freedoms that we are being afforded under 'lockdown'. The nicer weather is certainly helping- hopefully it will continue throughout the week.

## **Home learning surveys**

I have today received your feedback from the home learning survey that we sent out; thank you to those of you who took the time to respond. There were a lot of constructive comments in the feedback that we will now put to use in tailoring how we provide home learning over the coming weeks.

I could also empathise with some of the difficulties that you reported in getting used to working on the online platforms such as MS Teams – they were exactly the same ones that I had experienced myself and it has taken a while to get used to working so differently. Hopefully now, with a little more experience and a lot of learning on the job, we can make it work more efficiently and effectively for everyone.

## **Continuing to Learn from Home & Access for Year 10 and Year 12**

As you will have seen, the government has announced that it hopes to allow Year 10 and Year 12 pupils to receive some element of face-to-face time with teachers during the second half of this term. This may begin as early as the week of 1st June.

This is very good news as it starts to bring pupils back to school in a safe and controlled manner which minimises the risk both to them, their families and to staff. There is, however, currently no further update as to when any other secondary Year Groups will be able to return.

Before the school reopens to any pupils, we will make sure that we are fully prepared and can meet the hygiene and social distancing requirements that the government's scientists will expect of us.

I would like to thank everyone – staff, parents and pupils – for the ways in which we have united across the school in responding to the situation so far and have ensured that pupils have continued to learn from home. This has taken a great deal of time, effort, energy and patience on everyone's part, but we should be proud of what is being achieved.

We will, of course, be continuing to operate our learning from home programme until pupils return to school. It is vitally important that every student accesses this provision.

I know how hard parents are working in supporting your children to learn in this way, but I would urge you please to carry on encouraging them to access the full programme. Most pupils are fully engaged with their online learning and we want every student to benefit from it. As a school, we will continue to do everything we can to make it as straightforward as possible for you and for them.

For the time being, therefore, the school remains closed for all pupils other than those who are already aware that they are able to attend. If your child is eligible to attend and is not currently doing so, please do contact us so that we can discuss how best this can be arranged.

We can now begin the task of risk assessing and carefully planning for all aspects of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils' return to school. This, I anticipate, will require a great deal of thought, consultation with a range of stakeholders including staff and their representative bodies and careful application of the government's advice. We will, of course, continue to be steered by guidance from United Learning and will work closely with the local authority, Learn Sheffield and our local partner schools as well.

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I will be contacting parents and pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 in the near future to outline how they will begin to receive face-to-face time with their teachers. I also hope to hold an online 'Town Hall Meeting' for parents and pupils nearer the time (aimed at Years 10 and 12 but all parents and pupils will be welcome), when we can explain the planning in detail to you and answer any questions that you might have. We will most likely use the pupils' Microsoft Teams account to do this so that everyone has access to the same platform.

All of us look forward to welcoming pupils back to school as soon as is safely possible. In the meantime, please keep safe and well and encourage your children to continue to participate in their online learning.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C. Dillon,  
Executive Principal

## Reading

Reading is essential for students to develop the literacy skills they need to succeed at school and in their future lives. We have been sharing images of staff reading on our Twitter account (@SheffPark\_Acad) to hopefully inspire everyone to join us and pick up a book.



## 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:

- Cook with Jack  
<https://www.biteback2030.com/real-story/cook-jack>
- [Feed your family for less](#)

Access our full website here

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



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## Messages from staff

Staff have been compiling photo montages to deliver messages of encouragement. You can see the full set on our Twitter account (@SheffPark\_Acad)

### Year 11



### Year 10

