



Newsletter – 4th May 2020

Dear parents and pupils,

I hope that you are all safe and well and that the impositions of lockdown are still manageable for you. We have again been busy this week reviewing the evidence for the assessment grades to be submitted to the exam boards for our GCSE and A-Level students. We have also been working hard to secure more laptops for those pupils who need them most. The primary transition activity is now under way and we are in the final stages of securing older pupils' places in VI Form for next academic year as well.

I had a very productive online meeting with a senior director from Price Waterhouse Cooper on Wednesday and they have very kindly offered to carry out some mentoring activities with our Y9 pupils to support their 'options' process and transition into GCSE study and also with our current Y11s who are moving on to VI Form and Post-16 study. We will share more details of this as planning progresses.

As we move into what will hopefully be the latter stages of lock-down we are working hard on planning for pupils' return to school. We expect that the government will be quite directive about when it needs to happen and how it will happen but nonetheless, there is a lot for us to think about, so it makes sense to be planning for every eventuality.

It was really nice to meet quite a few of you this week as we delivered the first batch of Chromebooks and to see the children coping so well. We are all very aware of the pressures that some will be feeling for a whole range of reasons; because of this, the academy's SEND and Safeguarding teams have worked very hard to establish a 'wellbeing information' section on the website that contains a wide range of materials and contact information for anyone who needs support, including parents. We are also here for any pupil or parent who needs us and can be contacted using the telephone numbers and email links on the website.

Please do persevere with the home learning materials we have placed on Office 365 and MS Teams as it is really important that we don't allow bigger learning gaps to open up than we can avoid. We have been trying to provide paper learning packs where parents have requested them but this, unfortunately, is not a sustainable strategy. If, as looks likely, there might be further disruption down the line, online learning will become an increasingly important part of all schools' delivery of the curriculum. I also anticipate that we will be heavily reliant on online learning to help pupils to catch-up on all of the learning that they have missed when we do return to school. I appreciate that this might cause difficulties in some families where access to a laptop or computer is limited or where multiple children might need to share a device- we are working hard to secure access to more Chromebooks to support with this. If you are experiencing difficulties due to your child having limited access to a laptop or desktop computer, please can you email the academy (info@sheffieldparkacademy.org) and we will do what we can to help.

Finally, some very sad news. Mrs Sarah Szafraniec, who was our Deputy Head before moving on to a wider role within the trust, passed away following a long and courageous battle with illness on Tuesday this week. Sarah played a significant role in the school for nearly 15 years and will be sadly missed by staff, pupils and former pupils alike.

I remain incredibly grateful for your ongoing support. Please do all take care and stay safe.

With best wishes,

Mr C. Dillon,
Executive Principal



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Welcome from the Principal

As we enter week 7 of lockdown we are all getting to grips with a different lifestyle, I hope you and your loved ones are all well and coping with the changes. We are aware of the emotional strain the lockdown can produce for both parents and children and so have provided a number of useful resources to support emotional well-being, these can be found here <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/spa-wellbeing> . If you do require additional support please contact us at school and we can help.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Muslim communities a blessed and fruitful Ramadan.

Best wishes

Mrs D. McShane

Supporting your child's reading by allowing them to watch TV!

Despite a decade of extensive research linking the use of video subtitles to improvements in reading skills, many people remain unaware of the potential of using the subtitles on their TVs to create a significant opportunity to support their child's literacy and reading skills.

We therefore ask that you occasionally switch on the subtitles when watching TV or a film with your child in order that they can benefit from the following:

- Subtitles and captions can help children with word identification, meaning, acquisition, and retention.
- Subtitles and captions can help children establish a systematic link between the written word and the spoken word.
- Subtitles and captions have been related to higher comprehension skills when compared to viewers watching the same media without them.
- Children who have a positive experience in reading will want to read; reading subtitles and captions can provide such an experience.
- Reading is a skill that requires practice, and practice in reading subtitles and captions is practice with authentic text.
- Subtitles and captions provide missing information for individuals who have difficulty processing speech and auditory components of the visual media (whether this difficulty is due to a hearing loss or a cognitive delay).
- Students often need assistance in learning content-relevant vocabulary (in biology, history, literature, and other subjects), and with subtitles and captions they can see both the terminology (printed word) and the visual images.
- Subtitles and captions can be especially beneficial to those learning English as a Second Language. Equally, watching a DVD with the subtitles switched on in French can assist students who are studying MfL, particularly at GCSE and A Levels.



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Free School Meal Vouchers

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education
- If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we are temporarily extending free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF), including:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

These groups are also subject to a maximum household earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum.

We are also temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

This group is not subject to any maximum household earnings threshold.

This extension is temporarily in place due to the current unique circumstances. It covers both children who are attending school and children who are at home

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

Sheffield Park Academy has forged a brilliant working relationship with colleagues at 'Think For The Future' (TFTF). They have teamed up with us to provide support for pupils in school and are currently providing online resources and guidance for our pupil via their online calendar of resources. You will find their link under the information for parents section on our website. Check it out, there are some great resources available.



Think for the Future
Challenge. Equip. Inspire.

WOW Pack – Healthy Relationships

The tenth WOW Pack is now available to download from [our website](#) on Healthy Relationships. The pack includes challenges, activities, videos from our TFTF Behaviour and Resilience Mentors, and information on how to create and maintain healthy relationships during lockdown and after. These resources are available for all students

Podcasts

We have content going out on [our YouTube](#) from our TFTF Behaviour and Resilience Mentors. **You can find our timetable for next week on the school website.**

Join us on social media

The best way to keep up to date with TFTF is to follow us on social media. **Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)** where we are posting resources from our mentors daily.



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Things to remember

AT HOME



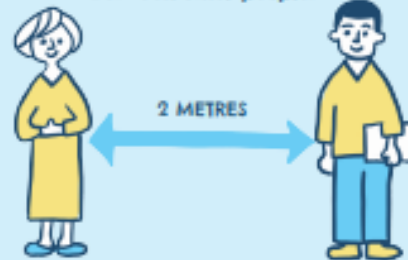
Wash hands frequently, and cough into elbow or tissue/then dispose of it



Regularly clean frequently used surfaces

OUTSIDE

Only leave the house if it is essential (food shopping, getting medicines and/or going to ESSENTIAL work place). When you do leave the house, maintain 2 metres distance between other people.



DO NOT:



Invite other people to your house



Socialise outside



Have fires outside



Let your children play outside

Police / Social Services may take action if this guidance not followed

If you have symptoms - do not leave the house for 7 days, until your temperature is normal; people living with you must stay at home for 14 days, call NHS 111 for health advice



YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Need help getting shopping?



Norfolk Park Mutual Aid
facebook.com/groups/norfolkparkmutualaid/ Tel: 0780 1431 709, Email: jholmes299@gmail.com
Or contact your local community hub
Manor and Castle Development Trust
0114 278 9999 | You can pay MCDT for shopping with cash, bank transfer, cheque or contactless card

Use PayPal
You can pay your neighbour for shopping with cash or by Paypal/bank transfer

Need prescription medication?



For prescriptions contact Sheffield City Council advice line, 0114 273 4567

No money for food?



For an emergency food parcel, contact your local community hub

S2 Food bank (St Swithun's): 0780 440 6267
S2 Food Bank (Salvation Army): 0114 273 1778
Norfolk Park TARA: 0794 604 5089
Pantry: 273 9611 or 0758 443 5841
Spires: 0114 241 6786 or info@welovearbourthorne.co.uk

Need someone to talk to?



To arrange a friendly phone call, contact your local community hub:

Manor and Castle Development Trust: 0114 278 9999
24/7 Mental health support line: 0114 226 3636
Domestic violence helpline: 0808 808 2241
Online support: www.jdas.org.uk

Need benefits, employment or housing advice?



Citizens Advice: 03444 113111
Email: getintouch@citizensadvice.org.uk
Web: citizensadvice.org.uk
Manor and Castle Development Trust: 0114 2789999
Shelter: 03445 151515
Email: Sheffield_hub@shelter.org.uk

**If you need any other help, call Sheffield City Council:
0114 273 4567**