



Sheffield Park Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Newsletter

February 2021

Welcome from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

I do hope that you and your families are well.

I wanted to start off by thanking you for your support with your child's education this half term. We do appreciate that this is a challenging time for all of us and the way in which parents and carers have risen to the challenge of helping their child study while managing family and work commitments is impressive and certainly very much appreciated by all of us at the school.

We also know that you have received much communication from us and would like to emphasise that this comes very much from a place of care that your child is accessing their on line learning. Education is the passport to the future; no investment yields greater interest than education. I passionately believe in this and it is the job of our school to ensure that your child has the very best future possible, an ambition that unites all of us.

We look forward to hearing more about your views on the parent survey that was sent out this week and also the via the Townhall every 2 weeks, the next one being the 25th of February.

I am confident that the picture nationally will improve markedly over the next few months and I look forward to welcoming you to our school and also listening to your ideas on how we can use the site to better support the community.

I wish you a safe, restful and pleasant half -term.

Best wishes

Mr Freeman



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Welcome

Welcome to the February 2021 newsletter, which means we are getting closer to Spring.

Firstly, we would like to say that the young people of Sheffield Park Academy continue to amaze us with their resilience and hard work. We have been so proud of the way they have adapted, yet again, to working online. We would also like to thank you, our parents and carers - who are doing an amazing job of encouraging and supporting them with their home learning.

We know it isn't easy and that so many of you are juggling demanding work commitments while also supporting your children in order to reduce the transmission of the virus, protect the NHS and help to keep the numbers from increasing; for this we are incredibly grateful.

Please do remember that we are here for all our families, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need any support, advice or a friendly chat.

We wish all of you in our wonderful Sheffield Park Academy community, a safe and happy half term holiday.

Attendance



We are proud of our students continued commitment to access live lessons and to celebrate this we are running a weekly attendance draw where all those with 100% attendance are entered into a draw to win a £20 voucher per year group.

All students at Sheffield Park Academy should strive to achieve at least 96% attendance over a full academic year. The more days you attend school, the more chance of achieving your academic potential!

The higher your academic achievements, the more options you open up for yourself in the future!

Attendance is strongly linked to attainment and attainment is strongly linked to higher incomes and future prospects.

Missing just 30 minutes of class each day equates to 20.7 school days over a full academic year!

Missing one lesson a day equates to missing over 41 school days throughout an academic year.

90% attendance equates to missing almost 20 school days in a full academic year.

Each day you attend school is extremely important, moving you one step closer to achieving your potential.

Attending school every day, achieve your goals, succeed!

Awards for the best attendance

We will be rewarding students who have the best attendance in school. Attendance is hugely important and we will reward all of those students who have 95% plus attendance with special prizes for those who achieve 100% attendance during each term. This term we are having a prize draw based on online attendance. All those students who have engaged in online learning for 100% of the time and have attempted their Milestones will be entered into the draw to win a Nintendo DS Lite. There is one for KS4 students and one for KS3 students. Winner's will be announced on twitter Friday 12th February and in assembly on the first day back.

Community Meetings



We believe that our school is at the heart of our community and we want to further establish this by strengthening our links and channels for communication with our parents, carers and local residents.

Mr Freeman hosts regular Town Hall meetings where he is joined by other members of school staff and hopefully, in the future, community leaders and parents to share up to date information and guidance.

The meetings are really easy to join – a link will be sent to parents/carers via text and it can also be found on our website <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/information-for-parents/town-hall-meetings>

Meetings can be accessed on just about any device – mobile phone, laptop, iPad etc and it only takes a few simple steps to connect. We have a step by step guide available on the website.

Importantly, every Town Hall meeting will include an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have - we want this to be a two way process and really want to engage with parents, carers and our wider community.

Feedback from parents has been very positive:

- Thank you for this meeting. It has been very informative and useful!
- I would like to say thank you for all the hard work you have all put in to make sure our children can continue to learn during this lockdown.
- I would like to praise the school; my children have told me that they are very appreciative of how well the teachers are supporting them.
- My children are learning well – thank you to everyone at the school.
- Live lessons have been delivered really well; my child seems to focus well.

We hope you will join us for the next meeting on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 6pm.

The screenshot shows the Sheffield Park Academy website. The header includes the school logo, name, and contact details (0114 239 2661, info@sheffieldparkacademy.org). The navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Information, Curriculum, News, Working For Us, Contact Us, and VI Form. The main content area is titled 'Town Hall Meetings' and contains the following text:

How to join a Town Hall meeting (Also known as a 'live event')
Meetings can be accessed on just about any device - mobile phone, laptop, iPad etc and are really easy to join just follow the simple steps shown in this document: [Click here](#)

What parents have said...
We are grateful for the feedback we have received during the meetings - here are some of the comments left by parents:

- Thank you for this meeting. It has been very informative and useful!
- I would like to say thank you for all the hard work you have all put in to make sure our children can continue to learn during this lockdown.
- I would like to praise the school, my children have told me that they are very appreciative of how well the teachers are supporting them.
- My children are learning well - thank you to everyone at the school.

Town Hall Meetings
Mr Freeman is hosting regular Town Hall meetings where he will share up to date information and guidance with parents/carers. Other members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be present to offer their support too.

Crucially, every Town Hall meeting will include an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have as we really want to engage with parents, carers and our wider community.

Our first meeting on 7th January was a great success, with quadruple the number of attendees joining than previous events. Attendance rose by a further 8% for the second event on 21st January.

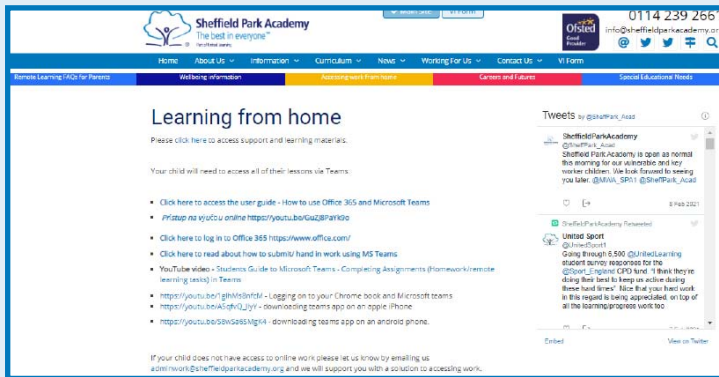
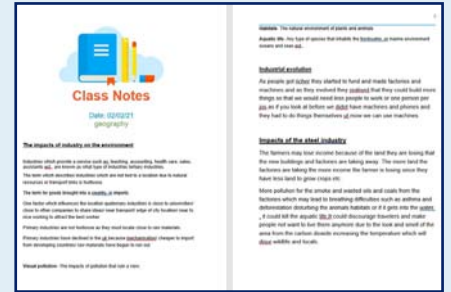
The next Town Hall meeting will take place on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 6pm.
A prize draw will be open for all attendees at the meeting with various prizes available.

The link to the meeting will be available shortly.

We look forward to 'meeting' you!

Celebrating Student Work

As we all adapt to the current way of working we are pleased to see the various ways our students are completing their work. Just two examples of this are Liam in Year 8 and Shanice in Y7. Liam has been working really hard in Geography and completing great work which he can be seen here showing his teachers on camera. Shanice typed up her work and submitted it online.



If you need any help with logging on to access or submit work please see the 'accessing work from home' section of our website which has lots of useful information and guidance videos.

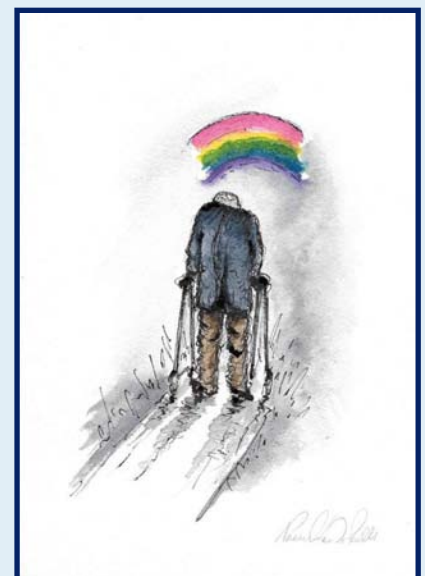
Captain Sir Tom Moore

Last week, students spoke with their Form Teachers about the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore and the wonderful work he did last year to raise money for the NHS. In April 2020, at the age of 99, he began to walk around his garden in aid of NHS Charities with the goal of raising £1,000 by his hundredth birthday. He ended up raising over £30m. Students linked his achievements to our values saying it showed how one leader like Captain Sir Tom can make a difference through **ambition** and **determination**.



Year 7 student Evie, wrote a wonderful poem to celebrate his life

He lived through two World Wars
 He walked so we could run
 Our beloved 100-year-of-hero
 Walked 100 laps, 'til he was done
 He raised so much money
 For our great NHS
 Until that time has come
 Because God only takes the best
 We thank him for his generosity
 And hope he rests in peace
 We thank you Captain Sir Tom
 For our memories of you will never cease.



Celebrating Student Work

We have many examples of the wonderful work our students have been completing at home – here are just a few for you to enjoy!



Kaiden Year 8 displaying his culinary delights... a future chef perhaps?



Posters designed by Amber and Julia, Year 8 during a PSHE lesson on Pollution. Both students followed the brief they were given well and designed colourful and detailed



Ashley - Year 7.

Students have been busy this term creating observational studies of insects using formal elements.



Year 9 have been creating observations of organic objects inspired by Angie Lewin using household materials. This beautiful image was drawn by Zaina.



Thomas - Year 8, created this geometric and organic pattern inspired by Islamic design.

Maths Prize Draw Extravanzas!

The Year 7 Sparx Leaderboard has been a huge success whilst we've been in lockdown! Well done to everyone who's made it into the top 10 each week. The student in the number 1 spot has also received a £20 voucher! This will continue into next half term so make sure you gain as much XP as possible to be in with a chance to win!

The Hegarty Maths Leaderboards for years 8 to 11 have also had some amazing results! With the top student in each year group receiving a £10 voucher each week! There have been a few students who've maintained their title at the top for 3 weeks running, will you be the one to knock them off and claim the £10 prize?

Wellbeing

Many of us are struggling to maintain our wellbeing during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

You may also feel worried or anxious about the health and wellbeing of those close to you. It is important to remember that it's OK to feel this way and that everyone reacts differently.

For most of us, these feelings will pass. Staying at home and following the Government guidance may be difficult at times, but by doing so you are helping to protect yourself and others.

We have lots of useful information available on our [website www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/spa-wellbeing](http://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/spa-wellbeing)



Mind www.mind.org.uk/ Has lots of useful information available including:

- Understanding difficult feelings
- Tips for taking care of your mental wellbeing
- Looking after your practical needs
- Further advice and support

Public Health England have produced some helpful information – available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

5 steps to mental wellbeing

Evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life. Visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/ to read about the 5 steps.

Please do remember we are here for all our families, please do reach out to us if you need any support, advice or a friendly chat.

Safeguarding

Just because you may not be in school at the moment, that does not mean we cannot help you.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, are worried for your safety or feeling at risk then you can still make contact with us at the Academy. A member of the Safeguarding Team will be on site at Sheffield Park Academy Monday to Friday 8am – 3pm. We will always do our very best to help you.

You can contact us on 0114 2392661 between 8am and 3pm daily:

Dedicated Safeguarding webpage - www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/safeguarding



The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Name: Mrs Kelly Mills

(Role: Senior Leader: Safeguarding & Pastoral Support/ Designated Safeguarding Lead)



The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Name: Mr Alex Ratcliff

(Role: Safeguarding Manager/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Wellbeing

Tips for looking after YOU

STAY CONNECTED

It's really important to stay connected with friends, social groups and family - online, phone or post

Reach out to:

- Those you haven't spoken to for a while
- Someone who may be feeling isolated
- People at home
- Help those less techy to get on social media
- Arrange a virtual party / gathering
- Host a virtual game night

BUILD SKILLS

Set yourself a challenge - now is a great time to learn a new skill

- Who do you want to be? Go for it
- Find at least one thing to do each day which makes you happy
- Do a job around the house
- Choose a set time and place to complete school work

BE HEALTHY

Keep to a healthy routine

- Sleep: set a time to be up by
- Eat
- Exercise
- Chill
- Fresh air

If you're feeling sluggish and tired you probably need to move!

EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Notice your emotions

- Share concerns with other people - it helps
- Take time to listen to other people's concerns - you might not be able to fix it for them but being heard helps
- Have fun with someone
- Avoid constant news feeds

Notice your mood and what makes you feel better or worse

BE IN THE MOMENT

Calm your body and mind - it's important to take a break from our thoughts even only for a few minutes

- Change focus
- Be in the now
- Relax your body, breathe into your tummy
- Absorb yourself in an activity
- Try a mindfulness app
- Take a break from screens

The more you practice the more it will help when you most need it

PLAN YOUR DAY

When normal routines have gone it can be disorientating

- Make the most of this time
- Take care of yourself

Make a plan and
#BeatTheBoredom

Full Planner: www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients-and-parents/coronavirus-resources-for-children-and-families/

Sheffield South East VI Form

Join us in September 2021

Do you want to come to a VI Form which offers excellent teaching, unrivalled personalised support and exciting enrichment opportunities?

Then Sheffield South East VI Form is for you!

The deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 26th February. Visit our dedicated website to find out more - <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/sixthform/How-to-apply/Join-us>



Target Oxbridge

Well done to VI Form student Jah'Siya who has achieved a place on the Target Oxbridge programme. This is an extremely competitive programme run by Oxford and Cambridge Universities.



The various strands of the programme focus on intellectual, cultural and social development irrespective of personal or economic barriers. These strands include:

- A tailored series of critical theory discussions, seminars, Oxbridge-style tutorials, visits to both universities and guest speaker events.
- Advice on making the right degree subject, university and college selection.
- Personalised advice on your personal statement, UCAS form, SAQ statement and other submitted materials including essays, statements of purpose and portfolios.
- Regular contact with a black or minority ethnic Oxbridge graduate to pinpoint your strengths, discuss your aspirations and identify areas for development.
- Structured Oxbridge interview practice, test preparation sessions with trained markers/assessors and revision workshops.
- One-on-one mentoring.

The InvestIn Programme

We are proud to share news with you that we recently became an InvestIn partnership school. InvestIn organise work placements and internships with various companies and will assist us with widening the offers available to our students. Recently, three Year 12 students took part in the following online work experience projects; Young Political Leader, The young Music Producer and the Young Entrepreneur experiences.

Dates and Information

Spring Half Term 1

- Term starts: Tuesday 5th January 2021 until Friday 12th February 2021
- INSET Day: Monday 4th January 2021
- INSET Day: Friday 29th January 2021
- Half Term holiday: Monday 15th February 2021 until Friday 19th February 2021

Spring Half Term 2

- Term starts: Monday 22nd February 2021 until Thursday 1st April 2021
- Bank Holiday: Friday 2nd April 2021
- Easter Holiday: Monday 5th April 2021 until Friday 16th April 2021

Summer Half Term 1

- Term starts: Tuesday 20th April 2021 until Friday 28th May 2021
- INSET Day: Monday 19th April 2021
- Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2021
- Spring Term Holiday: Monday 31st May 2021 until Friday 4th June 2021

Summer Half Term 2

- Term starts: Monday 7th June 2021 until Friday 16th July 2021
- Disaggregated INSET Day: Monday 19th July 2021
- Disaggregated INSET Day: Tuesday 20th July 2021
- Disaggregated INSET Day: Wednesday 21st July 2021

We regularly update our website with helpful and informative information and links. Information includes:

- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing - <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/spa-wellbeing/mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing>
- Online safety - <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/spa-wellbeing/online-safety>
- SEND - <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/information/special-educational-needs>

Follow us on Twitter to keep up with all of the latest news and information:



@SheffPark_Acad

@MWA_SPA1



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Part of United Learning

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