



Festive Cheer

The academy is always a hive of activity in the lead up to Christmas with students and staff busily going the extra mile to spread festive cheer within school and throughout our community, this year is no different.

As part of their ongoing pen pal scheme with Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care, VI Form Ambassadors organised for Year 7 students to also get involved and produce Christmas cards for senior citizens who are currently having to isolate or are living in care homes. Over 80 cards were sent to the penpal scheme with a further 40 going to Beechy Knoll nursing home. We hope the messages of hope will help to bring some festive cheer to our community.

Events of the past few months have made us all thankful to have such caring and supportive colleagues and students, we have been overwhelmed by the acts of kindness that our young people have shown – in particular, our VI Form students who raised £280 to contribute towards the purchasing of items for food hampers. We are incredibly proud of them and are honoured to be donating over 100 food hampers and gifts to our families this Christmas.



Winning Entry

Year 7 student Nevaeh has been unveiled as the winner of our annual Christmas card design competition.

The competition, which was open to all Year 7 students attracted a large numbers of entries but the judges were drawn to Nevaeh's card which included a nod to the rainbows that people across the country drew in support of the NHS this year.

The design will be featured on the academy's Christmas card which will be shared with stakeholders and friends of the school.



Master Chefs



Two very special alumni returned (virtually) to the academy recently to talk to students about their successful careers in the restaurant industry. Both are currently appearing on BBC One's 'MasterChef: The Professionals' and displaying their impressive culinary talents as they battle it out against some of the best names in the business.



As part of a virtual event, Luke Rhodes and Reece Elliott joined us for a cooking demonstration and Q&A with Year 10s and 11s. The students engaged well and took time to prepare their questions, they particularly enjoyed delving into what it takes to make it as a professional chef, how to stay calm under pressure while being judged for the TV show and what the duo's advice was for aspiring young cooks.

Luke Rhodes, who left SPA in 2010 to go on to study Catering at Sheffield College, is now a senior sous chef at Halifax Hall in Sheffield. He said:

"I was elated to be able to speak to the students at SPA. I gave a demonstration and discussed my career with them. Hopefully I've been able to inspire some of them to go on and follow their dreams of being a chef. I have kept in touch with some of my old teachers who inspired me, so it was great to be able to see them and share this personal success with them too."

Reece Elliott, who left SPA in 2014 and is now a junior sous chef at The Cavendish Hotel in Baslow, said:

"I was honoured to be invited to speak to the students at SPA, it was really good to talk to them about my journey and the career I have built in catering. I really hope that I have inspired some of the students to go on to a career in the food industry. It was always my dream to be a chef. It was also nice to see some of my old teachers!"

Mr Wainwright - Assistant Principal:
Pupil Experience added:

"We really enjoyed welcoming Luke and Reece to join us for the virtual event and are so grateful to them for sparing the time. It is always a pleasure to see what our alumni have achieved and to show our current students how many exciting opportunities and career paths are available to them. It's another great example of how we aim to embed Education with Character within our school."

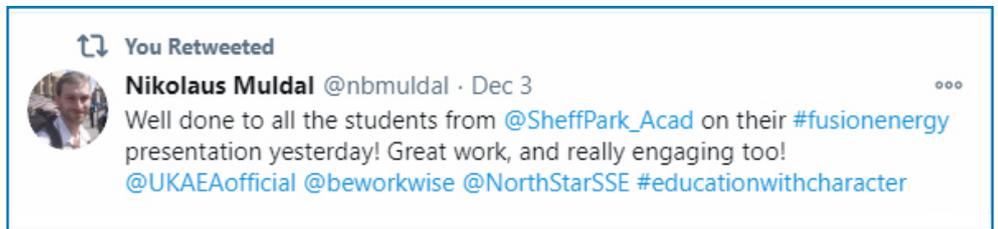


North Star

Sheffield Park Academy students worked in collaboration with the UK Atomic Energy Authority to produce a presentation on Nuclear Fusion.

This was a hugely exciting project for our students, understanding about the process of Fusion and the huge potential that this has in terms of carbon free energy production.

Students then pre-recorded their presentation which was shown online to over 1000 students nationwide.



US in Schools Mentoring



Huge congratulations to Annabel who has been awarded Mentee of the year by The University of Sheffield Mentoring programme.

We are hugely proud of Annabel and recognise her hard work and endeavour in gaining this award.



Student Support

Think for the Future (TFTF) run Behaviour and Resilience Mentoring programmes in over 70 schools across the Midlands and partner with national organisations to ensure the programme and curriculum have a big impact on the students that they work with.

Liam, our TFTF mentor, has been at Sheffield Park Academy for the last 2 years, working with groups of students and individuals on a weekly basis, delivering fun and interactive sessions that equip students with the mindset and life skills to make the most of

have. Liam uses his own experiences to build strong relationships with students and work with them to improve their attendance, school engagement and help them succeed.



school and see the potential that they

unravel

Experts in Children & Young People's Emotional Well-being

Unravelsupport.co.uk is an organisation that helps deliver effective emotional and behavioural support to children and young people as quickly as possible and has worked with the academy for just over two years.

Unravels aim is to help our students talk therapeutically and provide brain mastery skills so that they become empowered to manage thoughts and feelings at more difficult times, rather than being a slave to their emotions. We have also just recently been selected by Unravel to become a training school, due to the brilliant working collaboration we have established. This will allow more of our pupils to be supported as and when they need it, as we are all more than aware that no child can ever reach their best sense of self when they are pre-occupied with emotional issues that need to be processed, understood and changed through positive action.

If you feel your child would benefit from accessing one of these support outlets please contact their Head of Year who will liaise with Ms Mills.

Sheffield South East VI Form

We believe that students need a wealth of opportunities and experiences to become confident, well-rounded and ambitious young adults. To support this, we hold regular events and representatives from Bentley helped to kick off a busy term for our VI Form students by hosting an online talk sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Students have also participated in talks and (virtual) visits with Iain Anderson, an ex-political advisor who spoke with Y12 Business students, Local MP, Paul Blomfield, and students enjoyed a week-long online programme called HEPPFEST which centred around HE and a careers and included talks from an ex Bluepeter presenter, a Googlebox TV star and a BBC Radio 1 DJ.

Sessions have also been held with Cambridge University and Oxford University which has resulted in four of our students applying to join their Target Oxbridge project. Students will find out in February if their applications have been successful.



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: Tuesday 23rd 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: Monday 19th April 2021 until Friday 28th May 2021
INSET Day: Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th May 2021 tbc
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>

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