

# Sheffield Park Weekly News



**Dear families,**

It has been great to see students back at school this week. We have been impressed by improved attendance from a number of students: great attendance really helps students feel they 'belong' to their community!

## **Character Values**

The vast, vast majority of our students have shown and lived our Academy Character Values - **Community, Ambition, Respect & Endurance** - and we applaud them for this.

**We are One Community, One Park.**

For more news and updates please continue to read our weekly newsletter, sent to Parents via Arbor, which shares some of the key news and events from Sheffield Park Academy.

Kind Regards,  
Rob Watson

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## **Equipment and Uniform**

Thank you to all parents and carers for checking their child's equipment and uniform every day. I know this is something my mum used to do for me and my younger brother when we were school age. At the time, I don't think we knew it was important, but looking back I can see how caring and important this was for us.

### **Every day we expect our students to wear:**

- Full uniform
- Tie
- Top button tied
- Shirt tucked in
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- If wearing a skirt, it needs to be the right type (not skin-tight) and knee-length. This is part of our policy and has been for many years.
- Jumper and/ or blazer
- Full PE kit in bag on PE days
- If wearing a headdress/ headscarf, this must be black or dark navy blue (no other colours)

See our full uniform policy here - [Sheffield Park Academy > Information > Uniform](#)

### **Every day we expect our students to have:**

- Full pencil case
- Student planner
- Timetable (parents can find this on the Arbor app)
- School bag

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## Culture Day 2026

### Wow, wow, wow!

Friday 17 April was such an excellent day - seeing students and staff in cultural dress and/ or just what they wear outside of school (we understand our community is very diverse, and for some families 'cultural dress' can be very much just what they 'normally' wear - indeed, 'British' cultural dress might simply be wearing jeans, a t-shirt, a hoodie, a football or rugby shirt, a suit. We recognise things are different for different people!)

- We had amazing student dance and singing performances!
- We had outstanding performance from an African dance and music group at lunchtime - please do ask your child if they saw this, it was incredible!
- We had a superb lunch offer with different tastes available!
- We had after school cultural stalls and Jamaican food on offer too!



It was truly lovely to see our students bring to SPA a flavour of their home and personal life, whether that was wearing a Sheffield United or Wednesday shirt, cultural Asian dress, traditional Chinese attire, the flag of their family heritage on a t-shirt, or a union flag painted on their face, we were very proud to see students and staff showing a keen interest in everyone's background.

### Culture Day will be back in 2027!

Make sure you look out for amazing pictures this coming week on our social media accounts.



# Yorkshire Day 2026

## How do we follow up with Culture Day? with Yorkshire Day 2026!

### Why are we doing this?

- We are 'One Community, One Park', we are diverse and different BUT, we are also ONE - we all live and work/study in Sheffield and Yorkshire.
- We want our students to learn about and be PROUD to be Yorkshire and Sheffield.
- Writing as someone born in and living in Yorkshire, with proud Yorkshire parents and family, I want our SPA students to know more about their city and the wider county.

### When? **Wednesday 1 July 2026**

### What?

- Yorkshire food
- Non-uniform day for charity fundraising (wear something 'blue' or 'white' for Yorkshire - the colours of the Yorkshire flag)
- Yorkshire and Sheffield-related learning in lessons



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## Behaviour

- Thank you to the vast, vast majority of our students for returning to school this week with excellent behaviour!
- It has been fantastic to see students coming back in superb uniform, with all equipment, and ready for classroom learning and hard work.
- This year, we are seeing excellent improvements in behaviour around our school.
- The number of suspensions, compared to the same time last year, is now 50% less. This is really excellent and shows just what brilliant young people we have at SPA - thank you, as parents and carers, for working with us on this - we are very grateful for your support.

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## Behaviour of Visitors

- We really value strong and positive relationships with parents and carers at SPA.
  - We do need to remind, every now and then, about our 'Behaviour of Visitors' policy at the school, here it is: [Behaviour of Visitors Policy.pdf](#)
  - This policy helps us to maintain a calm, safe, and purposeful atmosphere for our students and staff.
  - Thank you for working with us on this.
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# Lessons from September 2026

Please be aware, that after very careful and long consideration, we are changing the timings and lengths of lessons at SPA from Sheffield Park Academy.

This will **NOT** alter the start and end times of the school day, but it will alter the timings of break and lunch (we will communicate this with parents and students in a timely fashion).

- **We are moving to 4, 75-minute lessons per day from September 2026.**



## Why are we doing this?

- It provides time for much more in-depth learning in each lesson and subject (student voice has been telling us they want more time to study and learn in-depth, and we agree this is important for young people).
- It provides more time for longer periods spent on The Blue Zone (every lesson, every day a fully independent piece of work for every student).
- It provides more time for students to get help in lessons and for teachers to support students in their lessons - everything will feel less 'rushed' for students.

Start time of school will remain the same: we expect all students on site by 8:35am, for a 8:40am start. School finish time will remain the same: 3:10pm finish.

**Please do contact the academy if you have any questions about this - more information will be provided in due course.**

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## Homework

Homework is set and due on the following schedule:

**Science – Set Monday 10am, due Monday 9am**

**English – Set Tuesday 10am, due Tuesday 9am**

**Maths – Set Wednesday 10am, due Wednesday 9am**

Students are encouraged to start homework early, read the support carefully and speak to a teacher if they are unsure.

We also offer teacher-lead homework support at the following times:

**Monday – Friday from 7:30am in the canteen**

**Tuesday – Thursday from 3:10 – 4:00pm in 3B5**

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# Student Lanyards

In a few weeks' time all students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 will be provided with student lanyards to wear as part of their equipment and uniform

## What is this?

- A Lanyard which matches the colour of their tie (e.g. gold for Year 7s)
- A white student card (this card will only have their first name on it, not their surname, and will not have a picture on it)
- A very smart piece of uniform and equipment which will help students feel even more that they 'belong' to the school and their year group

## Why is this important?

- This is key to help students feel they 'belong' to SPA and their year group. Some students report to us they don't always know where their year group is/ who is in their year group. This lanyard helps them find other students really quickly at social times
- The lanyards also help to safeguard our school environment even more than it already is: students have a lanyard and are clearly part of the academy
- We will be able to reward and praise students even more than we do now: we can use their name really easily and get to know them and support them so much more.

This is something that already happens in many thousands of schools across the UK and is incredibly popular with students and families.



**Sheffield Park Academy**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

## Contact Us:

**Call** - 0114 239 2661

**Email** - [info@sheffieldparkacademy.org](mailto:info@sheffieldparkacademy.org)

**Website** - [www.sheffieldpark-academy.org](http://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org)