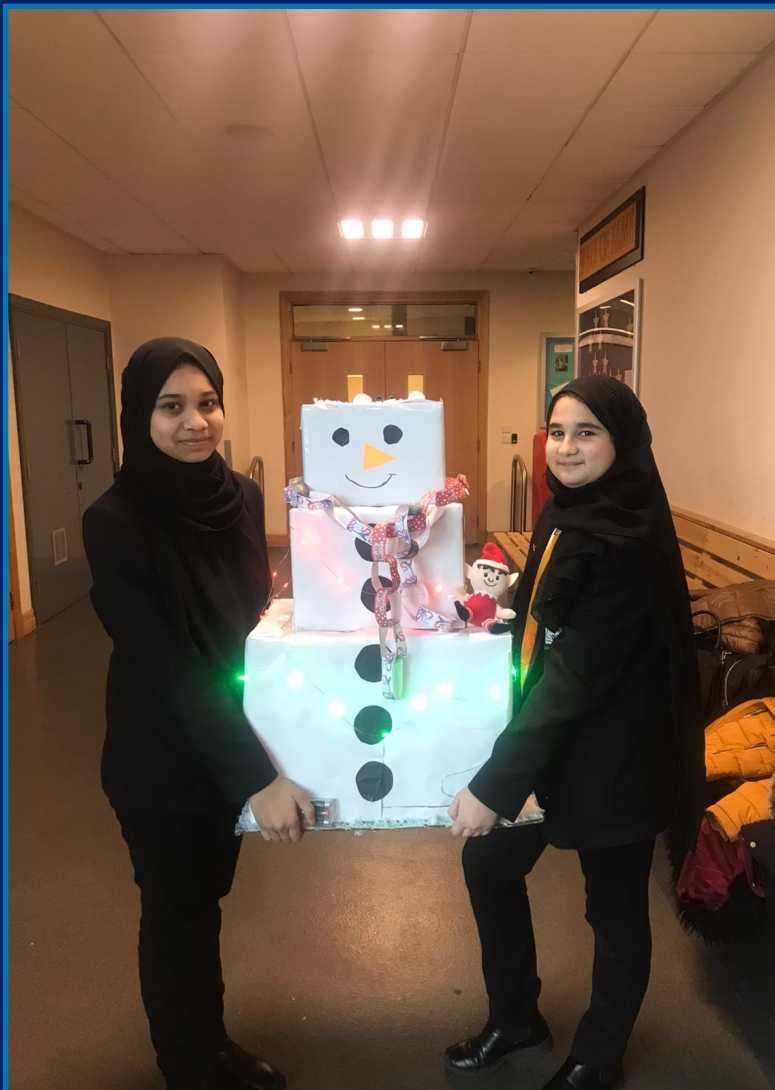




Festive Spirit

The academy has been 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.

Classrooms and offices have been decorated, staff have donated and wrapped gifts, students have worked with the form tutors to create food hampers which have been donated to the S2 food bank at St Swithuns Church and our THSG have worked really hard to create and fill a range of boxes for the homeless as part of their Mighty Minds sessions.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter.

As we near the end of the first term I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, which has seen some excellent teaching and learning take place.

As a Headteacher, I have been incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication I have seen from students and staff alike.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many activities our pupils have enjoyed over the past few weeks.

Mrs D. McShane - Principal

Merry Christmas and best wishes from everyone at Sheffield Park Academy.

Our beautiful Christmas card was designed by Alyssa – Year 10.



SAS MARINE AND 'COMMANDO CHEF' COOKS UP A STORM FOR STUDENTS

~ Marine teaches Sixth Formers and students at Sheffield Park Academy about healthy eating and life in the armed forces ~

Students at Sheffield Park Academy enjoyed a visit from 'Commando Chef' earlier this term who spoke to them about food and nutrition and a career in the armed forces.

'Commando Chef', real name Mike Beaton, is an SAS marine and part of the Royal Marines Educational Awareness Team (RM-EAT). Through a range of exciting presentations and workshops, RM-EAT aims to develop students' life skills and awareness of careers in the Royal Navy.

The full Year 12 cohort attended the session. They were also joined by some Year 10 students. Altogether they got the opportunity to watch Mike give a live cooking demonstration where he taught them how to make a number of healthy dishes. The students also listened as Mike gave them an insight into his life and career, including why he chose to join the marines and the experiences he has in the navy.

At the end of the presentation, the students were able to ask any questions they had and learn more about the different career paths in the armed forces. The standout moment of the day came when two students then got the chance to put on the specialised SAS marine kit and feel the weight of the clothing and equipment. Speaking about the visit from Commando Chef, one student from the Sixth Form said:

"It was amazing to learn more about healthy foods and the nutritional advice given to soldiers in the field. It was also inspirational to hear about Mike's life as an SAS marine – a true life lesson!"

Providing students with opportunities like this is part of staff's commitment to deliver what they call an 'Education with Character'. This means, alongside supporting students in achieving high academic outcomes, they seek to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge they need to develop into responsible, well-rounded citizens with an understanding of the world around them.

As part of this, some of the other exciting and enriching opportunities Sixth Formers have enjoyed include speaking to the President of the UK Supreme Court, Lady Hale, via Skype; learning about the TV production industry through a presentation from Andy Culpin of 12 Yard Productions; and getting the chance to take part

in a week of work experience at companies that include JP Morgan.



Debbie McShane, Principal at Sheffield Park Academy, said:

"I would like to thank Mike for delivering an engaging and valuable presentation that really captured the attention of our students. At Sheffield Park Academy, we strive to ensure all our students have access to a diverse range of experiences and opportunities, so they are equipped with the knowledge they need to make

well-informed decisions about their future. Giving our young people the chance to participate in events like this is just one example of how we support our students in this way."

Down on the farm



This October we took 12 students to spend a week at Jamie's farm.

Students spent the week working as farm hands, completing farm tasks, taking part in craft sessions and also cooking for the rest of the group.

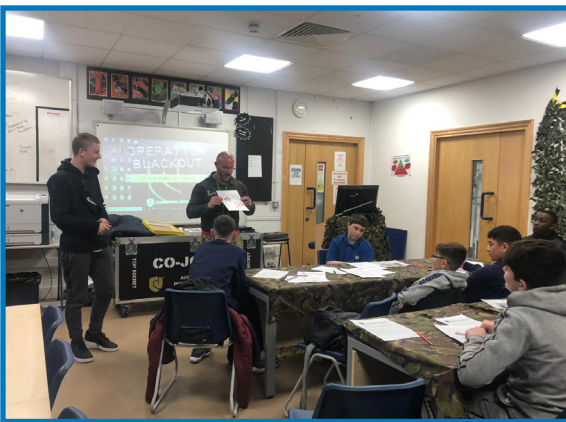
This was a fantastic experience which helped students improve their 'social skills' which are vital to academic success and their ability to achieve in later life.



Commando Joe's

We were delighted to have been chosen by the Education Endowment Fund and Sheffield Hallam University to be part of a research project looking at the affect Outdoor and Adventurous Education has on young people's attainment. We were selected to receive a week long visit from Commando Joe's. Commando Joe's work hard to help schools prepare young people to have the knowledge but also the skills to be successful in a life in a modern Britain.

Commando Joe's designed a series of missions where students Core Attributes will be put to the test; Communication Skills, Leadership Skills, working with Others and Developing Self. Time for personal reflection and evaluation was given at the end of each Mission. Students enjoyed being on site and experiencing a whole different way of learning for the week. We look forward to seeing the outcome of the overall research project combining information from The Outward Bound Trust and Commando Joe's.



Fundraising - Children in Need

To help us raise money for Sport Relief, we were joined by lots of pupils from Pipworth Primary School who joined our Year 7 students for a sponsored Fun Run.



Revision Residential

Over 100 Year 11 students took part in the Revision Residential at the Conway Centre in Anglesey. Students travelled to Wales on Friday afternoon following an intensive maths revision session in the morning and then spent the next two days taking part in teambuilding activities and maths lessons. Students had a fantastic time and found all the activities really helpful.



Lest we forget

Students and staff have been very privileged to visit sites of great historical importance this term with three separate tours taking place.

A – Level history students visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland as part of their course and were overwhelmed by the experience which has made a huge impact on their knowledge and understand of the holocaust.

Year 8 and Year 9 students undertook a battlefields tour to Ypres and the Menin Gate where one of our students was honoured to be chosen to lay the wreath during the Last Post ceremony.

Year 8 and Year 9 students completed a joint sports and battlefields tour in the Autumn term including them visiting a number of different historic WW1 sites followed by participating in sports competitions against local schools and club teams in Northern France.

During the trip, students undertook some research and found a local lad, Private Matthew Winfrow who lived at on Woodthorpe Way, Manor and was sadly killed in action in the Battle of the Somme. Although his remains were



Dates for your diary

Spring Half Term 1

- Term starts: Tuesday 7th January 2020 until Friday 14th February 2020
INSET Day: Monday 6th January 2020
INSET Day: Friday 31st January 2020
- Half Term holiday: Monday 17th February 2020 until Friday 21st February 2020

Spring Half Term 2

- Term starts: Tuesday 25th February 2020 until Friday 27th March 2020
INSET Day: Monday 24th February 2020
- Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March 2020 until Friday 10th April 2020

Summer Half Term 1

- Term starts: Tuesday 14th April 2020 until Friday 22nd May 2020
- Bank Holiday: Monday 13th April 2020
- Bank Holiday: Friday 8th May 2020
- Spring Term Holiday: Monday 25th May 2020 until Friday 29th May 2020

Summer Half Term 2

- Term starts: Monday 1st June 2020 until Friday 17th July 2020
- Disaggregated INSET Day: Monday 20th July 2020
- Disaggregated INSET Day: Tuesday 21st July 2020

Aspiration Day

This year's Aspiration Day will take place on Friday 24th April 2020. We will again be welcoming a host of employers into the academy to show off their businesses to our students and offer advice on career pathways. We always welcome organisations who represent the financial sector, law, banking, the voluntary sector, engineering, construction and architecture, the armed forces and other members of the public services such as the police, fire service and school sports partnerships.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

If any families have businesses who would be interested in attending then please contact Mr Wainwright at school on 0114 2392661.

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



@SheffPark_Acad

@MWA_SPA1



Sheffield Park Academy
The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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