



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

**Newsletter**  
Winter 2018

# The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy



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# Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter.

As we come to the end of term and prepare to say goodbye to 2018, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families and friends for your support over the past few months; we have had an extremely busy term with many events and activities taking place both on and off site. Our students have made a good start to their academic year and we look forward to welcoming them back in January to continue their hard work.

From myself and my team here at Sheffield Park Academy, we wish you all a restful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Mrs D. McShane - Principal

## Breaking the ice on our Year 6 Mentoring Project

Fourteen of our Year 12 students are taking part in a Year 6 mentoring project; with our two chosen primary schools this year - Manor Lodge Primary and Acres Hill Primary. Each Year 12 student has been assigned two Year 6 pupils to mentor following their training, facilitated by

Sheffield Hallam University. The first mentoring session involved a trip to Ice Sheffield so that our VI Formers could get to know their mentees – both mentees and mentors are now looking forward to their first sessions at their primary schools!



## Dressed to impress

Some of our Year 8, 10 and 12 students took part in an Indian dance workshop to understand the partnership between India and Great Britain in World War 1.

Mrs Booth and the selected students were taught the art of traditional Indian dance, culminating in a performance depicting the story of a World War 1 soldier. The workshop involved participants dressing in traditional Indian dress to really ensure they got into character for their starring roles!



# Taking Root at Sheffield Park Academy

Local MP Paul Blomfield helped Sheffield Park Academy plant roots for the future, with the gift of trees from the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy project.

The project is a network of forest conservation initiatives, marking Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the Commonwealth. Five hundred MPs are planting trees across the UK, donated thanks to a partnership between the Woodland Trust, Sainsbury's and ITV, which in April screened a landmark documentary (The Queen's Green Planet) following Her Majesty the Queen and this ambitious legacy project.

Sheffield Central MP Mr Blomfield kindly donated his trees - two silver birch, two rowan, and a hazel – and planted them with help from some of the Academies Gold Tie Ambassadors.

Mrs McShane commented:

"Sheffield Park Academy is delighted to be involved in the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Project and are very grateful to Mr Blomfield for donating his trees to the academy, which will help add colour to the school grounds, as well as reinforcing our environmental credentials."

Added Mr Blomfield:

"I am delighted to work with the Woodland Trust to give Sheffield Park Academy the opportunity to be part of an extraordinary international initiative that brings together the fifty-three countries of the Commonwealth in a great environmental project."

Explaining the importance of the project, Woodland Trust Chief Executive Beccy Speight said:



"We are delighted so many MPs have decided to join us in our bid to plant trees as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. We all need trees. They are a cornerstone of our landscape and countryside and I hope everyone at Sheffield Park Academy will enjoy watching them flourish as part of this wonderful legacy initiative."

The trees are thriving in their new home and we look forward to enjoying them and watching them grow over the coming years.



# The University of Oxford

At the start of November, Mr Shepherd and Mr Wainwright accompanied a group of our higher achieving Year 11 students on a visit to The University of Oxford. Our students met with current University students, were given a tour of the beautiful campus and were involved in several taster lectures for various subjects, really giving them a feel for what it would be like to study at such a prestigious University.

The day was a huge success, with our students coming away from the visit considering Oxford as the type of University they would aim to attend in years to come. A particular highlight of the day for all involved was the Philosophy taster lecture, with students being given a thought-provoking introduction to the philosophical topic of identity. This led to much heated debate amongst the group about which solution to the problem was correct - thousands of years of philosophy hadn't solved the problem but our Year 11's were nearly there!



## The University of Sheffield

### *Things You Can't Do In School*



Back in October, a group of our Year 10 students visited the University of Sheffield for their 'Things You Can't Do In School' event. They met with some of the current University students to find out more about the different courses available to study once their time at Sheffield Park Academy comes to an end. They also had a tour of the University campus and left the event feeling inspired and excited for what the future holds.

Following the event, the organisers got in touch to pass on the following positive feedback:

"We were really impressed with the attitudes of your students and some of the work they were developing. Student ambassadors and facilitators have also complimented how engaged Sheffield Park Academy students were on the day".



# The Armistice Centenary



Our Writing Club students were given the chance to write a centena as part of the Academy's commemoration of 100 years since the end of World War 1. A centena is a 100 word poem which begins and ends with the same 3 words; the most impressive poems written by Suhana Begum, Zakia Hussain, Zaara Hussain and Aleena Sajjad now take pride of place in the Academy's Learning Resource Centre (pictured above).

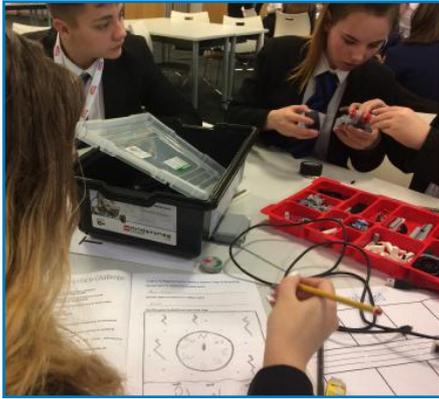


During form time leading up to Armistice Day, students created poppies which were put on display in each form classroom. We also held a 2 minute silence on 9th November to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1. This was followed by the playing of The Last Post and the reading of a poem which got our students to think about why we commemorate this day each year.

During his visit to help with the Commonwealth Canopy, MP Paul Blomfield was particularly impressed with our large poppy display in Main Reception (pictured below and right).



# STEM Challenges



## SUBSEA UK

Twelve of our Year 9 students were selected to participate in the regional STEM challenge organised by SUBSEA UK at the AMRC centre, Sheffield. The challenge was made up of 8 activities, which included designing, creating, programming and marketing an automated rover, built using the LEGO Mindstorm. Students also had the chance to visit the AMRC research facility to see first-hand the design process relating to aviation, 3D modelling and gather more information surrounding STEM related job opportunities.

Although our students didn't come first in the competition, they received well-deserved appreciation and a special mention from the event organisers for their excellent team work, resilience and dedication – Mr Sivasubramanian and Mrs Johnson were very proud of them all!

## First Tech Robotics

Mr Sivasubramanian has been leading a number of students from Years 8 to 13 in their quest to build a prize winning robot as part of the UK-wide First Tech Robotic Challenge competition. The students have been split into two teams for this complex and unique competition, one key stage 3 and 4 team and one VI Form. The Academy was lucky enough to be provided with kit parts totalling £1,600 to enable our students to participate in this exciting competition, where they must build a functioning robot that complies with the rules of the competition.



Students have now completed the design stage and are initiating the engineering phase of the build, which will involve creating a prototype, designing a 3D model and setting up a fundraising campaign.

## Christmas Hampers

Students and staff have been working hard to produce some fantastic food hampers, which will be donated to the S2 food bank in time for Christmas.

Each form group was tasked with producing the best food hamper possible with the best designs winning a prize for their group. Students have really got on board and were keen to be able to give something to those in the community that appreciate a little extra help this festive season.



We have had some wonderfully creative entries this year - from gingerbread houses to sleighs being pulled by reindeer, Santa stuck in a chimney and even a Christmas cracker that can actually be pulled apart!



# Fundraising

## Lewis 'Braves The Shave' for Macmillan



Everybody here at Sheffield Park Academy is extremely proud of Year 9 student Lewis, who made the brave decision to shave his head and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support in the process. At the last count he had raised over £100 - well done Lewis!

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## Get your bake on!



Staff got busy in their kitchens to produce some mouth-watering entries into our bake off competition, with all proceeds going to Children In Need. Both staff and students enjoyed sampling all of the entries this year and we managed to raise over £120 for a great cause.

## Christmas sparkle

We are proud to have been able to support this year's snowflakes, displayed at The Sheffield Children's Hospital to make it really sparkle this festive season. Students and staff have worked hard to raise money for the Hospital Charity and a select few were proud to attend the switch on event earlier this month (below).



**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY™**

Staff donned their most festive outfits for this year's Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. This was a huge success, raising over £100!



# Dates for your diary

## Spring Half Term 1

- Term starts: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- INSET Day: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Half Term holiday: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

## Spring Half Term 2

- Term starts: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- INSET Day: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Easter Holiday: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## Summer Half Term 1

- Term starts: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Bank Holiday: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- Bank Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019
- Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 until Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

## Parent Communications

Parents, do we have your up to date contact details?

Our primary means of communication with home is via phone calls and text messages. Please help us in ensuring your contact details are up to date by contacting us with any changes asap.

## GDPR Parental Consent Forms

If we have not received a signed consent form for your child, their access to Academy facilities will be limited and in some cases blocked. Please return your consent forms as soon as possible so that your child's full access can be reinstated - copies are available at the Main Office.

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



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