



27th May 2016

Our Ref: CDI/LGO

Dear Parent / Carer

Sheffield Springs Academy – The Next Steps

I am writing to introduce myself and to outline a series of changes we intend to put into place to continue Sheffield Springs Academy's progress to becoming a securely Good school.

I am delighted to have been appointed Executive Principal and have greatly enjoyed spending increasing amounts of time over this academic year with Mr Heritage, Mr Morrith, the leadership team and staff and students across the academy.

I appreciate that Sheffield Springs is a very different school to Sheffield Park Academy, serving a very different community and I am clear that the school must retain its own identity and culture. There is a great deal at Sheffield Springs Academy that is admirable and in the time I have been at the academy, I have found the overwhelming majority of pupils to be polite, hard-working and ambitious; it is our goal to give them the school they deserve and the education that they need to achieve their fullest potential.

Many of our students arrive here from Primary School with attainment that is significantly below what is expected nationally of Year 7 pupils. I firmly believe that every student at Sheffield Springs can achieve and I want to use every minute of every lesson, every day to help them do so.

The education that our students receive here will significantly impact on their futures; providing them with the qualifications and skills that will open doors to further education, university, work and successful adult lives. This means that every student needs to be present and working hard every single day and I am very pleased to see the overwhelming majority of students doing so, supported by their families.

To assist this, we will be introducing a number of changes over the coming year.

Firstly, we will be slightly altering the structure of the school day for all students from Monday 5th September 2016. Start and finish times will remain the same but, in order to maximise the opportunities for learning, the school day will run as follows:

Movement Bell / Start	8:35 / 8:40
Tutorial	8:40 to 9:15
9:10 to 10:10	Period 1
10:10 to 11:10	Period 2
11:10 to 11:30	Morning Break
11:30 to 12:30	Period 3
12:30 to 13:25	Period 4
13:25 to 14:00	Lunchtime
14:00 to 15:00	Period 5
15:00	Years 7, 8 and 9 go home
15:00 to 16:00	Period 6 (Y10 and Y11 only)
16:00 onwards	After school clubs, revision etc.

Our 5 Core Principles

- All students making good or better progress
- No underperforming cohorts
- All teachers to deliver good or better learning
- Every individual or group moves to the next level of successful performance
- Everyone to conduct themselves in a respectful and dignified manner

Executive Principal: Mr C Dillon **Principal:** Mr L Morrith

We know that most parents take an active interest in how their children are progressing at the academy and this involvement is something that we really want to encourage. Changes are being made to the way in which pupils' progress is tracked so that parents can have more detailed information about what their children are learning and how well they are doing throughout the year.

There are 6 assessment points across the academic year and parents will be sent information at each of these about how your child is doing. We would urge you to discuss this with your child every time you receive it and always feel very welcome to discuss it with the school.

Following feedback from parents, we're also publishing the full curriculum on our website so that you can understand exactly what your child is studying each term.

For our Key Stage 4 students we are also going to increase their learning hours each week. By extending their school day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to include a 6th formal lesson on these days, we will increase their chances of achieving over a suite of high quality qualifications. Once again, this will start at the beginning of the September term.

We are also taking a number of measures to ensure that Year 11 pupils are given the best possible start to what is a crucial year for them. Amongst these will be a 'study residential' at an outward bound centre, funded by the academy, at the start of the academic year. Additional learning opportunities will be provided before and after school and Saturday school provision will also be expanded and organised more formally.

These changes can make the difference between students coming close to getting the grades they need and actually achieving what they are capable of and what will best help them in the future. I hope that all parents will actively engage in doing the very best for their child in ensuring that their focus throughout their time here but particularly at Key Stage 4 is on gaining the best qualifications possible.

Finally, the academy has not used its full quota of INSET days this academic year so I am proposing to hold one for staff on the last day of this term – 15th July. This time will be devoted to the new curriculum and assessment model. The last day of term for students will now be Thursday 14th July. I hope that this advance warning does not cause any inconvenience to parents.

I hope that this letter gives a clear indication of my ambition for the academy and my confidence in just what we can all achieve together.

May I wish you a restful half term break and, for those of our students still undertaking external exams, the very best of luck with their final revision and preparation.

Yours sincerely



Mr C. Dillon
Executive Principal