



24th March 2021

Nebula Programme

What is STEM?

STEM is a collective term for science, technology, engineering and maths. The principles of these subjects underpin study and jobs in all industries. The skills and knowledge provided by studying these subjects extensively are highly sought-after in the labour market. When applying for sixth forms, colleges and universities, the highest grades in these subjects will make students stand out, especially for the most competitive courses.

What is the intention of Nebula?

The Nebula STEM stream curriculum aims to push students gifted in these subjects to not only meet their potential, but to exceed it. Our intent is that Nebula students will leave Sheffield Springs Academy at the end of Y11 with the highest grades in these subjects, have developed skills in high demand and have received support to experience industries and workplaces connected to STEM.

To achieve these aims, the Nebula team will include teaching staff that have extensive expertise in their field and a passion to push Nebula students as far as possible. We also have external partners such as world-renowned universities and engineering giants with which we will collaborate to offer the best opportunities and experiences.

What is expected of students?

The curriculum Nebula students will be following is academically rigorous so will require students to have a strong interest in these subjects, have a resilient approach to their learning and an ambition to achieve the very best grades.

More lesson time is assigned to STEM subjects at the expense of others. To ensure students still receive a broad and balanced curriculum, Nebula students will be required to attend compulsory extra-curricular clubs, such as music lessons, sports clubs, and debate club, as well as STEM based extra-curricular clubs to support classroom learning.

If your child participates in extra-curricular clubs outside of school, we will support you and your child in continuing this participation.

What is expected of parents/carers?

As mentioned, the curriculum will be challenging, and the extra-curricular sessions will be compulsory. We ask that you support us and your child by ensuring they are organised and are able to participate in all opportunities.



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How can your child be a part of Nebula?

Applications for students interested in Nebula open on Wednesday 24th March and close on Friday 23rd April. The link to the application form can be found on our website.

Following this, we will be inviting students into the academy in May to sit MidYIS testing. This is testing we already carry out with all our Y7 students when they arrive in September to help us put students into the most appropriate classes. The results of your child's MidYIS testing will not be the only deciding factor in joining the programme but will be part of the decision-making process.

Following testing your child may be asked to come into the academy, once again, for a short interview with the STEM Co-ordinator, Mrs Biggs and our Headteacher, Mr Shipman, where your child will deliver a 5-minute presentation – details of which will be supplied in due course.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs M Biggs, STEM Co-ordinator, via our reception team on 0114 239 2631 or our enquires email enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org.

Kindest regards

Mark Shipman
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Shipman