



Sheffield Springs Academy Newsletter

SPRING 2026 EDITION

Respect | Excellence | Ambition | Pride



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Key Dates Coming Up

Students return to school - Tuesday 14th April
Wembley Girls Football Trip - Tuesday 14th April
Yr11 Science Pizza Night - Wednesday 15th April
Yr9 Vaccinations - Wednesday 22nd April
Transition Welcome Evening - Wednesday 22nd April
Stop The Bleed Day - Wednesday 29th April
Y8 Parents Evening - Wednesday 29th April
Spring and Shine Parents Evening - Wednesday 20th May



Sheffield Springs Academy Newsletter

Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term at Sheffield Springs Academy, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful experiences our students have enjoyed over the past few weeks.

Our character reward trip to Conway was a real highlight—students challenged themselves, grew in confidence, and demonstrated the excellent character that we are so proud to be developing. I also can't wait to hear all about the experiences our students had on the France trip this week, I'm sure they have had a great time.

I would like to say a **huge thanks for your continued support this term**. An extra-special thank you to parents and carers of year 11s, this is a stressful time for students as they approach their final exams and we know they are incredibly grateful for the support you are providing at home.

Your partnership plays a vital role in ensuring our students thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Have a fantastic Easter break and we look forward to seeing pupils return to the academy on Tuesday 14 April at the normal time.

Warm Regards,
Claire Cartledge
Principal





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World Book Day 2026

We had a lovely time celebrating World Book Day on 5th March. We had a staff dress-up competition where students could vote for the best dressed team. Students also took part in a quiz during form time, which was all around books: guess the title based on the cover, guess the character based on the description and guess the book based on the place it is set.

Staff promoted this all week by putting posters on their classroom/office windows with their favourite book and why. Students were then asking questions about these favourite books, so some really good discussions were had. We have a well-stocked library with lots of genres to choose from; students are more than welcome to come in at break and lunch to have a browse. If anyone would like any books ordering in, Mrs Fereday will be happy to do that.

The winners of the form time quiz were 8 Steel (Ms Head)!

Students voted for Art/Textiles as their team winners- they were dressed up as Gangsta Granny! They looked fantastic. There was also a resounding vote for Mr Cliffe as Glinda the Good from The Wizard of Oz, as well as some other individual votes.

We're looking forward to seeing how we can make it even better next year!



PRIDE





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Make This Half Term Count: 5 Ways to Get Ahead on Revision

Half term is the perfect chance to get a head start on your exam prep — without feeling overwhelmed. A little focused revision now can make a big difference later. Here are five top tips to help you study smarter, stay motivated, and feel more confident going into exam season:

1

Use Active Revision, Not Passive Reading

Try active methods like creating flashcards, drawing mind maps, or explaining topics to a friend. When you actively work with the material, your brain is far more likely to retain it.

2

Revise in Small, Focused Sessions

Short bursts of concentration beat marathon study sessions every time. Techniques like the Pomodoro method — 25 minutes of focused work followed by a 5-minute break.

3

Prioritise Past Papers

They help you understand how questions are asked and what examiners are looking for. Use the mark schemes to check your answers and identify where you can improve.

4

Make a Realistic Revision Plan

Break each subject into smaller, manageable chunks and create a timetable you can actually stick to. Be sure to include rest days — consistency is key, but so is balance.

5

Look After Yourself

Good revision starts with good habits. Get enough sleep, drink plenty of water, take regular breaks, and make time for fresh air or movement. A healthy mind and body help your memory, focus, and overall wellbeing.



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Character in Action: Shaping Our School and Community

This term, our students have shown what **Education with Character** truly means, living our values of **Respect, Excellence, Ambition, and Pride** every step of the way.

Our student leaders met with the Principal to share their ideas, pose thoughtful questions, and help shape the future of our school — a brilliant example of confidence and responsibility in action.

A group of students also travelled to Anglesey, where they challenged themselves, built new skills, strengthened friendships, and celebrated their excellent achievements in school.

Closer to home, our twice-monthly community litter picks continue to bring students together to take pride in our local area and look after the place we live and learn.

Finally, our student leadership team visited local businesses to listen, ask questions, and understand community views about the school. Their aim: to help strengthen relationships and build a brighter shared future.

Our students continue to make us proud — showing character, leadership, and a genuine commitment to their community.



RESPECT



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Highlights from our Careers Team

This term has been a busy one for Careers—not only with our National Apprenticeship Week programme, but also with the Community Engagement activities that took place during National Careers Week. Alongside this, we continue to support our Year 11 students as they finalise their next steps, and we are helping our Year 10 students prepare for their work experience placements at the end of the year.

During National Apprenticeship Week, students explored how job interviews work and learned about the different interview styles used by employers. They also took part in a range of talks from employers and apprenticeship providers across all year groups.

Our Careers Team also had a packed schedule throughout National Careers Week, delivering inspiring careers talks to local primary school pupils and supporting our partner schools with their own careers provision. In addition, we launched our first ever SEN Enterprise Day, where a key group of students created their own companies and pitched their products. This experience helped them develop confidence, communication, and key life skills. Feedback from employer volunteers was extremely positive, and they were highly impressed with the talent and creativity shown by our students.

Looking ahead, our focus now turns to preparing **Year 10 students for their Work Experience and Mock Employer Interviews, taking place during the weeks commencing 29th June and 28th April respectively.** We will also continue supporting our Year 11s as they prepare for their GCSEs and complete their post-16 applications.

If you would like more information about the careers activities taking place in school, you can find updates on your child's Unifrog account. If you have any further questions, please contact our **Careers Team at CEIAG@sheffieldsprings.org**, or call reception and they will direct you to us.



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AMBITION



EXCELLENCE





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Performing Arts Workshop with Frantic Assembly

Our amazing Year 11 Performing Arts students threw themselves into an inspiring Frantic Assembly workshop this term, embracing the company's distinctive physical theatre style with energy and enthusiasm. They demonstrated exceptional creativity, teamwork, and a willingness to take bold risks, confidently pushing beyond their comfort zones. We are incredibly proud of their focus, commitment, and the imaginative choices they made.



France Trip 2026

Our students have had a fantastic time on their France Trip, exploring the iconic sights of Paris with curiosity and enthusiasm.

As they take in landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the River Seine, and the charming Parisian streets, they are showing our values in action - demonstrating respect for the culture and history around them, striving for excellence in the way they represent our school, and embracing every activity with real ambition!





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Part of United Learning

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