

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Preparing Year 11 for their GCSE exams

We are always reviewing the ways we can best serve Year 11 students as they enter this crucial phase of preparation for their mock GCSE exams, and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the initiatives we have in place at Sheffield Springs Academy to support your child.

Session 5

Our Session 5 programme runs after school each day 3:15pm-4:00pm to support all students to revise effectively. All Year 11 students are expected to attend as our research shows that on average students who attend it achieve better in their exams in comparison to those that do not attend. Session 5 events each week until the end of the summer GCSE examinations. These sessions have proven in the past to significantly improve the grades of those who attend, hence why we are expecting students to attend all their Session 5s as listed below.

Session 5 Timetable

Day	Subject
Monday	Maths
Tuesday	English
Wednesday	Science
Thursday	Geography, History, Food and French
Friday	Food and French

Half-term School

We are also running half-term school for Year 11s to support students in the run up to their GCSE mock exams. Sessions will run Tuesday to Thursday 10am-1pm. We strongly encourage students to attend as many sessions as possible as sessions will be covering important revision content in the lead to the examination period. A full timetable of sessions will be sent to parents and students once confirmed later this half-term.

Saturday school

We run Saturday school most weeks in the lead up to mock exams. Like half-term school, attendance is strongly recommended. Students who attend these Saturday sessions do score higher marks and are significantly more likely to achieve their target grade or above than those who do not attend. Sessions run 10am-11am and 11am-12pm and we urge students to attend in a timely manner to ensure they do not miss out on key content or unwittingly disrupt sessions. Sessions will be updated on the school website, school Instagram page and information sent via the Arbor app.

Y11 Preparing for Success Event 2

On **Wednesday 11 February 2026** we will be holding a second 'Year 11 Preparing for Success Event' 4pm-5pm. All Year 11 parents and students are invited to this event, and this event will include a SLT drop-in for any parents for any Year 11 exam related questions, an opportunity to speak to subject specialists, and collect important revision material in preparation for your child's mock 2 exams. More information, and reminders will be sent to parents in due course.

Support for students suffering from exam anxiety

The realisation of the challenge ahead in Year 11 can be overwhelming for some and we are very conscious of this. If any students require additional support, please encourage them to speak to their Form Tutor, Head of Year or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. We understand that Year 11 can be as challenging for family as it is for the students themselves, and it is our aim to support you and your child in any way we can through this time. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Saville



Vice Principal