



Sheffield Springs Academy Newsletter

® SPRING TERM 1 EDITION

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Key Dates Coming Up

Students Return to School - Tuesday 24th February
Year 8 HPV Vaccines - Tuesday 3rd March
Year 9 Parents Evening - Wednesday 4th March
GM100 Day in School - Friday 6th March
Year 7 Parents Evening - Wednesday 25th March
Year 11 Mock Results Day - Friday 27th March



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Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Spring Term 1 edition of our newsletter!

What a wonderfully busy and brilliant half term it has been. Despite the almost constant rain, we have still had a cracking half term due to our pupils and staff and all their hard work, enthusiasm, and brilliant achievements.

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support. I've had the pleasure of meeting so many parents and carers this half term, and your encouragement means so much to us. When we work together, amazing things happen - and this term has been a perfect example of that.

I'd also like to make a friendly reminder to please download and use the Arbor App. It's now our main way of sharing updates, news, and messages (other than emergencies), so having the app ensures you don't miss anything important.

As we head into the February half-term break, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest. My own week will be filled with football training with my teenage son and finding fun ways to keep a four-year-old entertained - *wish me luck!*

We can't wait to welcome pupils back at the usual time on Tuesday 24 February. Please remember that the academy will be closed to pupils on Monday 23 February for a staff training day, where all colleagues will be refreshing their safeguarding training.

Wishing you all a relaxing and refreshing break!

Warm Regards,
Claire Cartledge
Principal





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You Said, We Did!

At our school, we place a strong value on student and staff voice, and we believe that listening is essential to creating a positive and supportive learning environment.

To reinforce this commitment, at the start of January we launched our “You Said, We Did” board, located on the B-floor corridor. This board showcases the suggestions, ideas, and questions submitted by students and staff through our suggestions box, which is located outside the Principal’s office, alongside clear responses from our Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The “You Said, We Did” board is a visible reminder that every voice matters. It demonstrates that we are a listening school—one that actively encourages students and staff to share their thoughts, raise concerns, and suggest improvements. By openly responding to these submissions, we aim to show how feedback is taken seriously, acted upon where possible, and used to help shape positive change across the school. It also provides an opportunity to answer important questions and clarify decisions, helping everyone feel informed and involved.

All submissions are read weekly by our Principal, Mrs Cartledge, in Monday morning whole-school assemblies each week. We encourage all members of our school community to continue using the suggestions box as a way to share ideas and help us grow. You can suggest anything from ideas for extracurricular clubs, suggestions for trips or even having a whole-school hamster!

By working together and listening to one another, we can continue to improve our school and make it a place where everyone feels heard, valued, and respected.





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Community Highlights

Recent weeks have provided wonderful examples of our students thriving, both within school and out in the wider community. Our ice skating session at Ice Sheffield was a brilliant success, with students showing enthusiasm, resilience, and fantastic teamwork on the ice. Many challenged themselves to step beyond their comfort zones, building confidence with every lap of the rink. The positive atmosphere was clear to see, and it was a joy to watch students supporting one another while having fun in such an uplifting environment.

Our connection with the local community has also continued to strengthen. On 2nd February 2026, the Sheffield Springs Community Hub was proudly represented by Mr. Greaves at the unveiling of a Sheffield Legends plaque in honour of Uriah Rennie. Alongside Sheffield-based community leader Patrick Meleady, we recognised the lasting impact of a man who was not only a pioneering football referee but also a passionate advocate for equality, education, and young people across the city. Although Uriah sadly passed away in 2025, his legacy continues to inspire our community, and it was a privilege to be part of such a meaningful event.

This spirit of contribution was echoed again on 4th February 2026 during our session with Groundwork UK. Students worked creatively and collaboratively to design and install their own pieces in the community garden, demonstrating focus, pride, and impressive teamwork. The finished installations have already enhanced the space, serving as a visible reminder of the positive role our students play in their local environment. Together, these experiences highlight not only individual growth but also the strong, growing bonds between our school and the Sheffield community.





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Year 9 Options Evening

Our Year 9 Options Evening was a great success! We were delighted to welcome over 180 families to the event.

The hall was full of energy as students and parents visited the different subject stalls. Our teachers were ready to give clear advice, answer questions, and explain what each subject is like at Key Stage 4. Families had the chance to talk through choices and find out what might suit their child best, which no doubt will help support them to make the right choices for Key Stage 4.

It was also great to see so many families attend our short talk about why the options process is so important, and we urge all families of Year 9 students to complete the options form by the **Friday 13 March** deadline. Thank you to everyone who came along. We are proud of how engaged our students are, and we look forward to supporting them as they make their choices for next year.





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Launching Unifrog: Helping Our Students Control Their Own Career Journey

We're delighted to let you know that all students in Years 7–11 now have access to Unifrog, a fantastic online platform that helps them explore careers, subjects, apprenticeships and university pathways—all in one place.

With tools like interest quizzes, career profiles, short courses and application support, Unifrog makes planning the future simple and enjoyable. Students can log in anytime, on any device.

Parents and Carers - Get Involved!

You can create your own account to see what your child is working on and access the same guidance tools. Just contact the Careers Team to add your email, then sign up at www.unifrog.org/parent.



Apprenticeship Applications

Apprenticeships move fast — really fast. Opportunities can open and close within days, and employers often expect swift responses. Missing a call, email or interview slot can mean missing out entirely — so staying prepared is essential.

How parents/carers can support:

- Check apprenticeship sites regularly with your child, as new vacancies appear all year round
 - Encourage them to answer calls from unknown numbers — it might be an employer
 - Promote quick responses to interview requests and followup emails
 - Remind them to prepare a simple CV — many employers ask for one even at the first stage
 - Reach out to us if your child would like support with searching, applying or preparing for interviews
- Interest quizzes, career profiles, short courses and application support, Unifrog makes planning the future simple and enjoyable. Students can log in anytime, on any device.



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Year 11 Applications: Getting Ahead and Interviews

Year 11 is an exciting time—applications are going in, interviews are being booked, and students are beginning to shape their futures. To help your child secure the place they really want, your support at home makes a huge difference.

Why this matters

Colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship providers regularly contact students by email, text or phone. They may send interview times, ask for documents, or even make an offer. But opportunities can be delayed—or lost—if messages go unanswered or interviews are missed.

How you can help

- Encourage your child to check their emails and phone every day.
- Help them keep track of interview dates and arrive on time and prepared.
- Remind them to reply quickly to any messages from providers.
- Contact us if they need help with applications or interview confidence—we're here to support.

Together, we can make sure every student leaves Year 11 with a strong, secure destination and a future they're excited about.

Extra support from our Careers Team

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more guidance, resources and step-by-step advice to help students navigate the application process confidently. We'll also provide easy-to-use CV and cover letter templates, along with tips on how to tailor them effectively for different roles.

With our combined support, we can help every student secure a strong and successful Post16 destination, whether that's college, sixth form or an exciting apprenticeship.





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Safer Internet Day and Resources

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on Tuesday 10th February 2026 and focused on the theme *“Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.”*

With AI increasingly part of everyday life - from search engines and voice assistants to social media and photo editing tools - it is important that children and young people develop the skills and confidence to use smart technology safely and responsibly.

This year, we'd like to encourage families to start conversations about how AI is used and what safe choices look like online. Use these top tips to help keep your family safe:

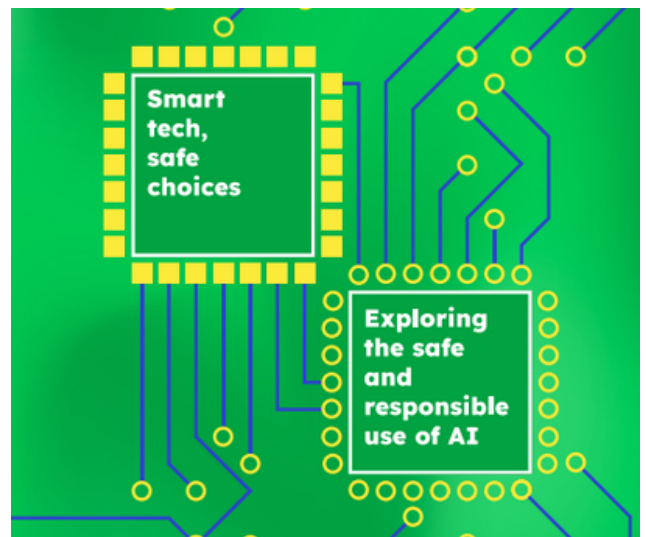
- Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives
- Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have
- Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like
- Stay informed with free resources
- Know where to go for help if something is wrong

By talking openly, staying informed and knowing how to report concerns, we can help children make smart, safe choices in an ever-evolving digital world.

You can find out more about Safer Internet Day and access some FREE resources using the links below!

[TIPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS](#)

[ONLINE SAFETY GUIDES](#)





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