

28 February 2024



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 requires 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 extra-curricular activities such as sports clubs and debating, as well as compulsory STEM based extra-curricular sessions 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 can participate in all opportunities.

How can your child be a part of our Nebula programme?

Applications for students interested in Nebula open on Monday 4th March and close on Friday 31st May 2024. The link to the application form can be found on our website.

Students will be invited into the academy to sit MidYIS testing. This is testing we already carry out with all our Y7 students when they arrive in September to help us place students into the most appropriate classes.

Following testing, we will invite your child to a short, friendly interview with the STEM Coordinator, Mr Church, where your child will be asked to discuss their interests and aspirations. Details will be provided in due course.

The testing and interviews will take place during the week beginning 24 June 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Church, STEM Co-ordinator by email: enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org or telephone 0114 239 2631.

Yours sincerely



Ms C Cartledge
Principal