

# Sheffield Standard

Issue #1 - 2025/26



## A message from the Principal



I am very lucky to be the Principal of our Academy. Every day I am surrounded by some of the most dedicated, hard-working, kind-hearted and entertaining people I've ever met. These people are your children, our students. I think it is about time we celebrate what they do and in this first newsletter we have attempted to capture some of the amazing things that happen here at Ormiston Sheffield Academy.



This newsletter is designed to give you a wider insight into what goes on within the academy and beyond on a daily basis. We have captured some of this in our first newsletter that reflects back on the academic year so far. Looking forward, we will celebrate the amazing students of our academy with a half termly newsletter that tells of their successes and gives you a clearer insight into the staff that support them so effectively.

In this first edition you will read, in our 'SLT Spotlight' section, how we work to ensure lessons are engaging and accessible to all students.

You will gain an insight into what strategies we use within the classroom and get a sense of the amazing results those strategies produce.

This newsletter has been given the name 'Sheffield Standard'. This was the winning entry in a student competition!

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read 'Sheffield Standard'.

I hope you find it interesting and enjoyable in equal measure.

## Congratulations for our Year 8 competition winner!

Year 8 were given the very special responsibility of coming up with the name of the school newsletter. After lots of engagement, awesome suggestions and countless conversations about making the right decision, 'Sheffield Standard' was chosen. Well done to Dougie in 8RL for their entry. Not only did their name make the final cut but they also received an additional prize.



### KEY DATES COMING UP

12  
Feb

Year 9 Parents' Evening  
(and Guided Choices)

16-20  
Feb

Half-Term

23  
Feb

Inset Day

13  
Mar

Celebrating International  
Women's Day

30 MAR  
-10 APR

Half-Term



## ***What Learning Looks Like at Sheffield***

At Sheffield, our aim is simple: lessons that are structured, supportive, engaging with the purpose of helping every student learn well and feel proud of what they achieve.

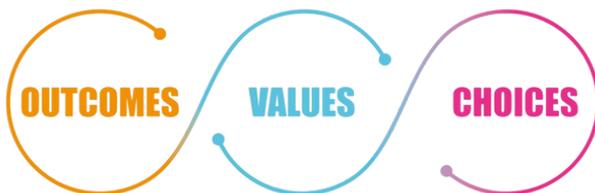
Our lessons are designed using a simple and well-established idea: children remember things best when they are fully focused and actively thinking. This comes from Willingham's Simple Model of Memory, which helps guide the way we teach.

To give our students the best possible start, every lesson begins with a friendly meet and greet at the door. Teachers welcome students in and provide an Active Start task, so learning begins straight away, creating a calm and purposeful atmosphere.

To make sure all students are ready to learn, staff use a calm narrated 3–2–1 countdown to gain 100% attention before giving instructions. This helps everyone feel prepared and ensures no child misses important information.

Throughout the lesson, we work deliberately to avoid passive learning. Staff use a range of responsive, high impact strategies, such as Turn and Talk, Choral Response, Write–Pair–Share, and Accountable Questioning - to ensure students are constantly thinking, discussing, and rehearsing key knowledge. These routines help strengthen working memory and build fluency and confidence.

As each lesson progresses, students move towards completing independent work in silence, giving them the chance to apply the key knowledge to their own work. This helps them grow in independence and shows us what they can do without support.



### **Outcomes**

We educate our students to understand that 'outcomes' means academic attainment and progress, development of values and character and progression to their preferred destinations.

We support our students to achieve academic qualifications that empower them to seize opportunities and advance to the next stage of their chosen educational journey.

We empower our students to have the knowledge, skills, personal traits and experiences in order to seize career and life opportunities.

### **Values**

We are ready, respectful and responsible.

We are honest. We do what we say we'll do and do not make excuses.

We are a team. Helping a member of our team is helping ourselves.

### **Choices**

We develop our students to have the strength of character and courage to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Our values support our students to make the life choices that will have a positive impact on their future and contribution to society.

Being outcome focused and values driven, students take responsibility for their learning and actions which opens doors for them to have a breadth of choices when they leave school.



# Celebrating those who go above and beyond

## KS3 Academic Rewards

The first of our fortnightly KS3 awards kicked off in September and since then students in Y7, 8 and 9 have been recognised for their excellence. Every two weeks students are rewarded with a 'Feel Good Friday' afternoon where they have enjoyed a sweet treat with the option to cash in their academic merits for some extra goodies. Students who try their best and continually work to expectation and ability are recognised for their academic achievements. Most recently, those students who continue to demonstrate exceptional efforts on a daily basis were rewarded with a KS3 trip to the theatre to see Robin Hood at The Hippodrome in Birmingham.



Before the Christmas break, a number of KS3 and KS4 students were invited to a special assembly. These students were rewarded for consistently demonstrating academy values.



Abbey

Emily

Hettie

Isabelle

Maurice

Megan

Michael

Oliver

Ted

## Meet our Year 7 Community Leaders

These students represent our academy values in all that they do.

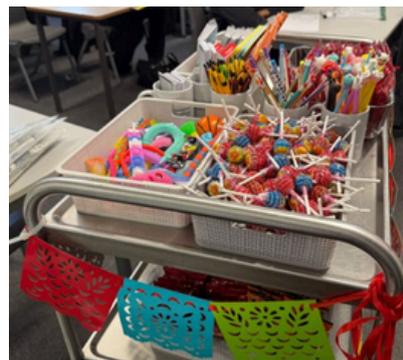
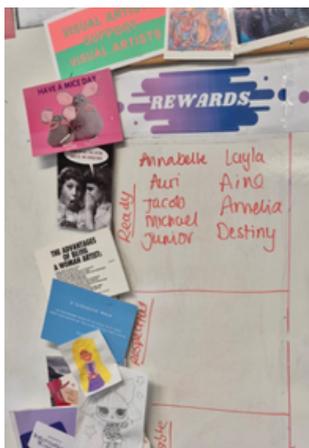
They are **Ready** with an excellent standard of uniform, equipment, attendance and punctuality.

They are **Respectful** as they are able to converse with adults and others in a mature and articulate manner.

They are **Responsible** by volunteering for 'jobs', being enthusiastic 'team players' and show initiative and positive behaviours.

## Trolley of Joy

Our Senior Leadership Team have started to roll out the *Trolley of Joy*. The trolley visits many lessons across the school day and gives students the opportunity to pick a prize. Students are nominated by their teachers based on their efforts and academic achievement during that lesson.





18-19  
MAR

As the show draws closer, it has been reported that rehearsals are going very well and the show is coming together nicely. We had over 100 students audition for the show and the cast is made up of over 60 students. Tickets will be going on sale soon and will be £5 for adults and £3 for students- make sure you grab some as it is sure to be a spectacular evening!

We are so excited to welcome our new year 7's to their very first performance as part of the cast. We are looking forward to seeing all of the hardwork and engagement that has gone into this production!



Congratulations to the Music Department for receiving the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement! Our teachers understand the importance of music education and are dedicated to finding ways to embed consistent and inclusive provision!



# Big Wins, Bold Art, and Musical Magic in the making

## MNA Illuminations Project

9A1 Art took part in a National Arts Programme with MNA over the last 4 months. Their work was part of a 1000 piece exhibition. On 9th December the group were able to visit to see their work in the exhibition, have a tour from a fantastic volunteer and see the Illuminated Arboretum. Thanks to all involved in making it happen!



Project 'Guiding Lights' representing the forgotten Indian Army Soldiers, Animals and Women of WW2.

# Information & Parents' evenings

Since returning in September we have welcomed many students and their families to information evenings. At the beginning of the academic year our KS4 and KS5 nights started the way for parent information evenings with a successful turnout for year 11 and year 12.

Prospective year 7 students were introduced to our school community with an open evening displaying all things Sheffield from our broad curriculum, support and special educational needs provisions as well as getting an insight to what it would be like to attend through exploration of the school building.

October delivered a successful Sixth Form Open Evening as well as our Year 7 and Year 10 parents evenings.

We concluded the calendar year with Year 11 parents evening in December and kickstarted our next round of parents' evening with Year 12 & 13 in January.



## Remembrance Day and our Army Cadets

On the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 our staff and students gathered to commemorate all of our service men and women who have fought for our country in conflicts since the end of the first world war. 3 of our sixth form students read in Flanders Field, followed by a 2 minute silence and The Last Post. Our school also hosted a veterans lunch. Over the past few months, TP Riley Army Cadet Detachment has been working diligently to secure a move to Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy. Since mid-January, we have been parading every Monday and Wednesday and have received outstanding support from the Academy throughout this period. The Academy is also temporarily accommodating two other detachments while essential maintenance work is completed elsewhere. The transition has been seamless, and the facilities now available to our cadets are exceptional. This move enables us to deliver the highest standard of training in an outstanding environment. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone at the Academy for their flexibility and support. We look forward to developing a mutually beneficial relationship moving forward, for both our cadets and the students of Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy.



**Ormiston Sheffield**  
Community Academy



**Inclusive Attendance**



OUTCOMES VALUES CHOICES

# ATTENDANCE

Good attendance means being in school at least **96%** of the time, which is at least 182 days of the year.



**Target 96%+**

### WHAT DO DAYS OFF MEAN?

DAYS MISSED	GRADES
0 - 8 DAYS	EXPECTED GRADES
9 - 18 DAYS	1 GRADE BELOW EXPECTED
19 - 28 DAYS	1.5 GRADES BELOW EXPECTED
29 - 95 DAYS	2 GRADES BELOW EXPECTED
MORE THAN 95 DAYS	OVER 4 GRADES BELOW EXPECTED

### WHAT DO LATES MEAN?

MINUTES LATE PER DAY	MISSED DAYS PER YEAR
5 MINUTES	3.5
10 MINUTES	7
15 MINUTES	OVER 10
20 MINUTES	14
30 MINUTES	OVER 20

# Lexia Intervention

Lexia is a programme that accelerates the development of literacy skills. Some of the students who take part are excelling in their Lexia intervention sessions and feel more confident in their abilities.

"My reading has changed drastically!"

"I can read fast now and better. It helps me with my homework."

"I read more books now than I did and I don't mind reading aloud."

## Intervention Central

# Breakfast CLUB

In prep for exams Breakfast Club is offered to our Year 11 students- usually before mocks week. Students are given a free breakfast and revision resources to help support. Breakfast Club has been a great success among our students and staff have been also in attendance to offer that additional support with examinations. The next round of Breakfast Club will begin again shortly after half-term.



## Coram Beanstalk Reading Leaders Programme

Some of our older students receive training to become 'Reading Leaders'. The programme is a structured peer-mentoring initiative designed to improve literacy skills among students. Our older reading leader students deliver sessions to our younger students to enhance their reading confidence and skills. What a wonderful support!

## Peer Mentors



A Peer Mentor is a young person who provides advice and support to their peers based on their own experiences and values. We are very lucky to have peer mentors in our older years that offer social/emotional support and build trusting relationships whilst promoting self-esteem and confidence with our year 7s- excellent work!

## Strengthening Minds

Strengthening Minds is a programme run with students to help engage and develop their mental wellbeing. There are different sessions and topics catered for different students who can benefit from extra support. After the first successful cohort across different year groups ended in December, the next cohort of students started their 10-week programme in January. Students are selected based on individual needs and Guidance Managers run the sessions.



# Operation Advance

In October, four groups of students from Aspire and year 8 attended the sessions linked with Operation Advance for a Knife-crime workshop. Superintendent Gareth Mason and Sgt K Tromans visited the academy to see the engagement of the students and the support the officers (PC Ashely and PC Holownia) are delivering within schools in the area.



# Imperial War Museum

Students visited the Imperial War Museum to explore the new Holocaust Exhibition. This deeply moving and informative experience allowed pupils to engage with one of the most significant chapters in history through guided tours and authentic evidence of the atrocities that took place. A very good and interesting trip to educate students on this topic.



# Year 11 Trips

Year 11 have experienced a number of trips this academic year so far. Students got to enjoy the natural elements on their Geography trip to Carding Mill Valley, where they gathered data for their external exam.

A trip to Wolverhampton Univeristy was also a success for some of our year 11 students. 'Aspire to higher education' was the key point of the trip where students had the opportunity to listen to university students and take part in a number of team building exercises to develop skills.

# UEFA FLAGBEARER

Our year 10 and year 11 students had a once in a lifetime experience being flagbearers at the AVFC vs RB Salzburg Europa League game on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Thanks to our partners @avfcfoundation for organising and hosting the evening - it is safe to say our students loved every minute!



## GOOD ATTENDANCE

Means being in school for at least 96% of the time or having no more than 8 days off!

**Inclusive Attendance**

OUTCOMES VALUES CHOICES

**Target 96%+**

More time in school means more time to learn!

**0** DAYS ABSENCE  
100% ATTENDANCE

**8** DAYS ABSENCE  
96% ATTENDANCE

Less time in school means less time to be the very best you!

**9** DAYS ABSENCE  
95% ATTENDANCE

**18** DAYS ABSENCE  
91% ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance gives less chance for success!

**19** DAYS ABSENCE  
90% ATTENDANCE

**28** DAYS ABSENCE  
85% ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance drastically reduces opportunities!

**29** DAYS ABSENCE  
85% ATTENDANCE

**95** DAYS ABSENCE  
50% ATTENDANCE

EDUCATION + ATTENDANCE + EFFORT = ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

# International Men's Day and Movember

Staff and students celebrated International Men's Day in November by highlighting and raising awareness of issues affecting men. Issues such as suicide rates, homelessness and men's mental health were discussed. There were various activities across the week and some informative and moving talks linked closely to people of our Sheffield community.

Students took part in collaborative tasks, discussions and activities which encouraged empathy, open communication and awareness of the importance of mental health in our community.

We were lucky to have a visit from John Gee who spoke to our Sixth Form students about losing his son to suicide. One of our teachers shared a personal story about someone close to them and it reminded students of why conversations around men's mental health matter so much.

Our students were engaged, respectful and open to topical discussions throughout the week.





## Sparks Sessions

If your child needs a computer and a quiet space to complete any of their Sparks homeworks.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
**3:10PM - 4.00PM**  
**R3**

## National Teaching Assistants' Day 2025

On this day in particular we took time to recognise the dedication and impact of our wonderful LSA team who support our students every day. Their passion for supporting our students makes a world of difference - Thank you!

"The wellbeing of the vulnerable young people in your care is always paramount."

"I cannot tell you enough how much I appreciate you all!"

"Thank you for your flexibility and proactiveness. You are able to anticipate needs and go above and beyond to support the learning."

"You know the needs of the students so well and you are always so patient and calm."