SHARNBROOK ACADEMY

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11th September 2026

Year 11 Update Letter (1)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been wonderful to welcome students back after the summer break. They've returned with a great attitude, ready to take on the challenges of Year 11. I'd like to take a moment to recognise and praise those students who completed the 'Close the Gap' summer work set for English, Maths, and Science. What a fantastic headstart to the year and a real credit to their commitment and determination. This early engagement will support their ongoing revision efforts and place them in a strong position as we move through the term. I have every confidence in this cohort and look forward to supporting them as they work towards their goals this year.

Expectations in Year 11

At Sharnbrook Academy, we ask all students to be Respectful, Aspirational, Determined, and Responsible, values that are especially important in Year 11. This means arriving to lessons on time and fully equipped, staying focused, and completing homework to the best of their ability. High attendance and punctuality are critical to success. Even small amounts of missed time can add up – being just three minutes late to two lessons or tutor time each day is equivalent to missing almost a full day of school every half term. We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality closely and will contact you if any concerns arise so we can work together to keep your child on track.

'Exam Busters' Workshop

The Year 10 mock exams may already feel like a distant memory, but we are keen that students don't lose the momentum they built during the summer term. With just 13 school weeks until Christmas, and the next round of mock exams beginning shortly after we return in January, now is the time for students to continue developing good revision habits and building their confidence gradually, rather than leaving preparation until the last minute.
Building on the 'Speedy Study Skills' workshop students participated in during the summer term; all Year 11 students will take part in a follow-up **'Exam Busters' Workshop** on **Monday 21st September**. This session will introduce practical revision strategies and stress-management techniques to help students prepare effectively, feel confident and stay calm under pressure. Please see attached further details regarding this workshop.
That evening, at **6pm**, we invite parents and carers to join a **parent workshop** designed to help you support your child with exam preparation at home. Each year, parents tell us how valuable they find this session in understanding how best to support both their child's revision and wellbeing during this important year. Further details including how to book tickets will be shared next week. This workshop is led by the same external speaker who delivered the student workshop earlier in the day, there is therefore no need for students to attend the evening session which is designed specifically for parents and carers.
Book a free place: Year 11 Parents and Carers Positively You Exam Busters Workshop Tickets, Monday 21 September • 6 PM - 7 PM | Eventbrite

Year 11 Progress Report 1

We are aiming to release the first Year 11 Progress Report on **Wednesday 16th September**, which will provide an updated picture of your child's progress across their subjects, including their latest End of Course Predictions (ECPs). These predictions reflect teachers' current assessment of the grades students are working towards by the end of Year 11 and will draw on a range of information, including performance in the Year 10 summer mock examinations, alongside ongoing classwork and assessment.

These predictions are, of course, not fixed and we hope that students will continue to build on their progress throughout Year 11, with the report providing a useful early opportunity to identify strengths as well as areas where additional focus may be beneficial as we move towards the next set of mock exams. We will let you know once reports have been published and are available to view via MCAS.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

For any Year 11 students who are interested in engineering or thinking about an engineering-related career in the future, we have an exciting opportunity coming up next week.
The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a highly respected two-year programme supporting young people with an interest in engineering. Successful applicants benefit from industry insight, mentoring, enrichment opportunities and access to a national network of students and professionals across a wide range of engineering sectors.
The Arkwright team will be delivering a **short 15-minute online presentation** on **Friday 18th September** at **1.45pm** in S6, giving interested students the chance to find out more about the scholarship, the application process and whether it might be something they would like to pursue. If this sounds like something your child might be interested in, please encourage them to email me in advance to let me know that they would like to attend.
What is the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship? - YouTube

Careers and Future Planning

Year 11 is an important time for students to begin thinking more seriously about their next steps beyond GCSEs. Mrs Dunn, our Careers Lead, will be supporting students throughout the year as they explore the different pathways available to them. By the end of Year 11, all students will also have received at least one 1:1 career coaching appointment with our independent Careers Adviser.
The Meridian Trust Career Pathways website is also a useful resource for students and families, with information, activities and discussion prompts to help you explore post-16 options together.

Destination Intentions



We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete the Destination Intentions Form, which was shared with students with them via email earlier today.
This form gives us an early indication of students' current plans and helps us to provide more **personalised guidance and support**, whether they are considering Sharnbrook Sixth Form, another sixth form or college, or an apprenticeship. We know that plans may change over the coming months – at this stage, we simply want to understand what students are currently considering.

Apprenticeship Webinar

For students interested in finding out more about apprenticeships, *Form the Future* is running a free online webinar for students, parents and carers at **4.15pm** on **Thursday 17th September**. The session will explain how apprenticeships work, where to find opportunities and how to approach applications, alongside advice from qualified Careers Advisers and insight from a current apprentice about their own experience.
Book a free place: Form the Future: Insights into Apprenticeships

Sixth Form and College Open Events

We would strongly encourage students to attend open events over the coming months. Visiting different providers is a really useful way to explore courses, meet staff and students, and get a feel for where they might like to study after Year 11. Dates currently confirmed include:

- **Sharnbrook Academy Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 5th November**

Our Sixth Form continues to be a very popular choice for both Sharnbrook students and external applicants and was highly oversubscribed for entry this academic year. We would therefore particularly encourage any students considering staying at Sharnbrook for their post-16 studies to attend the Open Evening, explore the courses and opportunities available, and find out more about the application process. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

- **Shuttleworth College** – Thursday 24th September 2026
- **The Bedford Sixth Form** – Saturday 26th September 2026
- **Moulton College** – Saturday 10th October 2026
- **Moulton College** – Saturday 14th November 2026

Future Pathways 2026 – Post-16 Options Festival

Another useful date for Year 11 families is Future Pathways 2026, taking place at the University of Bedfordshire on **Saturday 7th November**. This Post-16 Options Festival is a great opportunity for students to explore different routes available after GCSEs and start thinking about what might be right for them. If your child is still considering their next steps – or simply wants to explore the range of options available – it is well worth a visit. Further information and event details, including the booking of free tickets can be found on the Future Pathways website.

As Vice Principal with oversight of Year 11 attainment, progress, and assessment, I remain closely involved with everything 'Year 11' and am here to support you and your child throughout this important year. Here's to a fantastic year ahead! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Laura Watt
Interim Vice Principal (Academic)