

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students,

As your child begins to make important decisions about their future education and career pathways, I would like to outline the support we will be providing to help them make informed post-16 choices.

Sheffield Progress:

This term, our focus in Personal Development lessons and assemblies is Post-16 Progression. Students have already begun exploring the different opportunities available to them after Year 11 and will continue researching their options over the coming weeks. Later this term, they will complete their applications through the Sheffield Progress system, and all students have been provided with their own login details. The Sheffield Progress website can be accessed at: <https://www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk/>

Personal Development lessons:

During Personal Development lessons and assemblies, students will be shown how to use the website to research courses and providers across the region. Once logged in, they can save favourite courses, compare options, and begin building their applications. Form tutors and school staff will support students throughout this process. There is also a dedicated Help and Guidance for Parents section on the website, which provides useful information about applications and post-16 pathways.

Deadlines:

Although the Sheffield Progress application deadline is usually at the end of January, Bradfield School will set an earlier internal deadline. This allows staff sufficient time to review applications and ensure they are completed accurately before submission.

Under current government requirements, all young people in England must continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. This can be achieved by:

- Remaining in full-time education, such as a school sixth form or college.
- Starting an apprenticeship.
- Working or volunteering for 20 hours or more per week while undertaking part-time education or training.

Open Evenings and Assemblies:

Throughout October and November, many local sixth forms, colleges, and apprenticeship providers will be hosting open evenings. These events provide an excellent opportunity for students and their families to visit campuses, explore facilities, meet staff, and learn more about the courses on offer. A list of currently advertised open events is attached and will also be available on the school website. We have also booked in providers to present in assemblies for our Y11 pupils throughout this term.

Careers Fair:

We are also holding a KS4 Careers Fair on Thursday 26th November in Bradfield School hall for pupils and their families. There will be a range of Post 16 providers in attendance, further details will follow.

Careers meetings, guidance and support:

We are also very fortunate to have our own dedicated Careers Adviser, Sarah Dempsey, working in school four days a week. Sarah is a highly experienced independent Careers Adviser and serves as a Senior Careers Adviser for South Yorkshire.

Over the coming term, every Year 11 student will have at least one individual careers guidance appointment with Sarah. Following the meeting, a summary of the discussion and agreed actions will be shared with parents and carers via email. If you have any questions about post-16 options or the application process, Sarah can be contacted directly at sdempsey@bradfield.sheffield.sch.uk

I have also attached a list of useful websites that have been shared with students. In addition, further information and resources can be found in the Careers section of our school SharePoint site.

Thank you for your continued support as we help students prepare for the next stage of their education and training. If you have any questions or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact either Sarah or myself.

Yours faithfully,

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