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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Year 13 Update

I hope that you are all well.

I wanted to write to you to give you an update on some key aspects of the Sixth Form. Firstly, students in Year 13 are now very much back into the routine of Sixth Form after the half term break, and the vast majority are working extremely well in lessons. Sixth Form teachers have commented on the impressive levels of industry and commitment seen in students.

Preparation for mocks

Further to Dr Stanton's letter regarding mock exams, I wanted to reiterate the importance of students being well prepared for these exams. As things currently stand, students will sit their A-level exams in the summer, and teachers will get a clear indication of your child's current level of achievement through the mocks, as well as ongoing class work, homework and in-class assessments. In order for teachers to be able to gauge accurately the support needed for your child in the remaining months before the exams, the exams will need to be as authentic as they can be, and this includes students preparing fully for them, and taking them as seriously as they would their final exams. You will receive in the coming weeks an overview of the exams in each subject, and advice on the ways that students can prepare for them. Students will be advised to use their study periods fruitfully, with these exams now on the horizon. I would also suggest that, for those students who have part-time employment, they ensure they are working the minimal number of hours in the run up to the exams, if they have to work at all. This is to ensure that students have ample time to study, and also enjoy some respite. If you have any concerns or questions about the upcoming mocks, you are very welcome to contact Mrs Nelson or me, or if it is a subject specific query, the relevant Head of Department.

Dress Code

As I mentioned in my last letter, the vast majority of students adhere very well to our Sixth Form Dress Code. I am incredibly proud of the very smart appearance of our students. I would like to ask for your help in ensuring that students wear their blazer every day, and that if a jumper is worn to school, that it is a v-neck jumper in keeping with the smart and formal dress code. Please refer to our website, for the detail on our dress code, if it is needed.

Core Curriculum – PE, RE and Pastoral Programme

As a Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on the broad curriculum we offer, and this includes the core curriculum of PE, RE and the Pastoral Programme. These subjects offer students the opportunity to develop in their preparation for adulthood, and further study in a number of different ways.

However, I am aware that students in Year 13 have had a significant challenge in catching up on, and consolidating their understanding of work taught in Year 12, during the first lockdown. As I have already mentioned, the plan is for students to sit their exams, and I appreciate the significant pressure that students feel about being prepared for their exams. As a result, we have made the decision that, in these extraordinary circumstances, for our Year 13 students only, PE will be a subject that students can 'opt-in' to. Core RE and Pastoral Programme will remain mandatory. We have made this decision because, although we really do think students should have the time to exercise for the physical and mental benefits this brings, a number of students exercise outside of school, and in the circumstances may rather use their PE lesson time to

focus on their revision and academic work. Naturally, this additional time will only be beneficial, if it is used well. Therefore, if students choose to opt out of PE, they should use their Wednesday afternoons to complete work and revision. As is our current protocol, students will leave school after their final lesson on Wednesday to avoid large groups of students being together in the Sixth Form area for an extended period, and to stagger students leaving at the end of the day.

On Monday, all students will be asked to tell us whether they are opting in, or not, to PE lessons. Students will be sent an email with a link to a Microsoft Form.

UCAS and other future plans

I would like to thank you for support in encouraging your child to submit their UCAS application as early as possible. Many students have now done this, and it has been great to hear of the offers that students have been made from various institutions. If your child has not yet sent their UCAS form, can I ask for your support in encouraging them to complete and send their forms over the next week or so. This will then be one less thing for students to have think about, and again, will give them some time to focus on their studies.

If your child is not intending to go to university, they should continue to talk to their Form Tutor about their plans, so they can be supported fully.

Can I take this opportunity to say thank you again, for all of your support so far, in what has been a most extraordinary year. I look forward to our continued work together.

Yours sincerely,



D McKeating
Assistant Headteacher