

Our Ref: BCH|lw|006

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their hard work and commitment during the Autumn Term. The students have been superb this term. Many volunteered to assist with the 6th Form Open Evening as Student Ambassadors and they are a real credit to themselves and the school. They were friendly, professional and genuine.

Many Year 12 student have taken up the role, during tutor time, of being 'reading buddies' to students in Year 8 and 9. Their commitment has been impressive and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work. Many Year 13 have been mentoring students to support their studies and provide encouragement for their forthcoming examinations. Year 13 have really taken to this responsibility and it will have great advantages for all involved including selecting revision techniques and communicating information clearly to students. Employers and universities are very keen on this type of volunteering. The benefits for both mentor and mentee are clear to see.

A cohort of Year 12 students are working towards their Arts Award Gold in addition to their other studies. This is a programme using external professionals to extend students' skills in the Arts. They are managing mini projects, for example dance choreography, and participating in work shadowing placements. We hope to reap the benefits of this programme with a presentation in the Spring term.

January is a very busy month for both Year 12 and Year 13 with PPE (Pre Public Exams) for both year groups. This is a really important point in the year and the school looks to replicate the experience of the summer exams as much as possible to ensure students are prepared for this challenging period. Could I please encourage students to enjoy the Christmas holidays, but also to set aside enough time to revise and prepare for these exams. Students also have supervised study sessions to support their revision planning before the end of term. During the exam period the 6th Form Café will be closed but a trolley service will be in place each break and lunchtime in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Atrium. All Exams are from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and individual timetables were distributed to students earlier this week. Please note that Art, Photography, BTEC Science and all other subjects will offer 'drop in' sessions where staff are available during the timetabled lessons.

During the PPE period, Year 13 students only have to attend exams, but are welcome to remain in school for revision if preferred. Year 12 should remain in school, where the atrium and 6<sup>th</sup> form classrooms are available for revision and study. They will continue to follow their timetabled lessons using the classrooms for revision.

Teachers and the 6th Form Team use the data from these exams to put in place support and interventions and to target work at student needs across terms 3 and 4. For Year 12, where in most subjects there are no longer AS examinations, the January PPE window will be used as an evaluation of students' performance. Following the exams, subject staff may look to enter students for the stand alone AS if a course is deemed too challenging for an individual to continue to more difficult Year 13 studies.

During Life Skills sessions, tutor groups have been planning activities and stalls for the school Christmas Fayre which is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is a whole school event managed by the 6th Form. All profits from the lunchtime fayre will go towards the 6th Form chosen Charity – Meningitis Now – which supports greater awareness of this illness which often affects people in their late teens.

Head Teacher: David Alexander, BA (Hons); MSc

Students in Year 13 have completed UCAS applications for university courses. The final 6<sup>th</sup> Form deadline to ensure applications are received on time is 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. Many students have had offers of courses already from institutions. Destinations and career paths are an important step for all 6<sup>th</sup> Form students. Higher level apprenticeships are now available and students require a detailed Curriculum Vitae to support their applications.

The key 6th Form dates for Term 3 are as follows:

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Inset Day
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Start of Term 3
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Year 12 and Year 13 PPE begin
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Last day of Year 12 and Year 13 PPE
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13 Reports due home
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13 Parents' Consultation Meeting
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Year 12 Reports due home
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 12 Parents' Consultation Meeting
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – End of Term 3

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the 6th Form students and their parents / carers a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Cheeseman  
Assistant Head Teacher | Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

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