



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are all safe and well. Our students have all exhibited such resilience and determination since returning to school; it is a delight to see them in the Sixth Form and I wanted to congratulate them on their effort and maturity.

I am writing to ensure that both students and parents are aware of a number of key developments planned for this academic year. This information is relevant for both Year 12 and Year 13/14.

Firstly, I would like to inform all parents that Friday 27 November is whole school Inset Day and the school is closed for all students.

Parents Evenings

In normal circumstances we would also be hosting parents evenings for both Year 12 and 13; we have decided to run these differently this year. Over the next term all students will receive a data point information sheet which provides details of their attitude to learning, current grades, forecast grades and any barriers that are currently presenting themselves.

Students who are identified as having a consistent positive attitude to learning score across their curriculum will receive a letter to celebrate their achievement and provide encouragement for the months ahead. We will also send out individual subject letters to students who we feel need to make some improvements within certain subjects. I know that many subject teachers are in regular contact with you through phone calls, class charts announcements and email. In all cases, if you feel the need to discuss any issues, you can contact the school to arrange more in-depth discussions with the subject and pastoral teams.

Examinations

In terms of Summer Examinations, there has been considerable news coverage recently about the decision made by the Welsh government to cancel the GCSE, AS and A2 examinations. There is no such arrangement made for students in England at the time of writing this letter, with the Department of Education announcing that they still firmly believe the planned examinations will go ahead. The planned dates are considerably later than in previous years so please consider these dates before booking a holiday.

GCSE and A Level exams start on 7 June and end on 2 July 2021.
Results day is Tuesday 24 August 2021 for A and AS levels.

Lanyards

In January we will be issuing all Sixth Form students with a new lanyard and Identification card; this card will serve the dual purpose of opening the Sixth Form doors without the need to use the pin code and will also register students' arrival to and departure from the school site. To ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, all Sixth Formers must wear their ID cards at all times. If a card is lost we will charge students a replacement fee of £5.



Online Learning

We have introduced Class Charts to our students and this has become the online platform that both staff and students use to set and complete work. We have been using this system while students have been unable to attend school and students have their unique log in to access this site. If any student has any issues with the log in or access, please encourage them to email me and I will support them in ensuring they can access the work. We also have a number of online partners to stretch and extend the curriculum for students; one specific example, is the highly-regarded provider: www.futurelearn.com. Students can register for a range of courses from 'Supporting Physical Development in Early Childhood' to 'An Introduction to Screen Writing'. All of the courses are delivered by leading universities and businesses. We also email students daily with opportunities from universities and apprenticeship providers, and we hope this regular contact will help students in making key decisions about their future. We do have an independent careers advisor in school and students are encouraged to make an appointment through their Form Tutor.

UCAS

Year 13/14 students are currently completing their UCAS forms; there is a wealth of useful online support, guidance and virtual sessions, alongside advice on student finance and apprenticeships via the website: www.ucas.com. The deadline for all university applications is 15 January 2021 - although we do hope to have sent most of the applications prior to the Christmas break. We already have a number of students in receipt of offers. It is important to note that where universities require a pre-offer interview (Teaching, Nursing, Medicine, Social work for example), most universities have opted to offer virtual interviews. If any student needs any support with these, please do contact us and we will be more than happy to help.

The Student Union

I would also like to share with you some of the wonderful things our students have done this term. This year all the charity events have been chosen and organised by the students acting on their own initiative. In October the Sixth Formers raised £328.14 for 'Breast Cancer Now' and we had a lovely act of remembrance on 11 November for the Poppy Appeal. Further to this, the students have events planned for Children in Need, Save the Children and Wear it Purple day to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. The students have also committed to collecting food and gifts for a local food bank. The compassion and teamwork shown by our students has been remarkable and something that we are all incredibly proud of.

Thank you for all your support throughout this time and we look forward to working with all our students through the next steps of their educational journey.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Burton
Head of Sixth Form