

Dear Students, parents and carers

I trust you are well. I would like to thank you for all of your collective efforts over this last half term. It has been a real challenge in the face of considerable disruption due to Covid. Today sees the long anticipated release of advance revision topics information from the exam boards to support Year 13 students preparing for terminal exams.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-synergy-8465/changes-for-2022>  
- AQA

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/2022-advance-information/> - OCR

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/summer-2022-support.html> - Edexcel

I am pleased to report that despite the challenges it's been a productive and busy start to the New Year, over 80% of Year 13 students have completed their UCAS applications and are eagerly awaiting and receiving offers from universities. This week we are launching National Apprenticeship week (7th February to 13th February 2022). Students from all Year Groups will be involved in learning about the different types and levels of apprenticeship. Please spend time at home discussing and learning about pathways available (click [here](#) for more details - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/naw2022/>). This week a significant number of Year 12 & 13 Sports students are spending a Week's residential in the Lake District. Students have been promoted in paid roles as break and lunchtime supervisors. Sixth Form students have also volunteered as peer mentors and Buddy readers for pupils in Year 7-9. Our leadership programme has restarted after a long break due to Covid and we look forward to promoting a new House System and Sixth Form leadership positions. In PSHE, Year 12 are busy collaborating and competing to win £1000 for a charity they have researched and supported (First Give - community action). Year 13 are now preparing for mock interviews & starting university/working life curriculum. Finally I am pleased to see our Tutoring programme launch for students in Year 13 who have struggled in closing the gap or who require further targeted intervention over the next 15 weeks - further information regarding this programme will be shared with those students. A genuine renaissance period for our students & staff.

It is evident from talking to students, parents/carers and teaching staff that returning to the daily routine of school life has been welcome. When you take a step back and reflect, it has been nearly two years since the start of the pandemic and the impact that this has had on our lives has been immense. I am so impressed by how many students have demonstrated their resilience. The next 3 half terms are going to go quickly and it is timely to remind students and parents of the need for **consistency** as Year 13 prepares for public examinations and Year 12 prepares for the transition to Year 13 & Higher Education/work experience and training.

I have highlighted below some key events to help navigate the next couple of weeks leading to the end of Easter holiday & beyond and shared with you expectations that remain at the centre of our values of **Creating Success Together**; **Commitment, Collaboration & Communication**

Upcoming events/dates for diaries:

- Careers Fair - 23rd Feb
- National Careers Week 7- 12th March
- Student Finance (Year 13) Opens - Start of March
- MOCK Exam week Year 13 & Year 12 Assessment week - W/B 14th March
- Mid Year short reports - end of Spring Term
- First Give Final - end of Spring Term
- Year 13 EPQ/Coursework submission - 15th May
- UCAS/Apprenticeship/HE Evening - 19th May
- UCAS Discovery (Online) - 25th May
- Year 12 End of Year exams - W/b 13th June- Students are expected to meet minimum of grade D in A-Levels and pass Btec subjects in order to progress
- Year 12 Academic Review Day & Year 13 Prom Event - Friday 8th July
- Year 12 Work experience Week 11th - 15th July

**Sixth Form Students** are expected to:

- **Attend school regularly**, be punctual to registration & lessons - in line with our College Model. If you have lessons before Lunch attend morning registration, only arrive at school late if you **ONLY** have lessons in the afternoon.
- **Always carry your ID Badge** with you - use this to swipe in and safeguard the school
- **Check emails routinely** in order to learn about opportunities and key messages - use email professionally to communicate with staff and outside institutions
- **Adhere to the mobile phone policy** - It is a privilege to use mobiles in designated areas and for the purpose of supporting learning. Taking photos and filming students on site is not allowed. Smartphones need to be used responsibly, we reserve the right to confiscate them if this is not the case.
- The new **Study Hub** has a code of conduct to support and encourage students to use it responsibly. It is a privilege to have this space. We have looked at the way students have used the space and their learning routines and devised the following guidance to provide clarity and **respect the learning of all**, they **MUST** be adhered to:
  - a) All Chromebooks taken out **must be returned**, plugged in and accounted for by **3pm** at the latest
  - b) **Period 1-2, 3-4** - The Hub is a **quiet study space** - allowing all students to work  
**Period 5-6** will be more relaxed - **excessive noise/anti-social behaviour is not permitted.**  
After school 3-5pm Monday -Thursday & Friday 3-4pm **the Hub is open ONLY for KS4 & 5 Students to work SILENTLY.**
  - c) We are discouraging large groups (4 or more) to any table as this invariably leads to unfocused learning and disruption
  - d) Step out of the Hub for short breaks and group discussion
  - e) No food and drink to be consumed in the Hub
  - f) At break time and lunchtime students can socialise in the Hub as space in the Atrium can become crowded - please ensure the **Hub is kept tidy**

**The Hub is a privilege** - the 6th Form Pastoral Team reserves the right to adapt the guidelines as necessary and students are given **2 warnings** if they are not

considerate of these guidelines. On the **3rd warning they will be asked to leave and this is logged.**

**Repeated poor behaviour will lead to a withdrawal of the privilege of using the Hub.**

- **No lessons should be missed if students are behind on work**, all students are aware of the expectations of the use of study periods. Students should either be using the Study Hub or be in lessons during study periods, those on SSSP (Student Support Programme) are expected to register in the Hub and complete independent learning.
- **Cover lessons** - If your teacher is absent or there is planned cover, lessons will not be supervised. Please remain in your normal room, get registered by a member of staff from the faculty and complete the work set - this may be sent via email, Google Classroom or provided. Do NOT truant the lesson, it will affect your attendance.
- **After school** students are expected to be in revision lessons, sport/enrichment activities, clubs and the Hub only from 3pm. **Students MUST be off site from 5pm.**
- Dress appropriately for school in accordance with our policy. **The following are NOT ALLOWED:**
  - Clothes that show your underwear (bra straps, boxers)
  - Cropped tops and halter necks
  - Torn or ripped clothing
  - Baseball caps/Du-rags
  - T-shirts
  - Sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts and other hoodies
  - Jeans and other denim items
  - Clothes with writing on (large logos)
  - Shorts or Tracksuit bottoms
  - Mini skirts

Sports & Performing Arts students have further guidance

- 6th Form Code of Conduct should be adhered to at all times

See 6th Form Handbook for guidance on ALL the expectations above - click [here](#) or visit our section on the school website)

**Parents** please be aware that some students are struggling with time management, procrastination and distraction as a result of their poor use of mobile phones. Below are a number of websites with advice and support for you to read and discuss with your child. We expect students to complete up to 5 hours of independent work per subject per week. We also suggest that young people in our care should not be working in paid employment beyond 10 hours a week. For Year 13, paid work needs to be scaled back to avoid unnecessary anxiety and stress as the level of independent academic work increases. Year 13 Students will be aiming to achieve up to **20 hours per week independent learning as they reach mid-May.**

Perpetually postponing work creates a snowball effect, and before long, we know students find the weight of missed work can cause stress and anxiety. It's so important to be aware of your mental health during this time. Regular bedtimes, eating healthily, taking

exercise and sticking to routines are proven first steps to feeling happier, but if students are struggling there is support available both in school and in our community. Let staff know or check out help online. We like: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/> Or <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/> <https://www.kooth.com/> - online safe, confidential support for young people <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/sleep/> - Support/guidance for better sleep

Please keep communicating about any problems or difficulties, and committing over the next couple of months. This letter has been issued to all Sixth Form students today and read to ensure consistency of communication/expectations. I have also shared it with them via email. If in doubt please ask.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Cox  
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)