



11 November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 12 Programme of Study – Autumn Half Term 2

We have been so impressed by the way that Year 12 students have settled into sixth form life over the first half term. Countless Key Stage 5 teachers have shared praise with us about the focus and positive attitude of Year 12 students, as well as the support they have received from Year 12 students conducting voluntary service. 40% of our students have already received at least one piece of formal praise (in the form of a letter or email home.)

Tutor Ambassadors

Some students applied for, and have been appointed to, the role of Tutor Ambassador. This is an important role, acting as the student voice for their peers. They will meet with a member of the KS5 pastoral leadership team throughout the year, to discuss various aspects of school life, changes that they would like to see implemented and how we can better support students in their studies.

Work Experience

We ask that students carry out approximately 30 hours of work experience that is directly linked to their chosen career aspirations. Due to the current COVID restrictions, we are responding by being more flexible in our expectations of work experience this academic year. Work experience covers all forms of work-related activity including work tasters, running student enterprise activities, participation in social action, volunteering, plus participation in work placements with an external employer and/or virtual work placements.

We ask that students try to get a physical placement from January 2022 onwards, if possible. We will continue to support and authorise placements organised during the term, but our preference would be students completing the hours during a holiday. We continue to post many interesting and wide-ranging opportunities on the Year 12 Information and Future Destinations Google Classroom pages. Students should be actively keeping abreast of these opportunities and applying to suitable placements.

Work experience is an important feature of any strong university or apprenticeship application. For certain degrees, it is an essential entry requirement e.g. Medicine, Teaching, Accountancy and Engineering. We would like to highlight the Study Higher website found at <https://www.studyhigher.ac.uk/events/> as an excellent resource. It lists all the relevant opportunities available to young people in the local area and beyond including open days, work experience placements and workshops. Our Trust half termly Careers Spotlight newsletter also includes numerous opportunities for students in Year 12.

Voluntary Service

Students have been positive and proactive in taking on whole school opportunities offered to them through voluntary service. Members of staff have commented on how polite and helpful students have been, the initiative they have shown, as well as how encouraging, approachable, and supportive they have been when working with younger students.

PSMSC Programme

This half-term the pastoral programme is continuing to focus on Emotional Wellbeing, where we will be exploring how to recognise signs of changes in mental health and wellbeing, as well as strategies for building and maintaining positive mental health, including managing stress and anxiety. Topics covered in this unit include Managing Mental Health, Reducing Stress and Anxiety and How to Access Support.

Autumn Half Term 2 DCP 1 Report

This report will be accessible to parents/guardians via the Parent App, and students via the Student App, on 29 November 2021.

ILP (Individual Learning Plan) Fortnight - Monday 29 November to Friday 10 December

Students will be asked to reflect upon their Tracking Report, identifying their strengths and setting themselves SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-limited) targets to help them to improve in their subjects. Each student will have a one-to-one meeting with their tutor to review their targets. Meetings will be 10 minutes long and will take place at a mutually agreeable time during either the week commencing Monday 29 November or Monday 6 December.

Yours sincerely



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