

Sixth Form Update 08.10.2021

We are rapidly approaching October half term and the students on all sites are working hard on their studies and making good progress. Teachers are currently completing progress reports for all students and these will be available for you to view before half term. Students have completed assessments in all areas and are now working on acting on any issues that have been highlighted in subjects. If Year 12 students wish to change subjects then the window where this is possible is closing. Students who wish to change options need to do so before the half term break. Ms Barker-Starling or Ms Oxley-Hughes are able to help students with this.

For Year 13 students, their UCAS Predicted grades, which are the grades used in references for any Post-18 applications, are now available for you to view on the Portal/ Insight. These are intended to be realistic and optimistic based on the evidence teachers have at the moment. If there are any issues with these please can you contact either Ms Barker-Starling or Ms Oxley-Hughes in the first instance.

Head of Sixth Homework

Students are being asked to complete a Head of Sixth Homework on a weekly basis. This will require students to revise a specific topic and to produce a revision resource for that subject. There will then be a short knowledge quiz in the lesson during the following week. This is designed to help to develop students' long term memory and revision skills and also to ensure they are revising over the duration of the course to try and trudge the pressure and stress towards the exam period. It is also crucial as the majority of post 16 students demonstrate application of their knowledge in their exams, so it is key that their retention of the knowledge is strong.

Home Study

Year 13 students are allowed 8 periods of home study per fortnight and these are agreed with their tutor. These are times when students are allowed to work from home if they wish. Students are not normally allowed whole days of home study, but if they wish to have one this will need to be arranged in partnership with Ms Oxley-Hughes or Ms Barker-Starling. Home Study is a privilege and if a student falls behind in their work then it may be retracted.

Year 12 students will be allowed home study later on this term once their first Progress Report is completed. This is based on the ability to meet deadlines, organisation and effort shown in their studies. It is not based on how close they are to their target grades. These times will be agreed in partnership with parents at our Academic Review meeting which will take place later on this term.

Tutor attendance expectations

A reminder that attendance at tutor is an expectation for all Sixth Form students. Their tutor is a key part of the support for students in the Sixth Form. These are the individuals who support students everyday through the duration of their course and are also the people who write references for students for their next steps. Students who have home study are required to attend tutor on Monday and Friday every week regardless of home study, as these are compulsory taught sessions covering topics from revision to mindfulness.

University application support

Year 13 students who are applying to University are now working on their applications and are receiving support from their tutors with this. There is additional support for students from Ms Oxley-Hughes on the MSN Sixth site and from Mrs Ward on the Writhlington Site after school on a Wednesday and Friday.

Unfortunately due to covid we have not been able to have the on site information evening which would normally take place, however I have recorded this so you can still receive the information.

There is a university application guidance film for parents to help you through the process available here: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cr6jl9VXFYw>
(you will need to paste this link into your browser)

The information evening from last term is useful if students are still thinking about the application process and considering where to apply:
<https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/crfVjRVV7yQ> **(you will need to paste this link into your browser)**

Virtual University and Apprenticeship Fair

There is a virtual University and Apprenticeship fair taking place on the 20th October. This is a valuable opportunity for students to complete some research when planning their next steps. Students need to register on the website to be able to attend - <https://ukunisearch.vfairs.com/>. Further details are available here : <https://ukunisearch.vfairs.com/en/webinar-timetable>

After school subject support sessions

Sixth form teachers offer drop in support sessions for students after school, so that they can access some additional support with their learning. Generally these are not taught sessions but are an opportunity for students to get additional support with an aspect of the curriculum which they are struggling with or where they feel that additional support would be helpful.

Please look at our website [After School Subject Sessions](#)

Photos

We now have the proofs available for the Year 12 and Year 13 group photos.

Midsomer Norton Site

Year 12 Code to enter **0350911165B215XRH**

Year 13 Code to enter **0351911165B212YP2**

Writhlington Site

Year 12 and Year 13 Code to enter **9999491169Z216DAZ**

<https://www.dsp-order.uk/welcome>

If you haven't ordered your individual photograph you can still do this when you order a group photo. You should have now received the proof copy of the photographs taken. Any orders placed with DSP photography before midnight on **Wednesday 13th October** will be eligible for free delivery to school, Any orders after this date will be delivered to home address and P&P will need to be paid.

If your child had their photograph taken and the proof copy has not made it home, please contact dsp.enquiries@gmail.com

As always if you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards



Mrs K Ward
Director of Sixth Form

Other opportunities

Time is running out to apply to the Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme.

The scheme is a three day residential aimed at Year 12 or mature students at schools who don't often send students to Oxbridge, or students who are eligible for Free School Meals. Successful applicants will visit Cambridge in January or February 2022, stay in a Cambridge college and shadow a current student. After the scheme participants will continue to get 1:1 advice and support from their mentor through a secure online platform.

The scheme is completely free, and it only takes 10 minutes to submit an application.

Applications close on 10th October.

Please circulate this information to Year 12 students or mature students and encourage them to apply. Attached to this email you'll find an information pack for students, and an information pack for teachers.

UWE Virtual Open Day 20th October

Details are available here: <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/courses/open-days>

You will need to book a place on this open evening to be able to attend following the link above. We are a Heading Higher Partner to UWE and so students will receive a lower offer from UWE because of this.