

January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 12 students continue to work well on their courses as they prepare for their internal examinations. We wanted to make you aware of some key events and also to offer some information about how we monitor attendance in the Sixth Form.

Attendance

Attendance is one of the most important contributing factors in student attainment and students should aim for their attendance to be above 95%. Every Year 12 student has a programme of study, which contains lesson time, tutor time and enrichment assembly – all of which they are expected to attend. Tutor time begins at 8.45am and they can go home at lunchtime if they do not have a lesson during period 5. If they leave the school site before the end of the school day, they are required to tap out so we have an accurate record of who is on site. We monitor attendance fortnightly and use attendance data to inform our interventions with students. If we see a pattern of unauthorised absence, this will trigger a conversation with the student, and if their response is unsatisfactory, then a phone call home. Where there are continued periods of unexplained absence, then we ask you to come in for a meeting and we will place a student on Attendance report. If a student is a safeguarding concern, we categorise them as such on the SIMS database and if they do not arrive at school or at a lesson then we make immediate contact with home. If you believe this is something your son/daughter requires then please alert Clare Fahy, our Sixth Form Manager.

Examinations

We have the first Year 12 internal examinations starting in the week commencing 20th March 2023. These examinations will be in the Activity Hall and students will receive a timetable after half term. All students have had some advice about how to revise in their tutor time periods and the most recent enrichment assembly. They should have produced a revision schedule and begin to prepare for this important point in their Year 12 calendar. Every examination point is an important opportunity to learn, and the most profound learning will arise when students are well prepared.

Future Pathways

We are soon to begin our 'Future Pathways' programme with students to help them investigate their next steps. This will entail assemblies about university life, student finance, how to apply to university and they will have the opportunity to hear from apprenticeship providers and employers. We are about to begin the 'Raising Aspirations' programme to help students prepare for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry courses. These sessions will run during the enrichment assemblies until Easter. For students who are already undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh sessions in this timeslot we will run a half term of sessions during tutor time from the 20th February onwards. If a student is interested in this programme and hasn't already been spoken to please ask them to speak to Mrs Quinn to express an interest.

Work Experience

All students have the opportunity to undertake work experience in the week of 3rd-7th July 2023. They will have to seek their own placements and should begin to identify organisations to approach. We will be offering them some guidance with this task but any contacts you have would be valuable in helping students to secure meaningful placements. There are also some fantastic virtual work experience placements and we will be publicising these in next weeks enrichment assembly.

If you would like to discuss any of the above further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Quinn

Director of Sixth Form

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