

Dear Parent / Carer,

This half term we have all relished being back in college with face-to-face contact with students and colleagues once more. It has been a busy few weeks, with Year 13 students starting their formal assessments in place of their summer exams. All window assessment and revision details were emailed on Monday for students to access digitally; Year 12 have also been adding to their super-curricular activities, taking first steps towards planning for their next stage.

We have also recently made a new Sixth Form appointment: I am delighted to inform you that Mr Brownley will be Deputy Director of Sixth Form (following Miss Cheshire's departure) and we are thrilled to be working with him, especially after the great work he has done this year in his former position as Sixth Form Student Enrichment Lead.

There will also be a timetable change for the six weeks after the Easter holidays - Sixth Form students will go home at the end of period 4 every Wednesday (2 o'clock rather than 3 o'clock) and, on 12<sup>th</sup> May only, they will go home after lunch at 1 o'clock; buses will be arranged for collection at these times. This is to allow staff time to moderate and standardise work for GCSE and A Level assessments.

Now that lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, with some opportunities for rule of 6 garden gatherings, I hope you have a lovely Easter break. I know that Year 13 will be working hard, but please make sure they factor in treats and breaks too!

Take care,

*Mrs McMillan*

### **New Deputy Director of Sixth Form - words from Mr Brownley:**

I am extremely excited and proud about my permanent appointment as Deputy Director of Sixth Form from September. My short experience of working as part of the Sixth Form team has been amazing and I look forward to making a further impact on the lives of our Year 12 and 13 students.

My main role will be to be Head of Year 12 and following, keenly, the academic, pastoral and super curricular progress of next year's cohort. I have a good relationship with many of the current year 11 students, so am excited to engage in a holistic supervision and support of the year group, whilst still being a friendly face for next years Y13s. I will also retain my position as JB form tutor (which is a great privilege).

I will take a lead in Year 12 induction and transition, which will involve team building exercises and opportunities as well as the famous inter-tutor competitions! A major part of my role will be to ensure work experience provision is continued to be offered and directed. This will tie in with the whole school careers programme and aim to build into our UCAS and Apprenticeship application timeline.

I am really excited to progress with this role and see the task to support the continued evolution of an already thriving Sixth Form as an absolute privilege, especially working with such a great team of sixth form staff colleagues.

*Mr Brownley*

### **UCAS: Year 13**

Many students are now finalising university offers and beginning to make accommodation choices – it is important they chat to you or Mrs Helsby and I before doing so, as it is a decision to think about very carefully. Some universities and courses are being very slow to make their decisions, and they actually have until 20<sup>th</sup> May to do so. There is some useful generic UCAS advice about offers here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/ucas-undergraduate-types-offer>

### **Student Finance**

Students will also need to apply for student finance. MMU has made the following advisory and informative resource, in place of their usual live visit to Tarporley, which is excellent. It is 18 minutes in length and **I really would advise watching:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3p3Fg9xP1IM&feature=youtu.be>

**COVID Test kits**

New test kits have been issued to every student and these lateral flow tests should continue to be used over the holidays. Students should be in a good rhythm of managing these tests at home, at regular times, and alerting the NHS of their results.

**TERM Magazine**

The TERM Team have been very pro-active and the next edition is coming along nicely – there have been many articles / graphic designs and artwork produced in preparation for the Shine National Media Awards. The deadline is shortly after Easter and the new team have very high expectations. We have been so impressed with the drive and organisation of the new team – Millie and Meg have been supremely organised and plans are well underway – from Business Plans, social media campaigns, marketing strategies, branding and finding their house style .... they have been busy. Could this edition be the best yet? We shall see .... Good luck Team TERM!

**Sixth Form Careers Update – End of March 2021**

Tutors have had a number of opportunities to reinforce careers opportunities with Year 12 since the last update and have been starting to record work experience completed, planned as well as future career path plans. A small number of students have not engaged with these events and we would like all students to have at least two online events that they can write on their applications forms. Any work experience is a way to elevate a student above the average, given the year we have had. Here are some virtual opportunities which are coming up:

**University Events:**

UCAS discovery is an opportunity for students to discover the right course/apprenticeship for them and to direct their interests towards future career paths. Register on the below link for more information.

<https://ucasdiscovery.online-event.co/registration/ucas-discovery-3>



**Pre-UCAS University Identification**

In the summer term, we will launch our UCAS application event. Before this, students should have a think about which courses they are interested in applying for and which Universities might suit them. The following sites are great for these first investigations:

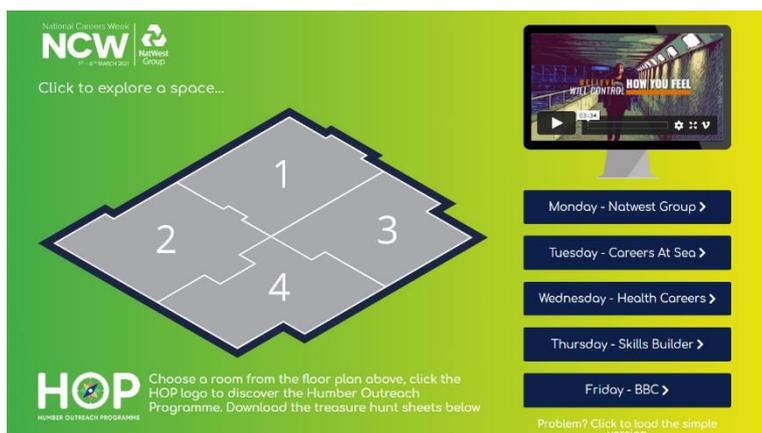
- <https://www.whatuni.com/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer>



**Vocational and Apprenticeship Events**

**National Careers week**

National Careers Week has finished, but the website, with all the opportunities and links, are still available to access. Follow the link and click on the floor plan ‘rooms’ to learn about different employers and the opportunities they are offering: <https://nationalcareersweek.com/>



**Brown Jacobson Law Virtual Work Experience:**

- Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th April, 9am - 4pm each day
- Partner welcome talk
- An insight to law, their different departments and areas of work (including non law routes)
- Breakout rooms with solicitors in talking about different areas of law
- Workshops & interactive sessions
- Open to all Y11/Y12/Y13 students

Application Link:

<https://www.research.net/r/Law-WEX>

**brownejacobson** LLP

**Virtual Law Work Experience  
6th & 7th April 2021**

An insight to a top 50 law firm, 5 UK offices,  
1,000+ employees, £50m turnover

Interactive workshops with real solicitors working  
across different areas of law

Breakout rooms and sessions covering off  
specific areas of law and their different  
departments (Legal, HR, Tech & more!)

Learn how a law firm operates, what a week in  
the life of a solicitor looks like, what career paths  
exist in law firms for those wanting to work in law  
but not as a solicitor

Open to all 16 - 18-year olds across the UK

**DM us for your application link!**

**Get Employed: Apprenticeship Online Application Course**

Details here: <https://uptree.co/opportunities/uptree/3098094088/>

Date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Who should attend: Y13 students who are interested in applying for apprenticeships in 2021

Get Employed is a first-class course combining webinars and workshops to support students through every stage of the apprenticeship application, from reading the job description and writing the application, through to the assessment centre and how to make the best start in your new role.

Experienced facilitators will give tailored advice and guidance in weekly sessions. Students also have the chance to learn from the experiences of successful Uptree Alumni who are current apprentices with a range of companies such as CGI, Morgan Stanley and Accenture.

If Apprenticeships appeal, then completing the Get Employed course, will allow students to make the most of their applications and feel confident when applying for their dream role.



**Have a wonderful Easter and stay safe,**

**The Sixth Form Team**

**Uptree**