

## Welcome Back!

Firstly, congratulations to all our students on their fabulous GCSE results! We are delighted to welcome our Year 12s to college, very much aware that they have been in covid zones and learning spaces that were not specialist, subject-specific rooms last year. It is great that students are now learning in appropriate spaces and that our social area is now back to normal. Our sofas are back in the common room, we have a new café, new artwork and a new student-designed mural in reception, painted by three Year 13 students hoping to pursue Media / Art related degrees and careers. It is a lovely space to relax, in between the rigours of A Level study! Now that every student has been tested twice in college, lessons can run uninterrupted and we are looking forward to a new, exciting academic year.



We have an active twitter page which we would encourage all parents and students to follow; on that page we are posting Sixth Form news but also critically important notices, study tips, wellbeing advice, enrichment opportunities and news about post-18 pathways such as university or apprenticeships. I would encourage all students to download twitter if they have not already done so and use it as a work app – many subjects use twitter too. It will be informative and invaluable in the months ahead. We are looking forward to working with a wonderful new year group, in a more ‘normal’ context.

*Mrs McMillan*

*Director of Tarporley Sixth Form*



## Sixth Form Induction Day

Previously, our Sixth Form induction programme has taken place at the Conway Centre, but sadly we were unable to head out on a residential this year, instead opting to stay in College, where we had little choice but to substitute our paddle boards for balloons. Despite the changes that we made, this day proved to be hugely successful. It was fantastic to welcome our new cohort into our community and everyone got fully involved.

Activities throughout the day included a range of tasks, encouraging teamwork, communication and decision-making. One task involved students working creatively to build a plasticine zoo and this involved every student sculpting their own creature, which was then placed amongst other models, forming a themed display. (There were some interesting pieces of artwork!) The competitive nature of our students soon gathered apace and our interactive quiz, balloon chair challenge and primary-style races – egg and spoon, sack races etc - again proved successful. Each event was scored in an inter-tutor challenge and the results were announced in assembly this week – 12JS were victorious, with 12BC in second place. Congratulations Year 12, for your contributions to what was a fantastic day and we look forward to more exciting (and evidently competitive!) times ahead.

## Choosing A Level Subjects

Subject lessons started last week and it felt good to get A Level studies up and running. Some students have opted for four subjects currently and they are deciding which subjects will be their final three A Levels. This decision has to be made after talking to Mrs Helsby (Pastoral Manager), Mrs McMillan or Mr Brownley – and must not be taken lightly. Discussions will be made regarding these choices and post-Sixth Form ambitions; GCSE grades will also be considered in this process, as we must ensure students choose their subjects wisely.

### Year 12 Information Evening for Parents:

On **Thursday 16th September, 6-7pm**, there will be an information evening held in the main hall where myself and the Sixth Form team will be going over Sixth Form procedures and expectations. Although we are affiliated to the main school, Sixth Formers do have different rules and this is a good opportunity to discuss the rigours of A Levels, study tips and College protocol. We also wish to discuss the introduction of a formal work experience week for Year 12. **We would like to see as many parents as possible please and look forward to meeting you. (Details emailed separately).**

### Year 12 Work Experience

In order that our students leave with valuable skills to make them attractive to universities and employers, we are introducing a work experience week in **Spring, 2022**. We plan to use the same company that the school has worked with for many years: MPLOY SOLUTIONS LTD, but hope that students will secure their own self-placements, linked to their course or career aspirations. MPLOY representatives will be present on the Information Evening on 16th September and during our launch, to talk through the whole process. We feel this is a very useful and beneficial experience for our students, developing their career awareness, interview skills and communication abilities.

### Enrichment

Mr Gibbons is our 'Sixth form Student Development Lead' and he coordinates the many enrichment opportunities that students can become involved with during their time at Sixth Form. He and Mr Brownley are delivering an assembly next Wednesday, launching some new opportunities, and it is up to students to get involved and be proactive. Enrichment clubs, academic opportunities and experiences include the following:

- Debate Club
- Debating Matters Competition
- Sixth Form Council
- Whole School Council
- Bar Mock Trial
- EPQ
- Philosophy Club
- Local Volunteering
- Sport fixtures
- \* Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- \* TERM Magazine / SHINE National Media Awards
- \* LGBTQ+ Group
- \* Women's Liberation Society
- \* Youth Senate
- \* UK Youth Parliament
- \* Charity Fundraising
- \* Philosophy Club
- \* BBC Young Journalist Scheme



### School Day Structure and Attendance

The structure of the day is as before, and **lesson 1 starts at 8.50 – students must be in college promptly**. Punctuality is imperative and will be monitored closely. **Year 12s are expected to be in at 8.50 each day regardless of frees**, and additional privileges will be afforded after the first term, once good habits have been established. Students are allowed to go home early, however, if they have a free period (NOT A STUDY). Sixth Formers are permitted to leave the site at break, lunchtime and during free lessons, but they must sign out and **lanyards must be worn at all times, on site, for safeguarding purposes**. If students are unwell then parents need to ring and explain that absence, just like lower school. Unexplained time off will mean an unauthorised absence and contact home will be made. Students also need to fill in a form and officially notify us if they ever leave College mid-session. These procedures and more will be explained, along with the issue of a Sixth Form Handbook at next Thursday's Information Evening. We hope to see you then.

### Free online course for Students to prepare for A Level Study and Transition

This free course, with videos, resources and activities, requires 3-10 hours and is excellent A Level preparation:

[https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/transition-to-sixth-form-skills-booster?fbclid=IwAR2DBFFfnMd7S0xki6pA\\_7NPjulqNiuSkIr16nNMiyO5tY7Sy9y9CV7p40s](https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/transition-to-sixth-form-skills-booster?fbclid=IwAR2DBFFfnMd7S0xki6pA_7NPjulqNiuSkIr16nNMiyO5tY7Sy9y9CV7p40s)