

Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome our Year 13s to college, very much aware that they have been in covid zones and barren communal areas last year. It is great that students are now learning in their usual classrooms 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. (thank you to Meg Morrison, Evie Burrows and Lucy McMillan). 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.



UCAS

After our successful 'Post-Sixth Form' days in school in the summer term, we launched the UCAS programme and also enlightened students on other pathways such as apprenticeships and gap years. Students left the sessions with a clear idea about how to fill in their UCAS application form and how to write that all-important personal statement. All students have comprehensive guides, exemplars and paragraph plans in the resources that were issued before summer – these have been issued as hard copies and are also available to students via email and the VLE. **Oxbridge / Vets / Medics / Dentists need to send their UCAS application off before October 15th.** All students need to send off their application by the end of November – by Christmas at the very latest.

All students must have the first draft of their personal statement to tutors by Monday, 13th September. Students not wanting to apply to university must submit a cv / letter of application by this date – using the many resources and templates issued. This was set as a homework task over summer and students are aware of this deadline. an assembly was delivered with further information this week.

Many students have already written first drafts of personal statements. These first go to tutors, then finished drafts go to Mrs Helsby and Mrs McMillan for a final polish. Tutors write references for students and then Mrs McMillan oversees the whole process and finalises predicted grades. Students will sit with Mrs Helsby to check every aspect of the UCAS form has been filled in correctly, then Mrs McMillan will upload the reference and send the application to UCAS. **There is an application fee of £26 that has to be paid to UCAS when the form is sent**, then students sit back and (hopefully) watch the offers come flooding in! There is no doubt that organisation is key and early applications (before admissions teams are inundated) can be met with offers within days ... even hoursit is so exciting when UCAS track updates and an offer is made!

Open Days

Although physical open days have not been running, universities offer virtual open days, webinars, 360 tours and city guides on their websites. **The final set of open days are on between September (now) to November so it is important to look at dates, sign up online and get organised.** Some universities ARE doing live events and campus tours and this website is very useful: <https://www.opendays.com/> It is also really helpful just to visit cities, walk around campuses and accommodation to get a feel for a place – particularly as there is so much additional course and university information readily available online.

Mock Exams and Key Dates:

Mock Exams begin after Christmas on **4th January** and Sixth Form Parents Evening is **3rd February**.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition and SINE NATIONAL MEDIA AWARDS

Good luck to the seven students heading to Wales with Mrs Helsby for their D of E expedition this Sunday. We hope the weather is kind and it is a huge success. May your treks be blister-free! Mrs McMillan is also accompanying Beth Slattery, Millie Appleby-Mason and Meg Morrison to the Shine Awards ceremony in London on Monday 27th September. This is held at the Guildhall by St Paul's Cathedral; it is a ticketed event and a reward for the excellence of our last TERM magazine edition. Well done to all involved.

Vocational Virtual Opportunities

Young Professionals are running a **A Careers in Technology Evening**, taking place on Wednesday 15th September, 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Some of the most well-known and fastest-growing tech companies in the world are involved such as IBM, VMware, World Wide Technology, Vodafone and Experian. No matter the career students decide to go into they will undoubtedly be involved with technology, so this event is a fantastic chance to get ahead of the crowd, start learning about this ever-evolving industry and ultimately help you decide whether it's a path they'd like to pursue. Students will hear talks on the power of 5G and connectivity with Vodafone, cloud storage with IBM and big data with Experian and lots more. Certificates will be awarded to those who attend the event.

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Technology-15th-September>

Learn Live also have some events coming up relating to careers and volunteering: <https://vimeo.com/599562416>

HEE- Social Care with Skills for Care - 14th September @11:00am Health Careers LIVE are live streamed events that broadcast to thousands across the UK wanting to find out more about the different job roles within the NHS. This broadcast will cover myth busting about working in social care and the available career pathways. <https://learnliveuk.com/health-careers-live-social-care/>

What's Next - Volunteering - 14th September @11:00am Throughout September and October The Pledge Partnership will be holding virtual career expos for Year 9 – 13 students in each Pledge area across Cheshire and Warrington. These expos will give the chance for young people to hear from employers across Cheshire and Warrington and discuss the different study/career options available to them. <https://learnliveuk.com/whats-next-volunteering/>

Countess of Chester Physiotherapy Awareness Day Physiotherapy Awareness Day is due to take place on **Friday 22nd October 2021**. Numbers are limited and therefore places will be given on first come first served. The registration form is available from Mrs McMillan and Mrs Helsby for anyone interested.

Illness and Attendance

If students are unwell then parents need to ring and explain that absence, just like lower school. The message cannot be left by students themselves. Unexplained time off will mean an unauthorised absence and contact home will be made. Parents need to fill out a leave of absence form if students are going to be off school for a day or more, with a valid reason. Mrs McMillan will then grant permission – students must follow this formal process and must also sign out whenever they leave site.

Car Parking and New Drivers

Students who have passed their test and have a car, must have a car pass that is displayed in their vehicle at all times. This is obtained from Mrs Henry, the Sixth form Admin Manager. The site is busy and the buses can take a while to unload students. Drivers should be on site by 8.15 to avoid the line of traffic and find a space. Again, this privilege will be reviewed if greater freedom results in lateness, unsafe driving on site or missed lessons.

We have been so impressed by the positivity, cooperation and enthusiasm of Year 13s so far, even in these unprecedented times. We are looking forward to seeing our students mature, develop and flourish, and we all have a very busy year ahead! Good luck with the university hunting / open day searching and decision making! Lots of help is available in College and we pride ourselves on the high quality of our applications, portfolio guidance and interview practice. Getting organised and aiming high are so important in the coming months.