

Dear Parent / Carer,

This Newsletter is to inform you of Sixth Form events and the sad fact that Miss Cheshire left us on Friday. As you know, Miss Cheshire was Deputy Head of Sixth Form and a Sixth Form tutor; although she had only been with Sixth Form for a year, she made a massive impact and had worked at Tarporley High School for seventeen years. We are very sorry to lose such a valued and experienced member of staff. She was specifically headhunted for this new job which is working in elite sport, and she will begin her new role on Monday at St George's Park as Player Education Co-ordinator for the England Women's National Development Squads. We would like to wish her all the best and know that we will keep in touch. Fortunately for her and unluckily for us, jobs like this just do not come up very often! Here is a message from Miss Cheshire herself:

*"Leaving Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College after many years has been a difficult decision to make and I will cherish all of the memories I have of working with students in lower school and of course the Sixth Form. I'd like to thank both students and parents for their support and wish you all the very best of luck for the future".*

VC Tutor group and Sixth Form A Level PE groups will now be taught by Miss Genders. She is an experienced A Level PE teacher and has worked locally (at Bishop Heber High School) and internationally before joining us here at Tarporley.

### UCAS

Onto other news, 52 students have now sent off their application with many more ready to go. All external examinations for Oxbridge, Medicine and Law are complete; quite a few students are also preparing for virtual interviews and gathering digital portfolios for universities. Mrs Helsby, SLT and I are providing practice interviews via TEAMS and supporting students in college with all these additional requirements. Good luck to all!

Many students now have all five university places. There is no rush to make decisions and **students should talk to you and to us BEFORE making these very important choices**. Sometimes offers can change and Application Days can also be offered to applicants to assist in their decision-making. UCAS stagger the final date for choices as there is so much variation according to when students apply and the length of time it takes universities to respond. Bearing in mind, the official final UCAS application deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January, UCAS key dates for decisions are:

If all 5 offers have been received by 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Students need to make their choices on UCAS TRACK by <b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>
If all 5 offers have been received by 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Students need to make their choices on UCAS TRACK by <b>3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>
If all 5 offers have been received by 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Students need to make their choices on UCAS TRACK by <b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>

We would like ALL of our UCAS applications sent off by the end of this month, and **certainly before Christmas**.

### APPRENTICESHIP / CAREERS

Students who do not wish to go to university had a busy week last week, attending a webinar from Ernst and Young about their Apprenticeship scheme and an online Young Professionals conference day – with representation from major companies such as HSBC, VODAFONE, BP, CAPGEMINI and the RAF. In the current climate, students need to be fully informed and apply for everything!

Mrs Helsby also emailed out this link for AIRBUS last week: <https://www.springpod.co.uk/airbus-aerospace-work-experience/> as they are offering virtual work experience. The deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> November so students need to get signed up fast and acquire valuable, vocational experiences.

There is also a Careers section on the Sixth Form area of the website with some useful templates and guidance, as well as a CAREERS section on the whole school website which students should be checking in with regularly. Mrs Rowlands, our Careers Lead, lists many online opportunities and resources to assist students who are wanting full time employment or apprenticeships after leaving Sixth Form: <https://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk/academic/careers>

Wednesday period 5 session next week will be on career next steps and virtual interviews. We have an outreach speaker from Leeds Beckett University offering advice, as well as guidance from Newcastle University and Business Managers who are used to conducting interviews in this way. Students should leave with really useful tips and practical advice.

### **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**

It is also worth students looking at the following FREE online courses managed and made by top universities. They relate to every A Level subject and many are also vocational, preparing students for the working world via an online platform. They really are excellent and can be done over a period of weeks with an allocated number of hours per week – recognised by UCAS and employers. They offer flexibility alongside A Level study and allow students to build valuable skills, no matter what their post-18 pathways are:

**Future Learn Free Online Courses**, set by top universities: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

**MOOC.org**: <https://www.mooc.org/>

**Ivy League Free Online Courses**: <https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

### **ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES UPDATE:**

- **Philosophy Club**: meets every Tuesday – Mr Lowe was last half term's guest speaker.
- **Debate Club / Debating Matters Competition**: meets every Thursday: this week's topic 'Prisons are ineffective.'
- **Women's Liberation Society**: meets every two weeks on a Friday – the group are planning a Fundraising event for 'Period Poverty' charity
- **Bar Mock Trial**: preparation is underway for this insight into Law and a legal case.
- **EPQ**: Meeting this week for Year 12 and individual meetings next week for Year 13.
- **TERM**: Christmas Edition underway. Halloween edition and all former editions available to read online: <https://www.tarpорleyhigh.co.uk/sixth-form/term-magazine/term-magazines>
- **Fundraising for Chester's Foodbank**: thanks to Faye Wood and Olivia Williams for leading on this on the run-up to Christmas.
- **Conservation Club**: first meeting is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

### **MONETARY DONATION TO SIXTH FORM FROM THE GEORGE HEATH FOUNDATION**

George was a well-loved former student at Sixth Form and the Foundation in his name was established in 2016 after George's untimely death, at the age of just 20. George had been a student at Tarpорley High School and Sixth Form, studying Media Studies, Photography, and English. Here are Mrs Heath's words about George and the Foundation:

*"George's days at Tarpорley Sixth Form were the happiest of his life. After Sixth Form, George went on to uni...completing the 1st year of a BA in Journalism...but by the Christmas of the 2nd year, he knew that the course wasn't right for him...and so he came home ready to switch to a course in Graphic Design the following September...those few months were tough. Fortunately, we were able to help him through those difficult days, but we KNOW that there will be others who need help to speed up their recovery and prevent a mental health issue from getting worse. The George Heath Foundation has many objectives including "advancing the education of persons under the age of 25 by development their mental, physical and moral capabilities" and assisting in "the treatment and care of persons suffering from mental or physical illness or injury". These aims sound very formal - but by helping fund Mental Health First Aid Courses for Sixth Form Students we hope to be able to give them the confidence to spot the signs of mental health issues, and allow them to stop a mental health issue from deepening and worsening. We were pleased to donate to Tarpорley and our donation funded the CAMHS Mental Health First Aid training detailed below. We are keen to continue to contribute and back other initiatives to secure young people's support networks, information sources and means of help." Gaynor Heath*

You can read more about The George Heath Foundation via their website: [www.thegeorgeheathfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thegeorgeheathfoundation.org.uk) or our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/TheGeorgeHeathFoundation>

## MHFA COURSE

The course certificates will be awarded to students next week from Mental Health First Aid ENGLAND. Our students applied for one of the coveted places on the course which was delivered virtually over two days by CAMHS training. Our Mental Health Leads shortlisted the 16 successful students who then were tasked with completing independent learning ahead of the training sessions which covered sensitive topics such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, psychosis and suicide. Feedback from students was incredibly positive – further initiatives planned.

## PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT:

The George Heath Foundation also donated a sizeable sum of money and we have use this to purchase photography equipment which will be invaluable for our creative students and TERM journalists: lighting / cameras / shooting tables / selfie rings / tripods / studio backdrops .... and more. We are so grateful and students and staff have written messages of thanks to Gaynor and the team. Exciting projects ahead!

## TARPORLEY'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Well done to our Students Leaders (Emily Milburn, Andy Prigg, Taylor Lloyd and Zoe Phillips) who were filmed laying their wreath at Tarporley's cenotaph for the virtual service last Sunday. Mrs Henry, Faye Wood, Darcy Brighton, Phoebe Nation were all also filmed saying the names of Tarporley's lost servicemen in the world wars – and of course Mr Lowe and some KS3 students had a starring role!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 12 POET!

David started at Sixth Form this year, after studying at Weaverham High School. He has just won a national competition which is a fantastic achievement. David entered the Black Cultural Archives national poetry competition **Windrush Waves Youth Arts Initiative 2020** which celebrates Windrush and its impact. Black Cultural Archives is the only national heritage centre dedicated to collecting, preserving and celebrating the histories of Africa and Caribbean people in Britain. David's poem entitled "Gust of Wind" impressed the judges and he was awarded 3rd place which mean he will now receive professional mentoring and take part in Black Futures Month programme – an incredible achievement. The winning poem – which is brilliant – will feature in the next edition of TERM.



## EXAMS, REPORTING AND ASSESSMENTS

- **ASSESSMENT POINT 1** is the first report that will be sent to parents **this TUESDAY**. This gives grades from teachers based on students' work and academic performance so far. The report will also detail students' effort grades, homework grades and lesson grades.
- **SIXTH FORM MOCK EXAMS FOR YEAR 13** will run between: **4<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January**. Exam Timetables will be out shortly.
- **SIXTH FORM PARENTS' EVENING FOR YEAR 12 & 13** will run virtually on: **4<sup>th</sup> February**
- **YEAR 12 EXAMS** will be in the final summer term of this year: **4<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May**.

We are aware it is a very unsettling time for Year 13s currently, on the back of Scotland and Wales' announcements regarding the summer examinations, and Mrs McMillan delivered an assembly last week to try and allay students' concerns. The English Government, as you know, has made no changes to the A Levels, beyond moving the dates back by three weeks to give students more preparation time. Despite the spin and newspaper headlines, Scottish Highers (A Level equivalent) are still going ahead and Welsh students will still have to complete assessments that have been externally set and externally marked. We will keep you fully informed of any further developments and will support our amazing students as much as we possibly can during this time. The reality is that it is 'business as usual' at the moment and we need to 'keep calm and carry on.' Students need to prepare for their mocks and exams as usual and try to keep positive! Staff are regularly telling us how superb Year 12 are and Year 13 are working incredibly hard, with a resilience and determination that is just incredible, given these circumstances. Sixth Form has remained open since September, running as close to normal as possible and long may that continue.

Kind regards,

Mrs McMillan

Director of Tarporley Sixth Form