

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we near the end of our first half term, I wanted to share with you how much we have collectively achieved, despite these very challenging and unusual circumstances:

- Year 12s have settled in wonderfully and have now decided on their final A level subjects. Having the flexibility to 'sample' subjects in the first month is very useful, so students can be sure they have made the correct academic and adult decisions. Students have embraced every opportunity and made a superb start to Sixth Form life.
- Year 13s are settling in to the final year of their A Levels and are heavily involved in the UCAS process. University is not for everybody, however, the overwhelming majority of our students do choose to follow this route. Normally by this time of year, a handful of university application forms have been sent to UCAS, as the early deadline for Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Vets is October 15th. However, this year we have sent an incredible 25 high quality applications already!

This speaks volumes about both year groups and our entire community; despite the disruption of the last academic year, students are actually ahead of where we normally would be and showing real resilience and tenacity. We are fortunate to work with such an incredible group of young people!

Mrs McMillan

Director of Tarporley Sixth Form



Tutors, subject teachers, Mrs Helsby and Mrs McMillan assist students with their personal statements / references and we pride ourselves on our high quality applications. Despite being so early, students have already received university offers and we broke a college record with one student receiving an offer only an hour and a half after submitting her application form! It was clearly a brilliant application, so well done, Abbie!

It is worth Year 13 students regularly checking **UCAS HUB**. For many students writing the personal statement is the hardest part of the application, so for inspiration and advice, these great resources, to accompany our THS pack of exemplars are very useful:

1. **The personal statement builder** – this will help structure writing and introduce you to universities. Students will find this in their [UCAS Hub](#).
2. **Hub live session** – hosted by a personal statement expert, Jane Marshall, this session covered all the essentials. Students can watch the session back in their [UCAS Hub](#).
3. **ucas.com -find out how** you can demonstrate enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion for a subject, and how they can provide relevant evidence when work experience, placements and volunteering may have been affected by lockdown.
4. The [Hub live sessions](#) are about to start too, dedicated to writing personal statements for specific subject areas:

- **Biological and Physical Sciences (including Sport Sciences) – 16 October**
- **People Studies and Teaching (including Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Politics) – 23-24 October**
- **Maths, Engineering and Computing – 2-3 November**
- **Art, Media and Creative subjects – 13-14 November**

FOR ASPIRING LAWYERS AND MEDICS – VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE: SIGN UP NOW!

- For any prospective Year 12 Medics this free webinar on ‘**Getting into Medicine**’ sounds very useful and the Medic Portal is an invaluable source of information: ow.ly/KSYV50BFbXB
- This is also an incredible free, live virtual work experience **for any Year 12 aspiring Medics, Dentists or Vets** – it will be very popular so I would sign up quickly! It involves committing to ‘work’ every third Saturday in the month over a 6 month period and following 3 patients as they go from diagnosis, to treatment and follow up. **SIGN UP NOW!** https://medicmentor.co.uk/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/?fbclid=IwAR3aholEHxO4hVc5rb8TUBCKIeAgLCrlk_qZ_75FwO5Rrd1E1A3wpw0mAMo
- TLP Aspire, in official partnership with BPP Law School, is led by lawyers and legal educators and this free session provides valuable insight into the Law school application process and what a career in Law really means - <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/product/aspire-2020/>



UK UNIVERSITY SEARCH VIRTUAL FAIR

There is also a special online and interactive University and Apprenticeship Fair for the North West of England on **Wednesday 11th November**. The event will feature universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers, allowing students to explore their regional and local post-18 options. Students will be able to (virtually) visit exhibition stands, chat to representatives, view information and videos, download prospectuses and take part in live webinars. The event is completely free of charge to Year 12 and Year 13 students.

The cancellation of careers fairs and the lack of Open Days over the summer has provided challenges, but this fair is designed to offer vocational advice to help students be informed and make the right decisions. You need to register on this link beforehand: <https://ukunisearch-north.vfairs.com/>



This website is worth checking regularly for Apprenticeship updates: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk



CAREERS ADVICE

For any students not interested in University, or for students who want careers advice, this website is very interesting and useful. It offers live links with employers; videos and live streams; advice on CVs and Interviews to help get you career-ready. In addition, on **26th-28th November** talks will be delivered online on skills / careers, giving valuable insights into a range of sectors. Worth a look here and on link below: <https://learnliveuk.com/careers/>

Learn more about Spotlight Talks

TWITTER

All of these alerts, links and daily messages are shared daily on our Twitter Feed: **Tarporley Sixth Form. @Tarporley6th**. Students really must be following us as there are so much information out there and also student polls on College issues and Clubs. This is a very useful platform for BOTH years, not just Year 13. **They should consider it a work APP and follow us now!**



SIGN UP TO STAND OUT!

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Mr Brownley is Student Development Lead and has started some fantastic extra-curricular clubs this year. There is so much going on for students and we have been really impressed by their participation.



Debate Club

We conduct a fortnightly debate for each year group, in which we tussle with hot, contemporary topics in an aim to develop communication, presentation and evaluation skills. A weekly twitter poll decides the topic for each debate. First. We have also registered interest in the first ever Debating Matters Online Championship – more info to follow.

Enlighten me

A Philosophical society which aims to enlighten the thinking of our students. Using the Socratic method, we analyse a plethora of issues through many mediums including lectures, debate, TED talks and guest speakers.

Feminism / Women's Liberation Society

Organically grown from our Sixth Form students themselves, this fortnightly club is focussed on celebrating all that is female and highlighting the importance of feminism both in the school and our society.



BBC Young Journalist

This competition seeks to find young writers and budding media students who can express their unique stories to the BBC with the hope of rubbing shoulders with journalists, producers and programme makers within the BBC.

Deadline for entries is **October 31st**. More information here and on our twitter page:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/young-reporter/competition/zghcydm>



Bar Mock Trial

This unique opportunity is for students to work on a law case. Students are given access to resources, including specially written criminal cases, to help the team prepare legal arguments. After preparation, your team will take part in a regional heat and go head-to-head with other schools to prosecute and defend the cases. Winning teams will then compete in a National Final. Students have already registered interest.

TERM MAGAZINE

Next edition is our Halloween special, which will be a digital issue. Many students have written issues and Millie, our Editor is co-ordinating these. **Friday October 16th** is also our Halloween dress-up day as a fundraiser for the magazine. (All our previous editions will be available on our website, from Thursday. We have also entered SHINE NATIONAL MEDIA COMPETITION, 2021 so need to build our skills and prepare our competition entry).

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification is a prestigious qualification which enables students to showcase and present on a research topic they have studied in the depth, and which is similar to an undergraduate dissertation. This project is worth half an A level and is highly regarded by Universities and Employers. Tarporley has a rich history of success with EPQ and students have gone on to renowned Universities and highly regarded courses. Year 12 Students have received a session and detailed email with resources on the EPQ. **Firm Commitment Sheets need to be emailed to jbrownley@tarporleyhigh.co.uk by Monday 19th October.**

LIFE SKILLS AND WELLNESS

For both Year 12 and 13, tutor time is getting busier with many exciting activities planned over the coming weeks. We are looking forward to 'virtually' welcoming guest speakers:

- **Cheshire Police** are delivering thought-provoking workshops on 'Fatal Distractions' and 'Too Young To Die' – they will look at the most common causes of fatal road traffic collisions in Cheshire and their consequences. Sessions will be delivered by Road Safety Officers who will explore the circumstances and consequences of irresponsible driving during a class discussion.
- In addition, we have been running Driving Theory sessions during tutor time, helping our Learner Drivers revise and reminding those drivers who have passed, about the Highway Code!
- **Body Positive** are going to give virtual talks on sexual health and relationships.

#HELLO YELLOW

Our Mental Health Leads have also been busy organising mindfulness, breathing and yoga technique activities for students ahead of **#helloyellow** day which was on 9th October. Students were asked to bring £1 and wear yellow to support the Young Minds charity. So far we have raised £130 for this very worthy cause.



CAMHS MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

We are very grateful to The George Heath Foundation for providing funding for 16 of our Sixth Form students to receive training in Mental Health First Aid. The training is being run by CAMHS and is being delivered virtually over two days at the end of October. Interested students applied in writing via email and suitable candidates were chosen by our Mental Health Leads. The course offers a deep understanding of what mental health is and what factors can affect wellbeing; the course teaches practical skills to spot the signs of mental illness and gives students the confidence to step in and support a person who needs assistance – invaluable skills to support our other students, especially in the current climate.

SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN DAY: A VITAL CONTRIBUTION

As we begin our recruitment programme for the next academic year, the Sixth Form Leadership Team have been extremely busy (especially Head Students: **Emma, Andy, Annabel, Jack and our Transition leads: Abi and Emily**) who have been working behind the scenes planning our forthcoming Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening. From updating the website and preparing a virtual presentation, there have been lots of important jobs to complete. All of this work would have been impossible without the overwhelming support of all of our current and former students, many of whom have contributed articles, taken photographs and even posed in photographs for our website. Some of our new external students have also contributed, with articles and video segments about their transition – thanks to **Saskia, Freya, David, Callum, Mabel, Rebecka, Emily**.

Furthermore, a core group of students working directly with Mrs McMillan, delivered a virtual assembly to Year 11 last week – and speaking to a live camera is not easy! Well done to **Jack, Meg, Sam, Mabel and Maisie** who volunteered to do this - very brave and much appreciated! A HUGE thank you also to Year 13 student, **Abbie**, who has been instrumental in recording videos for prospective Year 7 and Year 11 students – this has been time-consuming both in and out of school, – you are a star! We are very proud of all of our student ambassadors and role models. With this in mind, I would like to formally thank everyone that has contributed. What a great team effort it has been! It really highlights the motivation levels of our students and their willingness to go above and beyond. We hope that you have enjoyed working with us on this important project and don't forget to keep a log for your personal statement in the future. Thanks again everyone!

Miss Cheshire