

Dear Parent / Carer,

Last week was an incredibly busy week – with Covid-testing for all year groups, new mask-wearing rules and official College announcements for Year 11 and 13 regarding exams. However, it was amazing to see the Sixth Form buzzing with life again and students (& staff) were clearly very glad to be back in College – although we all missed the small commute! The final test is today – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – and testing kits for home-use will be issued on Friday.

We put up banners and personalised name signs for every Sixth Form student as a surprise for their first day back, last week – unfortunately the blue tac did not like the heat emitted from the two radiators beneath and it has been quite amusing to watch certain students slowly drift and slide sluggishly down the wall! (Some said it was an apt metaphorical representation of their reaction to the early mornings). 😊



We know there is a very busy few months ahead, so here is some useful Sixth Form Information.

Take care,

*Mrs McMillan*

### **Virtual Experiences to make yourself stand out and to enlighten you about Future Pathways**

Please see (the second attached document) - a list of virtual vocational and subject-specific opportunities – occurring this week and until Easter. There is a real range of options – from university events to apprenticeship insights and career webinars. Students need to begin researching post-18 pathways and making the most of every opportunity. The beginning of the UCAS Application process will begin in the summer term this year, so the more information students can get before then, the better.

Mrs Marshall arranged a webinar with the Deputy Editor of Total Film magazine, Matt Maytum on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. He had over fifteen years of industry experience to share with our students, having interviewed the likes of Scarlett Johannsson, Dwayne Johnson...and Tom Cruise. (Pictured right). An amazing experience for them all!



### **TERM MAGAZINE**

On the back of that journalistic insight, Millie Evans (former TERM Editor) Mrs Helsby and myself met with the new set of TERM applicants, to announce the new roles for 2021. We have already entered the SHINE National Media Awards for this year and the Year 12 team are exceptional, having organised numerous meetings and deadlines already. With plans to launch a new podcast, it will be interesting to see where the magazine goes next. We had some incredible applications, had an impossible decision to make, but the new Term Editorial roles are as follows:

- **Editor: Millie Appleby Mason**
- **Deputy Editor: Meg Morrison (Aesthetic overview)**
- **Assistant Editors: David Quinn / Ella Chang / Jemima Dodwell-Cooke (Feature Article coordinators)**

- Assistant Editors: Mabel Lee / Emily Taylor / Lucy Killilea (Website, Promotion and Marketing)
- Social Media Manager: Beth Daley
- Business and Marketing Lead: Maisie Craig
- Design Lead: Beth Slattery
- Art Directors: Lucy McMillan and Evie Burrows
- Photographers: Thalia Cosgrove / Hattie Nicholas
- Sports Editor: Dan Laidlaw
- A whole team of Year 12 Feature Writers

Well done Team TERM! Congratulations also to **Beth Slattery (Design Lead) and Thalia Cosgrove (Photographer)** who have been selected by the SHINE AWARD COMMITTEE to film an interview with a professional photographer - [www.lucyyoungphotos.co.uk](http://www.lucyyoungphotos.co.uk) . Here they will get insights and tips to prepare for our next issue. This video will be uploaded onto Shine's National website and will accompany Millie Evans' interview with a social media manager for news which is there already.

### EPQ

This year, we had a record number of 11 Year 13 students doing an EPQ – especially impressive considering this year group has been significantly affected by the pandemic throughout, and the qualification requires such resilience and independent study. Every student received a reduced university offer on the strength of it. They are completing their presentations and EPQ qualification this week and the summary of their work is below:

- Anna Crayston: Economic effects of Veganism
- Nathan Partington: Effects of Climate Change on Insurance Markets
- Laura Critchley: International Law/The 1951 Convention & 1967 protocol – does it offer effective protection for Refugees?
- Nina Walker: Should the NHS be privatised?
- Abi Pawlett: The MAOA gene and its significance in criminal convictions / sentencing
- Emily Milburn: Effects of dance on teenage physical and mental health
- Phoebe Nation: Effects of social media and spread of extremist propaganda for young women
- Zoe Phillips: Medical Ethical issues presented through the Covid pandemic
- Abi Woosey: Enduring appeal of Dystopian Literature for a teen audience
- Grace Clisby: Impact of introducing safety helmets in snow sports
- Holly Steward: Comparison of French and US military experiences in Vietnam

Currently, we have **17 Year 12** students who have started their EPQ. It involves a huge amount of independent study and students should be reading, researching, logging sources in a Bibliography using the Harvard referencing system, and filling in their Production Log on Project Q. Every student had a one-to-one meeting with their supervisor during Lockdown and the research should be well-ahead, with the targets acted upon. The goal is to be ready to write the 5000 word report over Summer. A meeting with all students will be held shortly, to discuss next steps.

Laura, in Year 13 offers this advice to EPQ students and I wholeheartedly agree with every word:

1. Devote a set amount of time each week to your EPQ and be disciplined in your approach
2. Choose a topic you are passionate about so that work does not become a chore.
3. Enjoyment is key - make research into a new area / new subject inspiring and this will keep you motivated.

We really are delighted to have all students back in College – long may that continue, The Sixth Form Team

