

## Welcome Back!

Firstly, congratulations to all our students on their fabulous GCSE results! I cannot begin to tell you how delighted we are to welcome our Year 12s to college, very much aware that they have not been in school since that fateful day in March. As teachers, we have genuinely missed the energy and vitality that our students bring and the academic challenges tackled by A Level students in our classrooms each day. A school is just a building ... its lifeblood is the students .... and Sixth Form is just not the same without them.

As you know, College currently looks very different: sofas have been removed from the common room, year group bubbles and one way systems are in place, Sixth Form have restricted, bespoke rooming, sanitiser stations are in every room and masks are being worn in communal areas, but we are quickly adapting to our 'new normal' and our students have been fantastic. Sixth Form is now a base not a social space!



There is no doubt that we face challenges in the month ahead, but we have certainly learned to be both resilient and hopeful over the last few months. For now, we are looking ahead to getting our Year 12 students settled in and engrossed in their academic study; we also wish to encourage enrichment activities, even in a virtual context, and want our Year 12s to push themselves and be the best version of themselves. Mr Brownley has a new role as 'Student Development Lead' and his PPT (attached with this newsletter) details some of the super-curricular activities that Year 12s can still get involved with this year.



We also have a new 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. It will be informative and invaluable in the months ahead. We are looking forward to working with a wonderful new year group!

*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, our Sixth Form Induction Day proved to be hugely successful. It was fantastic to have a 'buzz' back in the atmosphere and of course welcome our new cohort into our community.

Activities throughout the day included a range of tasks sharing study skills, 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 creatures, forming a themed display. Even the staff had a go too. Of course, Mrs Gildea went to town and made her very own Gruffalo, putting many of the other staff efforts to shame!



The competitive nature of our students soon gathered apace and our interactive quiz again proved successful. Alarming, higher scores were achieved in the 'name the beer brand' round, than scores achieved in the 'name the capital city' round. One can only assume our Geography Students are still on sabbatical!

Our final activity of the day was a team challenge. Students worked collaboratively to design and build a balloon chair, using only balloons, string and cellotape. In these unprecedented times, we found ourselves getting to grips with using balloon pumps to blow up our balloons, but this added to the madness of the challenge and the day culminated with a representative from each tutor group testing out their chair. Mr Voyce bravely volunteered to sit in 12BV's chair and managed to avoid the balloons popping and buckling underneath him.



All in all, it was a day to remember. Every task was scored and tallied – with the winning tutor group to be announced this week. Well done to them in advance! A Programme of activities was adapted to ensure everyone had a fun, but most importantly safe day and one I'm sure we will all look back on with fond memories in years to come. We worked as teams, had to think creatively and communicate effectively to achieve success. Congratulations Year 12, for your contributions to what really was a fantastic day and we look forward to our fun and exciting times ahead.

*Miss Cheshire*

Deputy Director of Tarporley Sixth Form

### Choosing A Level Subjects

Subject lessons started on 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 Miss Cheshire – and must not be taken lightly. Discussions will be made regarding these choices and post-Sixth Form ambitions as we must ensure students choose their subjects wisely.

### New School Day

The structure of the day has been slightly amended and **lesson 1 now starts at 8.50 – students must be in college promptly.** Punctuality is imperative and will be monitored closely. Year 12s are expected to stay in school all day until our new finish time of 3pm and greater freedoms will be earned once good study habits have been established. 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.**

### Illness and Attendance

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. We have been so impressed by the positivity, cooperation and enthusiasm of Year 12s so far, even in these unprecedented times. We are looking forward to seeing our students mature, develop and flourish, and we have great plans for the two years ahead. A Levels are a huge step up from GCSE and we know our students are ready. Thank you for your continued support.