

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we prepare to say goodbye to Year 13, A Levels move ever-closer for Year 12. The next few weeks are important as exams beckon and we will also begin planning for next steps, beyond Sixth Form. We will launch the UCAS process in June for those intending to go to university, and are busy planning numerous exciting sessions on apprenticeships, careers, gap years, so that all students can make well-informed choices.

There is certainly a lot going on, with covid still affecting college and pressure is beginning to ramp up for Year 12. This has been a challenging time for us all and we are offering lots of support and guidance in College for students to set clear targets and approach the next few weeks as positively and productively as possible. Students must work hard over Easter but also set aside some time to rest and have a break alongside their studies.

Kind regards at this busy time,

Mrs McMillan

AP2

You will have received your child's AP2 grades this week. These give an indication of students' effort in lessons, effort with homework, their 'working-at' grade for each subject and whether they are 'on track' to hit their A Level target grades. The target grades are generated based on GCSE results, and are a good guide but estimations only — if the grades are already being exceeded for example, then teachers (and students) will most certainly form new expectations. Most Year 12s are working very hard - however, if students have received 'Concerns' or 'Serious Concerns' then they need to liaise with teachers about how to rectify this, certainly before exams in May. The Sixth Form team will also meet with students to discuss progress, revision planning, next steps – and of course self-management and wellbeing.

Year 12 Exam Dates:

- **Exam week – Tuesday May 3rd until Friday 10th May**
- **Art and Photography will be outside of this week – dates tbc**

Exam Revision

Mrs Rutter delivered an assembly about exams and revision strategies last week and her brilliant PPT has been emailed to students. As TAGs replaced formal GCSE exams last year, preparation for these exams and knowing what revision techniques work are essential skills. The Year 12 exams are important preparation for Year 13 mocks in January and the real thing in summer, 2023. This has been a really difficult year and this year group have been affected greatly, however VERY low results this summer – UUU, EUU – will inevitably result in discussions about how, and if, progression into Year 13 will be in students' best interest. They should be working hard over the forthcoming weeks, and over Easter, in order to do their very best and consolidate the year's work. Your support would be much appreciated here. Revision templates and resources (including Miss Rutter's assembly) are available here:

<https://tarporleyhigh.sharepoint.com/sites/THS->

[Home/Sixth%20Form%20Students/Year%2012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?newTargetListUrl=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2Fviewpath=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx&id=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2FStudy%20Timetables%20and%20APPS1&viewid=7ee55140%2D0a41%2D4f4a%2Dada7%2D36477f20da14](https://tarporleyhigh.sharepoint.com/sites/THS-Home/Sixth%20Form%20Students/Year%2012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?newTargetListUrl=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2Fviewpath=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx&id=%2Fsites%2FTHS%2DHome%2FSixth%20Form%20Students%2FYear%2012%2FStudy%20Timetables%20and%20APPS1&viewid=7ee55140%2D0a41%2D4f4a%2Dada7%2D36477f20da14)

There are some useful video links on the attached, and these short, free courses may also be useful:

- **University of Groningen – Free Course – Improving Study Techniques**
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/improving-study-techniques>
- **Tutor2U – Free Course – Revision / Organisation / Study Skills / Motivation**
- https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/effective-revision-skills-booster?fbclid=IwAR1qPFoW2awfIySU3oP_y4qARdGfPJRF5dy2GdC1wMYssDtK28AW-Khs7M

Work Experience Congratulations

Well done to all students for their excellent attendance and efforts during Work Experience earlier this month. We were blown away by employers' feedback and rang every employer that we could get hold of for reviews of performance during the week. MPLOY said there were other Sixth Forms who failed to place students at all, so we are really proud that this valuable week could go ahead successfully – thank you for your help and support. These comments typify the feedback we received: **“It has been a pleasure having them - an asset to the college.” “We never normally welcome WEX students as they end up being too much hard work and staff just don't have the time. However, they have represented THS so well that we may well repeat the experience again with more of your students.” “This student is one to watch!”** Our students really did us – and you - proud!

TERM Magazine

The TERM Team are busy working on their SHINE Awards Edition, and accompanying podcast. The final edition will be uploaded to the College website before our print run and I will send out a link as soon as this is ready. The closing date for the SHINE Award Edition is **6th May** and the Awards Ceremony in London is the **27th June**. Well done and good luck Team Term – I know Sam, Megan and the team are highly organised!

EPQ

Students should all have begun reading and researching widely around their chosen topic and meetings with Supervisors are underway. Whilst work on this should halt with exams coming up, students' Production log on Project Q should be up to date and the plan is that students are ready to begin writing their 5000 word report over summer. David, one of this year's EPQ students offers this advice which is entirely true:

- 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.**

BSL & UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Well done to all students who attended the BSL course. Huge congratulations to Felicity Stockton and Jamie Phillips who are the new UK Youth Parliament representatives for Cheshire West – MP and Deputy. A HUGE achievement!

Head Student Applications

Formal applications for Head Students will take place – we have two Head Students and two Deputy Head Students, as well as many other senior roles, such as Sports Representative, Diversity Lead, Social Secretary, Mental Health Lead and more. In addition, new positions are formed every year around students' own passions and priorities – our whole school Smart Council will be launched next year and we need Sixth Formers to run the communications team for example. We would encourage your child to think about applying for these leadership roles which are both prestigious and genuinely valuable to the Sixth Form Team. We want confident, charismatic innovators to work with and learn from. In a post-covid environment (hopefully), next year's student leaders can really make their mark.

Post-Sixth Form Sessions – Summer Term

In the summer term, we will launch our Post Sixth Form sessions, where students plan next steps and life beyond A Levels – whether their choices involve apprenticeships, employment or our most popular destination: university.

- **26th April – PSHE Day 5 - Trip to Edge Hill University**
- **20th and 22nd June – Post Sixth Form Days in College (exploring pathways and destinations)**
- **21st June – Trip to Birmingham UCAS Exhibition – University and Apprenticeship Providers**
- **14th and 15th July – Star Evening and Star Day (Meetings with tutors in College)**

We will start filling in the UCAS application form and hear from some external speakers and former students to get inspired. Students will learn about many Post-18 options and begin practically planning for their futures. Before this, they should have a think about which courses they are interested in applying for and which Universities or pathways might suit them. The following sites are great for these first investigations:

<https://www.ucas.com/>
<https://www.whatuni.com/>
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer>

UCAS

 Complete
University
Guide

 The UniGuide



University Open Days

Universities are offering summer virtual Open Days from May to July. Then the next series of Open Days run from September to November. It is very early now I know, and students have so much on, but anyone intending to apply to Oxbridge or for Medicine / Veterinary Science / Dentistry really needs to get involved before Autumn, due to the early application deadline of **October 15th** and due to the external examinations required as part of the application.

This site is really useful to see what is happening and when – you do need to register for Open Days in advance: <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/> Please don't panic about this – there is plenty time! Many students will not know what they want to do yet and this is normal. The June Post-Sixth Sessions will be really informative and useful.