



4th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Sixth Form Start of Academic Year September 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our Sixth Form students and thank families for their continued support. For our new Year 12 students this is the start of a new chapter in their personal journey, a time of challenge and new beginnings. Our Year 13 students face the final stage of their journey with us and will begin to prepare for their futures without us.

Key Stage 5 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 11th October is our parent's evening for Year 12 and 13. This will be a face – to – face evening with a normal online booking process. Meetings take place between 4.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. This is an important chance to discuss with staff the start Year 12 have made and the progress of Year 13 have made. I will also be on hand to discuss any non - academic issues.

Attendance

Our overall attendance to the Sixth Form was good last academic year standing at 91% and Year 12 stands at 97% which is above the national average with several students on 100% attendance. Good attendance is fundamental to educational success. Form tutors will monitor attendance in the first instance, and I would remind parents and students that this includes lateness to school and lessons.

Leaving site, lanyards and mobile phones

We are now able to give our Sixth Form lanyards and ID cards. We are delighted to be able to give our Sixth Formers this new recognition, freedom and responsibility. They will all be excited to get them I know; however, it is important that this privilege is treated with respect and that the regulations covering them are followed carefully. Rules regarding leaving site and returning in good time remain must be followed or this privilege will be taken away. The use of mobile phones to support learning is encouraged however the use of mobile phones in the presence of younger students is not allowed.

Dress Code

Smart business dress is always expected. For example, trainers are not allowed. Common sense should prevail regarding the dress code, however, the Head of Sixth Form and the Headteacher reserve the right to insist on any specific dress code issues. Any attire or haircuts that are not judged appropriate will need to be corrected.

Accommodation

We are all proud of the working environment that has been created within the Sixth Form and it is expected that all respect and contribute to the further development of this fantastic learning environment.

Liturgy and Catholic Social Teaching

Sixth Form liturgies are student written and delivered and take place in St Patrick's Chapel. They are a central part of the life of our whole school community which includes the Sixth Form. Catholic Social Teaching is reflected in our enrichment activities in particular Hope, Respect and Solidarity.

UCAS

Mrs Carter is pleased that Year 13 are ahead of where we were last year with personal statements and completing UCAS applications and apprenticeship applications. This is vital to enable references to be written and to be the first cohort of applications to university courses. References will be written by Form Tutors and where necessary myself and Mrs Carter.

Enrichment

While Year 13 focus on UCAS, Year 12 will be encouraged to make the most of our new enrichment programme. The enrichment activities were very well received by Year 12 last academic year. The programme aims are to give Year 12 as many development opportunities as possible outside of their normal lessons and was identified as an area of strength by Ofsted, making the Sixth Form at SSPP a unique experience.

Bursary

Applications for the Sixth Form bursary should be made without delay, and I encourage parents to contact me if they have any questions. The letter to parents for this is on the website, however, essentially if your child is or has been entitled to Free School Meals then they may well be eligible for the bursary.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support and draw your attention to the Sixth Form Handbook which is now available on our website. This document is the same for staff, students and families and contains information on many of the things I have mentioned. That said please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Penney (Head of Sixth Form)

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