



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: RGN/TA

January 2024

Year 12 and 13 – Spring Term

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after what I hope was a very enjoyable and restful Christmas holiday. This is a very important term, particularly for Year 13, with the final push towards A-Level examinations already upon us.

Last term was incredibly busy and I would like to thank everybody for their hard work and support. It was wonderful to see our Sixth Form students taking centre stage in the wider life of the school.

The Christmas Market was once again a real success, with hot chocolate and gingerbread sales, along with a chocolate raffle. Over the four days we raised well over £400 for our Sixth Form charities. The Sixth Form Carol Concert was also well supported with several students performing poetry and a range of musical numbers. These events are at the heart of our community; it was wonderful to see so many students taking part with enthusiasm.

Last term also saw Year 13 students begin to submit their UCAS applications. In line with UCAS, we have moved our internal deadline for students wishing to apply to university. Our deadline now matches the deadline set by UCAS – Wednesday 31 January at 6.00pm. Students wishing to apply should make contact with their supervisor well before this date to ensure their application is submitted on time and thoroughly checked. The majority of students have already submitted their applications and I thank those students for their organisation and forward planning. I would also like to thank the tutor team for their hard work in ensuring that each student has a highly personalised and positive reference; it is clear that every student is known and valued by their tutor.

Of course, not all students choose to go to university. For those students still unsure of their future pathways careers interviews are available. Students should see me or Mrs Roberts directly if they wish to arrange an appointment. These appointments are particularly useful for students considering applying for jobs, apprenticeships, or gap years.

The Autumn Data Point is now available for you to view on Bromcom. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents and guardians to celebrate progress and set targets for improvement. My team and I have reviewed this data carefully; we will be offering mentoring and additional support for students who need help in achieving their targets. We will also be celebrating the success of students who have made exceptional progress towards their targets and those who demonstrate excellent learning attitudes. If you are concerned about the progress of your child please feel free to contact me

Our PSHE curriculum this term will once again help students to prepare for life after school. Both year groups started the year by reviewing their academic data and setting targets to ensure progress. So far this term, Year 12 have been focusing on mental health in PSHE and registration. Over the remainder of the term, lessons will include an interactive session from “Bold Voices” covering issues around misogyny, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse. Students will be fully briefed on the content of this session prior to their delivery. Year 13 have been reviewing revision techniques and will also cover content regarding relationships, pornography and workplace bullying. A full outline of the PSHE programme can be found on the school website.

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Attendance in Sixth Form has generally been good. However punctuality is something that we can certainly improve upon. All students should be in their form rooms at 9.00am. It is vitally important that students attend registration so that Form Tutors can pass on messages and deliver tutorials with regards to revision, EPQ studies and current affairs. Of course, lateness is something that would simply not be tolerated at University or in the world of work. I believe it is imperative that we prepare students thoroughly for the future and punctuality is an essential aspect of this. I appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils arrive to school on time. In addition, in order for absences to be authorised we need confirmation and on occasion medical evidence from a parent or guardian.

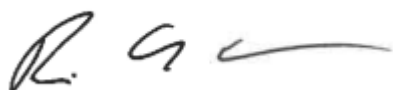
A number of students have now passed their driving tests and are driving to school. Of course, learning to drive and passing your driving test are wonderful rights of passage experienced by young adults. Should students wish to park at school they must see me for a parking permit. This allows students to park in the rear carpark. Students are not permitted to park in the carpark at the front of the school due to the limited space available. I appreciate that some students will park off site. I would encourage students to park appropriately and be mindful and considerate towards all members of our community.

A large number of students are employed part time outside of school. The transferable skills gained in employment are of course invaluable. However, I would like to remind students and parents that the school recommends that students should not be employed for more than eight hours a week. Employment that exceeds this recommendation can start to have a serious impact on students' progress and ultimately their results. A Level study should in itself be a part time job; we recommend that every hour in lessons is matched by an hour of personal study.

Should you have any concerns or questions at any point during the year, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If your query is subject specific, you may wish to contact the relevant Head of Department directly in order to try to resolve any issues as early as possible. As Head of Year, I will endeavour to respond to phone calls and emails as quickly as possible. However, I do also have teaching commitments in addition to my role as Head of Year and this may not always be possible. I will aim however, to return your call as soon as possible and, if needed, arrange a mutually convenient appointment here at school.

I look forward to continuing working in partnership with you throughout this term.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Noon
Head of Year 12 and 13