

February 2016



Sixth Form Newsletter

Message from the Associate Principal, Miss J Long

It has been a busy half term with our Year 12 and 13s sitting their mock exams. We would like to congratulate all of them for their hard work and effort. The key now is to use the mock exams as a way to move forward and to consolidate their learning. Half term provides a great opportunity to get some extra study in. Our top ten tips for studying are:

1. Study in a quiet place away from the TV and computers etc. that is both light and comfort
2. Make a '**revision timetable**' and always let your family know when you are revising.
3. Create **summary notes** and anything simple that helps your **memory** as short notes, drawings and sayings are much easier to remember.
4. **Get help.** Ask friends and family to **test you**. Also attend any teacher **revision classes** as teachers will know better than anyone what will be in tests and exams!
5. **Record yourself** reading notes **and occasionally listen** to them instead of reading.
6. Take a **5 or 10 minute break** every hour and do some stretching exercises, go for a short walk or make yourself a drink.
7. Allow yourself some fun-time each day to **relax**...and make sure you get a good **8 hours of sleep** each night.
8. **Eat well.** Good brain foods? Wholegrain foods (cereals, wheat bran, wheatgerm and whole wheat pasta). Blueberries. Blackcurrants. Broccoli. Tomatoes. Oily fish. Nuts.
9. **Don't panic** if you feel a bit nervy. A certain amount of **nervousness actually helps you perform** to the best of your ability, producing a rush of adrenaline that helps you to feel alert and focused
10. **Think positive** - a positive attitude will help you in the exams so remember 'you can do it!'

Remember that if you start your revision early then you find the whole process a lot easier. Combine your revision with teacher advice on what you need to do.

Our recent parents' evening was very well attended and we encourage all students to act on the individual feedback given to them. For those students in Year 13 applying through UCAS for University places, remember do not panic, you have plenty of time to accept or reject places. We recommend that you spend your time visiting your choices and make an informed choice. If you are unsure, then feel free to pop in and see any of the Sixth Form team for help and advice.

We wish everyone a good half term but remember to balance your revision with rest.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 15th March 2016

09:30—15:20

National Apprenticeship Show

MK Arena Milton Keynes

This event provides students with an opportunity to collect information about various apprenticeship programs and training schemes and talk to representatives from companies at the show.

Thursday, 14 April 2016

18:00—19:00

Higher Education Evening

For parents of Year 12 Pupils. We will provide information on the UCAS support we provide to students from the end of Year 12 all the way through to A Level Results Day.

There will also be information available on applying for Student Finance in 2017, the Extra, Adjustment and Clearing systems as well as external speakers from local universities.

Monday, 4th July 2016

Year 13 Leavers Prom

Abbey Golf Club

The cost for each person for the event is £18.00 per student.

Deposits of £10 are being collected and full payment is due by 24 March.

Friday, 13th May 2016

Year 12 study leave begins

Friday, 27th May 2016

Year 13 study leave begins

Monday, 13 June 2016

Year 12 return from study leave

Monday, 4th July 2016

Year 12 Work Experience Week

UCAS

Key Dates

We strongly recommend that students do not reply to any university offers until they have received their Mock Examination results and have had their "Final Choices" Interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

04 May 2016

If you receive all of your offers by 31 March 2016, you must reply by 04 May 2016 or they will be declined automatically.

08 June 2016

If you receive all of your offers by 5 May 16, you must reply by 8 Jun 16 or they will be declined automatically.

23 June 2016

If you receive all of your offers by 8 Jun 16, you must reply by 23 Jun 16 or they will be declined automatically.

14 July 2016

If you receive all of your offers by 14 July 16, you must reply by 22 July 16 or they will be declined automatically.

Please go to: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/key-dates/2016> or <https://www.youtube.com/user/UCASonline> for further information.

Progress Interviews

All Year 13 students have received a progress interview with Mr Hulme based on their mock results. They have been advised on what AS units to resit and what percentage score they need to maintain in Year 13 in order to achieve their desired grade. We have also "traffic-lighted" the offers your son/daughter has received from their chosen universities against their predicted grades from the mock examinations. This is so they are aware of which universities they are currently meeting entry for and to help them decide which offers they could successfully respond to right now.

However, please tell your son/daughter not to rush to reply! The earliest deadline for responses is 4 May 16, so please keep on visiting universities to make sure your son / daughter makes the right choice.

Should your son/daughter change their desired grade in a subject e.g. in order to meet a different university entry requirement, they should arrange another meeting with Mr Hulme in order to recalculate their numbers.

All Year 12 students will have their first progress interview with Mr Wright following the results from the first Half Terms' assessments.

Attendance and Punctuality

Just a quick reminder that the Academy expectation for all student attendance, including Sixth Formers, is a minimum of 95%. It is vital that students are in lessons in order to learn, therefore, every effort should be made to minimise absences during the Academy day.

A letter will be sent home after the holiday showing your son/daughters attendance for Half Term 3. Students with any unexplained absence, or with an excessive number of "lates" will be called to an attendance meeting with their Head of Year and parents. For Year 13 students, unexplained absence and poor punctuality may lead to a loss of Home Study periods for Half Term 2.

Reminders about the Sixth Form Dress Code

Male students are required to wear a formal business wear style suit that is block coloured, consisting of a matching jacket, trousers and leather shoes. White shirts are the preferred colour but other colours may be worn as long as the shirt is formal. Male students may also wear a single block coloured V-neck jumper or cardigan **underneath but not instead of** their jacket.

Female students are expected to wear a block coloured suit consisting of either a matching jacket and trousers or a matching jacket and dress with formal, sensible shoes. We acknowledge that, sometimes, it is not possible to find a jacket to match a formal dress, therefore a jacket that closely matches the dress should be worn instead.

Skirts or trouser suits may be worn but these should be accompanied by a smart blouse or top. Single, block coloured blouses and tops are preferred but these should be formal i.e. no casual vest tops, distinctly patterned, fashion blouses or summer dresses. Female students may also wear a single block coloured V-neck jumper or cardigan **underneath but not instead of** their jacket.

BASE 2016 National Business and Accounting Competition

On 11th February 2016 two teams from Tudor Grange Redditch competed against another 14 teams from other local state and independent schools to win the Coventry Heat in the prestigious BASE competition. More than 500 teams will be competing nationally attracting more than 3,000 students. BASE links schools, students and employers to develop employability skills and provide an insight into what a career in accountancy, business and finance might be like. Assuming the role of ICAEW Chartered Accountants, the students had 3 hours to analyse a business situation, before presenting their ideas to a panel of top business professionals. The students completed the competition under their own direction but each team was also supported by a member of ICAEW who acted as their mentor.



The Year 12 team was made up of Callum Wright, Jay-Leanne Ellis, Lucy Reynolds, Rebecca Douglas, Amy Joseph and Daniel Hyde and performed very well in their first national business competition and will be able to take this experience forward into the CIPFA competition later in the year.



The Year 13 team included Oliver Bushell, Molly Noke, Ella Maddocks, Hope Foster, Daniel Mills and Jordan Walsh. The team got through the first round and were required to present, along with 3 other teams to the final panel of business judges. The team performed exceptionally well clearly standing out from the other teams with a professional and well spoken presentation. The team were finally announced as winners of the heat and will now compete against the 48 other heat winners from around the UK for the title of BASE National Champions 2016. This will be followed by a celebration dinner and evening entertainment as well as accommodation at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel on 30th June 2016.

Head of Business, Economics and Computing Mrs James "I am unbelievably proud of my students for representing the department and school in such a positive and wonderful manner. They did ever so well and I cannot wait to see them in the National Final and hopefully they can go on and win it!"

Oliver Bushell "We are all thrilled to have won the Coventry heat, and cannot wait to take part in the UK finals in June!"

Sixth Form Talent Competition Fund Raising Event


Thank you so much to all staff who supported our event last night, it was an amazing success. Lucy Traves and Sophie Price (Year 13) organised the event as part of their BTEC MUSIC National Diploma, also many of the performances were presented by BTEC Performing Arts students as part of their Singing Unit.

We must say a big thank you to our judges, Mrs Rees, Mrs Rivett, Mrs S Jones and Mr Yeomans who had a very difficult decision on the night. The standard of performance was truly outstanding. The audience vote was presented to Lauren Wright (Year 10), the judges awards were as follows, joint 3rd place - Stephanie Day (Year 13) & Lauren Wright (Year 10), 2nd Place - Sophie Edkins (Year 13) and 1st place to Rosie Kane (Year 11).

Congratulations to all performers!

We had a really good turnout and after paying a £3 entry fee, many of the supporters bought raffle tickets and purchased lots of cakes. Thank you so much to the SAS group for baking the cakes & biscuits and to Sophies Nan for her delicious cakes. After covering costs of sound/lighting/refreshments, Lucy & Sophie are extremely proud to announce that they managed to raise £200 to be sent to the British Heart Foundation!

Photos & Video of the wonderful performances will be available very soon. DVD Copies and photo discs of the event are available to purchase, please see me for details. Many Congratulations to our talented TGA Students.

Tracy Wright 

PSHE Year 13 Half Term 3

Date	PSHE Session
Friday 26/02/2016	<u>ALL STUDENTS TOGETHER:</u> Follow-up presentation by Kate Wilson (Sexual Health nurse)
Tuesday 01/03/2016	<u>ALL STUDENTS TOGETHER:</u> Road Safety Talk – Speaker to be confirmed.
Friday 11/03/2016	<u>UCAS Students – IN GROUPS:</u> Accommodation and Student Finance support workshop. <u>Non-UCAS Students:</u> Training and employment – FINAL SESSION
Tuesday 15/03/2016	<u>ALL STUDENTS IN GROUPS:</u> Life Skills Carousel activity 1. Cooking on a budget 2. Surviving on a budget 3. Car maintenance 4. Basic life saving techniques

PSHE Year 12 Half Term 3

The year 12 enrichment programme will consist of a rolling programme which students will sign up to at the start of each term (with the exception of D of E, EPQ and Young Enterprise Scheme which will run for the full

Programme	Proposed staff	Duration	Selection process	No. Places	Cost	Comments
Duke of Edinburgh	Miss Cerrone	Full Year	By application	10		Only available to D of E students.
First Aid Skills	Mr Hulme	1 Half Term	Rotation	20	None	Levels 1, 2 and 3 *see web address below
Young Enterprise Scheme	Mr Wright	Full Year	By application and interview	15	None	'Clean Cut' act as mentors. Max of 15 students.
Reading Support programme	Miss Hyde	1 Half Term	Rotation	20	None	Under the supervision of Lower School and initial training via JHE.
Mentoring Programme	Mr Hemming Mrs S Jones	1 Half Term	Rotation	20	None	Under the supervision of Lower School and initial training via SHG. Four students mentor 1 yr9/10 student over 4 half terms. Picking a focus of Reading/Maths/In class support/mentoring/careers/studyskills.
Life Skills (Finance)	Miss Kingston Natasha Moore	1 Half Term	Rotation	20	None	Future choices – •Budgeting •The True Cost •Credit Rating •Cost of borrowing

The Sixth Form Team

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Any Questions?

If you have any queries about the items in this newsletter please contact Mr M. Hulme, Head of Year 13.

We hope that your son/daughter has an enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.