



# Sixth Form Newsletter

## Welcome Back!

### Damon Gariff, College Leader for Vela and Sixth Form



It is our pleasure to welcome all new and existing Sixth Form students back to Tudor Grange Academy Redditch. Whilst it is very pleasing to see so many faces from last year, it is also extremely positive to welcome a number of new students, from both local schools and overseas, into our community. The Sixth Form is growing again, with 20 additional students in Year 12 compared to September 2015.

The Sixth Form prides itself on developing academic prowess, along with building the character, resilience and independence of each and every student and this year will be no different. We are pleased with the academic achievements of last year but we must continue to strive to surpass these with each successive cohort. The Sixth Form offers students the chance to mature as an individual, a crucial change to make sure students are prepared for their next journey, wherever that may be.

The core purpose of our dedicated team of Sixth Form staff is to ensure that a students desired destinations are reached and that students flourish whilst achieving their maximum potential.

The Year 12 students will need to settle quickly into their new routines and develop the skills required for their advanced level studies. The pace and content will be a challenge but one I'm sure they will relish. The Year 13's will need to continue as they finished Year 12, balancing their time and making choices linked to university, employment and apprenticeships. Attendance is vital throughout the Sixth Form and the expectation is in line with the lower school as students should aim for 100% attendance.

I have been delighted with the start the students have made and look forward to another successful year.

## Student Stories - Daniel Stanley (Year 12)

During the summer Daniel Stanley, one of our new Year 12 students, completed a rather daunting physical challenge. Between the 19th and 28th August Daniel, studying A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths, walked the entire 84-mile length of Hadrian's Wall between Wallsend on the east coast of England to Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast.



Daniel completed the walk with a group of fellow Redditch District Explorer Scouts based in Astwood Bank and Greenlands. Having been a member of the Scout Association for the last 11 years, Daniel now volunteers as a young leader every Friday with the 11th (Willow) Beavers in Headless Cross.



EXPLORERS

# UCAS

## Key Dates

### Year 13 - Apply 2017

#### 15 October 2016

Deadline for Oxbridge & Medical UCAS Applications to be completed and submitted.

#### 25 November 2016

Sixth Form internal deadline for main UCAS Applications to allow checking of Applications and "Final Five" Interviews with the aim of submitting before the Christmas holiday.

#### 15 December 2016

Break up for Christmas holiday. Any outstanding Applications after this date are not guaranteed to be ready for the final UCAS Application Deadline.

#### 15 January 2017

Final UCAS Application deadline.

It should be noted that most universities interview for professional courses e.g. teachers, nurses / midwives, engineers etc. before Christmas. They may fill their courses before the Christmas holiday, so an application made in January 2017 may be rejected due to a lack of places on the course.

Therefore, students thinking of applying for these courses should do so sooner rather than later. Please encourage your son / daughter to produce a first draft of a Personal Statement and hand it in to their Personal Tutor for marking and feedback.

## Replies

We 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 2017

If you receive all of your offers by 31 March 2017, you must reply by 04 May 2017 or they will be declined automatically.

#### 08 June 2017

If you receive all of your offers by 5 May 17, you must reply by 8 Jun 17 or they will be declined automatically.

#### 22 June 2017

If you receive all of your offers by 8 Jun 17, you must reply by 22 Jun 17 or they will be declined automatically.

**Any Applications submitted after 15 January 2017 will be classed as Late Applications and will be processed through the Extra System. Any Applications received after 30 Jun 2017 will be processed through the Clearing System.**

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 will soon be having a progress interview with Mr Hulme based on their AS results. During this interview they will be advised, where appropriate, on what AS units to resit and what percentage score they need to maintain in Year 13 in order to achieve their desired grade. This information will be posted home to you during the Half Term holiday.

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 resits are subject to your son/daughter maintaining the required percentage score in their mock examinations. If they do not hold this minimum score, a resit will have no impact on their final result and will probably be cancelled. In this case, you will be contacted by Mr Hulme to explain the situation.

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

## Reminders about the Sixth Form Dress Code



Male students are should wear a black, blue or grey suit i.e. matching jacket and trousers, and leather shoes. Suits should be of a formal “business wear” style. White shirts with ties are the preferred colour of choice but other colours may be worn as long as the shirt is “formal” i.e. no distinctly patterned, casual or fashion shirts are to be worn. In addition male students may wear a single block coloured V-neck jumper or cardigan underneath their jacket during winter.

Female students should wear a black, blue or grey suit, i.e. a knee length skirt, trousers or dress with a matching jacket. When skirt or trouser suits are worn, female students should also wear a smart blouse. Single, block coloured blouses are preferred and it must be seen as “formal” i.e. no distinctly patterned, casual (e.g. vest tops and summer dresses) or fashion blouses / tops are not to be worn. Female students must wear sensible shoes. In addition, students may wear a single block coloured V-neck jumper or cardigan underneath their jacket during winter.

Students studying PE, BTEC sport and dance must attend school following the dress code and then change into their kit for practical subjects only. Please note that students in Years 12 and 13 studying PE, BTEC sport and dance will need to wear appropriate sports clothing. This does not have to be Tudor Grange branded items, however all items must be fit for purpose i.e. no “fashion” trainers.

The following items of clothing are not allowed: hoodies, canvas shoes, high heels, flip-flops, short skirts, shorts, thin strapped tops and sun dresses, leggings, jeggings, jean style trousers and trainers.

Please note:

Female students who have pierced ears are allowed to have one pair of plain small studs. Male students are not allowed any form of ear or facial piercings. No other form of body piercing is allowed.

‘Extreme’ hair styles, including hair colours, are not permitted.

Female students may wear light make up and discrete nail polish. Male students are not allowed to wear any make up or nail polish.

This dress code is endorsed by the Tudor Grange Academies Trust who are keen to build upon the existing foundation and reputation of the Sixth Form and establish a centre of excellence.

## Attendance in Sixth Form

Attendance Level	Action
97 – 100%	Your reference will highlight excellent attendance and real commitment to your studies.
95 – 97%	Your reference will highlight good attendance. This is the minimum level to receive Home Study in Year 13.
93 – 95%	Satisfactory attendance, although it is important that you do not let it slip. Home Study for Year 13 will be reviewed and removed unless there are extenuating circumstances. The decision of the Head of Year is final.
90 – 93%	Your Form Tutor / Personal Tutor will interview you and contact home as required. Privileges will be removed and study periods will be supervised. You are beginning to endanger your reference and academic success.
Below 90%	Your Head of Year will interview you. Unless there are clear, legitimate reasons for your absence, you will be placed on a Learning Contract and your place in Sixth Form is at risk. Your parents will be contacted.
Below 85%	The Line Manager for Sixth Form and your Head of Year will interview you. Unless there are clear, legitimate reasons for your absence, you may be asked to leave the Sixth Form. Should you wish to complete your examinations, you will have to pay for them as an external candidate.



## The new 2017 UCAS Tariff - for courses starting September 2017

UCAS Tariff points are used by some universities and colleges to set their entry requirements and to make offers. Currently, one third of courses in the UCAS search tool have a Tariff entry requirement. Instead of asking for grades, a university might express the offer as a number of points. To help understand how many points a qualification is worth, UCAS has a Tariff Calculator that you can use.

For courses starting from September 2017, a new tariff will be in place. The new tariff provides a fair and more transparent process of allocating tariff points across a wider range of qualifications as it is based on a different approach, using a qualification's size and grades to calculate total Tariff points. The numbers used in the new tariff are much lower, for example an A-Level Grade A\* gets 56 points under the new tariff, in comparison to 140 under the old tariff.

The new tariff also takes into account that AS-Levels are now only worth 40% of an A-Level. This is in line with guidance from the Government and the qualification regulators. 2017 entry courses, advertised in the UCAS search tool, refer to the new 2017 Tariff points only. Therefore, it is important to select the correct year of entry when using the search tool.

To make things easier to understand, we have included below a table showing the 2017 Tariff points for all of the courses delivered at Tudor Grange Academy Redditch:

All AS Levels (Legacy and Reformed)	All A Levels (Legacy and Reformed)	All AS-equivalent BTECs (Legacy and Reformed)	All A-Level equivalent BTECs (Legacy and Reformed)	WJEC Certificate (AS equivalent)	WJEC Diploma (A Level equivalent)	Extended Project Qualification	New Tariff Points
	A*		D*		A*		56
	A		D		A		48
	B				B		40
	C		M		C		32
		D*				A*	28
	D	D			D	A	24
A				A		B	20
B	E	M	P	B	E	C	16
C				C		D	12
D				D			10
		P				E	8
E				E			6

There is also a helpful video which explains the Tariff in more detail and a Tariff Calculator on the UCAS website. Please see <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/tariff-2017>.

## Year 13 UCAS & PSHE Programme - Half Term 1

Week Commencing	PSHE Session
05/09/2016	<p>UCAS Students – IN GROUPS: UCAS completion - Qualification Section to be completed. AS and A2 courses to be entered, see guidance sheet. Do course searches or enter courses if known. Draft personal statement.</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>
12/09/2016	<p>UCAS Students – ALL TOGETHER: Workshop from University of Worcester – Personal Statements</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>
19/09/2016	No session due to Open Evening.
26/09/2016	<p>UCAS Students – IN GROUPS: UCAS completion – personal statement writing and course searches. A first draft of the personal statement should have been handed to the Personal Tutor by now.</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>
03/10/2016	<p>UCAS Students – ALL TOGETHER: Ann Snell from Birmingham University presentation on the A2B access scheme (reduced entry requirements for universities). Then she will deliver presentation on Student Finance and the myths.</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>
10/10/2016	<p>UCAS Students – ALL TOGETHER: Workshop from University of Worcester – Interview Preparation. National Deadline for Oxbridge / Medic Applications 15 October 2016.</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>
17/10/2016	<p>UCAS Students – IN GROUPS: UCAS completion – personal statement writing and course searches. For students that have provided a final draft of their personal statement, a copy of your Reference will soon be available.</p> <p>Non-UCAS Students: Preparation for Employment Tasks (CV, Personal Statement and Interview Preparation)</p>

### The Sixth Form Team

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### Any Questions?

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your son / daughters Head of Year:

Year 12 - Mr Andy Capewell  
[acapewell@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:acapewell@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk)

Year 13 - Mr Mark Hulme  
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