

May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

ENTRY TO ST AIDAN'S & ST JOHN FISHER ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM

I hope that the final GCSE assessment period is going well: I realise that this has been a particularly difficult time and that students will be looking forward to a well-earned rest. We in the Sixth Form team are already planning for the new term and are looking forward to welcoming the current Year 11 into Year 12. I am writing to explain the arrangements for entry to the Associated Sixth Form in September.

After half-term, we will notify students of the transition work which they should complete for each of their chosen courses. This will provide a useful introduction to the content and skills involved in their preferred subjects and we hope that it will whet students' appetites for higher level study. The transition work should be brought to their first lessons in September.

FRIDAY 25 JUNE: Sixth Form Induction Day. Further details will follow but we hope that all students who are intending to join the Association will be able to join us for the event, which will provide a useful introduction to the Associated Sixth Form and its expectations. If, however, any student is unable to attend, there will be further induction sessions at the start of term.

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST: GCSE results are received. I will be available from 12.00 midday to 2.00 pm by appointment in Bede Sixth Form Office (in the building nearest the Stray at St Aidan's) if you need advice, but the formal discussion of courses will take place on 2 and 3 September. If you wish to notify me of a change of course prior to this discussion please write to me or email at associatedsixthform@staidans.co.uk.

THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER: All students should attend for interview and confirmation of courses as below in Constance Green Hall at St Aidan's. Parents are welcome to attend.

Students with surnames beginning A – B should attend between 9.00 – 10.00 am
Students with surnames beginning C – G should attend between 10.00 – 11.00 am
Students with surnames beginning H – K should attend between 11.00 am – 12.00 pm
Students with surnames beginning L – P should attend between 12.30– 2.00 pm
Students with surnames beginning R – W should attend between 2.00 – 3.30 pm

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER: All Year 12 students starting the Sixth Form will attend school for a full day's programme from 8.45 am to 3.35 pm. Students should dress smartly.

The Sixth Form timetable will then run from Wednesday 8 September. You may like to note that the Sixth Form's expectations and monitoring system will be introduced to parents at a Pastoral Parents' Evening on Monday 20 September.

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I would like to stress some general points for the year ahead. We do need constant attendance to ensure the maximum success in Sixth Form exams including, Year 12 exams to be taken next summer. Furthermore, prospective employers and tutors are now seeking precise attendance data as part of reference requests. We implement a clear Attendance Policy and attendance at registration, timetabled sessions and supervised study will be monitored closely. For safeguarding purposes also, students must remain on site throughout the school day. Details of the Attendance Policy will be issued at enrolment and we would ask for your full support in this matter.

National guidelines advise that 40 hours of learning time per week are required for students to achieve their full potential. Please help students to settle into a routine that allows them to double the work that they do in school. Off-peak holidays pose a threat to the prospects of our students and I would ask you to avoid them during the next two years. Part-time jobs can also interfere with academic work. Whilst there can be no objection to employment at weekends, midweek employment is disruptive to any habit of work and should be avoided.

More and more students wish to use cars or motor bikes to come to school. We accept this, if it is necessary, but insist that they are parked off-site and NOT used to travel between school sites. We ask that students register their vehicles with the Sixth Form Office and that they are mindful of local residents' interests when using and parking on nearby streets.

Students are required to dress to convey a smart impression; further explanation of the Sixth Form dress code will be provided at the Induction Day.

We believe that Student Planners are essential for organisation in the Sixth Form: whilst the Association subsidises the cost of these, we ask that at enrolment all students pay £10 towards the two year cost of Student Planners. Our preferred method of payment is by ParentPay but we will also accept a cheque (cheques should be made payable to St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form). Students will then receive a planner in September containing information about the Sixth Form which they and you will be asked to read. I will then require parent and student to sign an undertaking to be bound by the stated conditions of the Learning Agreement.

We also require a digital passport-style photograph and would be grateful if you could send this electronically to: sixthformidphotos@staidans.co.uk entering the student's name in the subject line of the email. These are required to produce the students' identification badges: to ensure that these are ready for the start of the September term, please send in your photograph by 18 June 2021. I would be most grateful for your support in ensuring that this is achieved so that we can concentrate immediately upon academic work in September.

I do hope that these procedures and this information will help to lay firm foundations for success in the Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely

C I Kidman
Head of Sixth Form, St Aidan's

