

May 2022

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.

TUESDAY 28 JUNE: Sixth Form Induction Day. Students who are intending to join the Association are asked to register in the Main Hall at St John Fisher at 9.15am. They should dress smartly. There will be an opportunity to see the St John Fisher site, meet staff and students and to experience a taster lesson; students will also be given information about transition work for each of their chosen Sixth Form courses, to be completed over the summer holiday and handed in at the start of term. The event will conclude at St Aidan's between 12 and 12.30pm, after which students will be free to leave.

We hope that all prospective Sixth Form students will be able to join us for this 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 25 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 1 and 2 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 1 SEPTEMBER: All students should attend for interview and confirmation of courses as below in Constance Green Hall at St Aidan's. Parents/carers are welcome to attend.

Students with surnames beginning A – B should attend between 9.15 – 10.15 am
Students with surnames beginning C – G should attend between 10.15 – 11.30 am
Students with surnames beginning H – K should attend between 11.30 – 12.15 pm
Students with surnames beginning L – P should attend between 12.45 – 2.00 pm
Students with surnames beginning R – W should attend between 2.00 – 3.30 pm

TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER: All Year 12 students starting the Sixth Form will attend school for a half day's programme from 8.45 am to 12.30 pm. Students should dress smartly.

The Sixth Form timetable will then run from Wednesday 7 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 19 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 all students pay £10 towards the two year cost of Student Planners. Our preferred method of payment will be by ParentPay. 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/carer 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 6 June 2022. If you do not submit a new image we will use your school photograph from Year 11. We 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. I. Kidman".

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