

# St Aidan's & St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form

## Weekly Notices Week (1) commencing 18 March 2024

### Assembly

Year 12 – Tuesday 12 March – CGH – Revision (Mrs Orton)

Year 13 – Thursday 14 March – CGH – Revision (Mrs Orton)

### Living Well

Students should go to their usual rooms to register before being accompanied to CGH for our Associated Easter service.

### Year 12 Mock Exams

Year 12 mock exams take place between **16<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May**. There is no study leave for mock exams. Students will be told the format of the paper and what the latest any content on the paper will cover.

### Y12 Revision – Sociology

The final revision session for Year 13 Sociology will be on the topic of **Education and Class** and will be led by Mrs Wraight in **RS1 at 12:30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. This session may also be of interest to **Year 12 students** as they begin preparing for their Year 12 summer exams.

### Year 12 - Oxbridge Application Workshops Series

Year 12 students considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge in the Autumn are invited to attend a series of supporting workshops **Tuesdays at 12.45pm** in the Careers Department. Email [careersstaff@staidans.co.uk](mailto:careersstaff@staidans.co.uk) if you would like to attend.

### Year 12 Oxbridge Open Day Trips

On 26-27 June (Oxford) and 4-5 July (Cambridge) students have the opportunity to attend one of the Oxbridge open days. Students cannot attend both. If you would like to attend, please return one of the attached trip letters to the 6<sup>th</sup> form / Careers office. If you have any queries, please contact Mr. Melville at Fisher's for the Cambridge Trip and Mr. Normington at Aidan's for the Oxford Trip.

### Careers Evening Reminder

Tickets are being reserved fast for our annual Careers Evening which is being held in Constance Green Hall at St. Aidan's on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. We look forward to welcoming a broad range of over 50 education, training, and employment providers who will be in attendance to talk to you about different study and career opportunities in their field.

Numbers are restricted for the event in line with health and safety requirements and access will be by ticket only, using this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2024-careers-evening-tickets-852193251957>. Please select only one time slot and ensure that your visit starts and ends within this window.

### Careers Evening Helpers

We are asking for student volunteers to help on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** for our annual Careers Evening. We particularly need help during two periods:

- straight after school until **4.30pm** to help exhibitors as they arrive.
- between 5.30-6pm to help provide exhibitors them with refreshments during their half hour break.

If you would like to get involved, please email [careersstaff@staidans.co.uk](mailto:careersstaff@staidans.co.uk) with details of when you are available or call up to the Careers Department. Many thanks.

### Y12s - Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Do you have an interest you'd like to explore further? Or perhaps you'd like to extend your learning beyond one of your A-level subjects? If so, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) could be for you.

The EPQ is an opportunity for you to take the lead on developing your independent research and study skills while researching a topic that you're passionate about. You'll learn report-writing and presentation skills, conduct research and analyse and evaluate your findings and complete your project with either a written report or by creating an artefact.

This student-led qualification puts you in charge and can enhance performance in your A-Level subjects and beyond into higher education and the workplace.

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Worth half an A-level and counting towards UCAS points, having an EPQ will help you to stand out from the crowd in university applications, and many universities will give lower A-Level offers to students with an EPQ. Research has shown that EPQ students have an increased chance of achieving an A\*-B at A-Level and are more likely to obtain a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 at university.

Your EPQ study would start after May half term in Year 12 and the final EPQ project is handed in during the Spring term of Y13, well before your final A-Level exams.

Application forms are available from the Psychology office. Please return them to the Psychology office by **Wednesday 20 March**.

## STEP Paper

Registration for Step Paper 2 and Paper 3 opened on **1 March 2024** and costs £93 per paper. Dates for the exams are **5 June** (STEP 2) and **24 June** (STEP 3) both starting at 9.00 am (3-hour papers). Please let Mrs Humphrey, Exams Officer, know if you wish to enter for either or both of these exams.

## Summer 2024 student individual exam timetables – Exam Clashes

Students with exam clashes will have received an individual exam clash letter detailing how their clash will be resolved and they should return the tear off slip at the bottom of their letter or email Mrs Humphrey, Exams Officer, to acknowledge receipt of this, as soon as possible.

## Y13 Reports

Year 13 final school reports will be issued in registration on **Monday 18 March**.

## Year 13 Leaver's Assembly and Attendance from Monday 20 May

Y13 will continue in lessons as normal until **Friday 17 May**. On that day students will be expected in lessons Periods 1 and 2. There will be a Leavers Assembly at both sites P3, students will not be in lessons in the afternoon. Lessons should continue until **Friday 7 June** but, due to exams, attendance from students will not be insisted upon and no absence emails will be sent.

## Year 13 Leavers' Ball – Pavilions, Harrogate – Friday 28 June

The deadline for purchasing a ticket is **Friday 22 March**. Please pay on ParentPay as soon as possible and collect your ticket from the Sixth Form Office.

## Year 13 – access to your school email address after September 2024

It is school policy school that student email addresses and all linked files/Teams accounts are deleted at the end of September after a student has left school. It will not be possible after you have left to access any of the work on your school account, once it has been deleted. **Please save anything that you may need in the future to your personal account so you do not lose it.**

## Exam Certificates

There are still certificates to collect in the Sixth Form Office including GCSE English/GCSE Maths (June 23 and November 23 series). **Please collect as soon as possible.**

## Results for BTEC Subjects – Travel & Tourism and BTEC Sport

Results will be given out to students on **Thursday, 21 March** from 8.30am from the Sixth Form Office of the school the student is registered at.

## KS5 Book Club

**Monday 18 March** in SA library after school. All welcome!

## Debating Club

Debating Club is a vibrant, lively and enjoyable place to develop invaluable public speaking skills. These skills will enhance university applications and employment potential. No previous experience is required. All welcome. Bring a sandwich to **Hu1 from 12:30 every Monday**.

## Harrogate Independent Advisory Group

Information from our PCSO Martin Powell – the Harrogate Independent Advisory Group is a panel of Police, Faith leaders and other interested parties who look and advise if the Police have dealt with a Hate Crime properly. There is a lack of youth input and I am sure that some under 18s are victims of hate. If any Sixth Formers would like to join the panel, please speak to your Senior Tutor in the first instance.

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## Anthony Nolan Thank You

Thank you so much to our wonderful Sixth Form who have engaged so positively with Anthony Nolan over the past couple of weeks. The recruitment event last week was just amazing! The volunteers who came into school thought our students were fabulous. Never before had they run out of swabs so, for any student who wanted to sign up but wasn't able to, there is a poster with a QR code in the cafe. Scan this, it links to our school, and you will receive the swab information in the post. We were incredibly proud of you all. Thank you so much.

## International Day - Friday March 22nd

The Zawadi team are really excited to be hosting an International Day to celebrate the wider world we live in!

On **Friday 22 March** there will be a non-uniform day with all proceeds going to Artizan International, a local charity training and supporting people living with disability in Peru, Ecuador and Yorkshire to become skilled, financially independent artisans. A suggested donation of £2 will be on Parent Pay from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March or can be given in cash to Form Tutors on the day.

International Day is designed to celebrate our Wider World and embrace our diversity and culture. There will be events all day, including scavenger hunts, a 'wider world film', a lunch time fair and in some cases, subject related input during lessons.

Thank you for all your support from the Zawadi Team.

## Snus

Students found in possession of or taking snus will be treated the same as any student found smoking or vaping. In the first instance this will result in exclusion for a day.

## Revision advice

Over the next few weeks we will be including revision tips on the Weekly Notices. This advice is the result of research about effective learning methods: we hope that you find it useful and that it will help you to be more effective in your revision than reading through your notes or highlighting, which are popular but less successful approaches.

This week: **Retrieval Practice**

Retrieval Practice means trying to remember material you have learned as opposed to re-reading it. Two of the least effective ways of studying are reading over stuff and highlighting it, which are also two of the most common things students do when revising.

Reading over material and highlighting it can give a false sense of mastery and make you think you have learned it when in reality, you will often forget that material a week later.

A far more effective technique is to put everything away and test yourself on what you remember from a particular unit or chapter. By regularly making yourself try to retrieve it from memory, you will build a far stronger memory of it in the long term.

STEP 1	Make a list of all the important information you need to know from a particular unit or chapter.
STEP 2	Close the books and create a quiz using flash cards or app.
STEP 3	Try to retrieve everything you remember.
STEP 4	Go back and check all your answers.

It is important to remember to space out your learning and not only do this once. Repeated exposure to learned material helps you to retain it better.

**Retrieval Practice: paradoxically, forgetting leads to better remembering.**