

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that parents evening was informative and that you were able to meet with at least one teacher from each of your student's subjects. If you feel any concerns were not addressed, then please feel free to contact the Sixth Form Office at the appropriate school.

There are a number of important events and notices that we would like to share with you at this time.

Careers Evening

All students are invited to a Careers Evening on **Tuesday 9th April between 4.30pm and 8pm** in Constance Green Hall at St Aidan's. Employers, Training Providers and representatives from Further and Higher Education institutions will be present to offer advice and information. Further details and booking instructions will follow but you may wish to note the date for your diary.

Examinations

In order to help us monitor and track the progress of our Year 12 students, we will be holding formal mock examinations from **Tuesday 16th April to Thursday 2nd May**. A copy of the mock exam timetable is available on each school's website and students have received individual copies of their personal timetable.

There are a number of Applied courses that are completing qualifications this summer. Students on these courses are sitting external examinations and the dates for these qualifications will also be published on both schools' websites.

There is no formal study leave period for any Year 12 students, although if a student has an external examination (applied subjects, AS Maths, Core Maths and English and GCSE Maths resits) in the afternoon, they can use the morning of the exam for private revision. Parents should let the relevant Attendance Officer know if they approve this.

The Year 12 mock examinations are held at St Aidan's with the majority taking place in Constance Green Hall, or other rooms within Bede House. Students should arrive at **8:45am** for a morning exam and **1:15pm** for an afternoon exam. Should a student be running late for an exam they should contact the Sixth Form Office at their home school at the earliest opportunity.

As with GCSE exams, students should bring pens and pencils in a see-through pencil case, remove calculator lids (where a calculator is allowed) and bring water in a see-through bottle without a label. Mobile phones, watches, headphones or airpods should be left in bags. Students **must** wear their lanyard.

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Timetable Re-organisation

At the end of Year 12 we conduct a review of teaching groups and staffing arrangements and it is anticipated that a number of students will be re-allocated to new teaching groups, with a 'knock-on' effect in other subjects. Whilst we shall endeavour to minimise disruption, parents and students should be prepared for possible group changes in Year 13.

Please note that progression to Year 13 is not automatic and it will be subject to a review of attendance, behaviour, performance and work ethic throughout Year 12: we are not able to offer students who are disappointed with their Year 12 performance the opportunity to return to classes to repeat courses in order to improve performance. Whilst we understand there may be significant pastoral reasons for low attendance or under-performance, each case will be considered individually and will involve a discussion with the Senior Tutor/Achievement Tutor and, where necessary the Director/Deputy Director of Sixth Form.

Summer Term

Can we please remind parents and students to avoid holiday bookings in the summer term as there are teaching and Sixth Form commitments taking place. Timetabled lessons continue until the end of term on **Friday 19th July**.

Dress Code

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents of the requirement of the Associated Sixth Form that students continue to wear smart, business-like dress. Students' lanyards should also be worn visibly at all times. This helps us to control the security of the school sites and to ensure that students provide a suitable role model for younger students and within the local community. Senior Tutors/Head of Year reserve the right to send students home if they are inappropriately dressed. In particular the wearing of trainers continues to be an issue, as well as branded hoodies and sweatshirts.

Finally, may we thank you for your efforts in supporting your student throughout this important academic year.



Mrs R McQuire
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)
& Key Stage 5 Lead, St Aidan's



Mr J Sharpe
Director of Sixth Form, St John Fisher