



The Sixth Form

October 2024

Dear Year 12 and 13 Students, Parents and Carers,

The Joint Sixth Form has returned with a positive work ethic and real enthusiasm for the year ahead, it is a really lovely atmosphere in the Netherbury Building. The first few weeks have shot by and we are now looking forward to the half term break.

I thought it would be helpful to share some information now students have settled into their studies.

Sixth Form Staff - Who's Who

The Sixth Form Tutors are Mr Haigh, Mrs Harding, Mr Wales and Miss Tyler. In addition, we are grateful to Mr Jeffs and Ms Perkins who are also mentoring some students. Our 6th Form Student Support Officer, Lorraine Baker, is based in the Sixth Form Study Room and is there to support students on a day to day basis.

Study Expectations

The step up from GCSE to A Level is probably the biggest single academic leap that students will make in their academic lives, including undergraduate study. Students are expected to 'mirror' their contact time with independent study, meaning that for every nine hours of contact time a subject has over two weeks, a student will do **at least nine hours of extra, independent study**.

With Core Maths, Ancient History or EPQ added in to the mix, this means that the **working week is likely to be at least thirty-six hours**. Managing personal time effectively is therefore a priority for students and we will do our best to help them make the most of their time. Our students are already using our dedicated Sixth Form study facilities really well during their study periods.

Attendance and Registration

There is no morning registration for Sixth Formers, but attendance to lessons is recorded on both school sites. An excellent attendance record is essential if students are to be successful at this higher level of study. Attendance to all timetabled sessions is absolutely mandatory and if a student's attendance falls below an acceptable level their place in the Sixth Form may be at risk.

If a student is absent from school for any reason it is important we are notified by parents in the usual way. If absence is due to sickness, a message should be left as early as possible via the dedicated Absence Line, **01308 861917**, which is available 24 hours. If it is a planned absence e.g. a university open day, permission should be sought from the form tutor or myself and an absence form completed. For any absence, students are responsible for contacting their teaching staff and catching up with any missed work.

PSHE and Tutor Time

Students meet with their Tutor for one tutorial period per week (Tuesday period 3). **This session is timetabled and is compulsory for all students to attend**. During this time, we study a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

This compulsory aspect of the timetable is designed to help students prepare for life outside of school and has been carefully designed to complement students' prior knowledge and treat them as young adults. Some of the topics for discussion are challenging but of vital importance. I would urge all students to work proactively with their teachers to make the most of these classes and I am free to discuss this aspect of the Sixth Form at any time. Tutors will also mentor students, meeting with them at a regular time each fortnight.

Beaminster School, Newtown, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3EP
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The Sir John Colfox Academy, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT
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Book Deposits

We ask that students (and parents/carers) agree to cover the costs of any books or relevant resources that are not returned at the end of courses. We are not asking for deposits, but will request payment if books are not returned at the end of courses in Year 13.

Buses

The Joint Sixth Form offers a free link bus for students to travel between Colfox and Beaminster which is subsidised and organised by the schools. Students are aware of the bus times, but please do communicate any issues with us if they arise.

However, **there is no automatic entitlement to 'home to school' transport once a student is over 16**, even if free transport has been provided in the past. All school transport to Dorset Schools that have Sixth Form provision is provided by independent bus companies under contract to Dorset Council. If you wish to purchase a seat on one of these services, you are required to contact the bus company directly. The availability and charges are at the discretion of the relevant bus company: First Group Wessex Buses: 01305 783645 / dorsetschools@firstgroup.com

Bursary Scheme

The Joint Sixth Form have a bursary scheme to help eligible students cover some of the costs of their education, for example, the scheme can help students cover some transport costs, buy books and materials and afford educational visits. Bursary forms are available from Lorraine Baker in the Sixth Form or on the school website.

Enrichment and Give Back

In addition to academic studies, the calendar is full of plenty of other opportunities for students, both in house and in the wider community, please see the additional attachment which includes information about a whole host of current opportunities. Whilst we will endeavour to publicise these via ClassCharts announcements and/or ParentMail, students also need to be proactive, making sure they read notices and carry out their own research to bolster their wider learning.

We have already seen our first trips of the year go out, with Year 13 Art and Photography students visiting St Ives, Year 13 Geographers going to Bristol to study the regeneration of the docks, and some students taking part in 'Bankfest', a creative writing set of workshops providing insight into a whole host of career pathways. Additionally, we have had a visit from Plymouth University to speak to Year 13 students about applying to university and the importance of their personal statement, and just yesterday an informative presentation about apprenticeships.

The 'Give Back' scheme expects students to 'give back' some time to the school and / or community. Students are asked to investigate ways in which they can enhance their university or job applications, and their own personal development, by volunteering some of their time in school or in the wider community. Activities might include: helping out in a particular lesson once a fortnight; community service, helping to run a club or supporting a school event. Volunteering looks fantastic on applications and helps students develop into rounded, engaged individuals. Tutors are now organising this with students.

Wednesday afternoons have been set aside for students to engage in sport and other enrichment activities. All students are expected to take part in an activity each week, which is being organised by the PE department.

Preparations for University, Apprenticeships or the Workplace

Year 13 students are now well advanced in researching and completing UCAS applications and writing their personal statements. Completing applications early is vital, as universities make offers for courses as soon as applications are received and courses can fill quickly.

Visits to university open days are encouraged and students should keep an eye on the noticeboard and announcements for any opportunities. Year 12 students would be well advised to begin considering their eventual UCAS and/or career options now, even at this early stage. For them, the summer term will be an excellent time to visit universities.

Key Dates

Please note that **November 4th** is a staff training day at Colfox and a 'Stop the Clock' Day at Beaminster. This means that we are unable to run any formal lessons on that day on either site. Sixth Form students are welcome to come in and use the Sixth Form facilities to work on coursework, personal statements, EPQ and plans for RAG week.

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YEAR 12	YEAR 13
<p>Academic Monitoring Day 21st November</p> <p>Year 12 Progress Reports November 2024</p> <p>Year 12 Parents' evening Weds 22nd January Face to Face at Beaminster 4.30 – 7pm</p> <p>UCAS Conference TBC</p> <p>Year 12 Mocks – w/b 24th March</p> <p>Year 12 Full Reports – May 2025</p> <p>Maths in Context Exams – June 2025</p> <p>Year 12 Progress Reports – July 2025</p> <p>Work Experience – 14th July for a week</p>	<p>Academic Monitoring Day 21st November</p> <p>Year 13 Progress Reports November 2024</p> <p>Internal UCAS deadline – Friday 22nd November</p> <p>Year 13 Parents' evening Weds 4th December, Face to Face at Colfox 4.30 – 7pm</p> <p>Year 13 Full Reports – February 2025</p> <p>Year 13 Trial Exams II – w/b Mon 24th February</p> <p>Year 13 Progress Reports – March 2025</p> <p>Exam dates and NEA deadlines will be circulated as a separate document</p>

We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Walters
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