

**Sixth Form News**

*A regular newsletter for parents/carers, students & staff*

 *25 April 2016*

**YEAR 12**

**Only 3 more school weeks until STUDY LEAVE – Last day in school is Friday 13th May** (students who have an exam before that date will have the day off before as study leave).

**Year 12 will return to school on Monday 13th June** to re-commence their A Level courses, therefore it is really important that students do not book any holiday until after we break up (20th July)

**Coming soon…….”Year 12 Futures Day”** – this is scheduled for **Friday 1st July:** students will be off timetable to attend UCAS and careers 1:1s. There will also be a Higher Education Evening for parents - More details to follow after study leave.

There is plenty that students can do in the meantime to prepare for university applications. There is loads to be done in terms of research prior to making an applications and therefore we would like to remind everyone that our Heathens website is an excellent place to start! We have links on there to open days and it is worth bearing in mind that most open days need to be ‘applied for’. In fact this information is logged so that when students apply for uni, the institutions can see that they have taken an interest. We most definitely urge students to attend open days (just remember to fill out an absence form to have the day off from school authorised – forms available from Mrs Bell).

Also worth considering is the Oxford Brookes residential course which takes place in July (link below)

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/schools-and-colleges/activities/summer-schools/>

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| https://www.brookes.ac.uk/FrontendResources/img/logo-print.png | [Summer Schools - Oxford Brookes University](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/schools-and-colleges/activities/summer-schools/)www.brookes.ac.ukSummer Schools. This year Oxford Brookes University will be hosting four different summer schools from 4-6 July 2016. These are available for students who are in Year ... |

**YEAR 13**

**Only 5 more weeks until STUDY LEAVE – Last day in school is Friday 27th May.** On the last day we will have an informal leavers assembly in the morning with students leaving school by midday – more details to follow in our next edition of Sixth Form News.

**EPQ Presentations** – Congratulations to all our Year 13 students who completed their final EPQ presentations last week. These presentations are the culmination of all the hard work pulling the various elements of the project together. Mr Hand and Mr Male were extremely impressed by the high calibre of work and presentation techniques so well done to all of you.

**Well done also to Year 13 Business Studies students** – who completed their 15 hour exam last week over three days. We were all impressed with your calm, focused approach during this intense exam period and we wish you all well with your grades for this part of the course.

**University Offers** – most students have made their “first” and “insurance” choices but there are a small number who still need to this. Student Finance is now open for applications and we would urge students and parents to do this asap.

**For students who have not applied to university** who need help with apprenticeships or careers – Mrs Wooller, our Careers Adviser, is on hand in the 6th Form Library every Thursday so please feel free to pop in and have a chat with her.

**Year 13 Prom** – This is on **Monday 11th July** Due to popular demand we have extended the deadline for students to pay their balance for this event to Friday 29th April (pay day!) Students will receive their Prom tickets during study leave and can pop in when they are in for exams to pick up their ticket.

**Information Items**

**DRESS CODE: Students have made a really purposeful start back to lessons after Easter ready for the final push for exams.** Unfortunately, with the few days of sunshine we have seen lately our dress code appears to have slipped for some students. Therefore, we would like to remind all our students, parents and carers that even when the weather improves we will still expect to see students in smart-wear. **This also applies to exam season; students will be required to sit their exams in full smart dress code** which means we will not allow shorts, jeans, sports tops, short tops or skirts. *(We have attached a reminder of our dress code for your information)*

**GUEST SPEAKER: We invited a guest speaker in to school recently –** Mr John Philip, who some of you may remember from when he was Deputy Head here at Little Heath, came in to visit us especially to speak at a joint assembly for Years 12 and 13.

Mr Philip’s reason for joining us is that he wants to encourage everyone to do well in the forthcoming exams. He asked students to think particularly about where they want to be in 10 years’ time and what they want to be doing with their lives because, quite simply, what happens this summer is going to have a big impact on the future. A few key things to think about suggested by Mr Philip:-

* Are you clear on what grade you are currently working at?
* Do you understand your current weaknesses?
* What do I need to do to get to the next grade?
* **If you don’t know the answer to these questions “pester” your teachers**
* Don’t revise what you already know! Revise the hard stuff! (topics you don’t know or understand)
* If you revise and still don’t understand it…..**pester your teacher (again!)**
* Do you know how the questions are marked in the exam? – it is really important to understand this. If you don’t, then look up the mark schemes on-line or get these from your teachers.

**REVISION: With regards to revision in the lead up to exams** – we are currently collating a timetable week-by-week for the exam season showing all the last minute revision sessions for each unit – **this will be sent home to you shortly.**

**STUDY FACILITIES:** A little reminder to students about **study facilities and resources** in our new 6th Form Centre – we have now re-designated the common room next to the café as a **“quiet study room”**. We need to accommodate as many students as possible in a variety of quiet study areas and therefore it is important that students who want to work have suitable facilities to do so. The café is open all day for students who need to relax or socialise so there is absolutely no need for any food or drink to be taken anywhere else.

**The library is available from 8am to 5pm every day**. This is a silent study area supervised by Mrs Waggoner. In addition to the usual array of books and revision guides on the shelves, **we also have a number of iPads available to lend out to students for aiding their research**. These are not allowed out of the library but are another important resource for our 6th formers to use.

**DAYS OUT OF SCHOOL:** We would urge students **to strive for 100% attendance** in the run up to exams. However, if there is an occasion where you need to be out of school please let 6th Form Reception know as soon as possible for the reason of absence. If students/parents know in advance about an absence then a form must be completed **before the absence is taken** (e.g. hospital /dentist appointments). Forms can be picked up from Mrs Bell or Mrs Bullion.

**BIKE SHEDS:** Now that the weather has shown signs of improving – a little reminder that we have bike sheds exclusively for 6th formers. Students will need to pay a £10 deposit for their own personal key but the sheds are located very conveniently next to the 6th Form Centre so this makes life very easy for students who wish to cycle into school.

**SAFETY:** As you are aware, the gates at the 6th Form end of the school site are locked every day at 9am. However, this area can get very congested just before school with parents dropping off students and we have noticed cars parking across the gate and letting students out in the road. There have been a couple of incidents causing concern with near-misses with cars and students so we would urge everyone to please park with care bearing in mind students are walking into school (thank-you).

**AND FINALLY…….**

The main exam season starts on **Monday 16th May** but there are a few other exams prior to this date so we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students **the very best of luck with all their exams and revision.**

**If anyone needs any help or support – our doors are always open just pop in whenever you need to.**

**Sixth Form Team**

**Ms Vignali, Mr Rayner, Mr Hand, Mr Jessop**

**Mrs Bell, Mrs Bullion**

**Telephone: 0118 9427337 (Main School) or 0118 9439549 (Sixth Form Office)**

**Sixth Form Team**

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