

26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

In response to the comprehensive feedback we received from surveys about our sixth form with past and present students from Year 10 to 13 and from The Holt sixth form tutors, we are adapting some of our routines to meet the needs of our current and future sixth form students. Our goal is to support our students to become more independent, to flourish both personally and academically and to progress confidently on to higher education, apprenticeships and in the work place.

From September 2019, all Year 12 students will have one term of *transition* where we will be supporting and training them in tutor periods to adapt to a more independent sixth form learning style. The Year 12 students will be expected to be in school every morning for this term, attending registration at 8.40am. However, students may go home if they do not have any afternoon lessons. Your son/daughter will be allocated a Personal Tutor who will support them through this transition period with academic mentoring, 1:1 tutoring and support and guidance. During this first term, your son/daughter will have the opportunity to get to know their peers and teachers as they are encouraged to form study groups, receive specific 1:1s with staff and receive personalised guidance on note taking, revision strategies and time management. The first term is also a good time to try out new things such as classroom attachment, sport, debating or volunteering in the community and primarily to get into good habits.

From the start of the January term, students will no longer attend a formal registration every morning, but will have a 10-minute 1:1 appointment once a fortnight at 8.40 or 8.50am with their Personal Tutor. This one session every fortnight is compulsory and will be for your son/daughter to check in, discuss concerns, progress, absence and any other relevant teaching and learning or pastoral issues.

In addition to this fortnightly Personal Tutor session, students must attend the Seminar/Workshop Programme that will take place every fortnight on a Tuesday period 5. This is when we will have transition/study skills workshops, careers guidance and sessions on post 18 plans, university/apprenticeship applications, outside speakers and inspirational assemblies.

Students will continue to attend 10 private study sessions that will be allocated on their timetable, where they make use of our excellent silent study room, with a computer and workspace at their disposal. For all other times your son/daughter can decide whether they want to remain in school to study or they may prefer to use Wokingham Library or study at home. The sixth form centre will continue to be available for all our students to use between the hours of 7.30am – 5.50pm.

We will be continuing with our prefect and House System, which is led by sixth formers and they play a crucial role in the successful running of our school. The younger students really look up to the sixth formers and those that have just been elected will be expected to attend all relevant House and prefect activities and events.

We are delighted to be giving our sixth form students much greater independence. However, we will still of course be encouraging them to take up a range of extra and super-curricular activities, if they so wish. We would like students to participate in House events, sports day, school council, classroom attachment, work experience, debate and young enterprise, to name a few. These are vital as we believe these develop soft skills that are an essential part of our students' development and a benefit of an education at The Holt School.

In addition to the above changes, we will be relaxing our dress code further for our sixth formers. Students can now wear *college appropriate* dress, which includes jeans, if they wish. On the very odd occasion eg formal school photo we will ask students to wear black and white.

We are very much looking forward to implementing the above changes. If you have any questions regarding the changes, please do contact either of us or Mrs Gale our Sixth Form Administrator.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Kemp  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Teaching & Learning**



Mrs J Bellis  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Pastoral**