

19th December 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Year 12 & 13 End of Term Letter

This has been a very long and busy term, packed with events; parents' evenings, information evenings, PPEs for Year 13, awarding of GCSE certificates for Year 12, presentation assemblies as well as many House activities in which the sixth form take an important leading role in the school.

The Year 12 students have settled well into sixth form and are making the necessary adjustments to the demands of A level teaching and the need to engage in more independent study. The jump to A level, where studying only three subjects for most, but requiring much more depth of knowledge, independent work, evaluation and analysis, can be huge and very challenging to Year 12 students and we recognise the perseverance and hard work the students put in to adjust. We also encourage our sixth form students to develop wider experiences and to take up opportunities, which challenge them to "step outside of their comfort zone", and many have done this with great enthusiasm this term.

The majority of Year 13 are working very hard and all have been planning their next steps, whether it is thinking about a gap year, applying for apprenticeships, foundation courses or jobs, or completing their UCAS forms for university; many of the students are now receiving offers from their chosen universities and considering options post The Holt.

During the Christmas break, to prepare for their PPEs, it is important that Year 12 and 13 take this opportunity to review and improve their revision notes for all sections of their A levels that they have completed to date. They should take this time to ensure that they have everything up to date in their folders and that they have identified any areas of work that they may need to go back over with their teachers and/or their peers when they return in January. If students use the specifications provided by their teachers, also found on the exam websites, they can prioritise their learning and plan a thorough revision timetable. It is so important to keep revisiting each area of the course and to constantly seek opportunities to test their understanding by self-quizzing and answering practice questions. The spring term flies by and the final set of Year 13 PPEs are straight after the February half term. This is their last formal opportunity to identify areas of improvement and to action plan for success in the June A Level exams.

The sixth form students have participated in numerous extra-curricular activities this term as well as volunteering in and out of school. Many have supported school events and House activities, helping with the younger years in departments and classroom attachments, leading the school council and assisting in peer mentoring and assemblies. In addition, several Year 12 students, with the support and advice of some Year 13, tried out their debating skills at a regional competition and enjoyed the whole experience; this was the first experience of debating for some. The Year 12 Young Enterprise business are busy taking orders for their vegan necklaces and are learning a lot about overtrading!

This term, there have been a number of trips and subject conferences in a variety of subjects: biology, geography, psychology, technology, art, economics and business. There have been several visits to lectures at Wellington College and Eton and the whole of Year 13 went to the Hexagon last month for the Drive Alive safety talks. We are also planning a London theatre trip for both years in March after the Year 13 PPEs. The Year 12 PPEs will start on the 17th of January.

We plan to celebrate the end of term and the beginning of the Christmas break on Wednesday with mince pies and a few nibbles in the common room after the school Christmas assembly, led by the Sixth form leadership team. The spring term for Sixth form will begin on Thursday 3rd January.

Thank you all very much for your support during the term and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or worries.

Wishing you all a safe and very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

J. Bellis

Mrs J Bellis
Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral)

A Kemp

Mrs A Kemp
Head of Sixth Form (Teaching and Learning)