

Blue Coat Sixth Form News

Spring Term

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Dear Parents /Carers,

Our students have made a remarkable return to Sixth Form and have clearly thrived on being back in a routine. Everyone has re-established their working and social relationships in college and demonstrated the important A-Level learning behaviours which are key to success. The rest of this year is about building on this successful return and moving forward with arrangements for the summer term.

This half term we have made many adjustments to how we provide our students with the same opportunities we have in previous years. We have created, organised and re-designed how we deliver these opportunities relying more on technological resources. Many of the opportunities we will provide over the Summer term are outlined in this newsletter. There are key dates and events taking place during the term which are also listed.

Senior Students

On Monday 19th April, sixth form students will have the first session with their form tutors to reflect on the year so far and discuss plans for the remainder of the academic year.

Form tutors will be discussing the timeline of events for the 'Senior Students' applications and how these will look. All students will get the chance to complete an Expression of Interest form which they can submit for review. All students will be able to take part in selective senior student group interviews with the Sixth Form Senior Leadership Team. Once these have taken place, successful candidates will progress to the next stage. These candidates will have to complete a further presentation task before a round of interviews to help select the top positions of Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Gold Award has now been added to the accounts of those who have signed up. The information for the volunteering, skill and physical section must be added and submitted as soon as possible.

Remember the deadline for this is 23rd April.

If a student has been Volunteering, developing a skill or completing the physical activities for their award throughout this academic year they should complete the A5 booklet with these details and they can back date this to the 1st September 2020.

Students need to check their chosen activities are suitable and approved. These will be checked and reviewed by Mr Read.

Initially the Gold will be run differently this year as we are unsure as to when and how the expeditions will take place.

Your son/daughter/ward will receive training, advice and guidance for these sections through a parent/student booklet that has been issued (please take the time to look at this booklet)

The initial payment of £50 is an enrolment fee for a place on the Gold DofE and for administration costs. Once we know how the school will run an expedition a further letter will be issued, detailing the full cost.

Roadmap for the rest of Year 12

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a very different year to what we would usually expect, and the students have adjusted to remote learning, new routines and the demands of A-Level studies tremendously well. There are several key dates coming up in the next Summer term and we want to make you aware of these so you can continue to support us with your Son / Daughter's progress at A-Level.

Timeline:

The timeline of events below will be followed subject to any enforced changes due to the circumstances of the pandemic. It is our intention to keep you fully informed of key dates so you and your son/daughter/ward can prepare for the next few months. Please review the timeline below:

W/C 19 th April	Spring Report home
19 th April – 28 th May	Students prepare for Year 12 Finals
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term
8 th June - 18 th June	Year 12 Finals. No study leave will be given. Students are expected to attend all lessons.
w/c 21 st June	Year 12 students begin Passport to Year 13 (including Personal Statement and Unifrog Skills Locker Tasks)
2 nd July – 6 th July (tbc)	Summer Term Report home.
Thursday 8 th July	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Friday 9 th July	Students to have completed Passport to Year 13 in preparation for Transition week.
w/c 12 th July	Year 12 Transition week (lessons as normal) - One to one meeting with Form Tutor - One to one meeting with 6 th Form Team (as applicable)
Friday 16 th July	Year 12 last day in school.
Monday 19 th & Tuesday 20 th July	Remote Transition Activity in preparation for Year 13
Tuesday 10 th August	Year 12 AS Core Maths/Pre U/AS Futures – results release online
September	Year 12 Finals Resits

Extracurricular

The pandemic has affected how students would usually experience opportunities such as University Open Days, Work experience / Work shadowing but these are still taking place, albeit virtually. Many Universities are using online platforms like Zoom and Teams to promote their establishments. Students receive a weekly email (every Friday, from myself) updating them about the opportunities available.

Please check the useful links/pathways at the end of this newsletter to find out more information.

Football Teams

Post Easter Mr Wild and Mr Lowe are arranging for our Football Teams to re-form. If your son/daughter/ward are interested in setting up a Sports Team, please speak to Mr Lowe.

What Next? Fortnight

The 6th Form Team acknowledge that some of our Year 12s do not want to go on to University but would rather pursue a different pathway post 18. All students have received a lecture introducing the different options available post 18. We have had to adjust how we deliver our annual "What Next? Fortnight" programme this year due to the restrictions. However, the students have still been provided with a set of excellent resources uploaded daily to their Microsoft Teams page which they are familiar with due to their lectures. A wide variety of resources have been created by both the Sixth Form Team and external providers to inform students of the different pathways available to them post 18 and what requirements they need to be working towards if they wish to pursue these. All students have been set tasks for each day which are to be completed on Unifrog over the Easter Holidays to help them when they begin to apply for either Universities or Apprenticeships. Students can also seek further advice from our careers link, Hugh Larkin, whereby they can arrange to discuss how to pursue their chosen career and what opportunities are available. Furthermore, Mr Lowe is also available should students wish to discuss their post-18 opportunities in Apprenticeships. If students email Mr Lowe, he can organise a suitable time to meet.

Dress Code

The last term of the academic year will hopefully bring with it brighter days and warmer weather. With this in mind please can we take the opportunity to remind all students of our expectations regarding Sixth Form Dress Code. Any students not following these guidelines will be politely challenged and where appropriate students may be asked to return home to change if their dress is not suitable.

My kindest regards to you and your families,

Miss Richardson Director of Learning Year 12

Useful links/pathways:

University

[Home | UK University Search](#)

Apprenticeships

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

Mr Lowe: Jlowe@blue-coat.org

Study Skills

Great online courses to improve study skills – these can also be added to students' UNIFROG profile.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/study-skills-courses>

Twitter

Follow us on **Twitter** at: @BCOldham6thForm for more up to date news and events.

Mental Health Support

Mental health support – Wellbeing “general” file

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>