



The SIXTH FORM at SHSB

Year 12 Parents Briefing

Tuesday 20 September 2016

Mrs L Peek
Mr C Foley

Head of Sixth Form
Leader of Year 12

*The Sixth Form Team

Head of Sixth Form

University Lead Teacher

Mrs L Peek

Sixth Form Administrator

Mrs C Brookes

clb@shsb.org.uk

Post 18 student advisor

Mrs C. Hamilton

ceh@shsb.org.uk

Head of Year 12

Mr C Foley

+ 8 tutors

Head of Year 13

Mr R Taplin

+ 8 tutors

* Academic challenges

It's a lot to ask of a teenager...

- * AS exams in May-June 2017
 - * 4 subjects
- * A Level exams in May-June 2018
 - * 3 or 4 subjects
- * Then higher education? Possibly.

*Support from school

High expectations:

- * Work rate
- * Meeting deadlines
- * Attendance and punctuality
- * Involvement in school life
- * Extra-curricular activities

- * Target setting
- * Interim Assessment Reports (IARs)
- * Predicted grades
- * Personal reviews
- * Sixth-Form Planner
- * Mentoring

* Approaches to study

- * Success is the student's responsibility!
- * Library - quiet study room, work space and resources
- * Private study time
- * Sixth-form students are expected to show **independence & initiative in their approach to learning.**

* AS Levels - a year in two terms

The AS exam period begins during the first half of the Summer Term.

No one can afford to make a slow start:

Good study habits are vital from the word **go!**

* Progression Year 13

- * Not automatic. Some people just about cope with AS but find that the full A Level is not for them.
- * The minimum criterion for continuing on to full A Level study:

AS Grade D

AS Level pass grades = A-E

but E is not an adequate threshold for coping with the full A Level.

- * Schoolwork
- * Homework
- * Social life
- * Part time job
- * Other commitments
- * Rest & relaxation

*** Getting the balance
right**

*Time management

- * In Year 12, expect to do 2-3 hours' work per subject outside lessons each week.
- * Study either at school or at home.
Some people like to use the Forum.
- * At home, every student needs a place to study undistracted.
- * Work must be paced and not left until deadlines loom.
- * Sixth Form assignments are rarely straightforward overnight tasks!
- * Use of the planner is vital. We ask that parents check the planner each week.

*Part time work

- *Research shows that, while a part time job can be beneficial, once the commitment exceeds **9 hours per week** it has a negative impact on work rates and A Level performance.

Beware ruthless employers!

- *Some local employers start in a low-key way, then step up their demands.

An extra shift here, an extra shift there... and soon you find a job depends on your willingness to work long hours.

- *If you experience anything like this, let us know. We will contact the employer personally.

*Part time work

- * A demanding hobby (e.g. a serious commitment to music, sport etc.) is similar to a demanding job.
- * The same rule of common sense applies...

do it – but pace it!

*Coping with pressure

*Whilst some Sixth Formers can move through the two years with no problems at all, others will experience difficulties.

They need your help...

...in establishing

- priorities
- motivation
- self-discipline

* Help and support

- * Honesty is the best policy!
 - Students can head off potential difficulties by being open and honest with their teacher whenever a problem looms.
- * Teachers will always respond to a student who demonstrates a sense of responsibility.

* Keeping track

* Year 12 Parents Evening

5 December 2016 (4.15-6.45pm)

* Interim Assessment Reviews (IARs)

On four occasions in the year

* Annual report

10 February 2017

* H.E. Information Evening for parents

18 April 2017 (6.00 pm)

* Personal development

The Sixth Form is a time to develop and mature.

- * Try out new things

 - Participate in music, drama, debating etc.

- * Take on responsibilities

 - Organise clubs; mentor younger pupils

- * Get involved!

 - CSLA, Young Enterprise, Open Evenings etc.

*Prefects

- * All Year 12 students spend a spell working as a temporary prefect.
- * 50 will eventually* be selected to serve as School Prefects
 - *during the Summer Term 2017.
- * Several more will be invited to become Area Prefects.

* Prefects

- * Not everyone can be a prefect.
- * Aptitude and effectiveness in dealing with younger pupils.
- * Show leadership, maturity, communication skills.
- * It takes more than an outstanding intellect to make an outstanding prefect.

* Prefects

- * Prefects are recommended by teachers, senior prefects and via your own vote. They are the school's leading role models.
- * Key factors in selecting prefects:
 - * punctuality/attendance data
 - * quality of Temporary Prefect performance
 - * quality of whole school activities input
 - * gating / disciplinary record
 - * personal standards & presentation

*The wider curriculum

A range of activities, work experiences and achievements will strengthen and enrich the student's

curriculum vitae

and

UCAS application

*Wider still...

- * Universities look for more than just qualifications in the UCAS personal statement.
- * An active extra-curricular life complements academic qualities and allows the individual to stand out in competitive fields.
- * The school's confidential reference comments on academic standards **and** personal qualities.
- * No lights under bushels! Anything valuable a student does, (s)he should **make sure we hear about it!**

* Learning to drive?

- * Driving lessons may not be taken during school hours.
- * Leave of absence for a driving test is normally granted, provided a request note is provided in advance.
- * Cars are not permitted on the school site but mopeds may be parked just inside the Hoblethick Lane gate.
- * Details of all motor vehicles must be registered with the school office.

*Time out of school

- *Holidays in term time should be avoided now more than ever.

The AS course is too short for such a luxury.

- *Holiday forms are required in the normal way.

The school will refuse leave of absence for family holidays if the circumstances or timing are inappropriate.

*Time out of school

Absolutely forbidden:

Time off to visit events on school days such as

Wimbledon

Music Festivals (e.g. Glastonbury)

Alton Towers

...etc.

Parents' co-operation is essential. Thank you.

- * Joining the Sixth Form is a voluntary commitment.
- * Students who do not comply with the school's regulations or who fail to meet its academic expectations may be asked to leave.

* The School-Student Contract

*Standards

Attendance

Absence can disrupt the learning process for a whole group.

Punctuality

Punctual arrival is vital at registration in the mornings and at lessons.

Poor attendance/punctuality is almost invariably matched by academic underachievement.

* Conditions of exam entry

* SHSB will pay for each student's initial examination entry in all school AS & A Level subjects. This is conditional on the student meeting the course requirements, which include being consistently reliable in terms of:

- * attendance;
- * punctuality (school & lessons);
- * meeting deadlines.

Gating is the most commonly applied sanction for Sixth Formers who fail to hand work in on time or who otherwise fail to comply with our expectations.

*Sanctions

SIXTH FORM SUPERVISION Name..... Form.....

Gated for days Referred by

Reason

This form must be signed by a member of staff or the Librarian for each session of the day. The holder of the card may not leave the school between 8.30 and 3.10 (3.45 Tues & Thurs) without the express permission of the Head of Year.

The form is to be given to a parent to sign at the end of the **first** day. It is to be shown to your Tutor at the start of each day and to the Head of Year at the end of each afternoon.

Signature of Parent (end of day 1)

Day					
Date					
8.30 - 9.00 Tutor					
Periods 1 & 2					
Periods 3 & 4					

* Rules & Regulations

Parents are asked to browse through the Sixth Form Planner and read

- * **The School-Student Contract**
- * **School Rules (Sixth Form)**
- * **The Sixth Form Code**
- * **Uniform Regulations (Sixth Form)**
- * **The School Code of Conduct**

* A happy 6th Form

The vast majority of our students

- * **work diligently,**
- * **conduct themselves well,**
- * **think of others,**
- * **do themselves justice,**
- * **attain high standards.**

We expect the best from them, and they rarely let us down.

The active support of parents is essential in helping our students - your sons and daughters - fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities in the Sixth Form.

Thank you.

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