

Dear Parent/Carer

It was encouraging to see so many parents and carers at the Year 12 'Now they are in the Sixth Form' Evening last Thursday. Both for the benefit of those who attended and for those who were not able to attend we set out below a selection of the key messages delivered during the presentation together with further information about forthcoming key dates. Please kindly note that the slides from the presentation are attached and also available on the Sixth Form website (<http://www.snsfc.org.uk/>) in the 'Advice, Guidance and Policies' section. We would also like to direct you to the Student Handbook which can be found in the same area of the website. Students have been issued with electronic copies of this document contained on the USB memory stick they were given in their starter packs on the first day of term. The Student Handbook contains key information on, among other things, our policies regarding absence, attendance, dress code and the transition from Year 12 to Year 13.

We firmly believe that establishing relationships of mutual trust and respect between staff and both students and their parents/carers is crucial to students attaining success in Sixth Form. As previously communicated, the SIMS Parent app is an excellent method through which you can access your child's timetable, attendance record and ongoing effort and attainment through their Progress Reports (PR). The first PR will be issued on Wednesday 17 October 2018 and this will give both attendance data and an 'Attitude to Learning' grade to reflect how teachers believe students have 'stepped up' to the demands of Sixth Form study during the first half-term of Year 12.

Helping our students cope with such demands by developing an 'A Level Mindset' through independent learning is perhaps our most fundamental challenge at the beginning of Year 12. We use a variety of techniques to foster an environment conducive to proactive learning – for example the 50 Hour Challenge booklet and enrichment sessions each Wednesday afternoon – and encourage students to take control of their own learning at the earliest opportunity. We also require that students dedicate *at least* one hour outside of lessons to independent learning for each hour-long lesson attended. It is our hope that this level of effort becomes habit and accordingly increases steadily throughout each student's journey in Sixth Form. At this stage we would recommend that you look at slides 11–21 from last week's presentation which outlines the A Level Mindset programme that students are currently accessing.

Maintaining a healthy study/life balance is a further key message that we continue to share with students throughout their time with us. We recognise that part-time paid employment can provide an excellent opportunity to gain new skills however in line with the recommendations of many universities we request that students do not undertake more than eight hours of part-time work per week. Our monitoring of this is difficult and we refer again to the relationship of mutual trust and respect outlined above. We should be extremely grateful if you would kindly assist us in this matter to ensure your child's success is not affected.

We encourage students to set themselves goals from the outset of Sixth Form. This is underlined by the visit to the Universities and Apprenticeships Fair taking place at the Emirates Stadium in London tomorrow. Many opportunities to gain work experience and apply for higher- and degree-level apprenticeships are continually shared with students throughout Year 12 and Year 13. Further details of pathways available to our students will be delivered to parents/carers in a presentation on Wednesday 13 March 2019 (a letter will be sent nearer to the date of the event to outline timings). In the meantime there are many helpful websites which contain details about applying to university and for apprenticeships such as <https://www.ucas.com/> and <https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/> respectively.

Year 12 is an extremely busy year for our students with various assessment dates and opportunities for you to meet with the Sixth Form team and subject teachers – please see below for key dates for *all* students and parents/carers within the next academic year.

Key dates 2018/2019

Wednesday 17 October 2018	PR1 emailed to parents/carers
Wednesday 27 February 2019	'Oxbridge' Evening (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Wednesday 13 March 2019	PR2 emailed to parents/carers 'Future Pathways' Evening
Wednesday 20 March 2019	Parents'/Carers' Consultation Evening
Monday 13 May – Friday 24 May 2019	Mock Examinations
Wednesday 12 June 2019	Mock Examinations Results' Day PR3 emailed to parents/carers

We trust that you have found the information both above and attached helpful. Please do contact us at sixthform@snlp.org.uk if you have any questions. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation over the next two years.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Elliott
Head of Year 12



Mr M Taylor
Director of Sixth Form