

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Thursday 4th September 2025

Dear Sixth Form Pupils, Parents and Guardians,

Re: The New Academic Year

I hope that you have had a lovely summer break and enjoyed the sunshine and the chance to stop and unwind.

I am excited to be able to welcome you back to the school this week. The Sixth Form experience and the time you spend in school is hugely crucial. It will move at pace and it is key that all students hit the ground firmly running. Looking to the year ahead I would like to share a number of key reflections that will support students to be successful. This advice and guidance is based upon decades of experience in working with Key Stage 5 pupils and drawing upon what supports students to succeed, as follows:

1: Attendance to School

It is crucially important that all students are in school all day, every day. Every single lesson throughout the year counts. Pupils with 96% plus attendance to the school achieve, on average, a grade higher than expected in all of their exams. Pupils with 90%-95% attendance broadly achieve the grades that they should and where pupils have less than 90% attendance they broadly speaking underperform by up to a grade in any given qualification that they study. Therefore, attendance to school is crucial.

2: Adopting the Right Mindset

It is really important that all Post 16 students approach their Sixth Form experience with the right mindset. The Sixth Form should, in many regards, be considered as any given students' job and students will get out what they put in. Therefore, it is important that students not only attend school but that they attend tutor time, all of their lessons and maximise their private study periods to their full effect. All students should be working for an additional 3-5 hours per week outside of lesson time on each of their subjects. Therefore, students should be engaging with 12 hours plus of additional study on a weekly basis.

3: Revision

It is really important that all students consider their revision for both their mock and final exams as early as possible, irrespective of whether they are in Year 12 or Year 13. A good habit for all students to get into is creating flashcards every day. Students should consider starting to work through their class notes and turning key factual knowledge, quotes, formulas, process charts etc into revision flashcards. Flashcards can be purchased from

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Amazon relatively cheaply. The following link will take you to the relevant section of the Amazon website - [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) : [flashcards](#). It is also advised that students read around their subjects and all students will be issued with wider reading lists that detail books, blogs, websites etc to consult.

4: Be Organised

It is crucial that pupils in Years 12 and 13 complete the homework that is set by staff. As a school we detail all homework tasks within our Knowledge Organisers and via Class Charts. Unlike within the main school (Years 7-11) the homework that is set by teaching staff can potentially take several hours and is often set to either reinforce the learning or to ascertain what pupils not only know and understand but how they can apply it.

5: Be Equipped for School

It is important that all students come to school wearing the correct business attire orientated uniform. Whilst there may not be a direct research base that shows uniform impacts directly on learning uniform does support students to adopt a school ready mindset. It is also important that students have the relevant equipment to aide their learning routinely on their person and ensure that any relevant homework is completed and handed in on time.

6: Limit Part Time Employment

Through being a Sixth Former it is very tempting to engage with extensive part time paid employment. Whilst part time employment has its merits it is advised that no given pupil undertakes more than 10-12 hours of part time employment in any given week. Students who engage with longer hours than this often find that their part time job as a negative, and sometimes detrimental, impact on their academic studies and performance.

Students in Year 13 are strongly advised, if they have not done so already, to finalise their personal statements within the next week, even if they are currently not intending to go to university. Students seeking to make an Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science application are advised to ensure that their UCAS application is sent to UCAS by 30th September. Students seek to apply to all other universities and university courses are advised to submit their UCAS application by 5th November.

I wish all of our Post 16 students the very best for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Strickland
Principal