

It has been an encouraging first half term. The Year 12 students have settled in well and are showing an excellent attitude towards their studies. The Year 13's have also made a strong start to their final year and are making good progress with their preparations for university and apprenticeship applications. What has been especially pleasing is to see how well the Year 12 & 13 students are relating to each other. A priority for the 6th form has been to encourage stronger relationships between the two year groups and a shared sense of community and belonging. This half term we have planned activities to support this including a team building challenge, regular form quizzes and monthly peer mentoring, with Year 13 students supporting Year 12 students.

Attendance - Yr 12 & 13

There is a clear link between high attendance and academic progress. This was demonstrated very clearly by our current Year 12 students. When they were in Year 11, students who attended school 95% or more achieved almost a whole GCSE grade of progress more than those students who were in school less than 90%. Attendance becomes even more important in 6th form as there is more content and less opportunity to catch up.

If your son or daughter is not well enough to attend school or has a medical appointment please can you contact the sixth form office - 01895 257364. **It is a safeguarding concern if we are not made aware of a reason for absence.** Where possible please book appointments for outside of school hours or for when a student has a free period.

Please can you also encourage your son or daughter to aim to arrive in school at 8.20am so that in the instance of traffic delays or public transport issues, they are still able to get to school on time.



Parental Contract - Yr12

As a reminder parents of all year 12 students were sent a copy of the parental guide and agreement which includes our expectations in regards to attendance, amongst other things. Please can you complete the google form linked below to confirm you have read this.

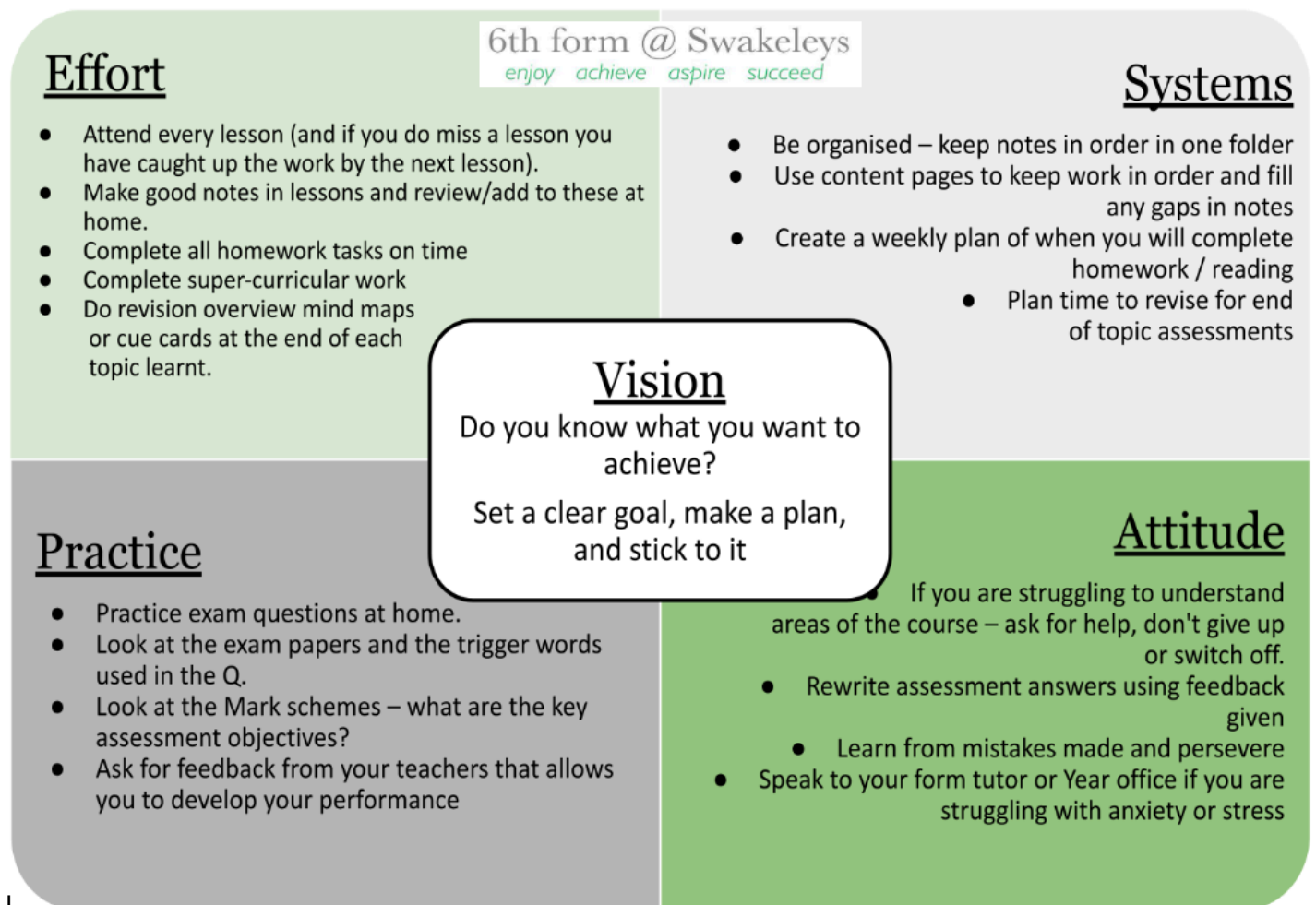
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecvo3CGAMwqTCoeIddbeRopRYq2BGW6XRstl8UVu3rk3Dcpw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Progress Check 1 - Yr 12 & 13

We have changed the format of the school reports that are sent home on a student's academic progress. These are now called Progress Checks and report on Attitude to Learning, Quality of Homework, Current Grade (not included in Yr 12 Progress Check 1) and Target Grade.

These reports were emailed to parents and carers on Monday 21st October. If you did not receive this please can you contact the 6th Form office to confirm we have the right email address for you.

It is important that you discuss the Progress Check with your son or daughter and especially check that they are clear on the specific actions they need to take to keep making progress. In the 6th Form we get students to reflect on their progress and set targets based around 5 key characteristics. This would be a helpful model for you to use at home as well.



I will be arranging for individual target setting and mentoring for students who have been identified as needing extra support due to either their effort or academic progress.

If you have concerns or questions after reading Progress Check 1 please do get in touch.

University and Apprenticeship applications - Yr13

I have already sent off our first batch of university applications last week for students applying for Oxbridge and medicine courses, which of course is very exciting. We have 9 students applying for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine courses.

The internal school deadline for all other university applications is Friday November 22nd. Year 13's have had a workshop in PSHCE reminding them of the application process and Mrs Tooker has run a drop in clinic for students to support with personal statements. Form tutors have also been trained on how to support students with their applications and were discussing their progress last Friday in the 1-1 meetings.

If you are unsure how to support your son or daughter with this process, I have attached with this newsletter a guide for you.



I am aware that there is a growing number of students interested in applying for apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. These are excellent alternative options and give students the ability to both work and study. I will be organising a workshop for these students for after half term. All of these students have also been encouraged to see Ms Mmeriku, the school's careers advisor. If you would like more information on this pathway please look at the linked information:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/711088/Parent-Guide-Apprenticeships.pdf

Oxbridge & medicine pathway - Yr 12

This half term we have launched the targeted support for Year 12 students aspiring to apply for Cambridge / Oxford and / or medicine courses at university. The highly competitive nature of these universities and courses, and the extra demands required (for example through pre admission testing and interviews) means that students considering this pathway need to be preparing throughout Year 12. Mrs Tooker, 6th Form Academic lead, had invited an initial group of students to a workshop with Peterhouse College, university of Cambridge today and will then begin to meet with students next half term to offer further support.



PETERHOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

We really want to encourage all of our students to be ambitious. If your son or daughter is working towards A*-A grades at the end of the year, then we would want to really encourage them to see Oxbridge and Medicine as an achievable goal to pursue.

Mental health and Wellbeing - Yr12&Yr13

Sadly we continue to see a rise in students reporting issues regarding their emotional health. We do take our students' well being very seriously and Mrs Cherry, 6th form Pastoral lead, coordinates the support offered to students. Mrs Cherry is a trained Mental Health First Aider and works closely with our in-school counselling service - Place 2be

Year 12 students have already had two PSHCE lessons this half term on stress, anxiety and depression. Mrs Cherry will also be organising a workshop on coping with exams before Christmas. We are also fortunate that our 6th form Student leadership team have all received training as mental health ambassadors who are able to offer advice and support as well. This team have created a mental health first aid board in the Sixth form, with take-away resources for students.

I appreciate that it can be difficult to know how to support a young person who is struggling with their mental wellbeing. The following guide by the charity Mind is an excellent resource for parents and carers



<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/information-for-parents/talking-about-mental-health/>

Character and Culture @ 6th Form - Yr12

All students were introduced to our Character and Culture curriculum for Sixth Form last week. This is focused on our four key values - Enjoy, Achieve, Aspire, Succeed. Year 12's were given a log book to record activities focused on these areas:

Enjoy - Extra Curricular activities (lunch clubs, hobbies, sports etc)

Achieve - Academic target setting - which happens after each report

Aspire - Super Curricular activities (wider reading, visits, podcasts, courses, work experience etc)

Succeed - Volunteering - all year 12's are expected to volunteer at least 10 hours over the course of the year in school.

Please encourage your son or daughter to participate in extra and super curricular activities. There are a range of resources available on the Sixth Form google classroom to support students in finding opportunities. **Super Curricular activities are especially important to support students with future applications and encourage a greater love of learning. All Year 12 students have one hour timetabled per week to complete these activities.**

We also have an online student opportunities board where any opportunities, work experience, insight days, lectures we are aware of are posted for students to see. We encourage students to check this at least once a week. - <https://padlet.com/rhayden3312/idca05c2p6t2qvgk>

6th Form Community Events

A group of the 6th form student leadership team are responsible for social and community activities in the 6th Form to encourage positive relationships and bring a sense of fun. They aim to organise 2 events per half term - one inside school and one trip outside school.

This half term, students took part in a team building activity in forms, to see who can build the biggest free standing balloon tower, 40 students went to see

'Hamilton' in the West End and students are being encouraged to wear Halloween fancy dress on the final day of term to raise money for Cardiac Risk in the Young.



Next half term, the prefects are organising a Christmas jumper day to raise money for Save the Children, a Form festive bake off competition, and a trip for another 40 students to go Ice Skating at Westfield shopping centre. Please encourage your son or daughter to participate.

PSHCE

It is also important that we continue to develop students' wider skills and knowledge, especially in Sixth Form to help them to prepare for living more independently. The programme up until Christmas is below

YEAR 12		YEAR 13	
7TH NOV	Sexual Health - Split Banana	15TH NOV	Healthy Eating / cooking for yourself
		29TH NOV	Managing risk - gap years / holidays / nights out
5TH DEC	Drugs and alcohol - Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation	13TH DEC	Effective revision recap
19TH DEC	Revision methods		

If you have any questions regarding the PSHCE Curriculum please do get in touch.

Contacts

We look forward to working with you as the year progresses to support your son or daughter to achieve their goals this year and feel happy, supported, and successful at 6th Form. A key dates sheet is attached for your information. If you have any questions do please get in touch.

Mr Hayden - Head of 6th Form - rhayden3@swakeleys.org.uk
 Mrs Tooker - 6th Form Academic Lead - ctooker@swakeleys.org.uk
 Mrs Cherry - 6th Form Pastoral Lead - jnewcombe4@swakeleys.org.uk