

As we approach the end of term, it has been very encouraging to reflect back on all that has been achieved by students in the 6th Form over the last few months. Earlier this term we conducted our annual students questionnaire regarding their experiences within 6th Form and I was so pleased to see that students overwhelmingly feel safe and happy here. 96% of our students say they enjoy school all or most of the time and 98% of our students say they feel listened to by their teachers. 98% of our students also say they are encouraged to be independent and take on leadership roles.

One area which has seen a significant improvement this year is that 95% of students say that they are engaged in Super-Curricular activities on a regular basis. This is an increase of 21% from last year.

Super-Curricular activities are academic in nature. They are activities that help a student to discover more about a subject, beyond what they are taught in the classroom. This could be reading a book or article, listening to a podcast, watching a lecture, or visiting a place of interest. It is important especially for students in Year 12 to be completing these activities in order to build a bank of evidence they can use when making competitive university or apprenticeship applications next year. All departments have created lists of activities for students to be able to access independently. These can all be found on our super-curricular website:

<https://sites.google.com/swakeleys.org.uk/supercurricular?usp=sharing>

It has also been really encouraging to see the 6th form community working together this term. Whether that be through getting involved in Halloween Dress up day, Festive bake off challenge or donating food for Hillingdon Food bank. One of my favourite activities was encouraging students to write thank you cards to a member of staff. These are so appreciated by teachers and support staff. The thought that went into the messages showed the positive impact staff have in supporting students in the 6th Form.

Attendance - Yr 12 & 13

There is a clear link between high attendance and academic progress. It is of concern therefore when a student's attendance drops below 90%. If you do receive a letter from 6th Form notifying you that there is an attendance concern, I would be very grateful if you could work with us to ensure your son or daughter is prioritising their attendance.

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.

Pre Public Examinations- Yr12 & 13

Hopefully you received a letter earlier in the term explaining the PPE examinations for Year 12 and 13 at the start of January. These are important internal examinations that enable us to gain an accurate picture of your son or daughter's academic progress and the areas in which they need to improve leading up to summer AS and A Level examinations.

There is no time within the exam period for students to catch up on missed exams and therefore it is very important that students make every effort to attend each exam timetabled punctually. I would be grateful for your support in this, so please do go through the timetable with your son/daughter to ensure they are clear on when each exam is. A copy of the exam timetable is included with this update.

Students will not have timetable lessons from 6th-14th January. They are welcome to study in school or at home during the examination period.

Students have received resources on effective preparation for examinations and have access to resources to help them plan and revise effectively.

Guidance to support you as parents and carers in how to help your son or daughter during the examination period can be found here:

<https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/blog/help-your-child-revise/>

I am of course aware that examinations naturally cause a level of stress for students and again they have access to online resources through their google classroom to help them to use positive coping strategies. If you would like advice on how to support your son/daughter during the examination period I recommend the following guide by young minds.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-manage-exam-stress/>

You will receive a copy of your son or daughter's report with examination grades on Wednesday 5th February

10 WAYS Parents and Guardians CAN HELP THEIR CHILD STUDY

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk



University and Apprenticeship applications - Yr13

This term, one of the main focuses for Year 13s has been applying for university. It is always a very nervous & exciting time for students as they wait for responses from universities and employers. The standard of applications has been very high and I am delighted to hear on an almost daily basis of the offers students are receiving. Some universities and some courses will not reply until after the UCAS application deadline at the end of January, so if your daughter is still waiting, please reassure them that this is perfectly normal. We work hard checking applications to ensure that students whenever possible do not run the risk of receiving no university offers. However, if your son or daughter does find themselves in that situation there is the opportunity for them to apply again through UCAS from February onwards. I will guide students through this if necessary.

Some students may find they have heard back from all their universities relatively soon. They will then be in a position to reply to their offers by choosing a firm choice (where they ideally want to go) and an insurance choice (where they will go if they do not achieve the grades required by their firm choice). They have to reject any other offers. It is very important that students take their time with this decision and discuss with you, as well as their teachers and form tutor. Students have until June to respond and my advice for students is to take their time, visit or research universities further, and ensure they have a good idea of what exam grade they are on track to achieve.

Further guidance is available from UCAS here:

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/after-you-apply/types-undergraduate-offers/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>

Preparing for Future pathways - Yr 12

Next term we will begin to focus on future pathways with Year 12s introducing them to the university and apprenticeship application processes and how they can prepare to make strong applications. I will ensure that you as parents are also well equipped to support this decision making by holding a webinar and sending out parental guides.

Year 12 & 13 students are encouraged to attend university open days and apply for the multitude of work experience insight days available to them to help assist with their planning for future options. Many of these opportunities take place at the weekend or during school holidays. However, as long as students have a normally excellent attendance record, they are able to take 3 days of authorised absence each year to attend such opportunities during the school week. Students must get permission from a parent/carer, the teachers of the lesson they will be missing and then see me for final approval.

There are always an excellent selection of opportunities for students run by universities, charities and businesses. These are always advertised on our online opportunities board, linked below. I would recommend you check this with your son/daughter on a weekly basis to see if there is anything relevant to them. - <https://padlet.com/rhayden3312/idca05c2p6t2qvqk>

All Year 12's will complete a week of work experience in the week beginning 30th June. More details will be given In January, however it would be advisable for students to begin to think about what they might like to do and explore any family contacts that could assist with this over the Christmas break.

6th Form Parents consultation Evening - 27th February - Yr 12 & 13

Further information about booking appointments for this evening will be given after the Christmas break. Opportunities to discuss student progress with students, parents and teachers together can be very significant in ensuring we are all working together for their success. Therefore I would be grateful if you could make every effort to attend.

PSHCE - Yr 12 & 13

The programme for the next term is below:

DATE	Year 12 WEEK A - THURS P3		Year 13 WEEK B - FRI P1
16th JAN	Future - what do you want to do? - Unifrog		
30TH JAN	University application process	24TH JAN	Being the new person (at work / uni etc) - inc professionalism etc
13TH FEB	Culture Day theme - What does it mean to be British?	7TH FEB	WIZE UP Financial ed
Half term			
6TH MARCH	Apprenticeships	28TH FEB	WIZE UP Financial ed
20TH MARCH	Employability Skills	14TH MARCH	WIZE UP Financial ed
3RD APRIL	Digital Footprint	28TH MARCH	WIZE UP Financial ed

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

Contacts

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