



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been great to welcome students back to school after Easter. There is a real buzz around school and this half term will be very busy, with Year 12 receiving progress reports and Year 13 taking assessments that will help inform their 'calculated grades' this summer.

Year 13: Teacher Assessed Grades

It is important to stress that grades for Year 13 have yet to be decided and teachers across sites are currently gathering evidence that will be used to generate grades. NEAs (coursework) are an important part of this process, and students have until 30th April to hand in these pieces of work (14th May for Art and Photography).

Teachers will use evidence from Year 12 and Year 13 to inform their judgements, with particular attention being paid to recent assessments that demonstrate up to date progress. The evidence base will be broad, using mock exam results, assessment results, NEA (coursework) results, essays completed in class, performance on assessment materials set by exam boards, homework, etc. Assessed work completed after Easter is being retained for evidence. Teachers have been reminded that any students with Exam Access Arrangements (extra time, coloured resources, laptops, etc.) will have these arrangements taken into account when completing assessments.

A rigorous process of quality control is in place to make sure students get the grades they deserve in the summer. As a combined Sixth Form, we already have moderation and standardisation processes in place, meaning students will benefit from a rounded understanding of their achievement.

We are not able to share or discuss submitted grades with students or parents. However, teachers are supporting students with every step of the way, and I would encourage students to talk to their teachers – they are here to help!

Students driving or travelling in private cars

Some Sixth Form students were involved in a road traffic accident on Monday 19th April. Luckily, nobody was seriously injured but everyone involved was clearly very shaken up. Having seen the damage to both vehicles first hand, I can say that all students involved were very lucky to escape with only minor injuries.

Every year students engage with the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' campaign as part of their tutorial programme. However, it is clear that young drivers require continued support to improve their safety on the road. Research shows that positive behaviour change is more likely to take place if the messages are reinforced. With this in mind students had a tutorial session this morning on the importance of safer driving. Safe Drive

have also recently produced a Sway for Parents and Carers (<https://sway.office.com/DtM2qSOnKbwZwvLr?ref=Link>) to help communicate the message at home. There are also a number of courses available for new drivers such as 'Pass Plus' (<https://www.gov.uk/pass-plus>) which are designed to help students improve their skills and may help students get a discount on their insurance. Please do continue the discussion about safer driving at home.

We are currently reviewing our student driving policy with Beaminster School and will communicate any revisions in due course. In the meantime, I would like to remind students that a dedicated, free bus service is in place and should be used. In the case of young people choosing to drive cars to their lessons, they of course do so at their own risk and the school cannot take responsibility for any accident or injury caused to anyone who chooses not to use the transport provided by the school. As always, we request a copy of the MOT certificate for the vehicle they are driving and a copy of their insurance be made available to Tracey Smith. The documents will be held on file.

Year 12 Work Experience

Work Experience for Year 12 will take place during the last week of the summer term (week beginning 19th July 2021). As mentioned previously, we have put together a different offer for our Sixth Formers this year using the charity 'Speakers for Schools' who have established Virtual Work Experience (VWEX). Can I please remind students to register for the program at <https://www.s4snextgen.org/students/Take-Part> (using their school email address) and find and book a placement (preferably within the allotted work experience week).

COVID

Students are required to continue taking regular COVID tests. We have given students a supply of tests and it is their responsibility to administer the tests regularly.

Sixth Form Prom

Finally, to end on a positive note, the annual Joint Sixth Form Prom has been confirmed for the 25th June at Symonds Estate, Bridport from 7.30pm. A letter will be sent home shortly with details.

Important Dates

30th April: NEA (coursework) deadline

4th May: Year 12 progress reports issued

27th May: Year 13 leave

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Teasdale



Asst. Head, Head of Sixth Form



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