

A message from Mr Youngs

We reach the end of what teachers refer to as 'the work' term. It is when you are trying to break the back of that year's work ready to pick up after Christmas feeling like you are on the front foot. It has been typically busy with numerous trips, presentations and outside events going on alongside the students' regular studies. Year 12 have settled in tremendously well, finding their feet quickly and adapting to the new work schedules and methods of study. Some are already getting extra help and support in order that they stay up to date and at or beyond their target grades.

We are reaching the closing date for UCAS applications for Year 13 and the vast majority have already been sent. I would like to congratulate the students on their applications this year, the quality of which is reflected in the number of offers with reduced conditional grades and unconditional offers being made from some of the top universities. Four students applied to Oxbridge and have all now had a nerve racking interview at their chosen College. They were extremely well prepared having had plenty of practice including mock interviews at Somerville College Oxford. We have everything crossed for them and all the others still awaiting offers from universities.

The year 12 students have already had their first insight into university with a visit to Loughborough. Not only did they get to look around the facilities there but also got some early advice on what skills and experience they need to gain ready for starting their 'personal statement' in the summer.

For those planning to take a route based in Higher Level Apprenticeships we have recently had Richard Reeves from the Army careers service in to talk about opportunities with the largest provider of apprenticeships in the country. This will be followed up with other outside speakers offering help and advice on an increasingly popular route for students.

There are Mock exams coming up after Christmas which I trust students have already got at least one eye on! Much PRACTICE is needed prior to these in order that they are secure in their knowledge and ready. This has, in the past, been a remarkably accurate indicator of Summer results. A full timetable for these can be found on the final page of this newsletter. The Christmas break will also be a good time for students to do some proactive research in the subject areas they are studying. Wider reading, visits and video research are just some of the things that students could be engaging with on a more casual basis. It is also a great time for Year 12 Students to be doing some University or Apprenticeship investigative work. Those armed with a clear knowledge and understanding of what grades and experience they need are far more likely to be successful when the time comes to make the next step.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year!



A Level Mindset

We have introduced a new study skills programme this Year called VESPA. Year 12 have embarked on a series of focused sessions looking at developing an A Level 'mindset'. It is a programme adapted from the book of the same name by Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin which seeks to improve the transition from Year 11 to an A Level way of studying and learning.

It seeks to develop five fundamental areas.

Vision – Students have an ultimate goal and have considered what they will need to in order to achieve it

Effort – Students recognise what it actually means to work hard and the hours needed

Systems – Students develop ways of working that mean they work more effectively

Practice – Finding different ways of testing yourself – finding out what you don't know

Attitude – developing a 'growth mindset' and learning to 'fail forwards'

In terms of effort I would like to share with parents our expectation that all students achieve the amount of work undertaken by our top performing students over the past three years. For Year 12 that represents a **minimum** of 15 hours independent study per week. For Year 13 this represents a **minimum** of 20 hours of independent study per week. Students who achieved this level of work have in the past achieved grades of A* to B without exception. I would also remind all of the independent study booklet which all students and parents have to guide what should be done during this time.

News to catch up on from the end of last school year!!



Daniel Robson was nominated by the Physics Department to receive a 'Schools Physicist of the Year' award which was presented at an awards evening held at the Open University. It was sponsored by the Ogden trust and Daniel is now an alumni of the Ogden trust which means he is eligible to apply for means tested scholarships when applying for university worth up to £1500 per year. His parents and I attended the awards evening to celebrate Daniels amazing work ethic and natural curiosity for the subject. Mrs F Gray, July 2016

Natalie Colquhoun was involved along with other lower school students and staff in the Cottesloe School's first 5km Race for Life held in July. She came a strong second after admitting she did no training which is phenomenal! She has helped to raise money for Cancer research UK - a combined total of £450 which is superb . Mrs F Gray July 2016



Somerville College, Oxford Year 12 Visit November 2016

I was in a group of year 12 students that attended a trip to Somerville College, Oxford. I felt that this trip would provide a good opportunity to explore higher education. When we first arrived at the college, we had a very informative talk from a lady called Elsa, who worked at the University. She discussed the application process for the university and her personal experience.

We then got first hand experience of what a lecture would be like and had a taster session of Egyptology and Assyriology. I found the session very interesting and learnt things I was not expecting to. We then took a tour around the campus lead by two students, who talked us through what student life was like. The college really felt like a community and I really enjoyed the tour.

Later in the day we visited the Pitt Rivers Museum where we did a source handling session, this was definitely an eye-opener on how University students do their research and study outside of the lectures. We found out the museum had been created in 1884 by General Pitt Rivers who was an influential figure in archaeology and anthropology. His collection has now reached 500,000 items. Overall I feel I gained a better insight into what university life is really like and learned something new! By **Kirsty Stapleton**, Year 12

Somerville College, Oxford Year 13 Interview Preparation

In preparation for our Cambridge interviews, in November four Year 13 students were also taken to Somerville college in Oxford for an interview preparation session. Here we were taught about the layout of the Oxbridge interview, worked through potential questions and talked to postgraduates who have previously taken the degrees we hope to be taking in the near future.

Having now completed our interviews, we can safely say they were one of the most daunting experiences of our lives. However they certainly aren't the nightmare they are made out to be and with a little help and guidance they were somewhat enjoyable! **Callum Witten**, Year 13



Library Assembly

For this assembly, we had a visitor who works in the library to give us an insight into how using and taking advantage of our local facilities can benefit our education and take our studies a step further. They told us about their online website and how to ask for and access certain books by giving references to point us in the right direction. By using these resources, we can extend our wider reading to individualise our work and push up our grades. They also gave us contact information, where the libraries are located and how to sign up to become a member. **Charlotte Tattam**, Year 12



Safe Drive Stay Alive 2016

On Friday the 18th of November Year 12 attended a **Safe Drive Stay Alive** session in Milton Keynes; in which people who have been affected by road accidents (the families and public services) spoke to us about the consequences of our decisions relating to road accidents. It was an eye opening and life changing experience as the people directly affected by road accidents enlightened us about the impact that a small decision could make on multiple people's lives. I believe that every student of an age in which they will be starting to drive should have to attend the session in order to prevent many future accidents as I think that it will make them re-think their decisions. **Josie Smyth**



The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification is an AS Level course available to all students which they can study alongside their Primary A Level subjects in the sixth form. It is designed to allow students to further their interest in a particular area and gain valuable research, analysis and presentation skills along the way. The Extended project Qualification (EPQ) can be done on just about any topic and can take a wide variety of different forms. Most recently we have had research projects, computer design, plays and pieces of music. It is extremely popular with universities and potential employers as it demonstrates key skills required to succeed in these environments, so much so that it carries more UCAS points than any other AS Level and is the only one that can be awarded an A* grade. Last year saw our largest cohort completing an EPQ and they did so with extraordinary success. The grades achieved ranked in the top twenty percent in the country. One example was Izzy Dorrance (pictured below) who chose to produce an 'artefact' in the form of a piece of music – She achieved an A* Grade.

I completed my Extended Project Qualification in Year 12. It was a composition in the style of Vivaldi for two violins and a cello. I decided to do the EPQ because I wanted to continue studying music beyond GCSE. I play the violin, which was one of my main reasons for choosing Vivaldi. When I started the EPQ I didn't realise how much work it involved and completing the EPQ helped my time management skills. As part the EPQ, I had to research Vivaldi's musical style and composing. I used lots of different sources for my research including books, the Internet and a DVD. Overall the EPQ taught me a lot of valuable skills, which I think will be very useful at university. **Izzy Dorrance**, Year 13



A reminder about the Coffee Machine in the study room. Tokens available to purchase on ParentPay. The cost is approximately 63p per cup (8 tokens for £5). This is designed to be a 'break even' price which includes the cost of the cups as well as the price of an annual service. The tokens can be collected from Tracey following payment.

On the 25th November we sold cookies for 50p each to the rest of the school in order to raise money for Kids Out and for the Sixth Form. Having initially sold 100 cookies in 6 minutes we went on to make approximately £90. This money will be going towards our chosen charity and will help to improve the Cottesloe Sixth Form in the future. We will also be selling other things to the school throughout the rest of the year, so look out for our posters for more information.

Molly Dove, Deputy Head Girl



Year 12 Internal Exams

	8.45 am - 10.45 am		11.15 am - 12.45 pm		13.15 pm - 14.45 pm
Monday 16th January	Maths 1 hour 30 mins	BREAK	English Literature 1 hour	LUNCH	Psychology 1 Hour
			English Lit & Lang 1 hour The Handmaid's Tale'		
Tuesday 17th January	Biology 1 Hour 30 mins Paper 1	BREAK	Geography 1 hour 30 mins	LUNCH	Physics 1 Hour Paper 1
	History 1 Hour British History		Chemistry 1 hour 30 mins Paper 1		Law 1 Hour
Wednesday 18th January	History 2 Hours Russia	BREAK	Design Technology 1 Hour 30 mins	LUNCH	Geology 1 Hour
			Sociology 1 Hour 30 mins		Criminology 1 Hour
Thursday 19th January	Maths 1 Hour	BREAK	English Lit & Lang 1 hour Othello'	LUNCH	Ethics & Philosophy 1 Hour
					Physics 1 hour Paper 2
Friday 20th January	Biology 1 Hour 30 mins Paper 2	BREAK	Sport Studies 1 Hour 30 mins	LUNCH	History 1 Hour American Revolution
			Chemistry 1 hour Paper 2		

Year 13 Internal Exams

	8.45 am - 10.45 am		11.15 am - 12.45 pm		13.15 pm - 14.45 pm
Monday 16th January	English Literature 2 Hours Paper 1	BREAK	History 1 Hour 30 mins British	LUNCH	Geology 1 Hour
	Law 2 Hours		Psychology 1 Hour 30 mins		
	French 2 Hours		Further Maths 1 Hour 30 mins		
Tuesday 17th January	Maths 1 hour 30 mins	BREAK	Chemistry 1 Hour 30 mins Paper 1	LUNCH	Biology 1 hour 30 mins Paper 1
	Physical Education 1 Hour 45 mins		Ethics & Philosophy 1 Hour 30 mins		
Wednesday 18th January	Design Technology 2 hours	BREAK	History 2 Hours 30 mins Russia		
	Chemistry 1 hour 30 mins Paper 2		Geography 2 Hours 30 mins		
	Sociology 2 Hours Paper 1				
Thursday 19th January	Maths 1 Hour 30 mins	BREAK	Physics Paper 1 1 Hour 30 mins	LUNCH	Biology 1 hour 30 mins Paper 2
	English Lit & Lang 3 Hours Paper 1		Sociology 1 Hour Paper 2		
	German 2 Hours 30 Mins				
Friday 20th January	English Literature 2 Hours Paper 2	BREAK	Physics Paper 2 1 hour 30 mins	LUNCH	History 1 Hour America
	English Lit & Lang 2 Hours 30 mins Paper 2				