

6th Form Parents' Bulletin – May 2020

Key dates

- **Monday 25th May:** Friday 29th May half- term holiday
- **Friday 24th July :** Year 12 break up for their summer holiday
- **13th August A level Results Day:** We hope this will take place as normal with students coming in to school
- **20th August GCSE Results Day:** Re-sit GCSE Maths and English results

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. When we closed back in March I wrote to you all to express our admiration for the way the students in the 6th Form had coped with the unprecedented circumstances. Their attitude since has never failed to impress and has actually been really humbling. Both year groups have responded superbly to on-line learning and Year 13s have shown remarkable maturity and patience over the cancellation of not just exams, but all their leavers' events and plans. As we said to them in the Student Bulletin this week we will keep communicating via the Bulletin and keep planning for a proper goodbye when the situation allows!

You will know that the government has asked us to plan for putting in place some face to face support for students in Year 12 to supplement their remote education. We are very keen to do this as soon as we are able to do so. However, the government have made it clear that, "we do not expect these pupils to return to school or college on a full-time basis at this stage, and so we do not expect a full timetable to be offered as schools and colleges look to minimise the number of pupils in school or college each day". At the time of writing there is still no detailed guidance on what this provision should look like and so we are hoping that this will be published in the next week. I am sure that Mr George will continue to keep you updated. We believe that whatever happens, the main focus for the remainder of this school year will continue to be on supporting all of Year 12 with their remote learning alongside, we really hope, some face to face education.

Positive news: The new 6th form block

Our new sixth form block is well under way despite school closure. Follow the link to see Mrs Livings take a virtual tour of the new building.....!

<https://www.kimberleyschool.co.uk/sixthformcentre>



You can also see the building plans as well as a 'build time lapse' of progress so far! Mr Glendenning took a photo each day up until closure.....

We are looking forward to getting in to the new building (hopefully in September) with our current Year 12s and will certainly ask the current Year 13s to come in for a visit once allowed!

General information for the rest of term

End of year Assessments for Year 12

Usually students would have sat AS exams or school exams in June. We are planning that all Year 12s will take some sort of assessment in each subject. These will take place no earlier than the week beginning 22nd June and the dates will be confirmed after half-term. We have had a few students asking when they will be and we didn't want students to be worrying that they would be sprung on them in the first week back! They will be on line or in school, depending on what happens over the next few weeks

Careers Advice

Until the school closed we regularly had our Careers Advisor, Michelle Taylor, in school on Wednesday afternoons. However, at the moment she is doing telephone interviews, giving independent advice to Sixth Formers. If you feel your son/daughter (Year 12 or 13) would benefit from a telephone meeting then please encourage them to make an appointment through Mrs Booth via email.

Financial help through the bursary in the Sixth Form

Bursary payments are continuing through school closure. If you feel that as a result of changed circumstances due to Covid19 your child may now qualify please do apply or contact Mrs Livings for information.

Please use the following link <https://www.kimberleyschool.co.uk/sixth-form/> and then click on the bursary section. If a student has received free school meals in Year 11 or you have an NHS Exemption certificate they will certainly be entitled to a monthly payment from school. Additionally, if parents earn less than £20,000 students will be entitled to help. If the household income is less than £25,000 they may also get some help.

Charity Matters

Sport Relief 2020:

Just before the school closed we had a wonderful week of charity based events, run by the 6th Form, for the charity Sports Relief. Students raised just over a massive £2000.

The Staff v 6th Form football match kicked Sports Relief off.....

The 6th Form were superb despite the 2 (staff) : 1 (6thForm) score line



On Thursday 19th Alex Frith raised £160 by having his head shaved to look like Ronaldo Nazario! Thank you to Alex and also to Wright's Barbers who didn't charge for the cut and actually donated to Sports Relief.



On the Friday of Sports Relief Week there were stalls at break and lunchtime selling the usual tasty treats as well as a whole variety of activity stalls from a football shoot-out to a tombola, a raffle, and a chance to 'soak the teacher'....

After school on the Friday over 70 staff and 6th Formers ran / walked 5k for Sports Relief



Other Charity News.....

We have now heard from the **Royal British Legion** that back in November the sale of poppies raised a massive £500

Year 13 reminders and information:

Please keep encouraging your son/ daughter to read the Bulletin we send on a Sunday evening as we put the information we receive from external providers in there. There are also lots of interesting activities being offered at the moment and some of these are in the Bulletin and some on the website- this week for instance we found out about a lot of virtual educational talks: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/vtalks-video-library/>

Replying to university: *please check your son/ daughter has replied or is nearing replying- the deadline has been extended. I am very happy to talk with them if they are still unsure.*

Finance for university: *Please encourage your son/ daughter to apply if they haven't already- they will need your help.*

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login>

Apprenticeship help

We advise your son or daughter to keep checking the Gov.uk website for up to date opportunities . The **UCAS** website also has a useful apprenticeship section. Please also encourage your son/daughter to look each week at the Bulletin to check the new apprenticeships that are on offer. Do let one of the sixth form team know if you or your

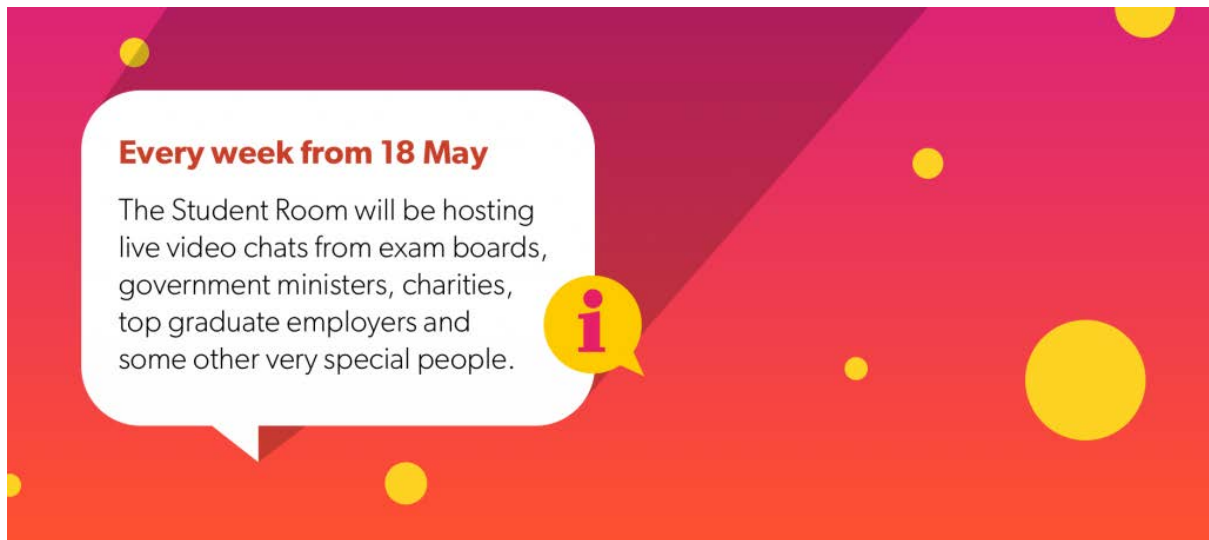
son/daughter need any help with this or if they would like a telephone conversation with the careers advisor.

Online careers help

There are a series of online careers sessions happening until 19th June, which I think many students will be interested in.

If you look on this link you should be able to see the different workshops and talks that are happening: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/career-ready-8334526130>

Some of the sessions are on a specific skill, such as writing a CV, others are on 'Industry Insights' about how different jobs and careers work, for example this Friday Coca-Cola are running one about logistics



https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/tsr-answers/support-for-every-student-sign-up-for-ts-answers?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Virtual-events&utm_campaign=GR_Virtual_event_Teachers-180520

Follow the above link for more information

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

This is a useful website for students looking for an apprenticeship etc.

Year 12 Information: University, apprenticeships and work experience

Work Experience

Normally Year 12s would, as you know, be preparing for their Work Experience week. In terms of Work Experience we are hoping that students will possibly be able to rearrange their planned experiences for later in the year in some format. There are also chances to gain some different experiences now such as these ideas we saw and put in this week's Student Bulletin: Volunteering online (do-it.org) or joining the virtual shadowing of a GP programme (rcgp.org.uk/observegp)

Planning for the future

In June we will be starting the programme of giving Year 12 students information about applying for university and weighing up university and apprenticeships opportunities. We normally take students to a Higher Education fair which won't be possible, but on a positive note universities are providing lots of really useful on- line resources that we will be and have already started pointing student in the direction of. Lots of universities are running virtual tours and the UCAS website is also really helpful..... <https://www.ucas.com>

We will be sending you information later in the term to keep you in the loop about Higher Education. See also below a link to a virtual summer school at The University of Leicester- many universities are now providing these and you will find them on university websites.

The links below from the University of Leicester are an insight in to what is on offer in terms of help and advice from the universities

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/scs/post-16/summer-schools>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkBZZhQeuA80RRX0f914N2IHuZkUqs85n> which has videos on choosing a university, personal statements, note taking etc advice suitable for Year 12 and 13

Finally for Year 12s, 13s and possibly for you....!

May half term with a twist

This year's May half term will be very different for all of us; with no exams and mostly staying home so Miss Iwanczuk has come up with a list of great ideas to pass the time and expand the mind!

So please encourage your son/ daughter to have a look through this list to see if there's anything they could have a go at (we will also email it to them):

- Take a tour of a museum, art gallery or exhibition

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

- Learn to take better photos on your phone
<https://www.shawacademy.com/courses/photography/learn-smartphone-photography-online/>
- Get started with basic coding <https://www.codecademy.com/>
- Sign up to a daily newsletter from The Day (currently free to parents/guardians) and have a discussion about something that isn't coronavirus! <https://theday.co.uk/>
- Watch something new:
 - the National Theatre are uploading full length plays onto their YouTube channel every Thursday
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUDq1XzCY0NIOYVJvEMQjqw>
 - The Royal Opera House are adding full length ballet and opera performances to their 'Our House to Your House' playlist
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFEuShFvJzBwHtKR0caQY1KZoDGxcZdjM>
- Complete an online escape room: https://www.escapedurham.co.uk/mr-x?fbclid=IwAR34no69CiVkkKP9kYzHRqful9x_HIWgipmcB_rDJ1ggEScb1-nB3kkmiRg
- Learn or develop a skill
 - First aid - <https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/learn-first-aid>
 - At home:
 - Sew on a button
 - Learn to do the washing and ironing
 - Mow the lawn
 - Plan and cook a meal ... maybe even ask for a budget to stick to, good practice for when you live on your own, or plan the meals out for the week
 - Out and about while exercising
 - Learn to read a map, you could plot out a route before you leave and then follow the directions... very useful for if you don't have a satnav signal!
 - Be able to identify birds, trees and plants – identification guides are available here:
 - <https://www.lovethegarden.com/uk-en/article/19-common-british-birds-you-can-find-your-garden>
 - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-to-identify-trees/>
 - <https://www.wildfooduk.com/wild-plant-guide/>
 - Try some yoga; great for flexibility and also controlling your breathing can be a great coping strategy <https://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene>

- Have a go at juggling, or solving a rubix cube...both can be interesting talking points!
- Careers: have a look at the different events offered on the free online Skills Festival offered by Career Ready
 - Building resilience in the workplace <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-wellness-building-resilience-in-the-workplace-tickets-104042564110>
 - Lots of workshops on writing CVs and cover letters e.g. [eventbrite.co.uk/e/skills-workshop-cv-and-cover-letter-writing-tickets-105227231482](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/skills-workshop-cv-and-cover-letter-writing-tickets-105227231482)
 - Discover and develop your strengths <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/skills-workshop-discover-and-develop-your-strengths-tickets-106005094090>
 - Different 'Industry Insights' to look into what different jobs and sectors entail e.g. STEM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/industry-insights-careers-in-stem-tickets-104748160568>

As always we'd like to thank you as parents for the tremendous support you have given the staff working with your sons and daughters. This has never been more appreciated.

Thank you and if you do have concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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