



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 11 December 2020

Dear Students

It is a rather strange end to the week with Year 13 working remotely and Year 12 in the building, but it has been good to see that attendance at remote lessons has been very high indeed. Live lessons via Teams will continue for Year 13 over the next week, and we very much look forward to seeing you in the New Year in person. For Year 12, lessons will take place as normal next week. For all, term will end at 1.15pm on Friday although Year 12 students are welcome to stay and continue with private study until 3.15pm if they wish to.

Christmas Jumper Day

Many thanks to Year 12 students for your participation in Christmas Jumper Day and for your contributions – the jumpers have brightened up the place a little today and it is very good to be able to donate to Save The Children. We will confirm the final amount raised next week.

UCAS

It has been very good to see lots of applications being completed this week. A reminder that Mr Bridgwater has asked for personal statements to be submitted before the end of term if you are to be guaranteed to make the 15 January deadline.

Make Happen Survey

If you attended an Essex school before joining Braintree Sixth Form, you may have been asked to take part in a survey back in October 2017 by Make Happen, which is an organisation linked to Uniconnect, and which aims to increase participation in higher education. They are now asking Year 12 students to complete a follow up survey to evaluate their programme. You can complete this by following the link below:

<https://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/7/p400630205727.aspx?c=6&>

Emergency help with bills, food and other items

If you find yourself in need of some help this winter, the Essential Living Fund can help pay for heating, electricity, water and food. We can also help you get essential household items like a fridge, cooker or table. To apply and check if this applies to you, visit www.southend.gov.uk/elfforessex

or if you are vulnerable or have no access to the internet you can call 0300 7900124 (between 8:45am - 5:00pm).

Children and Young People's Mental Health: sharing experiences to help change local services

Children and young people's mental health is hugely important. Getting support services right can have a big impact and help young people to live healthy and happy lives. We know that young people often feel unheard in relation to their health and care needs and we want this to change!

We want the voice of children and young people in Essex to help the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health service (EWMHs) make changes in the right way. The services want to understand what has gone well and what needs to improve.

Our Young Mental Health Ambassadors (YMHAs) all have their own experiences of mental health services and volunteer to feed information back into the services. But the more we can learn from other young people living in Essex, the closer the services will be to getting it right for everyone.

We would love to hear from any child or young person, whether individually or as a group, about their experiences of mental health services in Essex. All of this can be fed back into our group of YMHAs anonymously, who are working alongside commissioners to change what the services look like locally.

If you would like more information on how to get involved, please get in touch with Healthwatch Essex or Mind in one of the following ways:

01376 572 829; info@healthwatchessex.org.uk / Renee.Robey@healthwatchessex.org.uk; @HWEssex/healthwatchessex

The 24hr helpline: New crisis mental health phone line launched

The 24-hour service, launched by Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT), offers immediate and specialist support to adults experiencing mental health crisis. Anyone in need can dial **111** at any time and select the option for mental health crisis (**option 2**).

Callers will be connected to trained staff at EPUT who can provide timely and appropriate support and advice. The service is for people aged 18 and over and aims to ensure those in need of support can access it quickly when they need it most.

Help protect young people from terrorism

This year, young people have been spending more time online than ever before. Along with a rise in hateful extremism, this means the Counter-Terrorism Police are concerned that young and vulnerable people may be at a higher risk of being targeted and groomed by people who wish to do them harm.

Family and friends are often the first to spot worrying changes in behaviour that might be signs showing someone is at risk. However, studies show that most people don't know what to look for.

Counter Terrorism Policing have launched a new website to help everyone know what to look out for. Please take a look at actearly.uk.

Have a very good and well-deserved weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs M Townsend', written in a cursive style.

Mrs M Townsend
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher – KS5