



Weekly Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students, Parents and Carers Friday 12 June 2020

Next week will see a return of sorts to the sixth form for Year 12 students, as they attend academic and welfare review meetings with their tutors during the week. Of course, this will not be anything like the normal experience of sixth form life, but it is a start, and tutors are looking forward to seeing their tutees again. We have been so impressed by the resilience, flexibility and adaptability of many of our students during the last twelve weeks. That is not to say that these weeks have been easy for everybody, and there have been a number of challenges as well. We hope that the review meetings give a chance to talk these through if necessary. Please do let Ms Watson know as soon as possible if you are shielding or self-isolating and need to have the review held via the telephone or on Teams.

The death of George Floyd and subsequent events in Minneapolis and all over the world will have been making many of us think hard about inequality in society. In her bulletin for students in Years 7-10 earlier in the week, Dr Cusick reminded students of the need to celebrate and preserve the benefits we share from living in a diverse and multicultural society. Nelson Mandela said that 'Our differences are our strength as a species and as a world community'. When the school is able to reopen, we are looking forward to working with students to examine equality and diversity issues for the benefit of everyone in our community. I hope that many of you will be interested in being a part of that in due course.

Year 13 Book Returns

Thank you to Year 13 students who have been bringing books back in over the last couple of weeks. Under the current circumstances, books that are returned have to be quarantined for a few days before they are scanned back in, which will slightly delay the £20 refunds, but we aim to send these to you as quickly as we can. Please could we ask those of you who still have books at home to bring these back as soon as possible. If you have items in your locker, you can come and take these (or return the books) but this needs to be by arrangement. Please contact me if you want to make arrangements to do this.

Year 13 Resits

A couple of students have been in touch enquiring about resits. We haven't had any information about these yet but we will get in touch as soon as we know more.

UCAS

It has been good to see Year 12 students register with UCAS this week. For those yet to register, please refer to Mr Bridgwater's presentation on the school website, which includes the buzzword you need to link your application to the school.

EPQ

A message from Mr Morris to thank those students who have already been in touch to discuss their plans for the EPQ. Do please contact Mr Morris as soon as possible to express your interest in the EPQ so that he can discuss your ideas with you and make sure you are paired with a supervisor.

Update on Teams

Thank you for all the feedback so far with the new approach to remote learning. This is new territory to most staff, students and parents/carers, but we believe we will all become more confident and benefit from the use of the available technology. The feedback from students has been very helpful to steer guidance and advice given to teachers. One change as a result of this is that for Year 12 students, you now have the ability to directly message your teachers on Teams. This can be a much speedier way of contacting them than email.

Weekly parent/carer email digest: the school has now started to pilot the weekly parent/carer email digest. This consists of an email containing information about the assignments from the previous week as well as forthcoming assignments for the week ahead. The report will also provide information detailing which assignments your son/daughter has handed in using Teams.

You will receive the individual report for your son/daughter each weekend. This is the first time we have used this software as a school, so any feedback would be welcome.

Microsoft Teams Support: The 'remote learning' tab on the school website provides the link to all the information required to access and use the Teams software as well as providing the new timetables and support guides for both students and parents/carers. There is a link to support for any technical issues.

Message from our Careers Adviser

Any students looking into the allied health professions may be interested in the free webinars being run by 'I see the difference' team.

To register students need to go to www.iseethedifference.co.uk/join-us-for-our-free-webinar-series-careers-in-allied-health

Webinars

Year 12/13: Creating a Backup to Medicine

Tuesday 16 June 9.30am. - 10.30am

Wednesday 24 June 11am - 12pm

Year 12/13: Introduction to the Allied Health Professions

Thursday 18 June 11am - 12pm

Thursday 25 June 10am - 11am

To complement the UCAS launch, Mrs Cure is putting together a presentation about Higher/Degree apprenticeships, which we will send out within the next couple of weeks.

Year 12 Exams

Teachers have been contacting students to make sure they know what to revise for the Year 12 exams. A timetable for these will be released next week, along with some guidance about how to complete an exam paper remotely. Some subjects are carrying out 'test runs' of sample papers via Teams so that in subjects such as Spanish, students can check they can hear the listening paper, or upload a diagram. Do make sure you complete any test practices in advance, so that you know what you are doing on the day of an exam.

We look forward to seeing many of you next week. Enjoy the weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Townsend
Assistant Headteacher - KS5