



Weekly Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students, Parents and Carers Friday 15 May 2020

I wanted to take the opportunity to give you details of some changes in the way we plan to deliver the curriculum remotely from half term to Year 12, following the recent announcements from the Department for Education and the expectation that students will continue to learn remotely for the time being. The changes have been introduced to try to ensure greater interaction for students, to help them structure their time, and to enable staff to respond with feedback more easily.

After half term, we will introduce a modified weekly timetable with shorter lessons to be delivered in a variety of ways. This will be done remotely using Teams via pre-recorded lessons with set tasks and the capacity for students to 'chat' to their teacher in real time during the scheduled times to ask any questions they may have. Further details, including parent/carer guidance and student guidance as well as a planned timetable will be sent to you later next week. The remote lessons will be shorter than normal lessons (40 minutes) but teachers will also be setting independent work and study too. There will be four 40 minute lessons per subject each week. There will also be a recorded weekly assembly and weekly activities set to prepare for post-18 options and choices.

We hope that the approach helps students prepare for their eventual return to school life and supports them in working effectively. Students will continue to be signposted to lesson resources, which now will include recorded segments, via Edulink. If you have any queries or concerns over access to resources or equipment to support your studies, please do let me know.

Lesson Allocations from September 2020

I would also like to let you know that we plan to increase the teaching hours for both Year 12 and Year 13 from September to 10 hours for each subject per fortnight. Current hours have been 8 taught hours for Year 13 (with a directed ninth hour) and 9 for Year 12. This change had been the plan in any case but we feel this will be particularly beneficial at this point given the current situation.

EPQ Launch

Many students in Year 12 have expressed an interest in undertaking the Extended Project as an additional qualification. This is an individual project which students develop under the guidance of a supervisor, as well as following a taught skills programme. The EPQ is valued

by universities as preparation for the ways of working and studying at university and is a great way of broadening your knowledge beyond the curriculum. Mr Morris will be launching the EPQ in the week after half term and there will be a range of additional activities for students to carry out over the half term and summer holiday if they are interested in pursuing this.

UCAS and Post-18 Destinations

Many students have been using Unifrog, resources from Directions and other sources to research different options post-18. We will be delivering our UCAS launch to students remotely after half term, and will provide information for parents and carers as well. Another resource which has been recommended for students considering university options are the UniTaster days which are running each Tuesday. Students need to book their places in advance: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx>

Unifrog

A small number of students have yet to create their Unifrog accounts. Please can I remind you to do this as soon as possible as we will be using Unifrog for reference writing and all aspects of support for your applications to either university or further study, apprenticeships or employment.

UCL Study Prep

University College, London have put together an online course for Year 13 students who plan to go to any university from September 2020. The course is intended to take 4-5 hours and focuses on skills needed to prepare for university: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/year-12-and-13/ucl-study-prep>

A reminder to students to make sure you are checking Edulink for your work, keeping to a routine, and also making some time for exercise and time away from screens. Please do let teachers, Ms Watson, Ms Brewis-Shephard or me know if you have any concerns – we are here to help. I do hope that you have had a good week and wish you all the best for a peaceful and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Townsend
Assistant Headteacher - KS5