



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 9 October 2020

When I went off to university for the first time, I encountered a phrase which I had never heard before, which was 'fifth week blues'. This was a common expression used there referring to the fifth week of term, at which point it was said that the combination of homesickness, workload and associated stress would all really kick in for students.

It would not be surprising if some of you were feeling a sense of those 'fifth week blues' at the moment, given that we have reached that point in the term this week. The honeymoon period of the first couple of weeks of term has passed and there will be deadlines to meet, applications to complete and many competing pressures. Please make sure that you speak to your tutors, Mrs Watson or Heads of Year if you are beginning to feel overwhelmed, so that we can support you. The pastoral team are here so that you can discuss things with them and we encourage you to do this and talk through any issues or concerns so we can help you to manage them.

Diversity Group

Mr Nitsche and Mrs Brewis-Shephard enjoyed meeting the group this week and discussing a number of issues. A number of plans are in place as a result of this. These will be discussed in PD sessions next week. Please do come along to the meetings on Wednesday lunchtimes to discuss any issues.

Wear Red Day

A reminder that we are wearing something red to 'show racism the red card' on 16 October. Please wear something red and bring in £1 to show your support. Wristbands will also be available to buy (£1).

Coursework/Non-Examined Assessment Deadlines

To help you manage your workload, we have collated the internal deadlines for coursework/non-examined assessment for each subject below. Please make a note of any which apply to you and make sure you are planning your work to meet the deadlines.

One thing to mention is that the process for querying grades for NEAs has changed in the last few years – students have to make their queries before grades are submitted, rather than waiting until August when results come out. This means that subjects need to mark and

moderate work and give it back well before external submission deadlines, so you need to stick to and meet the deadlines given.

Art, Craft and Design

Year 12 initial deadline Monday 7 December 2020, final deadline Monday 1 March 2021

Year 13 will be set as soon as we have confirmation from the exam board re the assessment changes.

Computer Science

NEA (20% of final grade) - one single coding project with write up - for final submission Easter Year 13 (this year Friday 26 March 2021).

Key milestones are:

End Year 12 - draft analysis section

Year 13 Autumn half term - improved analysis and draft design section

Year 13 Christmas - working on implementation

Year 13 Spring half term - completed Analysis, Design and Implementation

Year 13 Easter - all complete: Analysis, Design, Implementation, Testing, Evaluation

English Literature

Year 13: First draft due 16 November 2020; final draft due 22 February 2021.

English Language and Literature

Year 13: First draft of comparative piece due 16 November 2020; first draft of creative piece due 30 November 2020; final draft of both due 22 February 2021.

A level Chemistry / Physics / Biology

Year 13 practicals not done (or required) during lockdown period. We assume they will not be a requirement for the A Level pass this year but will monitor situation with exam board.

Geography

Year 13: First draft - Thursday 11 December 2020.

Year 13: Final draft - Friday 12 February 2021.

History

Year 13: First draft - 27 November 2020

Year 13: Final draft – 8 January 2021

Media Studies

Deadline will be confirmed as soon as the revisions to the A Level are agreed by the exam board

BTEC Science

Unit 2 (2 students only). 4 assignments to be completed over the next 4 months in enrichment and own time.

Unit 8 (All students) 3 assignments between now and April 2021

Unit 4 (3 students only) 4 assignments to be completed between January and April 2021

Unit 9 (3 students only) 3 assignments to be completed between January and April 2021

Sport

Year 12 Unit 1 exam – May 2021

Year 12 Unit 2 exam – May 2021

Year 13 Unit 3 assignment AB – September 2020

Year 13 assignment CD – October 2020

Year 13 Unit 6 assignment A – September 2020; assignment B – November 2020; assignment C – January 2021.

University of Cambridge Opportunities

Schools liaison at the University of Cambridge have been in touch with information about the following opportunities. These particularly apply to Year 12. Do take a look and see if there are any which apply to you.

- **[Cambridge University Engineering Society: Online Access Week](#)**, taking place from 26 October 2020. The event is for prospective students who are currently under-represented in our student body (see website for more details) and who are interested in Engineering, and includes talks from Cambridge academics and current students! This event is open for all ages but specifically aimed at students in Years 11/12. Deadline **4pm, 14 October 2020**.
- **[Sutton Trust: Pathways to Law](#)** – the program is online but students must live within an hour commuting distance (some students from Essex may be eligible to apply to London – **deadline 19 October 2020**.)
- **[ClickCambridge](#)** is a new online programme for 2020/21, which aims to equip students with the information and skills needed to apply to selective universities. The deadline is **9am on Monday 19 October 2020** - [sign up here](#) but you may want to find out more via the [ClickCambridge](#) site first. The Year 12 programme is for UK-domiciled Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab (BPA)/mixed BPA students.
- **[BME Students in STEM](#)** - this series of online lectures, hosted by Magdalene College in collaboration with [Target Oxbridge](#), aims to engage Years 10-13 students from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. The next event is on the **26 October 2020** - find out more [here](#), and register [here](#).
- **[Target Oxbridge](#)** is a free programme that aims to help Black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with Black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge. The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12 (as well as, in certain circumstances Year 13). Find out more [here](#), and apply [here](#) before the deadline: **Sunday 1 November 2020, 23:59**.
- **[Cambridge University Students' Union](#)**: The [Shadowing Scheme](#) is a free, online mentoring programme for state-educated UK students in Year 12 or equivalent. Usually, this is a residential programme, but this year will be held virtually throughout January and February 2021, with the opportunity to meet current students, access Admissions Webinars, and receive 1-1 support from a mentor (all online!). Find out more [here](#), and apply [here](#) by **15 November 2020**. Please also see attached documents.

Many thanks to all of you for wearing your face coverings in corridors and social spaces this week, something we will need to continue to be vigilant about for the time being.

Have a great 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