



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 23 October 2020

Dear Students

Thank you to all of you who have made this first half term of the year and the return to an open sixth form go so smoothly. I also want to thank, on your behalf, the efforts of the pastoral support team, Café6 staff, IT support, the cleaning team and site team who, alongside your teachers, have helped us all to work effectively over the last few weeks. It is a very well-deserved half term break for all; do make sure you take some time to recharge the batteries and rest before we return.

Alert Level High

A letter was sent home to parents and carers earlier in the week from Councillor Ray Gooding, on behalf of Essex County Council. The letter explains a number of expectations for schools in the light of the move to Alert Level: High. In particular, this section explains that:

In education settings that teach those in Year 7 and above, students and adults should now wear face coverings when moving around indoors, unless the person is exempt from doing so. This requirement would apply in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

As a result, we do need to ask you to ensure that you are wearing a face covering at all times when moving around the building and in social areas when social distancing is more difficult, unless you are eating or drinking. Please do make sure you take responsibility for this and follow the expectations.

Message from Mr Bridgwater for Year 13 Students

For those yet to send off their applications, the half term break will be a good time to make progress with your applications. Take the time to research and finalise your five choices, draft or redraft your personal statement and make sure everything else on the application is completed.

If you are looking for apprenticeships rather than university then start to research possible opportunities and make a list of useful websites that you should revisit on a regular basis so as not to miss any relevant openings. Remember to check Unifrog for these too.

In addition, if you have yet to make up your mind, the UK University & Apprenticeship Search virtual fair is taking place on Wednesday 4 November. You will need to register to attend on the afternoon of that day. You will be able to attend from 2.15pm onwards, unless your last lesson ends earlier. You can sign up and find out more here: <https://ukuniresearch-london.vfairs.com/>

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mr Bridgwater.

Careers Interviews

One to one careers interviews with our independent careers adviser can be booked for both Year 12 and 13 students who would like some guidance on future plans. Please speak to your tutor or Mrs Watson to arrange these.

Year 12 Higher Education Workshop – Oxbridge and Competitive Applications

Year 12 students who are considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge, those who are thinking of applying to a competitive course such as Medicine or Dentistry, or who are planning to apply for a place at a high-tariff course such as at a 'Russell Group' university are invited to attend a workshop with the Schools Liaison Officer from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, on Tuesday 10 November during the Personal Development session. This will be held 'virtually'. Please let your tutor or Mrs Turner know if you would like to attend.

Taster Days

ARU are offering 2 hour taster days in a number of subjects:

- Nursing
- Paramedic Science
- Midwifery
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Social Work

If you might be interested, follow this link: <https://aru.ac.uk/study/open-day/tasterdays>

The University of Suffolk is running a number of support sessions on university applications via Unibuddy. Link for more information and to register:

<https://www.uos.ac.uk/content/applying-university>

Have a very good half term. We will look forward to seeing you on 2 November – don't forget the new timings for lessons and breaks, which you will be able to check on your timetable.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Townsend
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher – KS5