



## **Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 14 May 2021**

Dear Students

Normally at this time of year, Year 13 students would be about to start public exams and we would be completing the last preparation and practice for those. Instead, students have already faced an extensive series of in-school assessments and are now coming towards the very end of their courses. Congratulations to Year 13 on the professional and conscientious approach that they have taken to this very different approach this year. For Year 12, the forthcoming exam week will be an important chance to consolidate learning and build exam skills: we have no information as yet on whether any arrangements may be amended for 2022 so we continue to follow the usual specifications and expectations for exams.

### **Face coverings in the sixth form/update to guidance for schools**

The guidance has been updated to the provision in schools from Monday 17 May.

The following changes will be made based on this guidance. Face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or outdoor communal areas. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. If staff and students wish to wear a face covering in lessons they should do so if this is their preference.

However, we continue to expect face coverings to be worn by staff, students and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible, such as moving between classes and when queuing to purchase food or waiting to enter rooms or when changing for PE lessons.

The bus companies have also asked us to remind you that face coverings are still mandatory (except in cases of medical exemption) on buses even in circumstances where these rules are being relaxed within school premises.

### **Year 13 assessments and attendance**

As the scheduled assessments come to an end, Year 13 students will not be expected to attend lessons unless they have been asked to by teachers. After the moderation day on 19 May individual students may be asked to come in to the sixth form to complete additional assessments where this has been identified as necessary. If this is the case, you will be contacted individually.

We look forward to seeing you all for the final assembly for Year 13 on 25 May and hope that we will be able to take a year group photo that morning as well. Please don't forget to return library books and clear lockers.

### **Year 13 Leavers' Event**

Thank you for responses via tutor groups over a possible leavers' event. We would like to gauge the level of interest to be able to plan for this. Please complete the online form by the end of the day on Monday 17 May [here](#):

### **Year 12 Exam Week (w/c 7 June)**

Normal lessons will not take place during this week. We are conscious that Year 12 students did not sit the GCSE exams and want to make sure that you have the opportunity to practise and develop your revision skills. Next week's briefing will contain advice on revision and tutors will also be discussing this with tutees. During the week of the exams, you are expected to attend all exams on your timetable and you are welcome to sign in to study and revise within the sixth form building during the week if you wish.

### **Briefing from Barnardo's and Essex Police**

We have been asked to share the following information with students, parents and carers: it is reasonable to believe that the use of 'night time' economy synthetic drugs, such as MDMA, have been produced but not used to the same extent due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Due to the night time economy being unable to operate to its full extent for over a year, reported MDMA prices continue to be extremely low and there are indicators that a large stockpile is likely to be strongly marketed as the night time economy reopens in the coming months.

Consequently, the gradual relaxation of restrictions enabling the full reopening of pubs and nightclubs, and larger events such as festivals, is likely to result in an increase in MDMA and cocaine consumption. Alongside this, users are likely to have reduced use or abstained and have reduced tolerance, increasing the risks of overdose poisonings and deaths.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Townsend  
Head of Sixth Form  
Assistant Headteacher – KS5