



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 19 March 2021

Dear Students

Just over a year ago, we were very fortunate in the sixth form to have a talk from Patrick Foster, who spoke of his gambling addiction and the ways this had affected his life and choices. A former England U19 and Northamptonshire cricketer, Patrick's addiction started first when he was a student at the University of Durham, and spiralled as his cricket career stalled and he entered a career in the City. You can read more about Patrick and his story [here](#). One of the things he spoke of in his talk was the way he felt he had used his gambling to replace the excitement of sport as his professional career faded, and that feeling of missing out on excitement will be something many of us have shared over the past year. There is local and national concern that young people's participation in gambling and other potentially risky behaviour online has increased over the last twelve months. If you have been affected, please do speak to someone about it, whether this is a sixth form member of staff, a family member or friend, or via one of the sources of help below.

Support services for gambling and other issues

<https://www.gamcare.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/gambling-addiction/>

<https://www.bigdeal.org.uk/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

Apprenticeships Workshop

Year 13s seeking apprenticeships are invited to join Mr Bridgwater and AIM apprenticeships on Tuesday 23 March at 9.10am.

Tutorials

A reminder that tutorials are a vital way for tutors to support you individually throughout your time in the sixth form and you are expected to attend each one of these. If for some reason you are unable to attend a tutorial, you should contact your tutor via email and see if it is possible to rearrange.

Statements of entry

Even though the public exams themselves will not take place this summer, we still need to enter students for them so that you are awarded grades for each subject. These will be sent to all Year 13 students and any Year 12 students who should have taken exams towards the start of next week. You must check these and respond if you have any queries or spot any anomalies or errors.

Reminder: The eC-Card App

The eC-Card App gives free condoms to young people in Essex aged 16-24.

The scheme is accessed via an App downloadable from either Google Play or the App Store. Once downloaded users follow a simple seven step process. Young people wishing to use the app are required to review 3 short educational animated videos and then validate their understanding by completing a short quiz covering: Sex, consent and the law, Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how to use a condom.

Once registered, users can then access details of all participating venues and complete the collection of condoms by attending the chosen venue and scanning a unique QR code issued to each venue. This records details of the transaction at the venue location.

App users are asked to provide their date of birth and home postcode during the registration process. This restricts registration to users to those between 16-24yrs of age and a resident of Essex (excluding Southend).

Thanks for all of your support for Comic Relief today – enjoy your weekends and we'll look forward to seeing you for the last week of term.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Townsend
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher – KS5