



Bluecoat Sixth Form
believe in yourself, in others, in God

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Summer Term Updates

Thank you for your support of the return of both year 12 and year 13 to in person teaching. We have been delighted with how successful it has been, and I know teachers are thoroughly enjoying having their students back in the classroom full time!

To allow us to welcome both year groups back, there have been a number of new routines for students to learn. These include a staggered start in the morning; all students spending break and lunch outside unless they are eating; and using the path at the front of the buildings when travelling around site to ensure they do not cross any other year group bubbles. These routines are designed to keep all our students and staff at Bluecoat Aspley Academy as safe as possible. Details of key messages are delivered during morning tutor time so it is important that students attend. A reminder that this is 8.30-8.55am Monday and Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays for Year 12, and 8.30-8.55am Thursday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays for Year 13.

We will be having a focus on attendance this term. We are more than conscious about the year that we have had and therefore it is really important to ensure that we see everyone as much as possible. There have been instances where absences have been non-covid related but days are taken at random. These do build up and have a significant effect on student's attendance, as well as their progress. Please support us in sending your child to school and let's get more students above our 96% target. Well done to those who are already above that, especially those on 100%!

Preparing for Year 13

In anticipation of the autumn term of year 13, when students will make applications to courses to take them beyond sixth form study, we will be having a day off timetable for all students on **Thursday 20th May** for the launch of UCAS. This day will be virtual so while students will not be expected to physically attend sixth form on the day, they will be expected to attend online. This will be the launch of our support programme for applications to Higher Education.

We will also run a virtual UCAS evening on **Monday 7th June at 6.30pm** for parents and students. The purpose of the evening is to provide information on Higher Education, the process of selecting a course and university, putting together a successful application and busting myths about student finance. An invite to join the event will be sent out in due course.

Progress Exams

Level 3 Year 12 students are studying fully linear A Level courses, meaning all their formal exams are sat at the end of two years of study. In previous years, at the end of Year 12, students sat external AS exams and AS grades were then used to help students to make informed decisions about their progression into Year 13. Progress Exams are the formal internal exams that will replace these.

Progress exams will begin week commencing 14th June. We will use the results from Progress Exams to make informed decisions about student progression into Year 13. The second year of study will be at least as demanding as the first, if not more so. Therefore **students who are taking three A Levels will be expected to achieve at least D, D, E in their Progress Exams in order to continue with their three A Levels.** Students taking BTEC plus an A Level will be required to achieve 54 UCAS points (the equivalent of DDE) in order to continue with their courses.

Before the end of summer term, students will need to attend a meeting to discuss the outcome of Progress Exams. If the minimum grades have not been achieved, this meeting will be to discuss appropriate changes to their chosen courses. This could include dropping at least one A Level subject and picking up a BTEC Extended Certificate qualification. Like many sixth forms and colleges, we do not offer the option of repeating Year 12. Support and guidance will be provided to assess a student's future options.

To support students with preparing for these exams, we have a package of support which includes:

- Morning tutor time being dedicated to VESPA sessions (Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice, Attitude), which will provide practical suggestions for effective revision.
- Booster sessions continuing to take place on Thursdays at 8.30am for students who struggled in their December mocks.
- All students invited to attend Thursday afternoon peer mentoring 2-4pm in the Common Room.
- Support being available for time management, study skills or revision - email chill@bluecoat.uk.com to request a personalised session.

Talk the Talk

On Wednesday 7th July all year 12 students will take part in a full day of workshops delivered by Talk the Talk. This organization promote confident communication for life and will deliver their 'Talk about the Future' oracy workshop to students. You are welcome to read more about the benefits of the workshop here: <https://talkthetalkuk.org/workshops/talk-about-the-future/> Student attendance to this day is compulsory.

End of Term Dates

All year 12 students will continue to be taught until **Friday 9th July.**

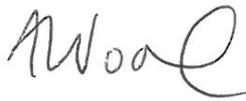
Work Experience week runs **12-16th July.** Students are not required to attend sixth form during this week.

Work Experience placements are taking place virtually this year. If your son or daughter hasn't yet secured a work experience placement please encourage them to schedule an appraisal meeting with their tutor to ensure they have accessed all of the resources available to them to support them with finding and applying for a placement. Work Experience is invaluable for experience and employability skills, and the virtual nature of them this year has led to some amazing opportunities being available!

The end of term for year 12 students is **Friday 16th July**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Wool'.A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. V. H.' with a horizontal line through it.