Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to our student and parent family! It was so lovely to end our Autumn term with a Christmas service and student led Christmas quiz. I hope it sent students in to the Christmas period feeling festive and ready for a well-earned break, and that they return to us refreshed and ready for a successful Spring term!

With Year 12s now having sat their mock exams, mock results are due to be available in Go4Schools on Monday 15th January. If you have not previously logged in to Go4Schools, now is a great time to do so. If you need any support with this, please see this page on our website [Setting-up-GO4Schools.pdf (bluecoatsixthform.co.uk)](https://www.bluecoatsixthform.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/04/Setting-up-GO4Schools.pdf). The achievement team will be in touch to communicate any interventions following the release of this data, including academic and Attitude to Learning interventions.

Morning registration: Work Experience

This half term, our morning registration sessions aim to prepare students to search for and participate successfully in work experience placements ahead of our dedicated work experience week which takes place during the week commencing 15th July 2023. Work experience is one of the best things a student can do to help them to stand out in a competitive education and careers market. According to studies, early work experience is linked to higher earnings later in life and 80% of employers think work experience is essential for anyone applying for a job.

Work experience can also:

* Strengthen applications to higher education, apprenticeships and employment
* Help students settle on or rule out a career path
* Show a passion and interest in a career pathway
* Introduce students to the world of work
* Help a student reflect on their strengths and areas for improvement

We are very keen that *every* year 12 student has planned a work experience placement by February half term. Students are supported to make their own contacts for work experience. Once students have the contact details of their secured placement, we will use Unifrog, an online careers platform, to ensure the placement meets health and safety requirements and to gather parental consent. . **Please note that all Year 10 and Year 12 students across the city will be vying for these placements**, so students should make early contact where possible.

Advice from Unifrog on finding placements:

*Thinking of ideas for work experience can be a challenge. Rather than trying to find the ‘perfect’ opportunity, look for a placement that ticks as many boxes as possible. For example, it may not be possible to shadow an anaesthetist, but you could explore other roles in the healthcare industry like working in a dental practice, nursing home, or GP clinic.*

*You could also think about the transferable skills that are relevant across industries to help you find a placement. For example, it’s unlikely that you’ll be able to find work experience as an air steward, but you could reach out to customer services departments as the staff will use very similar skills in their day to day jobs.*

Attendance and punctuality

Worryingly, attendance for Year 12 students continued to slip during autumn term and the average is now down to 87.9%. Please support students to achieve to the best of their abilities by ensuring they attend lessons. Last academic year, students who achieved A/A\*s in their end of year 12 mock exams had maintained 97% attendance throughout the year.

Another focus for our pastoral team this half term will be punctuality. During autumn term, Year 12 students missed almost 14,000 minutes of learning due to lateness to lessons.

Rewards

Last half term we rewarded students with the highest number of credits accumulated through positive points, attendance to enrichment activities, over 96% attendance and highly motivated or engaged attitudes to learning with a trip to Nottingham’s Winter Wonderland Sky Skating. This half term we will be inviting students with the highest number of credits to play Laser Tag.

Students have been shown how the system works in relation to credits, and are aware that there is a credit deficit for lateness to lessons and negative points (accrued through poor behavior but also for not attending homework club sessions which are assigned if students miss homework deadlines).

RSHE and Careers and Employability

The focus for this half term’s RSHE programme is wellbeing, covering topics such as how to recognize and develop strategies to manage low mood, anxiety and stress. Given that young people in the UK are reported to have higher mental health need than ever, I’m sure you can appreciate the importance of these sessions which take place during our tutor period on Friday 11.30-12.30pm. Attendance is compulsory. For more information on the importance of early intervention in schools, see [Facts and figures about young people and mental health - Mind](https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/doing-more-for-young-people/facts-and-figures-about-young-people-and-mental-health/).

As mentioned, the focus of our careers programme is Gatsby Benchmark 6 – providing students with meaningful experiences of a work place.

Thank you for your continued support. A future date for your diary is the next parent council meeting on 27th March.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Wood

Head of Sixth Form