Year 13 letter

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Please find below a summary of our half term and plans for our Year 13 students’ final half term before study leave commences!

Kind regards,

Ms A Wood

Preparing for post 18

We have been focused during tutor period this half term on readying our students for leaving us! With session on budgeting and information how to apply for student finance. We have also renewed our focus on higher and degree apprenticeships as an attractive alternative to university. Students have also been reminded about how to deal with exam stress as we approach their final exam series and have had access to drop-in stress support sessions.

Mock exams

Mock exams have now been sat and results were updated on Go4Schools on 31st March. Projected grades are a reflection of all mock exam data, with an emphasis placed on the most recent mock exam results, and should give as close an indication as possible of how students are likely to perform in their summer exams.

Subject specialist RAP (raising attainment and progress)

Guided revision continues to be offered two mornings a week, with subject specialist RAP delivered by subject teachers on Thursday and Friday mornings 8.30-9am. With only a few weeks left, students should make every effort to be on time for these. Details of rooming for these sessions have been emailed to students.

In addition, Easter RAP sessions will also be taking place in several subjects. Morning sessions are running from 9.30am till 11.30am and afternoon sessions from 12pm till 2pm. The timetable for these is attached.

Attendance and punctuality

There is nothing more important in the final weeks of the school year than attendance. Teachers are planning focused sessions, covering final pieces of content and refining exam technique. Attendance for the year group currently sits significantly below our expectation of 96%. Attendance is directly linked to outcomes, so it really is vital that we work together to get our students in lessons. Please ensure the sixth form have your most up to date mobile number so that we can communicate with you when we have concerns.

Dress code

The weather is starting to warm up! A reminder that we have do have a dress code and students may be required to return home to change if they are not adhering to this code:

* Flip flops or sliders are not to be worn for health and safety reasons
* Tops must cover the midriff (stomach area)
* Trousers/jogging bottoms or jeans must be worn pulled up to cover underwear.
* Shorts, dresses and skirts to be no shorter than mid-thigh
* Hats and coats to be removed in class
* Lanyards to be worn at all time

Rewards

Students with the highest number of positive credits were celebrated this half term with a choice of vouchers or £10 off their ticket to the Leaver’s prom (more details below).

A reminder that students gain credits for positive points earned through effort in lessons, participation in enrichment and wider involvement in the sixth form community and 100% attendance. Students lose credits for low attendance, poor punctuality, negative behaviours and missing homework deadlines.

RSHE and Careers and Employability

This half term students interested in moving into an apprenticeship have taken part in four targeted workshops provided by the trust lead for careers. Next half term we will continue with our programme of readying students for life after sixth form, with information on results day and clearing.

Exams

Our first BTEC exam is on Wednesday 30th April and A Level exams start on Monday 12th May. All exams will be held in the Lecture Theatre in the Sixth Form building with morning examinations starting at 9.00am and afternoon exams at 1.15pm. Subject specialist staff will be available for 30 mins before each exam to support with any last minute questions, so students should aim to arrive at school at 8.30am for morning exams and 12.45pm for afternoon exams. All students should now have received their examination timetables. If they have not yet collected these, they need to see their Year Leader, as soon as possible. Attached is an overview of all examinations taking place.

Results for the summer examinations will be published on Thursday 14th August. These will be available for students to collect from Sixth Form at 8am.

Final farewells

In the afternoon on Friday 23rd May, we will say goodbye to all our Year 13 students. In preparation for this, it would be greatly appreciated if you could send a baby photo of your child to kwhittaker@bluecoat.uk.com with the subject title ‘Baby Photo: (Student’s full Name)’.

Students will finish by 2pm so that they have time to get ready for the Leaver’s Prom evening. This will take place at The Village Hall Hotel, NG9 6DL from 7pm. Tickets are now available to buy through Arbor by parents or in cash by students (£20).

After 23rd May, students will not be required to attend Sixth Form unless they have an exam but are welcome to attend to utilize the study spaces.