



Sir John Talbot's School

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Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy couple of weeks in Sixth Form and I thought I would just let you know a little more about what we have been doing and what is coming up.

Year 12

We are really pleased how students are now adapting to online learning. We recognise though that some days can still be a struggle and I collated a range of tips from our students, and a few other sources, to offer help with establishing a routine, keeping focus and maintaining wellbeing. These were shared in form time on Tuesday and we hope everyone will give at least one a go over the next few weeks.

Forum is continuing where possible. Last week were lucky to secure the services of one of our trainee teachers who used to work in recruitment. He was able to tell us all about the highs and lows of reading CVs all day long! We stressed the need for everyone to develop a CV and this will be increasingly important if students are able to access any work experience in the summer. Mr Stanyard kindly offered to feedback on CVs sent to him – an amazing offer which I hope some will be taking up. This week was an introduction to student finance – an important part of the decision-making process for future planning.

Some Year 12s are now well into the writing phase of the Extended project. Presentations will go ahead on schedule after half term and the final deadline is 23rd March.

The cycle of Sixth Form life continues, I have been pleased that some Year 12s have agreed to support our Year 11 applicants in their journey into Sixth Form. I know that their experiences of cancellation of GCSEs will be helpful in ensuring that we continue to prepare for the future.

Year 13

The apprenticeship group is now underway with students being invited to the forum on CV writing and receiving one to one mentoring to support their applications.

I spoke to Year 13 last week about the deadlines that are ahead. The decision deadline for Universities have been pushed back to 5th May in the hope that they may be able to facilitate some in person visits after Easter. I have been advising students not to rush into decisions regarding courses. They may want to wait and find out more about how grades will be decided and how that might impact them personally for example. I am happy to meet on Teams with anyone that wants to discuss their final choices. The only potential advantage of deciding early is that some institutions offer priority on accommodation. I would advise looking closely as to whether that really is an advantage in the individual cases.

All of Year 13 were invited to the Student Finance forum this week and many took up the offer. Beryl Dixon from Glyndwr University clarified terms and reassured students about what they may be entitled to and when to start claiming. I will go through the practicalities with them in March when the portal opens but I have encouraged them to open discussions with you about this. Meanwhile Mr Mannion will be running some Finance quizzes in from time to time to help with key information.

Some links that you might find useful:

[Student loans mythbusting: The truth about uni fees, loans & grants - MoneySavingExpert](#)

[Support your child or partner's student finance application - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) - For the practicalities.

[Student finance guide for parents and partners \(ucas.com\)](#)

[Student finance: what parents need to know - The Uni Guide](#)

Yours sincerely

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