



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move further into Advent, and draw towards the end of what has been a particularly long and tiring term for our 6th form students (and staff!), I would like to share with you some thoughts on how things have gone, as well as share some information about next term.

Year 12 have settled in very well indeed and are quite clearly a formidable group of very able and talented young people. I am particularly impressed by how the students who joined us in September from around 25 other local secondary schools, are now very much a part of our Notre Dame community. I am also delighted with their approach to 6th form and the aptitude for learning shown by the students this term. I mentioned recently that in many ways the hardest part of 6th form is behind them; the steepest and most difficult part of the journey from GCSE to A level is now over. They won't again experience the 'shock to the system' of facing such challenging study after so many weeks of not being in a classroom! Although we are only at the end of the first term of Y12, we do need to start thinking about our students' next step. On Thursday 23rd March 2023, at 6pm, we will be holding our higher education information evening where you can find out more about the process of applying to higher education, as well as the costs and benefits involved. Details of this event will be circulated nearer the time.

Year 13 have also settled in well to their A2 studies and are a highly motivated, committed and focussed year group. It's particularly pleasing to hear so much positive news around UCAS applications, successful interviews and offers of university places. We have all been so impressed by their fantastically positive approach this term. 152 UCAS applications have been submitted, with over 100 students having at least 1 offer. On Tuesday 17th January 2023, we have our Y13 parents' evening which will take place in school, details on how to make appointments will be shared before the end of term. Just over 2 weeks later, commencing Monday 6th February, brings the biggest challenge of sixth form so far with the first of two assessment weeks we have planned for our Y13 students. The students have been emailed the assessment timetable and a revision list to help with their planning. A second assessment week will allow students and teachers to further their preparation for their final exams, this will take place week commencing 24th April 2023.

All 6th form

On Thursday 22nd December, during period 3, we gather in St John's Church for our end of term Advent service. This is one of our community milestones and all students are expected to attend. If for one reason or another a student needs to be excused from this service, they need to seek permission from me. Students will then be free to start their Christmas holiday early when the service ends at around 12:45pm.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to offer you and your family the warmest best wishes for this forthcoming holiday. May peace and love surround you all this Christmas, and the light of Jesus shine always in your hearts.

Mr Birch

Form Time/Assembly



Year 12



Year 12 will continue their PSHE topics:

Managing risk and personal safety

- H14.** to assess and manage risk and personal safety in a wide range of contexts, including online; about support in place to safeguard them in these contexts and how to access it
- H15.** to manage personal safety in relation to travel, such as cycle safety, young driver safety, passenger safety, using licensed taxis and getting home safely
- H16.** to travel safely around the UK and abroad; understand legal rights and responsibilities when travelling abroad, including passport, visa and insurance requirements
- H17.** to perform first aid and evaluate when to summon emergency services, irrespective of any potential legal implications, for example, when the situation involves alcohol, drugs, gangs or violent crime

Self-concept

- H1.** skills and strategies to confidently manage transitional life phases
- H2.** to recognise how idealised images of bodies and pressure to conform, can adversely affect body image and self-esteem; strategies to manage this pressure
- H3.** to understand the issues and considerations relating to body enhancement or alteration, including long-term consequences

- L13.** how to plan expenditure and budget for changes in circumstances (e.g. when moving out or going to university)
- L14.** to understand and manage salary deductions including taxation, national insurance and pensions
- L15.** to evaluate savings options
- L16.** to exercise consumer rights, including resolving disputes and accessing appropriate support

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- L17.** to manage financial contracts including, mobile phone services and renting items and accommodation; how to identify appropriate advice
- L18.** to evaluate the potential gains and risks of different debt arrangements and repayment implications
- L19.** to evaluate the risks in different financial ventures including illegal schemes e.g. illegal money transfers

Year 13

Year 13 focus this half term is on revision in preparation for their mock exams. 3 mornings per week they will be expected to revise in form time. They will be supported and offered guidance to do so. They will all receive a copy of the revision guide (linked below) and will already have had an assembly on the topic (linked below).



[Greg-Thornton-Revision-notes.pdf \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](https://notredame-high.co.uk/Greg-Thornton-Revision-notes.pdf)

[PowerPoint Presentation \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](https://notredame-high.co.uk/PowerPoint%20Presentation)

[Revision-Resources.pdf \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](https://notredame-high.co.uk/Revision-Resources.pdf)



Form Time Agenda

Year 12	Year 13
Bulletin/Attendance	9-Jan-2023 Assembly - Mock exams preparation
Managing Risk and personal safety 1 H14 -17	10-Jan-2023
Volunteering	11-Jan-2023
Managing Risk and personal safety 1 H14 -17	12-Jan-2023 Private Study
	13-Jan-2023 Quiz
	14-Jan-2023
	15-Jan-2023
Assembly	16-Jan-2023 Bulletin/Attendance
Self Concept H1 - H3	17-Jan-2023
Volunteering	18-Jan-2023
Self Concept H1 - H3	19-Jan-2023 Private Study
Self Concept H1 - H3	20-Jan-2023 Quiz
	21-Jan-2023
	22-Jan-2023
Bulletin/Attendance	23-Jan-2023 Assembly - Holocaust memorial
The world around us	24-Jan-2023
Volunteering	25-Jan-2023
The world around us	26-Jan-2023 Private Study
The world around us	27-Jan-2023 Quiz
	28-Jan-2023
	29-Jan-2023
Assembly - Holocaust Memorial	30-Jan-2023 Bulletin/Attendance
Financial Choices 1 L13 - L19	31-Jan-2023
Volunteering	1-Feb-2023
Financial Choices 1 L13 - L19	2-Feb-2023 Private Study
Financial Choices 1 L13 - L19	3-Feb-2023 Quiz
	4-Feb-2023
	5-Feb-2023
Bulletin/Attendance	6-Feb-2023
The world around us	7-Feb-2023
Volunteering	8-Feb-2023
The world around us	9-Feb-2023
The world around us	10-Feb-2023 Study leave



Post 18 progression

UNIFROG

The worlds biggest database of Post 16 and Post 18 careers opportunities. All students have an account for this and this allows students to match qualifications and subjects to future careers. Webinars and online courses are also available on this platform.

At the University of Sheffield, throughout Autumn and Winter there are a number of opportunities for students to experience what it is like to study different subjects at university. Below are some opportunities for students to access taster sessions, which will give a good insight into their chosen subject or area of interest at university. Please ensure that interested students fill out the booking forms individually using the links below.

Engineering Subject Tasters

Subject	Date	Time	Location
Automatic Control and Systems Engineering	Thursday 23rd February 2023	10.00am-3:45pm	On-campus
Materials Science and Engineering	Wednesday 15th February 2023	1.00pm-4.00pm	On-campus

Health Subject Tasters

Subject	Date	Time	Location
Adult Nursing	Friday 24th February	1.00pm-4.00pm	On-campus

[Partner with Arkwright Engineering Scholarships \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

[Apprenticeship Discovery Session.pdf](#)

Online Oxbridge Webinars:

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD **UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

NEXT STEPS SOUTH YORKSHIRE

- A FREE SERIES OF FOUR ONLINE WEBINARS
- FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 12 FROM STATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE
- TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO APPLY TO OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE!

Delivered by:
Mansfield and Magdalen, University of Oxford & Homerton and Emmanuel, University of Cambridge

- INTRODUCTION TO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE**
Thursday 1st December 2022 | 17:00 - 18:30
- CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**
Thursday 9th February 2023 | 17:00 - 18:30
- ADMISSIONS AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE**
Thursday 27th April 2023 | 17:00 - 18:30
- INTERVIEW WORKSHOP**
September 2023 | Date and time TBC

Online

TO APPLY, SIMPLY COMPLETE THIS FORM BY SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 23:59!

if you have any questions, please contact

- Lindsay at Homerton (Cambridge) access@homerton.cam.ac.uk
- Nuala at Magdalen (Oxford) sls@magdalen.ox.ac.uk
- Francesca at Emmanuel (Cambridge) access.officer@emmanuel.cam.ac.uk
- Sarah at Mansfield (Oxford) access.officer@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Priority will be given to students who are on Free School Meals, in Care or Young Carers.



Sixth Form Attendance Policy



Notre Dame High School Sixth Form Attendance Intervention Policy

Attendance for all students will be reviewed as below.

Attendance Monitoring Review Points			
Cycle	Date	Y12	Y13
M1	Mid October	✓	✓
Interim 1	+ 4 weeks	✓	✓
M2	Early December	✓	✓
Interim 2	+ 4 weeks + 4 weeks	✓	✓
M3	Early April	✓	✓
Interim 3	Post assessment results	✓	
M4	Mid July	✓	
Stage	Intervention		
0	<p>Stage 0 is ongoing for all students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using Bromcom registers Miss Vessey and Mrs Deeney follow up reasons for absence with students and parents. Miss Vessey and Mrs Deeney contact home via email, text or phone the same day if there is an unreported absence from lessons. 		
1	<p>Attendance below 90%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student attends a meeting with the sixth form team. Student receives a letter home informing parents/carers that this meeting is taking place. <p>Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If attendance improves and is above 90% return to stage 0 If a student remains on stage 1 for two consecutive monitoring review points they will move to stage 2. 		
2	<p>Attendance below 80% or continued poor attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers of the student will be invited to a meeting with a member of the sixth form team where we will address the main issues and agree targets and support actions to improve attendance. An Attendance Agreement will be signed by the student, parent/carer and a member of the sixth form team. <p>Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If attendance improves and is above 90% return to stage 0 If attendance does not improve or declines further we will implement the next stage of the attendance policy. 		
3	<p>Attendance below 70% or failure to meet the targets set by the attendance agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/carer and student will be invited to a meeting with the head of sixth form. written warning will be issued if appropriate and the Attendance Agreement will be re-issued. 		
4	<p>Attendance below 60% or failure to meet the targets set by the attendance agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible request to leave sixth form if the student is persistently absent from school or lessons and refuses to engage with intervention procedures. 		

Upcoming events and reminders

Request for GCSE revision materials

At this current time of financial hardship, we are asking that if any students have any GCSE revision guides that they would like to donate to the school please could they drop them in at main reception, they can be for any subject. This is a plea to all students, whether you attended Notre Dame lower school or not.

Sadly, students will receive nothing in return, other than knowing that they will be passed on to students who greatly benefit from them as they sit their own GCSEs.

Absence Reporting

We understand there are times when you will need to miss lessons due to genuine illness, medical appointments, bereavements or university open days. Any absences that are known in advance **MUST** be discussed with your form tutors and subject teachers, as well as reporting the absence. A conversation is better than an email in this case.

You **MUST** report unplanned or unexpected absence before 8.00am each day to Miss Vessey by:

- Telephoning school on 0114 2302536 and selecting option 2. Leave a voicemail if necessary stating details of absence, name and form.

Parents (or other named carers) can also report absences on your behalf by:

- Sending a text to 0114 3039996. (This is our preferred method to report absence, please include the name and form of your child)
 - Emailing evessey@notredame-high.co.uk
 - Telephoning on 0114 2302536 (press 4).

Enrichment Day – Thursday 19th January

Year 12 students will be in the school for the morning and will take part in six sessions covering careers, University and well-being. This morning is compulsory with registers taken throughout the day.

The majority of Year 13 students will be able to have a study day at home in preparation for the upcoming mocks. However, those Year 13 students who we feel are most at risk of under-achieving will be in school for supported study.



Core RE

The subjects covered in Y12 and Y13 Core RE this term are the below.

- What's in the news?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Can meaning be found in suffering?
- The meaning of life according to the Bible
- Does Science hold the answers for the meaning of life?

Pastoral Links

- [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds Home - Kooth](#)
- [Golddigger Trust](#)
- [Welcome to The Corner - WHO WE ARE \(thecornersheffield.com\)](#)
- [Home - Epic Friends](#)
- [Door 43 | Sheffield Mental Health Guide](#)
- [Sheffield Wellbeing Resources - 2019-11 v1.1.pdf \(learnsheffield.co.uk\)](#)
- [lets talk.pdf \(sheffieldccg.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [On My Mind | Resources for Young People | Anna Freud Centre](#)
- [Parents and Careers | Advice and Guidance | Anna Freud Centre](#)
- [Anxiety - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

16-19 Bursary

The student bursary fund aims to help and support students enrolled in the school Sixth Form who face barriers to learning, and to ensure that students can fully participate in and benefit from the 16-19 curriculum. A student with a household income of less than £17005 a year or a student currently entitled to Free School Meals can apply for the Bursary. Any more information needed please click on the below link or contact Miss Vessey- evessey@notredame-high.co.uk.

[16 to 19 Bursary – Notre Dame High School \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](#)

Merry
Christmas

