



Dear Families,

I hope that you are well. I am pleased to be writing to you again as we enter spring. We are now over half way through the academic year. I am thankful to see the days getting brighter, longer and warmer. It always amazes me to see how quickly the remainder of the academic year flies by, following this point of the year.

We have had a great half term in College. Students continue to display positive learning habits and continue to create a positive environment and warm community feel. Year 12 students are well underway with their chosen courses. Some Year 12 students have commented on how quickly time has gone this year and and starting to recognise the short time they have at Sixth Form. Our Year 13 students have continued to work hard in their studies and in preparation for their upcoming trial exams followed quickly after by their formal examinations in the summer.

We have lots of exciting things planned for the next half term and look forward to welcoming students back after the Spring break.

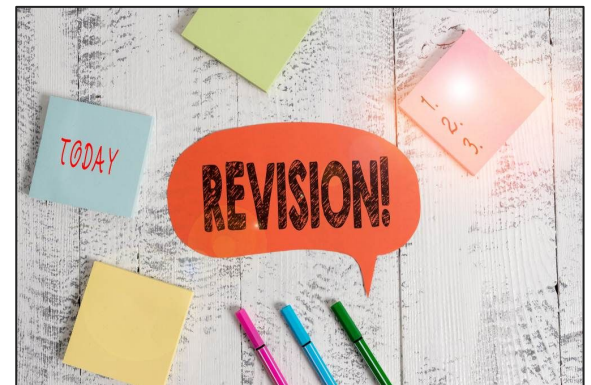




Personal Development Curriculum

Year 13

This last half term, Year 13 students have been engaging in specific study skills work during their Personal Development Curriculum sessions. During this time students have explored a variety of effective revision and retrieval techniques, some of which we hope you will be witnessing in use at home over the coming weeks. As we get closer to the exams it would not be unusual for walls and tables to be covered in colourful posters, mind-maps and various post-it notes covering a range of A Level content. We apologise for this - it is only temporary and it will be worth it, I promise.



Year 12

Year 12 students, as part of their Personal Development Curriculum Sessions, have also been look at effective revision strategies and retrieval methods. In addition to this, we have also been fortunate enough to have a number of external speakers in, covering a range of interesting and relevant topics as part of varied diet. Our PDC sessions have included a talk delivered by Cheshire Police on the topic Online Safety. This talk covered a whole range of useful material including the importance of online profiles as well as keeping safe whilst using social media platforms. In addition to this, we also had a really interesting talk from Change, Grow, Live (CGL), a Cheshire East Funded organisation addressing the issues of substance use. This talk, again, covered a range of interesting topics including the issue of spiking and keeping safe whilst out and about at festivals and elsewhere. It is always interesting and engaging for students to hear a different perspective on such issues. The students listened politely and respectfully on both occasions.





Year 12 News and Information

UCAS Discovery Convention

UCAS

unifrog

Apprenticeships

Students have now covered a reasonable quantity of their courses. As this continues, their attention will start to turn towards the next steps in their educational journey. As part of this process, we will be attending the UCAS Discovery Convention in Manchester on Wednesday 6th of March. Students have already received information about this and should now have returned their consent letters. It is the student's responsibility to register for their ticket; this needs to be done prior to the event. Instructions of how to do this are available on the letter that students have already received. It would be helpful for students to have the ticket available as a screenshot or printed on the day, as they will need this to enter the event. The session begins from 9.30 am. Students will need to register with us outside of the venue prior to entry. The session will end at 11.30 am. Students are able to depart from this time. It will be the students responsibility to get themselves to and from the venue. Most students, where suitable, will usually take a train from Holmes Chapel Station. The event is located approximately a twenty minute walk from the station.

Once there we advise students to look closely at the schedule of events at the Convention, including the timetable of talks that are most relevant to them. It is always really helpful for students to prepare beforehand to ensure they use their time well. There will be some time given over to this in Tutor Time. This is a particularly good Convention as it hosts a whole range of Post 18 options from Universities and a wide number of Apprenticeship opportunities. We hope that this event will spark an interest in future possibilities and get the students thinking about their next steps. The majority of students attend this event without parents, however in some cases parents do prefer to accompany their child. To do this parents will need to register for a ticket, if available, independently.

Following this, and over the next few months, there will be a range of activities and sessions that will cover the formal part of the UCAS process including writing a personal statement. This year we will be using a new platform called Unifrog, to support and guide this process. Students will be receiving log in details for this soon.

Year 12 tutors are currently in the process of discussing future Post 18 options with their groups. Some of these students have already been referred to Emma Jackson, our careers adviser, for further discussions and support.

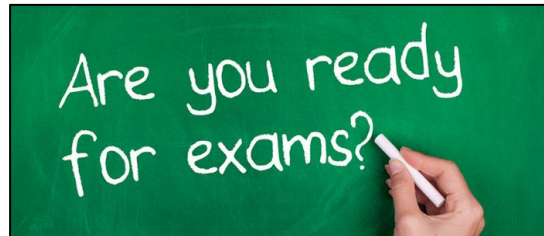
There will be a parent information evening later in the academic year, on June 6th, where we will discuss Post 18 options with you in more detail. There will be more information sent out later in the year on this.





Year 13 News and Information

Year 13 Trial Examinations



After the half term break Year 13 students will be taking part in their final series of trial assessments. The assessments will take place from Tuesday 27th of February and will be held throughout the remainder of the week. Timetables of these assessments have been shared with students on Bromcom. Students are expected to attend College as normal for lesson on Monday 26th February, including Tutor Time. Attendance on this day is important as it will provide students with an opportunity to ask questions that they might have regarding the week ahead.

Details of the assessment week have been emailed home. The main points to note are that the morning assessments will begin at 9 am and the afternoon assessments will begin at 1.15 pm. Students are expected to arrive to the venue at least ten to fifteen minutes before the start time. If for any reason a student is unable to make it on please do contact and let us know so that we can reschedule their paper. Students are also expected to ensure they provide all of their own equipment and stationary.

This assessment period will provide a great opportunity for students to formalise their preparations for their final examinations. It is a well timed process that will ensure students begin to form effective revision habits and routines. It is important that students fully engage with this process including the feedback that will follow as this can be incredibly vital in informing where gaps in knowledge might be.

Assessment results will be published the week beginning 18th of March. Year 13 Parents evening will be held on Thursday 21st of March. An opportunity to address and discuss these results will be possible then. More details will be sent out for this nearer the time.

Year 13 Formal Dinner Celebration

I wrote to you earlier in the week to explain the situation regarding the Year 13 Celebration Dinner, following the closure of The Courthouse. This is a reminder that, after consulting with the student body, we have booked Crewe Hall for the 21st of June. The cost of the event will remain the same.

If students have not yet let us know that they would like to attend this exciting event they can still do this. Interested students just need to pop in and let us know. It would be great to have as many of the year group there as possible to share this special occasion.





Year 13 News and Information

UCAS

All UCAS applications are now in. Over 80% of our Year 13 students have made an application to University through UCAS. Of these students, over half have now received all of their offers from the different Universities and the remainder have mainly received some offers. Please do not worry if you are still waiting to hear from some Universities. It is entirely normal for some Universities to hold off their offers until later in the year. We appreciate this can be frustrating as students are keen to make their final choices and this cannot be done until all offers are received. When all offers have been received and a student is ready to make their final decision they will need to select both a firm and an insurance choice.

As a reminder, the **Firm choice** is where a student will be placed (if they meet the entry requirements). The **Insurance choice** is where the student will be placed if they do not meet the conditions of the Firm choice but meet the conditions of the Insurance choice. It is very important that all students make sensible choices and that the Insurance choice has lower entry requirements than the Firm choice. It is important therefore that students select two Universities that they are happy to go to. Students can speak with us should they have any questions about this.

Careers Adviser

Emma Jackson, our Careers Adviser, continues to be available to students who wish to seek further support on apprenticeships or other possible pathways including Gap Year or a direct route into work. She sits in the Sixth Form area every Tuesday and be contacted at other times for an appointment. She can provide support with applications and interview preparations as well as where and when to start looking for opportunities.





General Reminders

Attendance and Absences

All Year 12 students must attend Tutor Time from Monday to Thursday. When this is not possible, for a medical reason or appointment for example, please do get in touch with Mrs Greeney, either by email or contacting the school by telephone, so that we are able to correctly record any absences.

Punctuality

We are trying to have a positive push on punctuality to both the start of the day and to all lessons. A report of all lates has been shared with tutors. Over the next couple of weeks tutors will be discussing this with them. We have also discussed this in our assembly and reinforced the importance of aiming to reduce the amount of lost learning time through lates.

Thank you for your continued support.

As always, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support over the last half term. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns relating to your child and the Sixth Form.

Contact Information:

General Sixth Form enquiries: sixthform@hccs.info

Director of Sixth Form: Joanne.camm@hccs.info

Personal Development Manager: ann.bentley@hccs.info

Careers Adviser: emma.jackson@hccs.info

Key Dates for Spring Term

Monday 26th February: Students return to College (This will be Week 2 of the timetable)

W/C 26th February: Year 13 Trial Assessments Commence

Tuesday 19th of March: Sixth Form Apprenticeship Fair in Manchester

Wednesday 20th of March: Year 13 Interim 2 Published

Thursday 21st March: Year 13 Intervention Parents Evening

Thursday 28th of March: Last day of term



Kindest regards,
Ms J Camm

Director of Sixth Form