

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on how the year in the Sixth Form has gone so far and to highlight a few important issues before Christmas.

Many students have made some excellent contributions to the wider life of the College this year. I have been impressed with the willingness and enthusiasm of many students who have grabbed opportunities and in doing so are showing themselves to be positive role models. Students are running homework clubs and supporting younger students with special educational needs. We had over 30 students help out at the recent Sixth Form Open Evening and they really did us proud with how positive they were about the College. Students have contributed to the College newsletter with articles they have written. They have been on a wide range of visits to places like Westminster, Exeter University and recently an ASPIRE Conference in Yeovil. Year 12 and Geographers have just returned from Slapton Ley field studies centre. The Christmas Pantomime (a sixth form tradition) has been written and rehearsals have just started.

This is a really exciting time for our Year 13 students as many of them are receiving offers from Universities. We have 30 applications sent off. This is already 12 more than were sent off last year so it's great to see our Year 13 students raising their aspirations. It gives them something to work towards and is a step closer to them fulfilling their ambitions. It is great to see students getting offers from some of the top Universities in the country such as Exeter, Bristol, Surrey and Southampton.

Modular exams and AS resits will be happening in January 2012. We are encouraging students to be making the necessary preparations for these exams. There are numerous extra classes and revision sessions being offered and students should be attending these where possible. It is the right time to be looking at past papers and mark schemes and really trying to ensure that they are fully prepared. All students with forthcoming exams have received details of dates and times. We are well aware that many students have part time jobs. We always recommend that students are careful with the number of hours they work and between 8 and 12 hours is what we recommend. In the lead up to exams, it is advisable to consider the impact part time jobs can have on exam performance and where possible reduce their hours. Getting students to see the long term benefit of doing this can be quite challenging.

The **4 December** is our annual Year 11 Taster Day. The day gives Year 11 students the opportunity to visit the sixth form for the day and sample sixth form lessons. To make way for these students we have given the students a study day. Some teachers may still wish to see their students. Those teachers will make arrangements with students themselves. During this study day we want students to use a new website called Fast Tomatoes that helps students identify career paths. They will have a booklet to take them through how to use it.

The final day of term for Sixth Form students is on **Wednesday 19 December**. Students are expected to come to school, full of festive cheer ready for the Sixth Form Pantomime and their Christmas Party in the Common Room. Festive Fancy Dress is recommended.

On behalf of the Sixth Form team, I'd like to wish all parents and students a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back to College on Monday 7 January.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Horn
Head of Sixth Form