

Sixth Form

End of Summer Term 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter comes at the end of a very unusual term. Despite the challenges presented, it is wonderful to still be able to share positive Sixth Form news from the last term. I hope you enjoy reading it – it was lovely having so much to write about and is representative of the resilience and hard work Year 12 have demonstrated throughout this period of distance learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our Sixth Form tutor team and teaching staff for their hard work supporting our Year 12 students during this period of distance learning.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mr Boniface at the end of this term – he has been a fantastic tutor and teacher of History in the Sixth Form and will be much missed but I'm sure you join us in wishing him the best with his new job in the South West. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Bayar as the new tutor of the form – she is very experienced with the Year 13 post-18 processes having been a Sixth Form tutor for over ten years. Ms Spyrou is also starting maternity leave from September – we are sending her our congratulations for this exciting new chapter. Her tutor group has been carefully divided amongst the other Year 12 forms and a detailed change over between tutors facilitated. Please rest assured that despite these staffing movements there will be a smooth transition for all Year 12 students as they move into Year 13.

Finally, I would also like to thank you all as parents and carers for your continued support of the Sixth Form. May we take this opportunity to wish you a restful summer break and our hope that you and your families stay safe and well. We are really looking forward to welcoming Year 12 back as our new Year 13 cohort in September.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Barker



Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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UCAS & Post-18 pathways week

From the 6th to the 10th July we had our Year 12 UCAS & Post-18 pathways week. All held virtually, we hosted a range of speakers, students, and academics from around the country who delivered some fascinating talks to our Sixth Formers on higher education and apprenticeships. We also live streamed to our Sixth Formers a Q&A with two past Park High Sixth Formers who described their experiences and advice following their first year at University (see photo). Students were also able to take part in two interactive electives with Park High staff and had time to complete structured research and preparation tasks designed to help with the decision-making process. I was really impressed by their engagement with the talks and activities. Feedback from students has been very positive with one student writing – *“I am really, really enjoying UCAS week! The talks have been really fun and interesting and it's exciting to think about how soon university really is.”*



Thank you so much to Mr Samuels, Mrs Kothari and the Sixth Form tutor team for their amazing work helping me set this work up.

Virtual talks, Virtual open days and work experience

Students have been sent an array of offers during the last term and many have been proactive at applying for these. Just some of the events attended have included virtual work experience with PWC and Capgemini, a careers talk with a surgeon or an osteopath, live webinars from individuals such as Dr. Jane Goodall and the Duchess of Cambridge as well as a humanitarian summit led by UCL.

There have been national writing and art competitions advertised and an array of summer school programmes. Students have been able to 'visit' a wealth of Universities through virtual Open Days and tours from the comfort of their own homes! Thank you to Mrs Foster for also arranging independent career meetings for Year 12 during this period.

Well done to all those students who have been making the most of the opportunities made available – we have really enjoyed hearing about your experiences and feedback on the events attended.

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Lumina

A number of our students were successful in their application to the Harrow School 'Lumina' programme. Running alongside the Year 12 UCAS & Post-18 pathways week, our Year 12 attendees were able to access a variety of interactive live lectures and Q&A sessions from both Oxford and Cambridge admissions tutors and lecturers, as well as webinars with current undergraduates to discuss the transition to university life. One student who attended told me: "I had my 'Studying Law at Oxford' talk yesterday with the Lumina course, which was also fascinating and exciting! Talking about constitutional & administrative law in regards to abortion and having a case study in Ealing to examine, whilst looking at the Human Rights aspect of Law was definitely eye-opening and intriguing."

Enrichment challenge

Prior to UCAS week, Year 12s were set an enrichment challenge. The aim of this was to help prepare students for their post-18 applications in Summer Term two and Autumn Term one. It was designed to ensure that students are able to provide a strong account of themselves on their personal statements and to allow them to stand out from other candidates. Well done to all of the students listed below who completed this challenge. It is a real achievement to have done this on top of your other work. It was fascinating reading all the additional activities they have been completing – this ranged from podcasts on themes such as gender identity and Napoleon, Ted Talks on topics such as human behaviour and feminism, MOOCs on brain anatomy, and, wellbeing activities such as yoga and meditation.

12MS	
Annya Kerai	Sanga Mohammed
12SM	
Kamisha Atputhajeyam	Taejah Green
12VU	
Denzel Nwankwo Shreya Patel	Jasveer Singh Harsh Shah
12SP	
Kush Bhanot	Sakina Rahemani
12LH	
Urvi Gami Jethursha Jeyachandran	Isabelle Joshi Sahil Talati
12AB	
Reaxmey Ashley Kyle Bulsara	Marisa Gohil
12MV	
Ashley Banfield Maisie Phillipson	Adam Salam Niv Sriranjana

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PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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Brilliant club

We are delighted that fifteen of our students graduated this term from The Brilliant Club Scholar's Programme. Students attended tutorial programmes with a PhD researcher and then used the skills and information learnt from these sessions to complete their own assignment. Graduating from this programme represents a huge achievement and all the Year 12s who engaged with it should be very proud of themselves.

Impressively, eleven of the participants involved achieved either a 1st or a 2:1 in the Scholars Programme. This now makes them eligible for a reduced offer from the University of Bath, a fantastic outcome, very well done!

Attendance and Punctuality

We have been incredibly impressed by Year 12's attendance during this period of distance learning. Including daily registration and live lessons, it currently stands at 96% which is excellent (12VU are right up at 98%!) Over half the year group have 100% perfect attendance and punctuality. Given the challenges students have faced this is a remarkable figure and we would like to also thank parents and carers for their support at home ensuring that students maintained their engagement throughout this time. Mr Samuels, our pastoral support assistant at the Sixth Form sends this message to the students – *"I am very impressed with how you all have adapted to this 'new' normal and really carried on with the high expectations you have set yourself. Keep up the hard work!"*

Personal, Social, Health, Economics and Citizenship education (PSHCEe)

Our Year 12s have been enjoying studying both post-18 pathways and First Aid in PSHCEe this term. Through the interactive videos and quizzes on the British Red Cross website, students are now skilled in identifying and responding to a number of injuries or illnesses.

Quizzes and Book club

We have enjoyed regular Book Club meetings and Sixth Form Quizzes on Teams during this period of distance learning. Thank you to all the Year 12s who participated!

AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

I had the pleasure of sitting in on a number of our participating Year 12 EPQ student's presentations this term. Delivered on Teams to a non-specialist panel of teaching staff, I was hugely impressed by the professional, high quality delivery on an array of fascinating topics across the board. Our EPQ students have worked extremely hard on their projects across this academic year and have managed to complete and submit in line with the initial timeline, despite the difficult circumstances. A fantastic effort by all involved. Below are just a few of our student's topics to give you a sense of some of the impressive work that was undertaken.

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Name	Taejah Green
EPQ title	<i>To what extent can we control our dreams?</i>
What was I surprised about when researching my EPQ?	The lack of research in my area of study as most dream theories discuss how and why we dream not how far we can control our dreams.
What did I enjoy most about my EPQ?	I enjoyed learning new skills which I will continue to use at university such as interpreting sources, referencing, evaluating etc. I've also gained a broader understanding of dreams, lucid dreaming and the dream research which has been done in the past.
Name	Izzy Joshi
EPQ title	<i>How has mental health been used to develop characters in 'Macbeth' and 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'?</i>
What was I surprised about when researching my EPQ?	When researching my EPQ, I was surprised at the number of sources and articles I came across that were alluding to similar ideas as I was throughout my EPQ. Like myself, many others found themselves questioning the possibility of characters in literature suffering from mental health conditions, specifically in Shakespearean literature. I found this surprising because I had never considered others believing that mental health was as present in literature as it is and has been in the past in a similar way to me.
What did I enjoy most about my EPQ?	The thing I enjoyed most about my EPQ was the organisation and planning that went into it. In order to create an effective EPQ, it is essential to have a good plan and to be organised, and I felt that I emulated this very well. However, it is important to alter and reconsider your plan if necessary – which is likely. I also enjoyed planning and delivering my presentation, as it was a chance to be creative and to explain the story of my EPQ and the journey that I went on whilst composing it.
Name	Nirusaa Kanesarajah
EPQ title	<i>How are most women aged between 16-20 influenced by marketing strategy used by Instagram?</i>
What was I surprised about when researching my EPQ?	I was surprised about how long it took to complete our EPQ. We had a lot of time to research and make sure we provided the best essay we could. Although, there were times during this process where I needed extra time for my research - I realised that although it may seem like a long time, it really is not and you need to make sure you use the time you have effectively.
What did I enjoy most about my EPQ?	I really enjoyed the fact that I was able to choose a topic which I was mostly interested in and research on this. Also, I learnt so many new skills during my EPQ process which I know would be useful in the future when I go to university and so I would be able to use it then.

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