



Parents' Newsletter

21st September 2018

Dear parents and guardians of Sixth Form students,

Three weeks into term: the weather is suddenly autumnal, Year 13 find themselves leading the way as senior role models at KCC, and our Year 12s are settling well into their new courses.

Because we know there is such a strong connection between excellent attendance and achievement, we expect all students to aim for **over 95% attendance**. When students' attendance drops, so – almost unvaryingly – do their grades. We understand that when lurgies begin to circulate, absence will occasionally be unavoidable; when this happens we require students to call **01548 852641 ext. 125** (Gemma Marshall) or text **07927 123943** each day to authorise their absence.

This week's Friday tutorial session for both year groups sees our first external speaker of the year: a representative from **Project Trust**, a gap year organisation for volunteer placements overseas. The world beyond Kingsbridge is a vast and exciting place, and we want all our students to have a sense of the many possibilities available to them. This focus on Next Steps continues in earnest for Year 13, many of whom have already been working hard for several weeks on their university **UCAS applications**. The early deadline (for applications to Cambridge, Oxford and most courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine) is fast approaching. We advise all students who are intending to make a university application to do so as early as possible, and certainly before the Christmas break, as experience shows us that **early applications are often more successful**. The Sixth Form Team, Tutors and our independent careers advisors are always available to support students with their Next Steps decision-making, so please encourage them to come and have a chat with any of us (earlier rather than later) if they feel unsure about their options or aspirations.

Meanwhile, we warmly welcome and encourage every student to get involved with our energising and fulfilling programme of enrichment, super-curricular and extra-curricular activities. There are too many opportunities to name them all here, but to mention just a few: PE staff give their time for **Sixth Form Sports** on Wednesday afternoons so we can run around and blow away the cobwebs; **Chemistry Clinic** is one of the many weekly academic support sessions on offer; the **Sixth Form Council** plays an important part in setting the direction of our post-16 community; the **Equality and Diversity Group** has an influence on our inclusive whole-school ethos, and **Sixth Form Debating** always attracts lively and opinionated participation. It is fair to say that the Autumn Term is well underway!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 12

- Year 12 Parents' 'Meet the Tutor' Evening – Thursday 27th September