



Parents' Newsletter

19th October 2018

Dear parents and guardians of Sixth Form students,

Well, here we are at the end of the half term! In the last seven weeks, the vast majority of Year 12 have made a superb transition from lower school to Sixth Form, rising to the increased organisational and academic challenges with enthusiasm, dedication and mutual support. There may have been some wobbles along the way – subject changes, social changes and an occasional crisis of confidence – but this is all part of the journey, and they have done themselves proud.

It's an exciting time for Year 13, too, with **UCAS applications** well underway for those applying to university: we are really proud of all students who are increasingly taking charge of their own future directions and doing everything they can to secure outstanding opportunities for the future. We must particularly mention the 18 who met the UCAS early application deadline this week (the biggest group we have ever had applying at this stage), some of whom have now already secured offers from universities! The Tutorial programme has continued to give time to focus on Next Steps for students considering all routes, whether university, degree apprenticeships, vocational training, employment or gap years. Please encourage discussion at home and with tutors or any of the Sixth Form team if there is any uncertainty or worry about the big 'What Next?' question: we can always provide additional guidance, support and time for those who need it.

While much of our focus is on the individuals within our own community, this fortnight Year 12 and 13 have also been thinking about and contributing to the national picture. Dr Sarah Wollaston MP invited KCC students to submit feedback to the **House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the impact of social media and screen use on young people's mental health**. Tutor groups have spent time in Registration discussing their personal experiences and opinions on the issue, collating their ideas to send to the Committee. Their insights have been fascinating to listen to, and – along with responses from other year groups and schools – will form an important part of the evidence base considered by the Committee in the coming weeks and months.

And now it is time for everyone to have a much-needed break. Every student will need to spend a considerable chunk of time on Home Learning and independent study for each of their subjects in the coming week, but it is also a time to relax, recharge, and reflect on all they have done, and all they want to achieve when we return. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 12

- Learn2Live Roadshow (for students) – during the school day, Thursday 15th November

Year 13

- Parents' Evening – Thursday 22nd November