



Parents' Newsletter

21st December 2018

Dear parents and guardians of Sixth Form students,

Phew – we've made it!

This week the Sixth Form Council delivered a huge collection of store-cupboard essentials and Christmas treats to the **Kingsbridge Food Bank**, thanks to the contributions of Year 12 and 13 tutor groups in the last few weeks. Thank you for any items you added to your weekly shopping lists to support this! It is a wonderful demonstration of how small individual actions combine to create a much larger collective impact, and we are glad that students have been so motivated to support people within our community: our real strength is in the way we work together.

At the end of this week, Year 12s will have had 38% of their teaching time for this academic year, and Year 13 will have had 46%. Those students who have listened to advice from their teachers will have been consolidating and revising their learning throughout: organising their books and folders; making flashcards of key information in each topic to self-quiz and quiz one another; going back over class notes and filling in any gaps in understanding with a text book, a friend's notes, or by attending the additional subject support sessions; going back over tests and essays with their **Purple Pens** to make corrections and improvements, and completing additional practice papers. Those students who have not yet committed to this consolidation and practice throughout the term have a good opportunity in the next fortnight to consider the new habits and attitudes they will need to adopt in 2019, if they are to feel successful at the end of their Sixth Form journey. If you'd like to know a little more about **effective revision strategies**, 'The Learning Scientists' produce excellent resources for parents and students alike, which might stimulate interesting discussion at home. We are aware that many students are working incredibly hard, so some of these resources may help to inform conversations about 'working smarter, not harder'. Short videos about different study strategies can be found here: <http://www.learningscientists.org/videos/>, and they have an informative blog here: <http://www.learningscientists.org/blog?category=For+Parents>.

In the second week back, all Sixth Form students will have a week of **Pre-Public Exams** (PPEs). This is an opportunity for students to test themselves, to be able to see their progress, and to reveal any gaps in their understanding and skills that need to be addressed in the coming months. We encourage students to really 'switch off' during the Christmas week, and to enjoy everything the festive season has to offer, but then to use the few days after New Year and before term begins to put in some focused thought and work in preparation for the PPEs. We hope they will return refreshed, re-energised and feeling positive about their learning and the exciting term ahead.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the Sixth Form Team!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- PPEs for both year groups – Monday 14th to Friday 18th January.

If students have an afternoon exam, they are permitted to miss lessons that morning; in all other cases they are expected to attend their timetabled lessons as usual.