Sixth Form Weekly News - The Headlines:

- Please ensure that you read the update on page 2 regarding entering/leaving the school site and parking.

- There have been issues with trains recently – please read the key messages to do with this on page 3.

- Microsoft Form for signing in and signing out can be found here - https://forms.office.com/e/rYHXm0Z7pC. Please remember that you must be signed in with your school email address.

- Personal statements are a key priority at the moment for Year 13. A full, written first draft should have been completed by now and shared with your tutor.

- Ensure that you bring your kit to Rec – it is important that you are participating as expected.

Upcoming dates:

- Friday 20th October- last full day before half term
- Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October- Bag2School collection- bring in a bag of clothes and items to donate (see more information on page 8)
- Tuesday 31st October – Politics Trip to Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court
- Wednesday 1st November – Internal deadline for UCAS applications
- Thursday 23rd November- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Tuesday 28th November- Careers and High Education Fair 18.00-20.00
- Thursday 30th November- Year 12 Parent and Students Consultation Evening 16.15-19.15
- Thursday- 7th December- Year 13- Parent and Students Consultation Evening 16.15-19.15

Driving and leaving site

Essential Update

After half term, you will notice there will have been new fences and gates installed to increase the security on our site. This will mean some changes to the way we enter, exit and park on school grounds. Please make sure you read these updates carefully so that you are aware of the changes.

Car Parking

- As of the 30th October 2023, all Sixth Form drivers will be required to park their cars on the **gravel car park near Humanities**.
- Please ensure that, if you drive to school, this is where you park your car. If you are unsure where this is then please ask.

Some reminders on driving:

- Sixth Formers are still permitted to apply for a parking permit, via Mrs Pasa. Students will still need a parking permit to be allowed to park their cars on site. Please see the driving section of the Sixth Form Handbook if you have any questions about driving to school.
- The timings of the gate access will remain the same: all Sixth Form drivers must be on site **before** 8.30am. Any arrival after this time will require students to seek alternative parking off site.
- Parking in the layby outside of the front of school is not permitted. This is a space for parents to drop-off/pick-up and is used during the day by members of the public. The layby is lined and RBWM may decide to send parking wardens without prior notice.
- Year 13 students may still leave site in their cars during the day, however:
    1. No student should leave/enter site during school break times.
    2. If students know they will be leaving site during the day, we request that students consider if bringing their car onto site is necessary and if an alternative method of transport (walking/cycling/public transport) could be used.
- The speed limit on site is 5mph.

Please remember that a parking permit is given at the discretion of the school and may be removed if the guidance above is not followed.

Entering and exiting site

The new fences will mean that our site is much more secure. Changes that you need to be aware of:

- The new gates will be closed and locked from 9.10am and will remain locked until 3.10.
- All Sixth Form access and exit to the school during the school day will happen via main reception. This is quite a big change for both staff and students – please ensure that you are respectful at all times to the reception team as there will be much more traffic for these members of staff on a daily basis.
- The rules surrounding leaving the site during the day have not changed:
    - Year 13 may still leave during the day as usual when they do not have a registered session. Please leave the school via the East Corridor/ Library/ Main Reception.
    - Year 12 may not leave school during the day but can do so at break to visit Tesco. Again, this should be via the East Corridor/ Library/ Main Reception.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support with these changes.

Catching the train to school

Essential Update

Lots of you catch the train to school and there have been some issues lately with strikes and delays on the trains. In order to ensure that you are not given a late DT, please ensure that you follow these steps:

- If your train is delayed, please ensure that you take a photograph of the platform board so that you can show the member of SLT at the gate / your tutor when you arrive to school.
- Where trains are late and are beyond your control you will not be given a DT. This is the same for when there is strike action on the lines.

The school is aware that the 08:16 train from Bourne End to Furze Platt is often late – bearing this in mind, it is your responsibility to ensure that you catch a train that will get you to school on time (just as an employer would expect you to make adjustments if you know that there are consistent travel issues!)

Students that get this train should ensure that they are getting the 07:46 train instead, which will provide you with plenty of time to get to school (even if the train is delayed!).

Students that drive to school should also be aware of traffic – planned road closures and the daily rush hour need to be taken into account when you are driving to school. Remember the gate closes at 8.30am.

The Sixth Form is open from 7.30am – plenty of time to grab a tea and be ready for the day ahead!

PSHE schedule

School week	Date	Period
Term 2, Week 1	31/10/23	P3
Term 2, Week 2	08/11/23	P5
Term 2, Week 3	15/11/23	P5
Term 2, Week 4	20/11/23	P4
Term 2, Week 5	30/11/23	P3
Term 2, Week 6	5/12/23	P5
Term 2, Week 7	11/12/23	P3
Term 3, Week 1	04/01/24	P5
Term 3, Week 2	11/01/24	P5
Term 3, Week 3	18/01/24	P2
Term 3, Week 4	23/01/24	P5
Term 3. Week 5	30/01/24	P2
Term 3, Week 6	09/02/24	P2

Year 12 News

Well done to all Year 12 students (and parents/guardians) for completing their first term in Sixth Form. Your first 'Attitude to Learning' grades have been published on Go4Schools. Please contact Sixth Form Admin if there are any issues with accessing these grades. If you have any concerns with these grade, please do contact me. Hopefully, these will give you a clear understanding of the subject's expectations and whether you have been meeting those expectations.

The 'Prepare to Succeed Evening' at the start of term feels a long time ago! I thought I'd take this opportunity to remind you of some of the key messages as we move into Term 2:

Fixed Mindset vs Growth Mindset

'I can't do it...yet.' Aiming for Growth Mindset; intelligence can be developed and is not fixed. Angela Duckworth delivers an excellent TED talk on 'Grit' and the Growth Mindset, which you can find here

Revision Strategies

There has been a big focus this in term 1 on study skills and how to effectively.

- Pre-reading
- Mind mapping
- Cornell Notes
- Transforming and Condensing
- Being organised and scheduling your time
- Interleaving

Try using these techniques this half term

Attendance and Punctuality:

96% is our minimum expectation for Sixth Form attendance, although students should aim for 100%.
In context:
96% = 8 school days missed per year
90% = 19 school days missed per year
A student that is 30m late each week will lose the equivalent to 19 days per year
Statistically, missing just 17 days per year is likely to mean a drop for students of 1 grade across their subjects

If your child is absent or has an appointment, parents/guardians need to report this through ClassCharts.

Have a lovely half term, find time to relax and do things you enjoy, and see you on the 30th October for the start of term 2

Year 13 News

The end of term has arrived – what a relief!

The start to Year 13 is always hectic, with competing pressures and deadlines taking their toll on energy levels. Make sure that you use part of the half-term to relax and recharge (I certainly will be!)

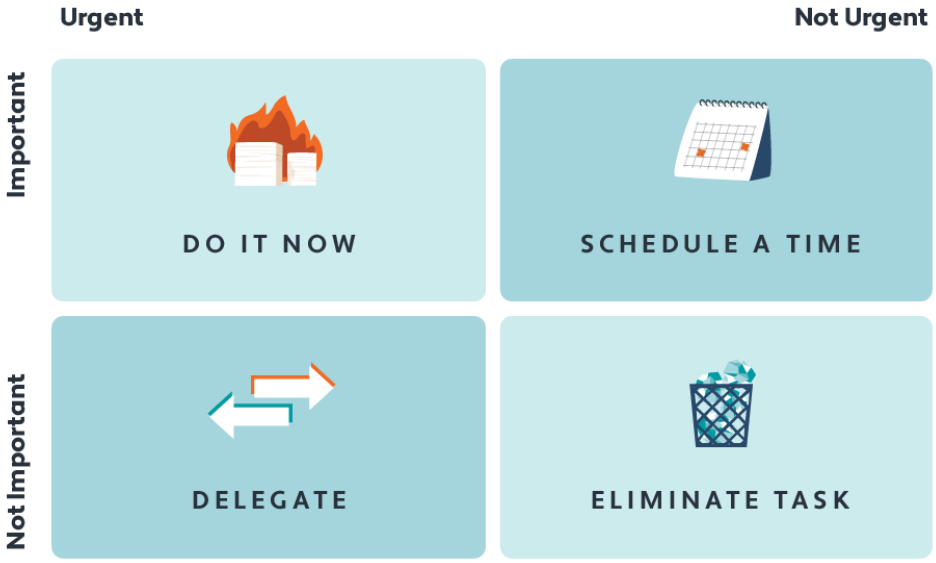
Whatever you are doing – enjoy yourself! Just ensure that you don't leave your work until the last minute – end the half-term refreshed!

Some targets for the half-term break:

1) Give some time to UCAS and your personal statements. At the time of writing we have 134 live applications and 80 available slots before Christmas to send off your UCAS application (including the first Monday back!)

2) Reflect on your progress this term – what has gone well? What do you need to focus on **next term** (get it out of your brain and onto paper so you don't have to remember!)

3) Divide any work into priorities so that you can action the most important things. The Eisenhower Matrix (below) is a really helpful device for keeping on top of things.



The Study Room

Plans for Half Term

- One of the best things you can do this half term is take some time for yourself and recharge those batteries.
- For most of you, you will have study to complete, such as course work, revision for upcoming PPE's or homework set.
- **HAVE A PLAN – use the work logs or week planners that we've promoted before to work out what you're doing and when.**
- Set some realistic goals of what you can achieve by when and stick to it.
- Get study done and out of the way, so you can take a break and recharge.

Careers

Careers and Higher Education Fair (CHEF)

On **Tuesday 28th November**, the school will be hosting its annual Careers and Higher Education Fair (CHEF) which will be host to 25 universities and approximately 40 career and industry stalls. This is an excellent opportunity for Y12 and Y13 students to network and get a feel for different career pathways. A must visit event!

Careers in Technology and Consulting with Accenture

On **Tuesday 5th Dec from 6.30 to 7.30pm** there is a webinar on the company Accenture and its opportunities – including apprenticeships. Accenture is a Fortune 500 company, meaning it has been listed and ranked for its total revenue amongst the top 500 largest US corporations on the annual list compiled and published by Fortune Magazine

https://tinyurl.com/yut3u9jw

Careers In Business Expo hosted by ACCA and Success at School

On **Wed 6th December**, students interested in Finance, Accounting and HR have the opportunity to attend this **on-line event between 8.30 and 5.30pm.** Students do not have to attend the whole day and can dip in and & out of the sessions that interest them, hopefully during TSS or frees that day. Should there be a session that you are very interested in that falls during a lesson, you would have to ask the school for consent to attend the online session instead. The organiser, Success at School, will share the agenda and order of events soon so that you can plan your day. In the meantime, you can register here:

https://tinyurl.com/5aababrr

Wishing you a relaxing half term break when it comes.

Bag2School

DONATIONS NEEDED

4 FPSS Sixth Formers are joining 70 Berkshire Scouts in Malawi next summer for 3 weeks helping to support the local communities by building schools and shelters, fixing and making waterholes and various community projects with Joshua, a British charity.

2 of our Year 12s are arranging a Bags2School collection at the end of half-term and would appreciate any unwanted clothes, shoes and other items as below on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October.

Our Needs:

- Adult/Children Clothes
- Shoes
- Handbags/ Bags
- Curtains
- Hats/Belts
- Jewellery
- Soft Toys
- Towels
- Bedding
- Scarf/Ties
- Socks

There's a full list here including exclusions: https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect

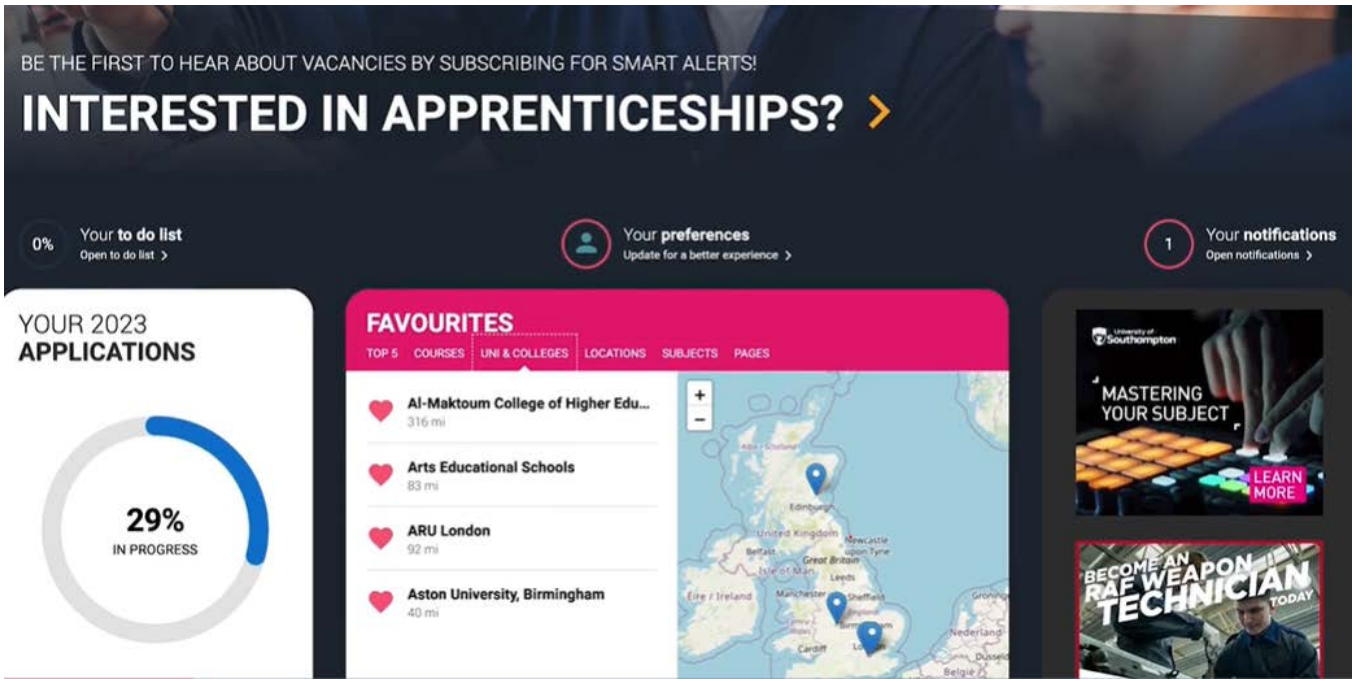
Please bring to Sixth Form before registration after half-term on Monday or Tuesday.

UCAS deadlines for the 2024 cycle

2024 ENTRY KEY DATES

2 May 2023	UCAS' search tool displays 2024 courses.
9 May 2023	The adviser portal opens for 2024 entry. From this date, you can set up your adviser portal ready for your students to link to your centre.
16 May 2023	Undergraduate applications open for 2024 entry. From this date, applicants can start their applications and send them to you for references and approval.
12 July 2023	Conservatoire applications open for 2024 entry. From this date, applicants can register, pay, and send their applications.
5 September 2023	Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS.
2 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)	Application deadline for conservatoire music applications. Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.
16 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)	Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine / science. The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.
31 January 2024 18:00 (UK time)	Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses. The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us. Deadline for most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses. Check on the specific course to be sure.
28 February 2024	Extra opens – applicants who have used all five choices and are not holding any offers may be able to add another choice in their application.

Everything you need is on your UCAS HUB



Opportunities to engage with

- The 2023 Gresham College public speaking competition will be launched soon. Keep an eye on the following page for updates - https://www.gresham.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/gresham-competition

- Upcoming talks from Speakers4Schools can be found here - https://www.speakersforschools.org/upcoming-broadcasts/

- Upcoming careers and employment opportunities through Speakers4Schools can be found here - https://www.canva.com/design/DAFgXaCPtDs/pnRPUb84yhbZYuq85lM4fg/view#1

- Work experience opportunities over half-term can be found here - https://www.canva.com/design/DAFt31HgCco/1d5hlm6y_XFLXmAvroSYKg/view#1

- Sign up to https://pathwayctm.com/student-register/ for free to engage with opportunities from the UK's top employers.

Opportunities to engage with...

- **Brookes Engage Access Programme - Deadline 3 November 2023**

Are you a Year 12 / 1st Year College student thinking about your next steps? There is still time to apply for our free Brookes Engage programme, the deadline is Friday 3 November. Our on campus conference days will provide you with information on your chosen subject stream and support you with your University application. You can find out more and apply via our website.

Art & Design Portfolio Preparation Sessions

If you are in Year 12 or 13, interested in studying an Art & Design subject and would like to develop your portfolio, you can take part in our free portfolio preparation sessions during half term, Monday 23 - Friday 27 October 2023.

There will be fully interactive online sessions, featuring live and guided activities with one of our friendly Art and Design academics and a student currently studying at Oxford Brookes. Participants will also get access to lots of different online resources and activities throughout the course, and our academic will be providing 1:1 sessions for individual feedback. Spaces are limited and applications are restricted to students attending state schools and colleges. To apply, students should complete this application form by 5pm on Friday 6 October.

Undergraduate Open Days - 7 October and 18 November

Our Open Days start this weekend, and offer you and your parents & carers the perfect opportunity to find out more about what it's like to be a student at Oxford Brookes, as well as giving you insight into our courses and the support we offer. You can book your place on our website.

You will be able to join us for the following:

- Subject taster sessions
- Q&A sessions with our academics and support staff
- Chat with current students
- Talks from our central services including admissions, finance, wellbeing and accommodation

NCS

Your experience away from home

We are excited to be working with your sixth form or college to deliver an unforgettable experience for you!

WHEN?

In October Half term

HOW MUCH?

The most you'll pay is £95. Depending on your circumstances, your place could even be free!

WHAT'S NEXT?

Scan the QR code or go to wearencs.com to grab your spot - select **'REGISTER NOW'.**

You'll need to provide information for you and your parent or guardian. Select the programme that you would like to join and make your payment, we'll then send you your joiner form to complete and then you're all set to go!

YOUR NCS EXPERIENCE:

On Monday morning, our NCS coaches will collect you and take you directly to your designated residential site, before returning you back safely on the Friday.

Kick off your experience with adrenaline fuelled outdoor activities with your mates to challenge yourself and get new independence and confidence.

Then take part in sessions to learn life hacks you didn't know you needed, learn new skills for work and life, and find your community focus!

WEARENCS.COM
0800 197 8010

Our school communication systems within the Sixth Form

The following platforms and systems are used across the school. Please get in touch (sixthform.admin@furzeplatt.net) if you have any issues with these systems.

- Parentmail – this is how information about the school will be communicated home and acts as a payment platform for trips etc.
- Classcharts – this is an attendance and behaviour monitoring tool and the only way to report absences. This must be done by 8.45am daily.
- Go4Schools – this is how reports will get home about working at grades, attitude to learning and predicted grades.
- Parents' Evening booking system – this will go live nearer the time of parents' evening and we will be in contact with regards to this.