



9 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Key Stage 5 Update, including dates of Year 12 and 13 parent information evenings

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Director of Sixth Form at SWBGS. I am immensely proud to lead a group of bright young people, with a diverse range of interests and skills, sharing common Borlase values, and ambitious aspirations for the future.

We have a number of professionals to support your son or daughter through their sixth form studies. These include Form Tutors, Student Support Officers (Mrs Fortnam for Britons, Danes and Normans Houses, and Mrs Bull/Mrs Furley for Romans, Saxons and Vikings Houses), and others covering safeguarding, UCAS support, careers, and health & well-being. In addition, we have a group of talented prefects from Year 13, who have significant involvement in supporting students throughout the school in a number of key areas.

Years 12 and 13 students attend form groups together, so that Year 13 students can provide guidance and support where needed, and Year 12s can benefit from their older peers' experience of the sixth form.

This week, we have held a number of ice-breaker activities to allow Year 12 students to settle into a routine. There is already a strong sense of community, with new friendships emerging, that will undoubtedly support both academic and social development for all.

Compulsory supervised study periods continue to be an important part of sixth form life, where students undertake independent learning in a structured manner. In addition, the school offers a number of development opportunities, such as weekly lecture series for Year 12, and a PSHE programme for year 13 students.

We strongly encourage all sixth form students to lead or participate in Academic Societies that will commence daily during morning break from next week. These are designed to spur interest in academic studies, and widen students' experience beyond the classroom.

We are now in full swing in supporting Year 13's UCAS applications, including helping students write personal statements, and completing references. When invitations to University interviews start arriving, we have a strong programme of conducting mock interviews to maximise chances of securing conditional offers.

At the start of the academic year we run information evenings for Year 12 and Year 13 parents. The information evening for Year 12 was originally scheduled to take place next week on Tuesday 13

September. However, we have taken the decision to postpone this until 20 September 2022 so as to provide slightly longer notice of the event. It will now therefore be held at 6.30pm in the school Theatre on Tuesday 20 September. I do hope that at least one parent or carer of each Year 12 student will be able to attend. The date for the Year 13 evening is slightly further ahead - it will take place on the evening of Tuesday 11 October.

Lastly, may I draw your attention to the Student Handbook provided to each member of the sixth form, and would be grateful if you could support the school in ensuring that all students strive towards fulfilling their expectations, notably in relation to our uniform policy.

There are a number of important events and activities planned for the sixth form throughout this academic year, which I will write about in future updates.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, or any member of the sixth form team, and we would be delighted to help.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Naveed Hussain
Director of Sixth Form