



SIXTH FORM BULLETIN

SPRING TERM 2009

We have had a hectic first two terms of this academic year with a wide variety of trips and events. This bulletin gives a flavour of sixth form events and useful information for parents and guardians. As always, if you have any concerns or queries about the progress of your son or daughter, do contact their tutor or a member of the sixth form leadership team.

Matt Duffield: Director of Student Achievement 16-19 **Alison Teagle:** Head of Sixth Form

Jane Temple-Smithson: Deputy Head of Sixth Form **Caroline Brann:** Student Liaison & Support Officer

SIXTH FORM NEWS

CAREERS, PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (CPSD)

We have six days throughout the year when sixth form students experience our CPSD course. These are compulsory components of the curriculum where we focus on citizenship, current affairs, careers guidance and other issues relevant to sixth form students. The Spiritual Development component develops our ethos of community and spirituality and enables students to play a full part in a Catholic sixth form. Our day on the 27th February focused on independent living for year 13 students with sessions on budgeting, student loans and finance, thrifty living (including sewing to 'make do and mend' and cooking on a budget). Year 12 students looked at the options open to them after sixth form study and whether a gap year at some point in their career would be of benefit and the practicalities of organising a gap year. The focus on the 17th March was 'healthy body, healthy mind' with speakers from health promotion agencies, a talk from a psychologist on motivation, revision and exam preparation, sport, relaxation and even massage! The final CPSD day for this academic year involves Year 12 students on the 30th June.

Alison Teagle – Head of Sixth Form

ATTENDANCE MONITORING

We expect students to attend and be punctual for all lessons and compulsory components of their timetable. There is a strong positive correlation between attendance and achievement of target grades. Compulsory commitments include:

- All lessons
- Tuesday and Thursday tutor meetings at 8.30am
- Wednesday morning assemblies at 8.30am
- A tutor monitoring meeting once every four weeks on either a Monday or Friday morning at 8.30 or 8.40am.

We log attendance on our e-registration system and follow up on absence. If students are ill they should telephone reception before 8.30am each day so that their absence can be logged and subject teachers informed.

Unexplained absence will be followed up by subject teachers and we will be contacting parents/guardians by telephone or via e-mail if there is unexplained absence at any of their compulsory commitments. We ask for your support in promoting full attendance.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD

What could be more enticing than four days camping in the Lake District? Well, let's try walking about 90km and camping in the rain in the Lake District! But don't pity us - it was an awesome adventure for all, with many exciting anecdotes gained and unexpected triumphs all round. Many have said that 'success is a journey; a humble beginning with an improbable end', the beginning was certainly a humble one having to set up camp in the dark on a wet and soggy field. However, when morning came everyone was ready and willing to begin the ultimate test before we tackle Snowdonia next summer. The following four days simply flew by with two significant hill climbs, rock climbing alongside beautiful waterfalls and an encounter with an angry cow. The views were nothing short of inspirational; the walking nothing short of painful. Some suffered blisters; others, wet socks in the cold morning air. All struggled through the laughter and the pain to successfully return to the minibuses in the Sunday afternoon rain, intact. Just.

A tired and hobbling bunch made their way back to St Paul's with hopes that the return would be an uneventful one. If only. As tired as we were we never got hopelessly lost on a mountain top but somehow the staff managed to get lost on the M6. And to think, they were the ones testing us on our navigation skills

Andrew Kingstone, Head Boy



CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE IN THE SIXTH FORM

From the time students join the sixth form they are actively encouraged to explore their future options. Students take part in work experience, visits to Higher Education Fairs and other career related events. Talks on universities and careers are given to all the sixth form by outside speakers.

The Connexions Careers Adviser, Katrina King, is in college on Mondays offering advice and guidance to students. Students may book an interview or attend the lunchtime drop-in session.

The college has recently achieved Stage 2 of the prestigious *Investors in Careers Award*, with the co-operation of students throughout the college. This stage involved a focus group of sixth form students being asked to express their views on the design and delivery of careers education and guidance within the college.

A wide range of career guides and resources is available in the LRC including university/college prospectuses, books and magazines relating to higher education and career choices. Students are also able to access *PathfinderLive + HE*, an online careers information and guidance programme.

Jo Mitchell Careers Co-ordinator

EVENTS & TRIPS

Safe Drive Roadshow

All year 12 students had the opportunity to attend the Safe Drive Roadshow run by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service involving police, ambulance, fire rescue and road safety agencies. It is aimed at sixth form students and looks at issues facing not just young drivers, but passengers of young drivers. It is a powerful and emotional event which can be summed up by some of the student comments on the feedback forms:

"it really made you realise dangers, valuable for everyone, scares you in a good way"

"Enjoyable but still hit home hard"

"It was a wake up call"

"Thank you so much. It is a worthwhile (if scary!) experience and I would continue to give students this experience! I learnt so much!"

Les Miserables - London

On Wednesday 11th March a group of music students went to see Les Miserables in London, as well as doing a 2 hour workshop. The day was a huge success and everyone who attended found the musical inspiring and emotional.

In the workshops students were provided with activities to act out one of the scenes of the play. With help from two members of the crew of the show, we put together a 'highly moving' piece that was praised by both members. Speaking on behalf of everyone who attended I have to say it was an amazing day and would definitely go again!

Lizzie Holt. Year 13 student

WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July 2009

All year 12 students are expected to complete work experience during this week. Most jobs are possible and there is a list of placements on the WEX notice board. I would also recommend that students talk to the year 13 students and get contacts from them as well as come and ask me if they need any more assistance.

However there are some exclusions that exist due to the Health and Safety restrictions these include, anything up in the air, fairgrounds, sea fishing and tidal water jobs, flying, car and petrol forecourts, working with chemicals and poisons, bodily fluids (e.g. hospitals, funeral directors) one-to-one placements, social work/nursing, jobs abroad, night-time jobs. Some jobs are also difficult to get and these include theatre, dance and drama placements, TV and media, radio, Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Gatwick Airport, vets, however please feel free to try and get these placements for your son/daughter. The best ways to do this is through personal links you may have. I do not have contacts for these.

All placements have to be checked before the year 12 students can go on them and this may take up to 8 weeks to do. Also if the placement is outside West Sussex, East Sussex or Brighton and Hove there will be a charge of between £25 - £50 to check the placements which will have to be paid by the student. Therefore the deadline for getting placements into me if I am to be able to check the placements properly is 1st May 2009, any placements handed in after that date may not be able to go ahead.

May I take this opportunity to thank-you in advance for your help in organising the Work Experience placement for your son/daughter, and please do contact me if you have any questions.

Eleanor Wilkinson. Work Experience Co-ordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2009

Monday 20th April

Start of Term

MAY 2009

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Friday 8th May

Last day of AS teaching

Monday 11th May

Year 12 Exams and Exam Leave

Friday 22nd May

Year 13 Leavers Day and Leavers Ball

Monday 25th – Friday 29th May

Half Term

JUNE 2009

Monday 1st June

A2 Examinations start

Monday 8th June

Year 12 Return after exam leave and start A2

Friday 19th June

Year 12 Futures Information Day

Thursday 25th June

Higher Education & Careers Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 30th June

Careers, Personal & Spiritual Development Day Year 12

JULY 2009

Monday 6th – Friday 10th July

Year 12 Work Experience Week

Wednesday 22nd July

End of Term 1.00pm

AUGUST 2009

Thursday 13th August

AS & A2 Examination Results

EXAMS 2009

We are fast approaching the summer exam season. Students have all received a copy of their exam timetable and the regulations for external exams. Guidance on revision and exam preparation is given by tutors and subject teachers. Students should be starting their revision over the Easter holiday (if they have not started already) and ensure they are focused on the exam board specifications and requirements.

YEAR 12 HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE

Our preparation for university and employment applications starts after the AS exams in July. Students who are considering applying for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge universities will be invited to an information session within college in April as they may need to start preparing for their applications now. Many universities hold open days for year 12 students in the summer term. After the AS exams are over it is an ideal time to start the research process and visit potential universities and colleges. Our 'Futures Information Day' on Friday 19th June focuses on the application process in detail to enable students to prepare over the summer break.

We are running an information evening for parents of year 12 students on Thursday 25th June. Please keep the date free in your diary. Details will be distributed nearer the time.

ENTRY INTO YEAR 13

Students need to have achieved a pass grade in each unit of a subject at AS to be able to continue A2. We hope that students will be achieving at or near their target grade. The entry criteria for year 13 have been explained to year 12 students. Retakes of year 12 exams are not always successful and are an added pressure (as well as costly) in the A2 year.

CPSD PHOTOS

