

SIXTH FORM BULLETIN Year 13, May 2021

Dear Year 13 students, parents and carers,

This will be the final comms from us within the Sixth Form, and for many the last one from Bishops' High School as students approach the end of their 7-year journey with us. I hope at this point they can say they have been known, nurtured and inspired in their time with us. Can I just take a moment to thank you for the wealth of support you have given to both myself, Miss Foster, our dedicated tutor team and our students in their journey through Sixth Form life to this point. I have the upmost respect for each and every one of them and the resilience they have shown to tackle their A levels, a difficult journey at the best of times, in what has been such an incredibly challenging period of time for us all.

We really are approaching the end now, though. Students have worked tremendously hard over the last 4 weeks building up evidence towards their portfolios which will contribute to the holistic awarding of our [Centre Assessed Grades](#) this summer and I must commend them wholeheartedly.

I will look forward to spending my final few days with them at our busy enrichment programme next week. I have put the programme together to allow students to develop some essential life skills that will put them in the best possible position from which to begin the rest of their lives, a life that really can be lived 'in all its fullness'. Full details of the programme can be found attached and attendance will be compulsory for Year 13 students with absences being followed up in the usual school procedures.



Y13_Enrichment_Week.pdf

Our last 'formal day' of Sixth Form will conclude on Wednesday the 19th of May with our annual leaver's assembly (*although a small number of students may be required in school after this date to finalise their portfolios in subjects such as Science and Art*). Our Centre Assessed Grades will be submitted to exam boards on the 18th of June so it is vitally important that students remain completely available and engaged with both Satchel and Outlook up until this date should any queries arise.

Next week we will be sharing with students details of the pieces of evidence which will be used as the basis of our Centre Assessed Grades. When we explain, ask for signatures and compile the paperwork we will build into our processes consideration of the students who may not have been able to access some of those assessments through no fault of their own. As a further safeguard, if you believe there are mitigating circumstances which we are not aware of, that have affected your child's ability to access specific subject evidence, please follow this [link](#) to further information and how to tell us. The deadline for informing us is 19th May '21.

Whilst the link explains the process in detail, to summarise, JCQ outline mitigating circumstances as: "event[s] outside of the student's control [which] may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade ... Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered.

Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment." (JCQ Guidance, determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021)

The entire Sixth Form team are looking ahead with excitement to our celebrations at the Summer Ball which will be held at Chester Racecourse on Friday July the 2nd as well as our A Level Results Day which will be held outside of B Block in the sunshine on the 10th of August. Such events are a right of passage for our Sixth Formers I am so pleased we have been able to press ahead and confirm bookings in light of Boris' easing of restrictions. To that end, I am pleased to let students know that face coverings will become



optional at Bishops' from Monday the 17th of May. I feel this approach will support our Sixth Form community to help alleviate any anxieties and be ready for the weeks and further changes ahead!

Once again, thank you for everything you have done to support us. Success at A Level is always a triangulated approach between the students, ourselves and home and your support alongside the talent and commitment of this outstanding bunch of students really does make my job as Head of Sixth Form a real privilege and honour.

As ever, if there is any support needed, or if you have any questions related to the content outlined in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Take care, very best wishes and goodbye for now.

Mr S Moffatt
Assistant Headteacher: Head of Sixth Form