

JON/SNR

16 October 2018



Dear Parents & Pupils

RE: Sixth Form Update October 2018

I do hope your son/daughter has enjoyed their first weeks of the new academic year. We aim to send out one of these bulletins each term to keep you updated with key dates for your diaries as well as any other extra information regarding Sixth Form life at Sarum.

Year 13 results and the University application process

We had some of our best ever results at the end of last year with all our Year 13 heading on to University, Higher level apprenticeships, Further Education or to jobs locally and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment.

For our current Year 12's, this year is about identifying what they would like to do after Sixth Form and exploring their options. We will be taking part in a wide range of visits and sessions over the year to help them do this. Year 13's need to complete their personal statement *before October half term* and we have passed on information about what is required this term to them. Even if a pupil is not considering University, we are asking them to write a statement which can be used to help build a CV or covering letter for an employer or apprenticeship. I would be grateful for your help in supporting your son or daughter in ensuring they meet this important deadline.

The University and Colleges Application Service (UCAS) have brought out a straightforward guide for parents, which is attached to this letter for Year 13. There is also a fantastic guide useful for both year groups from Which?. If there are any further questions though, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Academy office.

Attendance

There was a slight drop in lesson attendance last year and we are looking to tackle this as the single biggest factor that can influence results. We encourage parents to take an active interest in ensuring pupils attend the Academy and will inform you of attendance/punctuality figures whenever problems arise. Parents are required to call in when their son/daughter is ill, alternatively, please email the Sixth Form office post16@sarumacademy.org with their name and tutor group in the subject line, a reason for their absence along with information as to when they can be expected back. Data is very clear as to the impact non-attendance has. For every 5 – 10% below 95% attendance pupils drop a grade at A-Level or Level 3 BTEC and we want to ensure that pupils are supported in attaining a 95% attendance rate.

Show My Homework

The Academy uses Show My Homework, an online tool which will enable you and your son/daughter to view all of the home learning tasks that have been set for them, including instructions, resources and completion dates. It is hoped that this will help support pupils and parents in accessing, organising and completing home learning. It will also enable you to check the quality and quantity of the home learning you or your child receives.

Letters confirming your ID as a parent should have been brought home, if you do not have your parental (or pupil) login, please email office office@sarumacademy.org to obtain a copy.

Parentpay

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from the Academy we are asking all parents to only use our e-payment method to pay for items from the Dining Hall. This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo.

Copies of logins for parents along with instructions should have come home with pupils over the last few weeks, if you are yet to receive your copy, please email office@sarumacademy.org to request another.

Car Parking

All pupils that drive to the Academy must register their cars with the Sixth Form office within the next two weeks. If parents are dropping pupils at the Academy, we would be grateful if you can ensure they are dropped off within the bus crescent.

Sixth Form Visit 2019 – Amsterdam

The Sixth Form Visit for this year is to Amsterdam. The visit will cost £385.00, which will include half-board accommodation, all lunches, coach & ferry to Amsterdam and all excursions to include a walking tour of Amsterdam, a Canal Cruise, visits to the Dutch Resistance Museum, Kamp Vught, the Jewish Museum and Rijks Museum - the final itinerary may change slightly however. *We need all deposits in as soon as possible as we need to send out a payment plan. If you are coming please ensure that you send in your deposit by the end of term latest*

Music lessons at the Academy

Music plays a vital role here at Sarum Academy and we are pleased to be able to offer music lessons to all pupils. Music helps young people to develop concentration skills, coordination, patience and perseverance, gives self-confidence as well as relaxing them. There is the opportunity of taking exams in an instrument should pupils wish to.

Currently we have available Guitar, Drums, Piano/Keyboard, Cello, Viola, and Violin lessons. We may be able to offer lessons on the following instruments too should there be enough interest; Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Recorder, Trumpet, Horn, Cornet, Trombone, Tuba or Euphonium.

If taking lessons may be of interest, please contact Pupil Services via the main office on 01722 323431.

Email addresses

Email is the primary means that we use as an Academy to contact parents and pupils. If you are not receiving Sixth Form emails or the Headteacher's newsletters, please can you email office@sarumacademy.org with your son/daughters name and we will update our records with your email address.



SARUM
ACADEMY

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 24 th October 2018	Close of Term 1
Monday 5 th November 2018	Inset Day, Academy Closed
Monday 5 th November 2018	GCSE & English Resits start – English candidates due in.
Tuesday 6 th November 2018	Start of Term 2
Sunday 11 th November 2018	D of E Training Day 1
Monday 12 th November 2018	Parent / Teacher evening
Monday 26 th November 2018	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 14 th December 2018	Inset Day, Academy Closed
Monday 17 th December 2018	Carol Service, St Thomas's church
Friday 21 st December 2018	End of Term 2 and Christmas Jumper Day

As always, if you have any questions or queries about your son/daughter's education, please do not hesitate to contact their Tutor or myself.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Jones
Head of Sixth Form