

29th April 2019



Bishop Laney

Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that the recent Easter break proved to be an opportunity for some relaxation, and as we returned to college for the final term of this academic year, there is much to report, but also to focus on over the coming weeks.

For Year 13 students, this term marks the start of the 'home strait' with just a few weeks to go until they will leave us. For many, their plans for the next stage of their lives are taking on greater shape, and greater certainty day-by-day, and with the help of their tutors and the Bishop Laney Leadership Team, they have a clear path to follow over the coming months. For those for whom there is still a little more uncertainty, time now is to be spent attending guidance meetings, carrying out research and, where possible, arranging encounters with prospective employers to help them make their informed choices. A wide range of practical support is available, and should you or your son/daughter be concerned about their next steps, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a discussion.

Our Year 12 students who are undertaking the transition year are shortly to complete their core courses, and their timetable will be adjusted to allow them to focus on preparing for the resit examinations in English and Maths and details provided to parents/carers. It is vital that, for those students who are resitting, they attend all the necessary lessons – it can make a significant difference to achievement.

University Applications and Student Finance - Year 13 students who have made applications to University and received all their offers should by now have accepted up to two of those offers, as most offers will be subject to an acceptance deadline of **Wednesday 1st May**. When holding two offers, your son/daughter is most likely to be holding one as their 'Conditional Firm' offer and one as their 'Conditional Insurance' offer. If this is not the case, please support us in advising them to confirm these selections before the deadline. Students who wish to accept an 'Unconditional' offer as their first choice should be holding just one offer, and all other offers should then have been declined. We will continue to monitor students' offers and acceptances, and will provide additional support where necessary.

The second of our sessions supporting applications for Student Finance is due to take place on **Tuesday 30th April at 2pm**. Students have already attended one session, which introduced them to the application process and discussed the funding available. The presentation has been shared for those who were unable to attend. The forthcoming second session focusses on completing the application, ensuring that they have all the support they need to complete their applications. Student Finance England have indicated that the last day on which applications can be received in order to guarantee finance being available at the start of the term, is **Friday 24th May**. Financial information from parents and others may be required before the application can be considered complete. Therefore, all university applicants are strongly advised to ensure they have commenced their application well before that date.

PLEDGES Day – Thursday 2nd May - Our next PLEDGES day takes place on Tuesday 2nd May. Year 12 students will be focusing on the career and higher study routes which stem from their current study programmes, with the aim of them starting to consider the possibilities for their progression in just over a year's time. The day also provides an opportunity for a first look at the process for applying to University, discussing arrangements for attending University Open Days this summer, and providing an introduction to the tools for compiling the personal statement. Attendance is necessary to ensure students are not disadvantaged when preparing for their time beyond sixth form.



We will also be offering an introduction to the Extended Project Qualification; a valuable enriching qualification, which provide students with an opportunity to carry out degree-style research activities and present their findings; solid preparation for a similar mode of study in higher education. This 11-month long course will start in May and run until around Easter in Year 13.

Year 13 students will have the opportunity to attend course-related clinics to complete final outstanding pieces of work, and a number of students are attending individual guidance meetings on that day with one of our external Apprenticeship Advisors to discuss their progress towards securing their apprenticeship.

Enrichment and Development - We have recently held elections to the Bishop Laney Student Council and we are now in the handover period where the 2018 – 19 Student Council and the Student Council Elect work together to ensure a successful transition and allowing the new council to both continue the good work started, as well as set their priorities for the year to come.

Alongside the valuable work looking at progression on the forthcoming PLEDGES Day, Year 12 students will also be taking part, with their tutor group, in a session to collectively cook and prepare lunch for the themselves on that day. It is an expectation of our study programme that we provide opportunities for students to prepare for independent adult life and students identified preparing and cooking a meal as an area in which they could develop their skills.

Later in June, Year 12 Level 3 students will take part in our now annual round of mock interviews with local businesses, designed to prepare them for the challenges of competitive interviews the following year. We are extremely grateful to Ely Cathedral's Education Department who organise and host this day for us. More information will follow in due course, but if as parents and carers you would wish to support this day by offering yourself, or a colleague as an interviewer, please do get in touch with us at office@bishoplaney.org Year 12 Level 3 students will also be taking part in short work placements in mid-July, shortly before the end of term. Again, more information will be provided closer to the time.

With such a busy term ahead it only remains for us to thank you for your continued support this year so far, and to ask you please to ensure that students remain in attendance at college until the completion of all aspects of their study programme for the year. Until that time, of course, our expectation also remains that students' part time work does not take place during college hours of 8:30pm and 3:00pm.

We expect Year 13 students to be available to attend college until at least **Friday 29th June**, and later in the case of some courses. Year 12 students on Level 3 courses have a full programme until the end of term on **Friday 19th July**. Parents and carers will be contacted to confirm when there is no longer a need to attend college according to your son/daughter's usual timetable, so please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any query.

Yours faithfully



Adam Steels
Assistant Principal



Stuart Patman
Achievement Leader

