



## The Sixth Form

October 2025

Dear Year 12 and 13 Students, Parents and Carers,

As half term approaches, I thought it would be helpful to share some information ready for next half term.

Year 12 have settled in to the Sixth Form very well and Year 13 have tackled their first set of Trial Exams successfully. It was great to see so many students and parents at the Year 13 Parents' Evening and we hope this was a useful checking in point at the start of the year.

### Important Dates

**Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** is a Staff Training Day at Colfox and a 'Stop the Clock' Day at Beaminster.

This means we are unable to run any formal lessons on that day. Sixth Form students are welcome to come in, if they wish, and use the Sixth Form facilities to work on coursework, personal statements, EPQ and plans for RAG week.

| YEAR 13                                                                                          | YEAR 12                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parents' Evening and Trial Exams I completed                                                     |                                                                                                             |
| <b>Year 13</b> Progress Reports November 2025                                                    | <b>Year 12</b> Progress Reports November 2025                                                               |
| Academic Monitoring Day 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025                                           | Academic Monitoring Day 20 <sup>th</sup> November                                                           |
| Internal UCAS deadline (for those applying to university) – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025 |                                                                                                             |
| RAG Week 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025                                       | RAG Week 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025                                                  |
| <b>Year 13</b> Full Reports – January 2026                                                       | <b>Year 12</b> Face to Face Parents' evening<br>Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January at Beaminster 4.30 – 7pm |
| <b>Year 13</b> Trial Exams II – 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026                 |                                                                                                             |
| <b>Year 13</b> Progress Reports – March 2026                                                     | <b>Year 12</b> Mocks – 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                                       |
| Exam dates and NEA deadlines will be communicated separately                                     | UCAS Discovery Event at Bournemouth University – 15 <sup>th</sup> April                                     |
|                                                                                                  | <b>Year 12</b> Full Reports – May 2026                                                                      |
|                                                                                                  | Maths in Context Exams – May 2026                                                                           |
|                                                                                                  | <b>Year 12</b> Progress reports – June 2026                                                                 |
|                                                                                                  | <b>Work Experience</b> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July for a week                                                   |

## **Study Expectations**

The step up from GCSE to A Level is probably the biggest single academic leap that students will make in their academic lives. Students are expected to 'mirror' their contact time with independent study, meaning that for every nine hours of contact time a subject has over two weeks, a student will do **at least nine hours of additional, independent study**.

With Core Maths, Ancient History or EPQ added in to the mix, this means that the **working week is likely to be at least 36 hours**. Managing personal time effectively, therefore, is a priority for students and we will do our best to help them make the most of their time. Students are using our dedicated Sixth Form study facilities really well during their study periods and we encourage them all to make the most of our facilities: the Study Room, Common Room and Library Mezzanine.

## **Sixth Form Staff**

All students have been linked to one of the Sixth Form Team who will act as their mentor; staff are Mr Haigh, Mrs Harding, Mr Wales, Miss Tyler, Mr Jeffs and Mrs Perkins. Students should have a meeting set up each fortnight so they can check in with their mentor to discuss progress, successes and any issues. Our 6th Form Student Support Officer, Lorraine Baker, is based in the Sixth Form Study Room and is there to support students on a day to day basis.

## **Attendance and Registration**

There is no morning registration for Sixth Formers but attendance is recorded to lessons on both school sites. An excellent attendance record is essential if students are to be successful at this higher level of study.

If a student is absent from school for any reason it is important we are notified **by parents/carers** in the usual way. If absence is due to sickness, a message should be left via the Absence Line **01308 861917**. If it is a planned absence e.g. a university open day or interview, permission should be sought in advance from the mentor or myself, and an absence form completed and returned to Lorraine Baker. For any absence students are responsible for contacting their teaching staff and catching up with missed work.

## **Buses**

The Joint Sixth Form provides a free link bus for students to travel between Colfox and Beaminster. Students are aware of the bus times, but please communicate any issues with us should they arise. We appreciate that some students are now able to drive themselves, however, we **strongly** urge students to make use of this free link between our sites rather than driving independently.

For any issues with buses to and from Beaminster please contact First Group Wessex Buses: 01305 783645 or [dorsetschools@firstbus.co.uk](mailto:dorsetschools@firstbus.co.uk)

## **Bursary Scheme**

The Joint Sixth Form has a bursary scheme to help eligible students cover some of the costs of their education. For example, the scheme can help students cover some transport costs, buy books and materials and afford educational visits. Bursary forms are available from Lorraine Baker in the Sixth Form or on the school website.

## **PSHE and Tutor Time**

Students have one tutorial period per week (Tuesday period 3). **This session is compulsory for all students**. During this time, we study a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. This compulsory aspect of the timetable is designed to help students prepare for life outside of school and has been carefully designed to complement students' prior knowledge and treat them as young adults. Some of the topics for discussion are challenging but of vital importance.

## **Enrichment and Give Back**

As well as academic studies, the calendar is full of plenty of other opportunities, both in house and in the community. Whilst we will endeavour to publicise these to you via ClassCharts announcements or ParentMail, students also need to be proactive making sure they read notices and carry out their own research to bolster their wider learning.

We have already seen our first trips go out which have included the Year 13 Art and Photography students visiting St Ives, a few students taking part in surveillance with a local Bat Conservation group, and 'Bankfest', an inspiring creative writing set of talks and workshops providing insight into a whole host of career pathways.

The 'Give Back' scheme expects students to 'give back' some time to the school and / or community. Students are asked to investigate ways in which they can enhance their university or job applications and personal development by volunteering their time in school or in the wider community. Activities might include: helping out in a particular lesson once a fortnight; community service, helping to run a club or supporting a school event. Volunteering looks fantastic on applications and helps students develop into rounded, engaged individuals. Tutors are now organising this with students.

Wednesday afternoons have been set aside for students to engage in sport and other enrichment activities. All students are expected to take part in an activity each week, which is being organised by the PE department.

### **Preparations for University, Apprenticeships or the Workplace**

Year 13 students are now well advanced in considering their next steps after A Levels. Mr Donovan, our Careers Advisor, is available on Tuesdays and Wednesday for Careers Advice, and interviews can be booked with him via Lorraine Baker. We hope the Careers Fair earlier this week also provided some helpful information from local providers.

Students wishing to apply to university should be working on completing their UCAS applications and writing personal statements. Completing applications early is vital, as universities make offers for courses as soon as applications are received and courses can fill quickly. Visits to university open days are encouraged and students should keep an eye on the noticeboard and announcements on ClassCharts for such opportunities.

Year 12 students would be well advised to begin considering their career options even at this early stage. For them, the summer term will be an excellent time to visit universities and research apprenticeships and job opportunities, as well as completing a week of work experience.

We hope all students have a lovely half term break.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

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