



Sixth Form End of Year Message – Summer 2021

We would like to thank students for their positivity and maturity during this challenging year in school. We have been humbled by the way that our students have approached their studies, both in school and during the extended period of remote working in the spring term. They continue to be a credit to the school, and we are excited about what they can go on to achieve next year.

There have been a number of notable individual student achievements across a range of disciplines this year. Kiran Amin achieved Gold award and Ahmed Eltahir Bronze in the Chemistry Olympiad. Kiran also finished 26th globally in the Maths Olympiad. In the British Biology Olympiad, Kaiya Henry won Gold, Lola Kelly won Silver and Ahmed Eltahir won Bronze. There has been significant sporting success, with Barney Horberry playing for the Yorkshire Rugby Academy, Emma Marlow being selected for the Northern Diamonds and England Women's Cricket Academies, Ben Gladstone winning a Bronze Medal in the under 18 UK Beach Volleyball Championships, and Lex Whitaker becoming the U19 Inter-County Fell Running Champion. Other successes include Yasmin Topley's artwork being selected for the Photography Movement's Show and Tell exhibition, Jack Pearce gaining the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, and Lella Halloum becoming one of a small and select group of young people to gain the Princess Diana Award.

Student Leadership Team

Our Student Leadership Team, led by Matt Roberts and Iris Eastaugh has played a significant role in capturing student voices throughout the year. We thank them for their commitment to the school, and for acting as role models for our whole student community. We have recently appointed our Student Leadership Team for the new academic year. Both Elena Blair and Ollie Black have been appointed Head Students, and Ebrima Jallow, Lella Halloum, Kieron Hanulla, Elisia Spears, Jacob Garrett, and Lex Whitaker have successfully been appointed as Deputy Head Students. We are excited about the work that they will undertake over the coming academic year.

Year 13 Progression

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our students are celebrating success with offers from a wide range of universities, as well as apprenticeships and courses in art, music, drama and performing arts.

259 students applied to university which is 81% of the year group. Currently 56% of the applicants have accepted offers from Russell Group Universities to study a range of courses from Social Anthropology to Astrophysics. In addition, students have been offered places on a range of courses such as medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, and allied healthcare professions as well as the humanities, social sciences, business, and education. We would like to recognise the success of all our students on whatever their chosen pathway and wish them all the very best for their future. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements. This is testament to the hard work and determination of students, their families, and teachers over many years.

Carter Harrison has been offered a degree apprenticeship in Financial Services based at Canary Wharfe, with the University of Exeter and JP Morgan, James Hall is to undertake an electrical engineering apprenticeship with the armed forces, Hedley Lawson-Tovey has secured a place at Sandhurst and Lucia Sanderson is to commence a degree apprenticeship in Chartered Surveying in Manchester. Ella Williams is to undertake a foundation course in Acting at Rose Bruford College and Jessica Earl and Jake Towers are to attend Music College. In addition, several students have been successful in securing Art Foundation courses. In addition, [a record breaking 9 students have secured offers at Oxbridge](#).

Year 12 Progression

We have been pleased with the work that our Year 12 students have completed in developing their career ideas and planning for progression beyond the Sixth Form. We were particularly impressed with the way students engaged in our Progression Days on 30 June and 1 July. Students embraced the opportunity to

hear from a range of speakers about universities, apprenticeships, gap years and careers. Outside speakers from 25 different industries presented to students during the two days, and some students even secured work experience opportunities as a direct result of this event.

Students have started the process of writing a personal statement for applications to university, apprenticeships or jobs, and they should take the opportunity to research courses over the summer using [Unifrog](#), and also to visit universities, where this is possible. When students return in September they will be developing their applications to submit within the autumn term.

New Year 12

The experience for our prospective students has been different this year. In place of hosting open events and taster days, we have produced a comprehensive set of [virtual induction materials](#) which include a live question and answer event hosted by Mr Renton and Mr Twitchin, [a tour of our facilities](#), subject introductions from our Programme Leaders, and [snapshots of lessons for each programme of study](#). We were delighted to be able to offer induction events in school for all students in the summer. These were really well attended and appreciated by students in a year in which visiting schools has been so challenging.

Tutoring and the VI HGS mindset

We are delighted that our tutor team will grow from 12 to 24 tutors for the next academic year. This change will further strengthen the support and guidance that is offered to our students throughout their time in the Sixth Form. Every student will register daily with their tutor, and will follow a structured programme of guidance activities throughout the week to support them in their personal development and in formulating their progression plans.

We are also introducing our own positive mindset with behaviours and attributes that set students up for success in the Sixth Form. VI HGS stands for Vision, Impact, Habits, Growth, Service. This mindset underpins our approach to studying in the Sixth Form, and we will work with students to develop and live out this mindset over the two years. The Service element, in particular, is a new addition for the next academic year. Showing commitment and respect to the school community and beyond are values that we promote and to encourage this, all Year 12 students are expected to complete 30 hours service over the course of the year. This Service involves students undertaking a voluntary role either in or out of school. The purpose of Service is to give our Sixth Form students responsibility for supporting others, to develop communication skills, to forge a strong sense of community, and to give younger students visible role models around school. It also builds the skills of our Year 12 students through developing their communication and leadership experience.

Developing our facilities and range of courses

During this year we have also taken the opportunity to refurbish parts of our Sixth Form building. This has included the painting of corridors and classrooms, new flooring, a new water station, and new graphics on the walls which will be in place for the new academic year. We are also introducing three exciting new courses for the new academic year to provide an even greater range of opportunities for students. The new courses are: Applied Certificate in Medical Science, Certificate in Applied Science, and Sports Leadership Level 3. In addition, the HGS Sports Academy will be formally launched to students, with a specific focus on developing our rugby and netball players.

It is important that our students have a well-earned break over the summer in order to re-charge in anticipation of returning to school in September. There are many opportunities for students to continue their personal and academic development over this period and we encourage Year 12 students to use their time productively by completing a draft of their personal statement and engaging in a MOOC available via Unifrog. Research on reading age post 16 indicates the importance of carrying out wider reading around the subject and this is something that should be encouraged over the summer.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

Mr Twitchin