

Dear Year 11 Students and Parents,

I hope that students enjoyed the last week of half-term after the hard work and effort of the last 2 years and particularly the challenges of the recent Summary Assessment period. There was a lovely atmosphere around school and a real sense of celebrating the successes and achievements of Year 11 despite such difficult circumstances and thanking them for everything they have given to our school. I wanted to send a message to keep you informed about the plans being made to help Year 11 students make the transition to Sixth Form and to remind students about the Bridging Week that has been organised.

Bridging Week – Monday 21st to Friday 25th June

In the week beginning Monday 21st June all students who have applied to our Sixth Form are invited to attend 5 mornings of pastoral and subject sessions in the Martyrs' Building (the Sixth Form block) to introduce A Level and BTEC subjects. The week will start with a pastoral 'Introduction to Sixth Form' starting at 8.55am and then during periods 2+3 A Level students will go to their Option 1 subject; students will be told which option blocks they are in for each subject and will go to each option for periods 2+3 Monday to Thursday. Students studying BTEC subjects will have 3 sessions across the 4 days. I have included a provisional timetable at the end of this letter to help summarise this information.

During the subject sessions students will be given an overview of individual courses and an insight into what studying each subject might involve. There will also be an introduction to, and support with, the Pre-Course Material for each subject. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during period 1 each day students will have the chance to attend sessions led by both staff and Year 13 students including Applying to university or for an apprenticeship, Medicine/Vet/Dentistry, Law, Engineering, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Operation Wallacea, EPQ, JPII Award and a number of others. The week will finish with a later start of 10.25am on Friday with a pastoral session entitled 'Evaluation and Planning' and a chance for students to consider what they have learned during the week and prepare for starting Year 12 in September. At the end of Friday's session, students are invited to stay for a buffet lunch and a chance to reflect on the week and plan for the future.

Pre-Course Material and Super-Curricular Work

At the end of each subject specific session students will be given Pre-Course Material which will help them prepare for Year 12 and enable them to hit the ground running; the deadline for handing this work in will be Friday 10th September, the end of the first week of Year 12. Alongside the Pre-Course Material, each department will also be making suggestions about 'Super-Curricular' work and providing links to allow students to really develop their depth of understanding and find out more about subjects they are passionate about. All material given out will also be posted on the school website after Bridging Week.

GCSE Results' Day and Interviews

GCSE Results' Day is Thursday 12th August and more information about how results will be given out will be sent out before the end of term. Following GCSE results, there will also be individual interviews arranged to help offer support and advice to students to enable them to finalise Sixth Form choices.

Students do not have to wear uniform during the week and the sessions will finish each day at 12.25pm. 'Love Coffee', the excellent Sixth Form café, will be open each day for students to buy drinks and snacks and they are also welcome to stay for lunch each day.

I am very much looking forward to seeing students in school for a prompt 8.55am start on Monday 21st June. If there are any questions, please send an email to sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk or students can send a message directly to me through Teams. Please could I also ask students to keep looking at the Year 11 Team for additional information about Bridging Week.

Yours faithfully,

Quentin Hughes
Head of Sixth Form

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.55am Period 1	Registration Pastoral Session: Sixth Form Introduction Coffee Morning (provided)	Registration Either Preparing to apply to University Or Preparing to apply for an Apprenticeship	Registration EPQ Operation Wallacea Duke of Edinburgh JPII Award GreenSoc	Registration Medicine/ Vet/Dentistry Law Engineering (Other subject sessions tbc)	FREE
10.25am Periods 2+3	A Level Option 1 BTEC Session 1	A Level Option 2 BTEC Session 2	A Level Option 3 BTEC Session 3	A Level Option 4	Registration Pastoral Session 'Evaluation and Planning' Lunch (provided)