

Year 12 Parents' Update

Covid Update

Covid Cases: We are happy to report that since college re-opened on 8th March, we have only had 2 students testing positive for Covid-19, and these were picked up quickly thanks to Lateral Flow Testing. If you are part of the home testing programme, thanks for all your efforts and please continue to test twice a week and log results. Low case numbers are generally a sign that the incidence of the virus in our local community is low and we are also lucky to have a well-ventilated modern building in which to study and work.

Face coverings: Since stage 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown, face coverings are no longer compulsory for students in college. We have encouraged students to keep wearing them until half term due to high numbers in Long Eaton and uncertainties around new variants. Until the end of the academic year, staff and students will be able to choose whether or not to wear masks in lessons and around the building.

Bubbles: After half term, we will have only 50% of the normal numbers of students in the building. This means that we will no longer need to divide Year 12 into A and B bubbles as we have had to do so far and they will become 1 year-group bubble. They will still be in seating plans for lessons and our advice is for them to spend their non-contact time with the same groups of friends which will minimize mixing, but leave them free to choose who to mix with.

Assessments

As you may remember, we made a decision to cancel the Y12 Assessment Session which was due to take place in the 2 weeks after Easter. This was because students had only recently returned from lockdown and we felt that it would not be beneficial to suspend lessons for the usual 2-week assessment window. Departments will still be running assessments, taking into account all the work completed to date. These will happen in normal lesson times and students will have information about when assessments are happening in each of their subjects. These assessments will help to inform staff regarding UCAS predictions – although predictions are never based solely on one assessment.

WREP Week (Work Related Experience & Progression)

Next week is WREP week (Monday 24th – Friday 28th May) where the college is offering a week-long programme of online activities designed to develop knowledge and skills around the world of work and university progression. Designing a week like this has been especially challenging in Covid times but there is a huge amount on offer and we hope you will encourage your child to make the most of these sessions. Students are required to attend a mixture of workshops and activities which are being provided by college staff alongside external employers and universities. Many of the workshop sessions will be useful for university applications. All sessions are being run remotely and students are expected to engage fully.

In-Person Tutorial Sessions

Tutor sessions are a compulsory part of the Study Programme at Bilborough and will be face to face from after half term. The sessions will be focused on beginning the application process for university (UCAS). For students considering other progression routes, such as an apprenticeship, alternative activities will be available. However, we do encourage all students to begin the UCAS login in case they change their mind further down the line, as many do every year. Please contact your child's tutor if you have any questions regarding these sessions.

Reports and Grade Updates

Updated Progress Grades can be accessed on the Parent Portal from the week after half term. The definition for these is:

based on their current work and all available evidence up to this point in time, this is the most likely final grade we think the student will achieve in their course if they continue current working habits and standards

For courses with external grade awarding in August (GCSE Maths/English, Further Maths AS, Maths Studies Level 3), the grades will not be updated due to restrictions from the exam boards regarding information that we are permitted to share with students. These students will receive an email on results day (AS/Level 3 on Tuesday 10th August, GCSE on Thursday 12th August) from college with the awarded grades in those courses.

Student reports will be emailed out in week commencing 5th July.

Lanyards

The safety of our students is of paramount importance to us and we need to ensure the only people on site are our staff, students and legitimate visitors. To this end we expect all staff and students to wear photographic ID at all times when on the premises. Most students abide by this rule, there are a few that do not. Students who persistently fail to wear their lanyards will be subject to a disciplinary.

Dates for the Diary

College staff are participating in a MAT Inset day on Monday 21st June. Teaching staff will be setting work for students to complete independently on this day and tutor sessions will be rearranged.

Last Day of Term for Yr 12 Students: Friday 2nd July

Year 13 Progression Day (Start of term for yr 13): Friday 3rd September

If you have any questions, please contact enquiries@bilborough.ac.uk and we will do all we can to help.