

December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the Christmas break it seems timely to review the first term and to alert you to key events next term and some reminders about making the most of opportunities.

Progress over the first term

By the end of the first term, Y13 A level students will have completed their second formal assessment of this academic year and have been given feedback and specific tasks to complete to help support further progress. BTEC students have been completing assignments too and they will also receive a formal assessment grade. Just like after the first half term, you will ultimately receive an email informing you of the current "On Course To Achieve" (OCTA) grade and scores from the formal assessments. If progress is of concern, some Y13 students may be invited to attend the online Y12 consultation evening.

Formal Exam Hall Assessments

After Christmas, we are running a 7-day window of exam-hall assessments for Y13 students from Monday 17th Jan at 9am to Tuesday 25th Jan at 1pm. These will take place in an exam room as we are very aware that these students didn't sit GCSE exams due to Covid and so we think it is important that they get the chance to experience exams in this way before the summer.

Lessons for Y13 students will be cancelled in this window to allow the assessments to take place. The only exception will be the Y13 BTEC Extended Diploma (Triple) where lessons will continue. Normal lessons will resume on Tuesday 25th from 1pm and students who travel on a college bus will need to get on in the morning as usual on Tuesday 25th. Exam Timetables can be accessed on Student Advantage (menu_exams_exam timetable).

It is important that formal assessments are taken seriously as these results could be used for a future Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) should these be required in the summer. Students should plan their time carefully over the Christmas break so that they relax and enjoy the time but also get effective work/revision done too. Please encourage your young person to get in touch with subject teachers and personal tutors if they need more support with revision planning and materials.

Personal Tutor contact details – a brief reminder

If you have particular concerns about your young person's progress, then please do not hesitate to contact the personal tutor and/or the relevant subject teacher and we will do all we can to address your concerns. A reminder that email addresses of tutors and teaching staff always follow the format of firstname.surname@bilborough.ac.uk.

Bilborough Extra

Bilborough has a huge range of extra-curricular and super-curricular activities from sport to creativity to clubs and societies and much more. All students receive a **weekly** email with details of the following – please look at this with them and encourage them to get involved.

- Bilborough Extra/ Enrichment activities
- visiting speakers from universities and employers
- workshops in college
- work placements
- apprenticeship schemes and opportunities

Parent offers of work experience placements

We are keen to build up our database of employers who might be prepared to offer either a few days shadowing or work experience to our students. If you think you might be able to help, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact our work experience coordinator joanna.zielinska@bilborough.ac.uk

General advice for getting the most from college

Attendance

Full attendance is vital to maximise progress. However, we appreciate that there may be times when students are unavoidably absent through illness. If this is the case, please notify us by using the “absence” button on either Parent Advantage or Student Advantage. If you are unable to notify us by Student/Parent Advantage you can either phone college reception on (0115 8515000) or email absence@bilborough.ac.uk. Persistent poor attendance can lead to students being charged or withdrawn from external exams.

Independent Study

We expect all students to spend as a minimum 5 hours per week completing homework and independent study for **each** of their A level subjects. For BTEC Extended Diploma courses we would expect 12-15 hours a week across the Diploma (equivalent to 3 A levels). If students are not completing independent study, we will add timetabled study room sessions to a student’s timetable. **Students and parents can also request this facility.** For students who can stay in college at the end of the college day, study zones are kept open until around 5.30 - 6pm every day.

Parent Advantage, the college website and parking around college

You can use Parent Advantage to see live attendance data for your young person, timetable information, and, as they become available, external examination dates and coursework deadlines. If you have not yet registered a log on to Parent Advantage, please read the email that was sent at the start of the year with your unique password. Alternatively, email parentadvantage@bilborough.ac.uk and we will provide you with the necessary details. On our website, the ‘Information for Parents’ section is updated regularly with useful information, including copies of the weekly student ‘Bilborough Extra’ bulletin mentioned above. The Health, Welfare and Safeguarding link also contains useful information ranging from online safety to the Prevent safeguarding strategy. Finally, we want to support our local residents by insisting that students are not dropped off on private property, in areas which block resident driveways, or on the mini roundabout outside college. **We ask instead that students are only ever dropped off in the lay-bys on Bilborough Road where this can be done much more safely and without inconvenience for others.**

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And finally, the last day of term for students is Thursday 16th December and we start back on Tuesday 4th January 2022. *We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and restful Christmas break and send you our best wishes for 2022*

*from
all the staff at Bilborough College*

Key Dates in the Spring/Summer Term.

| Week commencing date | Event |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 13/12/21 | Christmas Holidays 17 th December – 4 th January 2022 |
| 17/1/22 | Y13 Exam Hall Assessments begin – Monday 17 Jan. No Y13 lessons INSET day – 20 th January |
| 24/1/22 | Y13 Lessons resume to normal timetable – From 1pm Tuesday 25 th Jan |
| 14/2/22 | Feb Half term |
| 28/02/22 | INSET day – 2 nd March |
| 04/04/22 | Easter Holidays 4 th April 2022 Return to college 19 th April 2022 |
| 23/05/2022 | Y13 Leavers Day |