

**Y13**

The Spring break begins Friday 29th March and students return **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**. College premises is open 9 – 4pm over break, except for the bank holidays.

**What’s new!** We always aim to prioritise the safety, health and wellbeing of our college community. We recently launched our new smoking and vaping policy after a staff and student consultation. The [Bilborough College Vaping and Smoking Policy March 2024.docx](#) is effective on our return to college 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. **Please remember smoking and vaping are only permitted in the designated area.**

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April until lunchtime Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a timetable change for all students. Some subjects will be running longer assessments.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>08:50 - 10:20</b>	A Block	E Block	D Block	F Block	C Block
<b>10:40-12:10</b>	A Block	E Block	D Block	F Block	D Block
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	C Block	B Block		A Block	E Block
<b>14:40-16:10</b>	C Block	B Block		B Block	F Block

Students are well and truly in countdown mode to the examinations which start in May and students with coursework are working hard to ensure all assignments are completed and submitted at the highest level possible. Whatever your course, we hope that you feel you are well supported by us. We are grateful for everything your parents/carers do to provide practical support and encouragement. We particularly appreciated the high turnout at the year 13 parent/carer consultation evenings.

Please encourage your parents/carers to access your progress on the CEDAR platform. This provides details of your ‘On Course to Achieve’ OCTA grade for each subject and attendance. Updated OCTA grades will be available after the Easter break.

The exam season begins for students in mid-May. However, many students will have completed coursework assignments and practical exams before this. To achieve success in the summer, students not only have to know and understand their subject material but also need to have mastered the necessary exam techniques. We believe it is vital that all students are spending at least 5 hours per week per subject outside of lessons in preparation for their summer examinations.

The final few weeks of courses with exams are dedicated to intensive revision programmes and to improving exam techniques. High levels of attendance and continuing commitment are vital in the next few months. Some students will have received letters from us warning of the possibility of exam entry withdrawal. We will be monitoring attendance very closely in the final weeks of college and are hoping that excellent attendance in the final few weeks will mean that we do not have to do this. Please do not hesitate to contact your Skills and Progression Teacher if you have any concerns regarding your progress or if there is anything you feel we need to know that might be affecting your performance.

### **Examination Preparation**

All subjects will have revision materials hosted in an online virtual learning environment e.g. SharePoint. This will include syllabus specifications, model exam answers and other resources to help and support students. Students have had advice about the best ways to revise and one of the most important things to do is to work through past exam questions which are also available on the Exam Boards' websites. Applying what you know in this way and checking your answers against mark schemes is much more productive than just trying to learn lists of facts. Students should also make effective use of the continuing subject support sessions to iron out any difficulties in terms of understanding work and for honing exam techniques. All students should make good use of their non-contact time within college. The Library and Information Centre, the Study Zone and the study room areas provide students with private study spaces in which to work. Students are welcome to drop in and use these facilities. The Study Zone opens at 7.30am daily and closes at 6pm Monday to Thursday.

Revision app <https://getadapt.co.uk/>

[Adapt - free Revision Timetable App for A-level & GCSE](#)

Adapt is a free revision timetable app for your A-level & GCSE revision that plans for you. The study planner is available on the App Store & Google Play Store

It's free and breaks down your specific exam board subject into topics to revise. You can set your number of sessions per day and what days you are going to do work...

### **BTEC Extended Diploma and BTEC Certificate Courses**

Students who are coming to the end of their BTEC studies continue to have a high workload of assignments. As usual, they will have tight deadlines to meet, and they need to manage their time carefully. It can be tempting for students on a mixed programme of A levels and BTECs to focus exclusively on the immediate A level exams and jeopardise their BTEC qualification.

We are supporting students where we can, but all assignments must be handed in on time. Students who do not submit work on time will not be allowed to re-submit their work and this will limit their final grade. These rules are set by the awarding body and we have to stick to them.

For students on BTEC qualifications, BTEC exams have already started.

### **Lessons and Study Leave**

For students on A level programmes the last formal day of teaching is **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.

The first A level exam is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

We have found over the years that students revise most effectively by attending lessons for as long as possible and, if we start study leave too early, they lose that vital contact with their teachers who can help structure their revision and answer the questions that they have. However, we do recognise that immediately before an exam students might benefit from an exclusive focus on the exam which is about to take place. From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, we will authorise morning absences where a student has an afternoon exam as well as the afternoon before a morning exam the next day if you wish to use that flexibility.

Students on mixed programmes (studying both A levels and BTECs) may need to attend BTEC lessons or one-to-one sessions after the last formal day of teaching if assignment work is not completed. Students will be made aware of what work is outstanding and must stay connected by email to ensure that they complete the qualification successfully.

**Planning for the future**

Helping students to plan the next step after college is a vital part of the College programme. Since the start of Year 12 we have been working to ensure that students have an accurate and balanced understanding of the pros and cons of going to university and we are encouraged that so many continue to opt for this route. Although the January deadline has passed, students can still submit late applications if they have a change of heart. We are just as pleased that every year many of our students progress directly into high quality jobs or high-level apprenticeships with top employers.

**University Choices**

All students who have applied to university must complete their UCAS choices forms by the date given to them by UCAS. We have encouraged you to make a sensible choice for your insurance offer, to ensure that this is a lower offer than your firm choice while hoping that you do well enough to obtain a place at your first choice! Students who have had no offers or who have declined all their offers will be given an opportunity to enter UCAS Extra. The UCAS website has lots of useful information, and, of course, careers staff here in college will be happy to advise students as to the most appropriate choices for them. If students do decide to submit late applications, we strongly recommend that students use our digital platform service, Unifrog, to help you research their options.

More students each year are given unconditional offers. Whilst these may take the stress off students, it is important that they consider whether it is really the course and university that they want to go to, and not just be swayed by the tempting offer. It is vital that they still work hard to do the best they can this year with their A level/BTEC courses, as their results will impact on employment prospects and the extent to which they continue to make good progress in their chosen subjects will affect how soon they adapt to university-level study.

**Apprenticeships**

We encourage all students to keep their options open and apply for both university and apprenticeships. Students should now be accessing Unifrog on a regular basis to explore their options. Unifrog can be used to shortlist apprenticeship options and has live apprenticeship vacancies which are updated every 24 hours. For students who would prefer an apprenticeship, we must stress the importance of looking at apprenticeships as a whole; there are amazing opportunities out there and students (wherever possible), should not limit themselves to just Nottingham. Regarding applications, students should be checking and applying for vacancies consistently. They may also like to search on [gov.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://gov.co.uk/apprenticeships).

**Student Finance England applications**

Applications are now open for student finance through [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance) Once you have applied for student finance, you can manage the account online and if you need any assistance or advice you can contact the Student Finance England Helpline on 0300 100 0607. A great source of information is also their twitter account! Follow them on: @SFEngland and also have a look at their section on The Student Room for lots of useful help and advice:

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/>

**College buses during the exam period**

The College bus company knows that exams are taking place. They will do all they can to make sure you are at college on time. If for any reason the College bus is delayed, we advise students not to panic, to notify us of the delay (it is useful for students to have the College number in their mobile phone) and go to their exam as normal. Students will still have the full amount of time if the College buses are late, although this ruling does not apply to other forms of public transport.

During the exam period the buses will be leaving College in the evening at their usual times. Students whose exams finish after the normal departure time will need to arrange an alternative way of getting home.

#### **Leavers' forms**

All students need to complete a Leavers' Form, students will be asked to complete the form during skills and progression session W/C 06/05/24, and an electronic link will be shared with you on teams. Students must make sure that on the day of their last A level exam or last day of attendance for their BTEC course they bring in all their outstanding resources. All resources from the LIC need to be returned and their LIC account will be cleared.

#### **Exam Results Day (A level and BTEC)**

Results day is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Students and parents/carers will be invited into college to collect results. College staff will be available to help and advise any student needing support. In addition, results will be released via email for those who do not come into college. Details to follow

#### **End of Year Celebrations Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Leavers' Day celebrations will include an End of Year College photograph and other activities.

#### **Parent Carer Safeguarding Bulletin**

Please click below for the Spring edition of the parent/carers safeguarding bulletin

[My publications - Safeguarding Bulletins - Parent Safeguarding Bulletin March 2024 - Page 1 - Created with Publitas.com](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin March 2024 Topics this edition  
Introduction • • • • Welcome to the parent/carers, halftermly safeguarding bulletin. We aim to provide  
[view.publitas.com](http://view.publitas.com)

**And finally** We look forward to continuing to work with you to give you the absolute best chance of success over the remaining months, to celebrate your achievements in the summer and to guide you as you move on to the next stage in your career. In addition, we are really grateful for all the support your parents/carers have given the College over the past 2 years.

**Best wishes**