



Sixth Form Message

Study Leave

Study leave for year 13 will begin from May half term. Until this point, students are expected to attend school everyday. We know that some exams will take place before this date, but teachers would like to continue to offer structured revision in their lessons to help support the students with their exam technique. Obviously if a student has to miss a lesson because they are sitting an exam in another subject, this is unavoidable, but we would like to make it clear that the expectation is for full attendance until May half term. If students are in the fortunate position that they have no further exams to sit in any of their subjects and their coursework has been submitted, please come and discuss with Mrs Dowden so decisions can be made on an individual basis.

UCAS deadline 6th May - Year 13

A reminder that for most students, the deadline for submitting their firm and insurance university choices is Wednesday 6th May. Their firm choice should be their preferred university, where they realistically are able to achieve the entrance grades required and their insurance choice should be a university that requires lower entrance grades but where they would still be happy studying if they don't quite achieve the grades they are hoping for in the summer.

Geography trip- Year 12

Our year 12 geography students had a fantastic time in Sheringham last week, collecting data for their coursework. The weather stayed dry, all students were fantastic company and a credit to the school- well done!

Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad

Our A level chemistry students sat the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad in January along with over 17,000 other students and I am pleased to say as a school we have received 6 bronze awards (Finley, Riley, Niamh, Lucas, Chloe, Shahir) and 1 gold award (Henry B) which is a fantastic effort! The chemistry Olympiad includes content beyond the A level curriculum and challenges them to use their A level knowledge to problem solve unfamiliar scenarios so it is really challenging and I am proud of them

Work Experience - Year 12- Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July

Students in Year 12 take part in a week of work experience this term, which provides a valuable opportunity for them to develop both soft skills - such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management - and technical skills related to the workplace. Please do support your child with this process. Form tutors are very much on board and available to help. Please find attached a copy of the [useful information sheet](#) we shared with students this week, which may also be a helpful reference for you.

Student shout-out

Abi and her team have won the Arsenal U21 league - what an amazing achievement! Huge congratulations to them all!

Chloe Dowden

KEY INFO

- [Degree Apprenticeship presentation](#)
- [Sixth Form Dress Code](#)
- [School photo code: C40-3DB-26B1](#)
- [Martin Lewis: Five things EVERYONE needs to know about student finance 2025/26](#)
- [UCAS - Search / Open Days and Events](#)
- [Explore Forage](#)
- [This is what makes us special ...](#)
- [Student finance](#)
- [Preparing for Your Future: UCAS, CVs, and Degree Apprenticeships.](#)
- [Year 13 UCAS applications parents' guide](#)

KEY DATES

Yr 12 Careers meetings March onwards
Yr13 art and photography exams Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th May
Yr13 exams begin Monday 11th May
Yr 12 & 13 early finish at 1:30pm on Monday 15th June
Yr 12 mocks 22nd June
Yr 12 work experience Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July

SUPPORT

Emotional and Physical Support:

Bedfordshire Counselling Service: [Open Door](#)
Hitchin Counselling Service: [HCS](#)
Mental Health Charity: [Young Minds](#)
Mental Health Support: [Kooth](#)
HelpLines: [Samaritans](#)
Sexual Health: [iCaSH](#)
Vaping: [Childline](#)
Delete social media: [BBC](#)
Remove nude images: [NSPCC](#)
ETA Safeguarding: [Etonbury Safeguarding](#)
[Drugs and alcohol: FRANK](#)
[Drug and alcohol: BLMK NHS](#)
[Addiction: Aquarius](#)
[Young Carers](#)
NHS Mental Health Crisis Line: 111 and select option 2

Academic Support:

Funding: [Harper Trust](#)
Funding: [Sutton Trust](#)
Funding: [Connolly Foundation](#)
Bursary: [16 - 19 Bursary](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Mrs Harbour - Cooper: hharbour-cooper@bestacademies.org.uk

Driving Lesson / Test - Permission Form: [Driving Permission Form](#)
Gym Permission Form: [Gym Permission Form](#)

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

- [Presentation 2024/25](#)
- [Occupation Maps](#)
- [STAR](#)
- [Unifrog](#)
- [Bedfordshire Raising Aspiration - LinkedIn](#)

Bereavement Support

[Child Bereavement UK](#) – call 0800 028 8840
[Cruse Bereavement Care](#) – call 0808 808 1677
[Grief Encounter](#) – call 0808 802 0111
[Hope Again](#) – call 0808 808 1677
[Winston's Wish](#) – call 0808 802 0021

EXAM INFORMATION

[Please use this link to find information on when your exams are taking place](#)

[YEAR 12 & 13 BTEC EXAM DATES 2026](#)

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