



"Start by doing what is necessary,
then what is possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

St. Francis of Assisi

Key Stage 5 Weekly Bulletin: Week beginning: Monday 1st February 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

- **Saying 'Hi'**: Over the next few weeks the 6th form team will be trying to catch up with all our students either on the MLTV or by phone. The aim of the call is just to say 'hi' and make sure that everything is going well and to see if we can offer any support. Please note, if we are ringing you from home, it will not display the caller ID. We look forward to talking to you.
- **Fitness February**: Following the success of Miles for May last lockdown, the PE dept have challenged all students to take part in Fitness February and with BGN Bake Off also starting this week, it seems like a good way to eat more cake! Students have been sent details of how to score and log their daily fitness challenge and win points for their house as they do so. Attached is the calendar for the month and we hope the 6th form will be able to add lots of points to the final score! Please have a look at the attached.
- **Year 13**: In the meantime and as previously explained, we will continue to assess your knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways. The evidence from this will help us plan our teaching to help you to make progress. It does not determine your final grade but will be useful for you and us and show where you are now, and will be part of the evidence we are gathering. Assessments will take place the week beginning Monday 1st February. Mrs Khabiri will be in touch shortly to give you details on how to submit your work, along with your timetable and access codes. Lessons will resume on Thursday 4th February. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.
- **Sixth Form Canteen**: The Sixth Form Canteen is OPEN for business! Please don't forget that every Tuesday and Thursday between 12-1pm you can drop in to the Sixth Form drop in room on MLTV to catch up with us and each other over a bite to eat. You can chat, type, listen or book a slot to perform. Nothing formal, just a space to hang out and break down the barriers of lock down. Looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

WEEKLY WELLNESS TIPS AND IDEAS

Don't forget the FEBRUARY FITNESS challenge set by the PE department. Whether you are a student, staff or parent you can get on board and keep your body and brain fit and healthy this month. Check your emails for details.

Thank you all each and every one of you for the wonderful 'happy snaps' of things that bring you JOY during these challenging times. There were so many to choose from we could only narrow it down to THREE of the best. Check them out here:





My dog, Lily, blissfully having a nap that I took recently. Although she is rather old now (14!), she has taken lockdown in her stride and enjoys having the family at home.

I like being able to still go to work as it gets me out of the house.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

- **Your Money Matters:** This week we are looking at moving on from school.
 - Employment contracts p.77
 - Student finance p.79
 - Tax codes p.84
 - Case study p.95
 - Pension contributions p.73
- **FutureLearn:** Free online courses from FutureLearn about transforming your understanding of the world by discovering **the planet's invisible life support systems**, to unearthing potential **climate change solutions** straight from the experts at the University of Exeter, you really can help change the world on FutureLearn. Click here for more information [Reduce your carbon footprint](#)

YEAR 12

- **Wellbeing and Transition Week:** Find out more and book sessions at www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/be-ready-half-term-February
 - Hear from current students about how they dealt with the chaos of no exams, applying to university and keeping motivated with the disruptions of lockdown.
 - Join our athletes to find out how they deal with setbacks and overcome adversity.
- **Podcasts:** For your information, and good to refer to in your personal statement in the Autumn. <https://www.sciencefriday.com/>
- **University guidance videos:** Watch them here! We've created a university guidance video hub, where students and school groups can watch webinars ranging from an introduction to university courses in Accounting through to Veterinary Science. As well as many subjects in between. We have recorded over 80 videos to date, featuring over 100 university speakers! <https://www.unitasterdays.com/on-demand.aspx>
- **Discover Brookes' access programme - places still available:** You'll be pleased to hear that we still have places available on our brand new 'Discover Brookes', sustained access programme.
Who's eligible: Students outside of Oxfordshire in their first year of a Level 3 qualification who are from backgrounds which are currently under-represented in higher education. We are keen to support students who would most benefit from the programme - those who are less likely to attend university, who might be uncertain about what higher education involves, or who are unsure of what their next step should be.
Programme aims: To support participants to make a successful transition to Brookes, or university in general by broadening their knowledge in a subject area of interest, whilst also helping them to develop skills to support them in their progression.
Dates: March 2021 - August 2022

Application Deadline: Sunday 7 February 2021, 17.00

Details and application: The subject streams on offer this year are; Business and Management, Engineering and Design, Healthcare, and Teaching and Education. More information about the programme and the eligibility criteria is available below and on our Discover Brookes webpage. To apply, please follow this link to our online application form.

Additional benefits: Students who successfully complete the programme and decide to apply for a full-time course at Oxford Brookes will also receive a contextual offer (an offer with lower grade requirements than would usually be made), and a £1,000 scholarship in their first year of study!

- **Cambridge University:** Competitions, webinars and lectures from Cambridge University - these will be good to include in your personal statement in the Autumn. Please read the attachment.
- **Cambridge Peterhouse Applicant Support Scheme:** called PASS21 is a **long-term, multi-intervention online programme**, designed to offer support as would have been provided through our Year 12 Taster Days, Schools Tours and Residential. It will include email newsletters with super-curricular resources and information and guidance about the application; scaffolded 'independent study challenges' which will help pupils apply academic skills and knowledge to their application; and access to webinars and online workshops. We will be giving extra, tailored support to participants who meet our Wider Participation criteria. It is open to **ANY Year 12 pupil studying at Link Area state school**. Some information will often focus on Cambridge, but the scheme would still be generally relevant for applicants to Oxford or other highly-selective universities. It would be most relevant to any of our pupils who fit *any* of the following:
 - Are on track for AAA or better at A Level
 - Are expected to make an application to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford, or another highly-selective university (e.g. they have already expressed a desire to do so)
 - Could make an application to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford, or to another highly-selective university, but would require more encouragement/ guidance to do so.
- **UniTaster On Demand:** This has many subject specific taster recorded webinars that will help you decide on a career path after you finish you're a levels. The range of taster subjects includes Midwifery, Psychology and Games, Animation & VFX. Please register on:
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx>

VIRTUAL TASTER DAYS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- **Yr12 Sutton trust Summer Schools:** We are thrilled that applications for our 2021 UK Summer schools have opened see here <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/> We are particularly excited to launch our second ever Apprenticeship Summer School, <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/apprenticeship-summer-school/> which will help even more young people make better informed decision about their futures.
- **FutureLearn MOOCs on Mindfulness:** www.futurelearn.com/courses/mindfulness-wellbeing-performance
- **Upcoming REACH events:** Support Diversity in Banking & Finance for BAME students 12th February 2021 This event will now be held online If you would like to receive updates about REACH, or find out more details about what the programme offers, please click here:
<https://www.libf.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visit-us/reach>
- **The Oxford Online Maths Club:** This club, is for 16-18 year old students who would like to take part in fun problem-solving activities and is running on Thursdays each week this term. Students can find our more and join the livestream directly at [Oxford online Maths Club](#)
- **University of Bristol:** Our summer schools are free experiences which offer places across different subject streams, designed to provide an insight into undergraduate courses at the University. Participants will be eligible for a guaranteed contextual offer (up to 2 grades below the typical offer) or interview should they then apply to University of Bristol. Applications are open now and close 2nd March
- **Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February:** Our joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on the 10th February from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university. You can find out more and **sign up here**, and please see the email below for the warm-up webinars which will accompany the event on Weds 3rd February and Mon 8th February
- **Virtual tours to UK universities are available at the press of a button:**

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

- **UniTasterDays:** There are lots of events listed in many different subject areas. Please visit this link <https://www.unitasterdays.com/Search.aspx?MILES=99999&PC=OX169HY>

UCAS AND FINANCE INFORMATION

- **Student finance calculator:** The calculator will tell you the maximum amount you can get for a maintenance loan. Find out more on: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **UCAS applications:** Keep working on your UCAS applications - please ensure you check your subject exam boards on your application.
- **Finance** -Information on eligibility and Loan payments/repayments can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **Examples of personal statements:** These may be a great inspiration, but please be aware to remain original as plagiarism will be picked up: <https://universitycompare.com/personal-statement-examples/>
- **Portfolio for interview:** Get advice and information about putting together a portfolio ready for interview visit <https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/62341/portfolio-advice>

APPRENTICESHIPS

- **Norbar Torque Tools Ltd**
National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from **8-14 February** and this year and they are going to run three virtual apprentice evenings. Please see the attached poster containing further details. If you have any questions, please contact recruit@norbar.com
- **Year 13:** Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are offered by many universities in a number of areas. They have individual closing dates and some of these are very soon. Please have a look if you want to follow this career path. Please see the attached document for further details.

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Virtual work experience:** students, especially those in year 12, are encouraged to try to find an online work experience. In this week's assembly, which can be downloaded from the VLE, Mrs Harris guides them through how they might do this. As parents we do have a few safeguarding issues to point out to you: BGN does not take responsibility for students doing a virtual work experience and it needs to be done outside of lesson times. Most are offered during the school holidays to enable students to participate. The employer must gain permission from parents (not the school) if a student would like to take part and finally, we remind students that if anything happens which makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable they should tell parents immediately.
- Many online opportunities are opening up for virtual work experience. Please note that enrolment in this virtual work experience may involve a cost.

https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-career?mc_cid=be43c5ac23&mc_eid=9d55d9feb0

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions relating to anything Sixth Form, please contact:

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