

14th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

At this early stage in the autumn term I would like to take this opportunity to thank our year 13 students for the extremely positive start they have made to their final year at NSG and the central position they hold as role models to the rest of the school. This year is an important year as students will be making decisions about what they will do when they leave us at the end of the academic year to follow their own pathway. Throughout this process and the decisions they will need to make, they will be supported by their tutors during dedicated sessions each morning. As well as receiving important notices, this is where we deliver our PSHE programme. PSHE is statutory for all students post-16 and therefore attendance is compulsory. Failure to attend morning PSHE without a genuine reason being provided by a parent/carer will result in an after school detention. All year 13 students also have a Unifrog account which gives them access to a wealth of information and support when deciding on their 'Future Pathway'.

Attendance and private study

We would like to remind students, parents and carers of the importance of full attendance in this crucial final year of schooling. Consistent high levels of attendance and excellent punctuality are characteristics of students who achieve above or in-line with their potential. Research shows that poor attendance and punctuality have a serious and detrimental effect on outcomes. Attendance falling below 95% has been shown to result in an average reduction of one grade at A level per subject and this increases to two grades when attendance falls below 90%. Our attendance target is set at an aspirational level of 97% to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

All information on attendance and many other issues can be found in our [welcome booklet](#). All absence should be reported **by a parent/carer** before 8:30 am by telephoning 01604 679594, via Edulink or emailing Bev Moore (bmoore@nsg.northants.sch.uk). Appointments/driving lessons should be arranged outside of school hours if at all possible, but certainly outside of taught lesson times.

UCAS

Our Year 13 students have made a good start on their UCAS applications. Every student in Year 13 has an experienced sixth form tutor who will be working with them during the process. The external deadline for applications this year is 26th January 2023 but, in order to ensure the process is completed by the Christmas holidays, giving students a chance to then concentrate on their January PPEs, we require completed UCAS forms and personal statements be ready by **Wednesday 1st December**. Form tutors write the reference for each student, based on subject-specific statements provided by teaching staff as well as additional information each student shares with them. UCAS predicted grades are provided by subject staff, based on their professional judgement and their holistic knowledge of the student to date (i.e. the grade is not based on any one individual assessment). Predicted grades are intended to be aspirational but realistic, to ensure our students have the best possible chance of securing achievable offers.



UCAS charges a fee to process applications. This year, it is £27.00 for a full application to up to five institutions (or £22.50 for an application to a single choice). This should be paid via Parent Pay as completed applications cannot be sent until this payment has been made.

Support

Students have a range of ways of accessing support in school, should they need it. Form tutors are the initial point of contact for all students and will be able to direct students to the most appropriate member of staff. We continue to have access to an in-school counselling service through The Lowdown and Mrs Nicholson continues to be our Senior Tutor responsible for wellbeing. Mrs Nicholson's Google Classroom will share a wealth of resources to support student's wellbeing, with practical resources on particular topics each 'Wellbeing Wednesday'.

For further details on the UCAS process and supporting your child with this or other post-18 options, please see the careers/future pathways links below, as well as other useful resources for parents and carers:

Careers/future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS website: https://www.ucas.com/ • Unifrog website: https://www.unifrog.org/ • Amazing Apprenticeships website: https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parent-zone/ • Apprenticeship Information presentation from earlier this year: https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=Future+Pathways%3A+Information+for+Parents+and+Carers&pid=221
Revision/study skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible tips for study approaches/techniques: https://timfootstudyskills.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/9-Top-Study-Tips-for-Starting-Year-13.pdf • VESPA mindset booklet – available on the Future Pathways Google Classroom • Revision materials: https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/A-Level_RevisionTips
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to numerous wellbeing support sites/phone lines (please copy and paste this rather than clicking to access): https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_TM4QzAGIVrcbohqn0kk4XSZu633Kcktnr_oPBzsYvc/edit?usp=sharing

We hope this letter has provided a useful update. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

K. Loughney

Mrs Karen Loughney

Head of Year 13

