

8th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome year 13 back to school for the first half term of what will be their final year at NSG. This time last year no one could have imagined how their time in year 12 would pan out and the obstacles they would need to overcome. I was very proud of how the year group rose to the challenges that confronted them during the winter lockdown and equally proud of the way they conducted themselves on their return to school; they have been excellent role models. We all hope that this important year will be free of disruptions.

From Tutors to Mentors

From September we have moved from Year 12 tutor groups to having an individual Year 13 mentor. Our aim is for each student to meet their mentor regularly and for the mentor to support them through the process of deciding upon their future pathway, be that university, apprenticeship or a full-time job. Mentors are also there to look after the wellbeing of your daughter/son and to bring to my attention any issues that need to be addressed. It is therefore important that each student attends their scheduled mentoring session, arranged by their mentor, to ensure they reap the full benefits of these sessions.

Future Pathways

To supplement the mentoring sessions all students have access to the *Future Pathways* Google classroom. This contains a large amount of useful information on key areas such as:

- Universities, UCAS and Personal Statements
- Apprenticeships and Alternatives to University
- Student Finance

Additionally, this year, we have subscribed to the *Unifrog* platform. This excellent resource gives your child access to a wealth of advice and resources for applying to university as well as careers support. All students have login details for the website and we encourage you to access this alongside them.

I am sure that you will have already had conversations with your child about the route they are considering post-18. It may be that at the moment your daughter/son is unable to narrow down their course choice or where they want to study but the key is that they *can change their mind*. The organisation responsible for all UK university applications is called UCAS and the following link takes you to the part of their website that is specifically for parents. Here you will find lots of information and resources including videos and downloadable pdfs to help you to support you and your child through the process.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>



If your child is not considering university they still need to complete the UCAS personal details section of the application along with the personal statement as these are very similar to a CV and letter of application that they would need to produce for an apprenticeship/job. Completing the form at this stage also allows students currently not considering university the option to change their mind at a later date.

University of Northampton Visit - Friday 17th September

In order to assist students in this process we have also arranged to take the entire year group to UK University & Apprenticeship Search at the University of Northampton on the 17th September. This event will take place entirely within the school day. We have arranged coaches to take us to the University at 10.30am. Students will have 2 hours to visit stalls from all the UK's major universities and apprenticeship providers, as well as the option to attend seminars on apprenticeships and choosing university courses. The coaches will then take all students back to school at 1pm. More information about this event can be found here:

<https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/storage/app/uploads/public/609/baa/730/609baa730d8e2499443587.pdf>

If there is any reason why your son or daughter will be unable to attend please let me know by email dwynn@nsg.northants.sch.uk

Routines

We have reminded students this week of the importance of attendance and punctuality in their final year with us. 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%, so we aim to maintain attendance of 97%; something our Year 13 students managed to achieve for most of last year (despite all the disruption!) so we have every confidence that their brilliant record will continue.

We have also sent students a reminder about our dress code (details shared in the summer term and available on our [website](#)), which we expect our Year 13 students to role model effectively for our new cohort of sixth form students.

Finally, I would like to state what a great start to the year we have had. The year group have returned with an excellent attitude which we know will stand them in good stead for their final academic year with us. We will all work extremely hard this year to help every student realise their potential.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Dan Wynn

Hear of Year 13

