

1 July 2019

Dear Student

It is with great pleasure that I formally write and welcome you to Shaftesbury Sixth Form. I trust that you are enjoying your extended, well-deserved summer break and I wanted to take time to share some of the key information that will be essential to ensuring your smooth transition into life as a Sixth Form student in September.

Please find enclosed our Transition Booklet that contains much of this essential information. Included are our policies on uniform, attendance, independent study, transport and the bursary fund. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with our expectations and ensure you fully understand them before joining us. We also ask that the attached Home-School Agreement is signed by all parties and returned on the first day of term.

Please remember that GCSE results day takes place on **Thursday 22 August**. We will be open from 10am-2.30pm to collect results. We are also open from 10am-1pm on **Friday 23 August**. You must confirm your Sixth Form place at this time. We will also be on hand to offer advice and guidance to students that have not met their offers or that wish to make any planned changes to your courses. Further details about this procedure are available within the booklet.

Over the summer we ask you to visit the 'Summer Tasks' section on the school website (shaftesburyschool.co.uk/sixth-form/summer-tasks/) containing material and tasks to help prepare for your studies in September. There is further information on this in the Transition Booklet.

In terms of our ethos, please remember that Sixth Form students are the most senior at Shaftesbury School, and as such the expectations are set extremely high. You will be providing the benchmark that all our younger students are expected to follow, and we are proud that our Sixth Form behave in a warm, respectful and courteous manner. This is grounded in a relentless and aspirational approach to studies, including independent work completed outside the classroom. We expect all Sixth Form students to be dressed appropriately every day and are on the school site and engaged with their studies from 8.35am-3.00pm. These are our non-negotiables.

We wish to ensure all students leave the Sixth Form as enriched as possible, and seek to provide a wide range of 'enrichment' opportunities during your time with us. We expect your full involvement in these and hope that in return you will be well-equipped and competitive as you progress into the next stage of your life, whether that is Higher Education, Apprenticeships, College or the world of work.

As part of your Sixth Form programme you will have the opportunity to partake in particular subjects offering Enrichment qualifications. Details of these subjects are:-

EPQ

The Level 3 EPQ, or Extended Project Qualification, can be completed in any area you choose as either a dissertation, performance, artefact or field study. You will work independently and report to a tutor assessor every two weeks who will help guide you, but once your project is approved the direction you take is up to you. Past projects have included 'Should canned hunting in Africa be banned?' and 'Is the right to bear arms in America still appropriate in the 21st century?' other students have produced artefacts including a series of alternative film posters, plans for a new housing development, and a short film. You will need to be highly motivated and able to organise your own time - or prepared to learn to do so! This qualification is worth up to 28 UCAS Points (an A* at A level is worth 56).

Arts Award

The Arts Award is a recognised qualification, approved by Trinity College London and is offered at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. It is an opportunity for young people to explore the arts in a more independently and varied way, each supported by a mentor in the qualification. Activities include leading Arts workshops, taking part as a participant and developing leadership skills. Students need to be interested in the Arts, prepared to work independently and open to new ideas.

Core Maths

Core Maths is a qualification aimed at those students that have achieved a good pass in GCSE maths and have not chosen to study A-Level Mathematics. The main aim is to apply the mathematics that the students have already learnt into contextualised problems focussing on problem solving and developing students' ability to break tasks down, as well as building their confidence when working with Mathematics. This makes Core maths an ideal choice for those students that are studying subjects that rely heavily on mathematical skills: Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Computing, Geography, Business and P.E. Core Maths is a one-year course with an examination at the end of Year 12. It is equivalent to an AS level and carries the same UCAS points. Students choosing to take Core Maths will have enjoyed studying maths previously and obtained a grade 5 or above at GCSE, however grade 4 will be considered.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award involves students completing a personal programme of activities in four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and an Expedition. You will find yourself helping people or the community, getting fitter, developing skills, planning and completing an expedition. You will build confidence, resilience, skills and friendship groups and have a brilliant time doing it. It gives you the added benefit of gaining a competitive edge as employers regard a DofE Award highly so it will help open doors for you. Many of the skills you gain can be applied to your studies as well as your personal and social development.

You will receive a letter with your examination results and within this letter you will be asked to identify which, if any, of these studies you would like to undertake. Please could you let us have this information on the day you collect your results or by sending your choices via email or post so that the lessons can be added to your timetable before the start of term. There will be alternative enrichment activities available to you as part of our Wider Studies programme including Sport and Cooking which will be available to you in September.

Other than seeing many of you on results day, I look forward to welcoming you on Monday 2 September 2019. Please arrive promptly at 8:35am and make your way to the Sixth Form Study Centre.

If you have any queries or concerns over the summer, please contact the Sixth Form Team using the contact details provided in the Transition Booklet.

Warm regards



Mr Michael Motteram

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