

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What's the difference between private study/library study and a non-contact period?**

A private study/library study session is a timetabled session during which the students are in supervised, silent, private study either in a classroom or in the library study room. In classrooms students need to take along work/reading/preparation they can get on with without access to a computer. In the library study room, students may use school laptops. A non-contact period is a session on the student's timetable when they are not in a lesson or in a private study/library study session. The student is free to decide how to spend their time but most students use the majority of the session to continue studying or talking to peers about their studies in the common room. This is a good opportunity for students to use the sixth form study room which is also a supervised, silent work room with access to computers.

### **2. Which extra responsibilities will I be able to take on?**

We often call upon sixth formers to help with school events such as the 11+ mornings, open mornings, Spring Fayre etc. The more that students volunteer to help with, the more they feel part of the school and develop their own confidence and interpersonal skills.

Towards the end of Year 12, staff and students vote to elect a school prefect team who then work closely with sixth form leaders to represent the school at all school events during the following year. Prefects also lead the sixth form committees such as library committee, common room committee, stationery committee, events committee, charity committee, year book committee. Many of these committees work with pupils throughout the school.

House captains, sports and music captains are also elected by sixth form students in Year 12. These students keep the pupils in the main school updated regarding house events and also present in house assemblies.

A team of peer mentors is chosen from students who apply for the position at the end of Year 12. These students work with and support pupils in the lower school in collaboration with the tutor.

Students can also apply to become a member of the Young Enterprise group at the beginning of Year 12. Our teams in previous years have been highly successful at developing, marketing and selling their products.

We encourage all our students to take on responsibilities in order to develop a range of skills which they will continue to develop in whatever their progression route post sixth form.

### **3. What do I do if I do not enjoy a subject? How soon can I drop a subject?**

All students are encouraged to not act too hastily and to give themselves sufficient time to adjust to the pace, depth and complexity of A level studies. It is however a good idea for the student to talk to their tutor and their subject staff about how they are feeling. Sometimes concerns are ironed out and students are reassured. If the student continues to have concerns, they are encouraged to discuss this at home and they will be advised on how to proceed. If a student wishes to drop a subject, a letter from home is required. Ideally any changes to the subjects a student studies should be made within the first few weeks of term, especially if the student wishes to take up an alternative subject so that she/he does not miss too much work in that new subject.

### **4. Do I need work experience in the sixth form?**

Many students have part-time jobs which not only provide a source of income but also develop important skills such as time management, confidence and a sense of responsibility.

Some university courses require students to have had experience in certain settings and/or roles. For example if a student intends to apply for medicine, nursing or midwifery they need to have had experience in a setting where they have had interaction with people. It is difficult but not impossible to gain experience in hospitals and we can help students with that. Alternative experiences such as volunteering at a help group or in a care home are also a

good idea and great ways to show that students can engage with people and develop their empathy skills.

Students intending to apply for primary education courses need to have completed a specified number of days in a primary school before applying in Year 13. We can assist students with this and due to the fact that these placements need to be carried out in school hours, our students use non-contact periods at a specified time each week or fortnight to go to the school with which they are working.

We work with any student who thinks that some work experience would strengthen their application for the next stage in their chosen progression route but also encourage students that their primary objective is to achieve the required A level grades and that means being realistic about how much time they can afford to spend away from their studies.

## **5. What is an acceptable skirt length?**

The way that sixth form students dress is important to create a smart, disciplined and purposeful academic environment and to promote the public image of the School. As a sixth former in a school where the younger pupils wear a strict uniform, students must set an example by adhering to our dress code which is similar to that expected in a professional workplace. Skirts must be of a suitable length and not excessively short. A skirt that is half way between a student's knee and their waist is not appropriate.