

JOHN COLET SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

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NEWSLETTER

December 2018

A half termly update from the Head of Sixth Form & our Head Student Team

Committed to Excellence

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Happy holidays to all parents and carers of our Year 12 and Year 13 students 2018-2019

This term has passed so quickly and has seen our students participate in many activities beyond the classroom and continue positively with their studies. Year 13 will sit their mock exams after the Christmas break and Year 12 have had the opportunity to begin experiencing exam condition assessments this half term. From the Sixth Form team, we wish you a happy and safe school holiday.

Polite reminder – Attendance: If your son/daughter is unwell and unable to attend school, contact must be made with Matron via the office 01296 623348 or by phone/email to Mrs Sinacore. Contact must be made on each subsequent day of absence unless otherwise advised by Mrs Sinacore. Thank you for your support in this.

Events of the half term

Our first fundraising initiative of the year saw the spookily named 'Terrifying Tuesday' organised and hosted by the Sixth Form. Delicious Halloween inspired treats, some yucky 'tricks' and a fantastic photobooth saw over £100 raised. This money will go towards the Biology Garden project. Next event is 'Tinsel Tuesday' where Santa may even make a guest appearance....!

AVDC invited our Year 12 Geographers to attend a Junior Town Planners competition where the students competed against other sixth form teams in proposing designs for an urban area. Residential and business properties, road mapping and infrastructure all had to be considered. Whilst we didn't quite win, the organisers commented on how impressed they were with the team's conduct and ability. Well done to Tom Astle, Tom Withers, Tom Pendlebury, George Wilkinson-Hoare and Holly O'Sullivan and to Mrs Sinacore for accompanying them and cheering them on!

Year 12 attended the Wycombe Swan performance of 'Safe Drive Stay Alive'; a joint emergency service initiative to improve the safety of young people as both passengers and new drivers. Whilst this is not a comfortable presentation to attend, it certainly makes all of the audience carefully consider their responsibilities as road users and hopefully keeps them and everyone else safer and protected.

A number of students are showing interest in careers within the health and social care sector. Mr Goodman organized a visit for them to HealthTec. This is a local 'digital classroom' which provides immersive experiences for those students wishing to experience these professions. It was a great visit!

We are proud to be working with BMW to support our students considering apprenticeships. Following a talk in school, students were able to apply to visit the Cowley plant and discuss the range of apprenticeships in engineering, HR and management offered at BMW. Great advice was given.

World challenge update: A fantastic response to the launch and we have a team of 13 signed up for the expedition; a mixture of Year 11 and Year 12. What an amazing opportunity awaits them in Namibia 2020! The fundraising starts now! Please support them if you can with their chosen events.

Community Service: students are engaged in a broad and varied programme of community service both in and out of school. Students are supporting young readers at the John Hampden Infant School, working with their Scout groups, running Year 11 GCSE revision sessions, supporting teachers within departments, coaching sports teams and participating in lunchtime duty around the site. The hours are stacking up!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

As part of our focus on the 3Rs (Ready, Respectful, Responsible) Sixth Form students have been recognized and rewarded by staff with points which contribute to their houses and which are sent home to parents/carers by email. The combined total for the half term is 372 - keep it up!

Our top performing students according to the Attitude to Learning reports are:

Abigail Rowland

Elenor Guess

Hannah Cass

who have been judged to be 'excellent' in all three subjects! Fantastic!

Very well done to Louis Johnson, Corey Meehan and Jack Holmes who won Bucks Scientist of the Year awards at Bucks New University this month.

The special mention of this half term goes to three of our Year 13 students who have studied the Level 3 London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) Financial Studies course. Their excellent results compared to the national cohort resulted in a representative from the LIBF attending an assembly to present them with certificates of achievement and award them scholarship offers of up to £750 for degree courses in the City of London at the LIBF. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and many congratulations to Bailey Arnold, George Leaver and Sam Mohammad on their awards. It is hoped that many Year 11 who saw the presentation will be inspired by your achievements and opt to study Finance next year. Great!

Congratulations to Isabella Parola who has won the Bucks and MK Sports Award for Young Sports Leader. Isabella was presented with her prize and enjoyed meeting Olympic athlete Greg Rutherford.

'Future Focus' Thank you for the positive response to our invitation to talk to the Sixth Form about your careers. We have made contact with volunteers who will be presenting short introductions to their jobs and experiences within particular industries. This term we have been pleased to hear from ex-student Daniel Blackmore, who works as a Concept Artist in film/TV.

WORK EXPERIENCE – Year 12 students are expected to organise their own work-based learning opportunities and complete a period of work shadowing or experience outside of term time. School will support them with this process but the students would really benefit from help and advice from home. If you are able to help find your son/daughter a work experience placement, or are willing to offer a place to another student, please do get in touch with Mrs Sinacore by email. Any work based learning they undertake looks great on a personal statement, application form or a CV!

The Head Student team have been busy making preliminary arrangements for the Year 13 prom in July. They have sought the views of the year group, researched and selected a venue and are working hard to ensure our leavers have a great event to look forward to after the hard work of their exams.

In November three of the Head Student team represented the school at the Wendover Remembrance Sunday commemoration. They laid a wreath of poppies on behalf of the staff, students and parents of John Colet School.

Along with Aaron, Abie and Emma, Head Students Jack and Siobhan addressed the prospective sixth form students in Year 11 at our annual 'Into the Sixth' evening. Student leadership opportunities were out-lined and a warm welcome was offered. The Head Student team were proud to show our sixth form to 150 visitors at this event and look forward to getting to know Year 11 students better as they collaborate this year. For example, it was great to see Year 11 and Year 13 students working together on the Senior Maths Challenge team in November!

Finally, Isabella organised a lunchtime staff vs sixth form dodgeball game to raise further funds for the biology garden. This event drew a great audience from the lower school to see each team win a game.

PARENTS OF YEAR 12

Just a reminder about the standards of dress code please. Students generally look smart and 'business-like' but anything you can do to reinforce this expectation at home would be welcome.

Thank you for supporting the students with their exam condition assessment sessions. It is hoped that these sessions will reduce exam anxiety and promote good exam technique as well as testing learning.

PARENTS OF YEAR 13

Mock exams take place for Year 13 between Thursday 3 and Tuesday 8 January. Please encourage valuable revision for these at home

The UCAS deadline is 15 January. Some students have completed their applications but there are still some outstanding. Please make sure your son/daughter has completed this important application as soon as possible.