

JOHN COLET SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

NEWSLETTER

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October 2020

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

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Returning after Lockdown

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our returning Year 13's and the new Year 12's to the Sixth Form after this extended period of time away. It has been a big transition for all of us, and we would like to thank both the students and their parent(s)/carer(s) for their co-operation and patience as we adapt to our new rules and regulations. Mrs Sinacore has moved roles within the Sixth Form team to Careers Co-ordinator, and we welcome Miss Rose as the new Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form.

As with many areas of our lives right now, there has been a switch to online connection. Many events within the school have been adapted; Into the Sixth will involve a promotional video, students have been attending webinars from universities and speakers have been giving virtual presentations. While these online tools are useful, we hope that in the upcoming months, we can offer opportunities from students to learn from external visitors in a face to face setting.

Events of the half term

This half-term all Year 13 students have had the opportunity to attend Next Step meetings with Mrs Sinacore. These one to one sessions have been valuable, whether students plan to continue onto further education or employment. Each student's Unifrog account has now been updated with an action plan, helping them to focus on the next steps needed to move forward with their future plans.

For those students not wishing to attend university, the National Apprenticeship Service provided us with a virtual presentation. It gave students an idea of the vast array of careers they could pursue through apprenticeship schemes, as well as suggestions of Apprenticeships being offered in the local area. If any students are considering applying for an apprenticeships please see Mrs Sinacore for help and guidance.

This term we had two representatives from NCS come and visit us. It was a great chance to have some face to face contact with speakers, and they presented Year 12 students with the opportunity to take part in their autumn program. Some of our students have jumped at the chance and have applied to take part in this 5 day program. Here they will gain the chance to learn skills to boost their CVs and UCAS applications, volunteer for local charities and create a positive change within their community. The scheme has been subsidized by the government this year so is currently free. The opportunity for under 18s to take part in the summer course will become available later on in the school year.

Google classroom.

Students have received some learning in form time about how to use Google classroom. All teachers are now uploading their class materials onto google classroom should you need to isolate at home. This also doubles up as a great way to access classes for revision purposes!

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.

So far our reward point highest scorers are:

Year 12:

Christian O'Mahony - 16
Freya Gornall-Holmes - 14
Isabel Rowe - 13

Year 13:

Emma Mohammed - 12
Samuel Winter - 12
Daniella Cruickshank - 9

This half term, where possible, we have tried to have external speakers provide face to face talks during Citizenship and Communication classes. This has been a welcome change in dynamic for our sixth formers, particularly after so much virtual learning. Our first in person speaker was Mr Freestone from Animal Aid who discussed animal rights and welfare. It was great to see our students ask such insightful and interesting questions, drawing on their interests in law and finance to argue their personal opinions in a respectful manner, and provided an engaging question and answer session. Our final speaker this half term will focus on the Middle East and its impacts on the UK and Global community. It is sure to be a thought-provoking session and we hope to have the opportunity to host other diverse talks throughout the year.



Mr Freestone presenting on Animal Welfare

'During the lockdown period I, like many others, found myself getting out of bed in the afternoon most days, so, as you can imagine, the 6:30am alarm for school on the 4th of September was extremely unwelcomed! Getting back into a routine after 6 months away from school was certainly a shock to the system, made more alien to me by the safety measures put in place by school, such as one way systems. Despite the unprecedented times, my return to school has been enjoyable. I have loved being in a classroom again, as well as the challenge of year 13 learning. On top of my studies, I am lucky enough to represent John Colet as Head Boy. The head student team has been very busy since inheriting our roles. We have done an interview with Wendover News; organised the ever popular car park space raffle and have been thinking about various other Coronavirus safe ways to fundraise for the sixth form. Additionally, Head Girl Emma and I have been a part of the open evening video-a nerve racking event given our lack of experience in front of a camera, but on the other hand a fantastic opportunity to represent our school. As we settle into the academic year we will certainly be far busier, so keep an eye out for sixth form fundraisers, stay safe!' **-Samuel Winter, Head Boy**

It is a pleasure to introduce you to our new Head Student Team for 2020/21. Our Head Students are Emma Mohammed and Samuel Winter, along with the Deputy Head Students, Rebecca Ashford and Elliot Beever. This year video application speeches and voting took place online. Our head students have already proved to be hard-working and motivated individuals whose positive attitudes have already made a difference to the school environment.

PARENTS / CARERS OF YEAR 12

Year 12's dived back in to their work this year, and we have been impressed with the commitment to learning from both internal and external students alike. We encourage parent(s)/carer(s) to take an active interest in their child's studies and encourage independent learning.

Community Service: Each student is expected to complete 10 hours of community service a month. Whilst opportunities to help at open evenings have been suspended this year Students have been encouraged to help their communities in other ways; assisting teachers with displays, assisting in the library or helping Mrs Sinacore in the school garden. Students can speak to Miss Rose about any upcoming opportunities.

PARENTS / CARERS OF YEAR 13

UCAS Applications: The internal deadline for UCAS applications is Friday 18th of December, allowing students to focus on their mock exams in January.

Mock Exams: Year 13 mocks will take place between Wednesday 6th to Monday 11th of January 2021.

Open days: Students looking to go to university next year are strongly encouraged to attend open days, where possible. Mrs Fanchi will authorise absence for a maximum of two days, providing students evidence of attending the open day.

Contact Mrs Fanchi via the main office or dfanchi@johncolet.co.uk or Miss Rose erose@johncolet.co.uk