



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA (Hons), PGDip, NPQH, NPQEL

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Re: Spring Term: Important Update

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Firstly, on behalf of all the staff at the school we wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

As ever, we have an exceptionally busy few months ahead of us in the 6th Form community and we felt it was important to keep you fully involved. This letter provides the detailed information you need to support your son/daughter over the coming months.

Assessment Week: Next Week

From our [letter sent home](#) in early December, I am sure you will remember that next week is Assessment Week. As such, you should be seeing your son/daughter completing extensive revision at home, and in particular, this coming weekend, we would be expecting them to complete substantial preparation work for these important assessments. We need your support in ensuring that your son/daughter takes these assessments seriously. In early February, we will be writing to you to provide you with a clear update on how your son/daughter performed in these assessments. A copy of the Assessment Week timetable can be [found here](#).

Enrichment: This half term

Please note that your son/daughter will be moving onto their third enrichment carousel – next Wednesday 15th January, for five weeks, until Wednesday 12th February (inclusive):

- 12.8 & 12.9 - Sport & PE - students must bring appropriate sports kit (this does not have to be Coopers kit!), In particular, students must bring trainers. Students will meet in the sports hall to be registered and to choose their activities.
- 12.6 and 12.7 - Think like a Philosopher - this is a timetabled lesson that will allow your son/daughter to develop their critical thinking skills. 12.6 - will go to AN1 with Mrs Read, 12.7 - will go to MB1 with Mr Kinnaird.
- 12.2 and 12.3 - Future Learn/Forage MOOC – students will be in the Learning Zone for this, they must go at the start of the lesson where Mrs Morse will register them and talk through the different courses they can engage in.
- 12.0 and 12.1 Mentoring/Volunteering – all students should complete self-arranged volunteering or mentoring, in/outside of school. Within school there are many staff who can help, e.g. subject teachers or alternatively if your son/daughter already volunteers out of school then they can carry on with whatever they are doing.
- 12.4 and 12.5 - Specialist - If your son/daughter is are interested in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, then they should speak to Mr Teece or use this time to research what they are going to do. Alternatively, if they are or are planning to engage in any of the other courses available (Sutton Trust/K+/EPQ) then this time is given in lieu.

'Beyond 18: Formal Programme Launch: Monday 10th February / Tuesday 11th February

'Beyond 18' is the programme where we support students in their applications for university or the world of work. On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th February we formally launch our Beyond 18 programme with the year group with



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dedicated time in school and an evening event for parents. We will write to you with more details about this event in a few weeks' time. The two days will comprise of:

- A session from the University of East Anglia (UEA) about applying to university
- A session from Mrs King (Employment and Apprenticeship Consultant) on the 'world of work' and alternative pathways
- Form group sessions, exploring what your son/daughter intends to do after Coopers'
- Specialised carousels in the afternoon focusing on different aspects of life after Coopers' e.g. – 'Working in the City'

There will then be further 'Beyond 18' events later in Year 12 and in Year 13.

If your son/daughter is thinking of applying to university at the end of Year 13:

- Now is a good time for you/your son/daughter to start visiting universities. There is an extensive programme of in-person and virtual Open Days on offer from most universities in the UK. For a detailed list, please [click here](#).
- An organisation called 'Uni Taster Days' deliver university guidance webinars to support post-16 students considering university. Different guest universities will attend each week, delivering sessions on important aspects of university guidance with a moderated Q&A. These webinars have also been recorded and there is a huge menu that your son/daughter can access and benefit from – please [click here](#) for more information.
- All students who are looking to apply to the University of Oxford/Cambridge will soon be receiving some support information, this will be via the Year 12 Oxbridge Google Classroom. Our Oxbridge Coordinator, Miss C Smith will be running an introductory session with all interested students early next month
- Your son/daughter is soon to be sent a link to 'Getting into the Top Universities' – this is an extensive support booklet of what they should be doing to put themselves in the very best position for their university application. Students should be acting on the advice from page 22 onwards. Although dated from 2019, this is a superb resource for any student considering university – please [click here](#) to access it as a parent/carer

If your son/daughter is considering employment at the end of Year 13:

Our Employment and Apprenticeship Consultant, Mrs King has been regularly posting activities/resources that your son/daughter should be considering. Mrs Palmer, our Head of Careers also posts opportunities via a weekly bulletin. In particular, we are suggesting students look at:

- [Career Map](#) – a useful site and a good magazine for parents too!
- www.thebrokerage.org.uk/how-to-sign-up - A level recruiters with lots of internships, but please check eligibility criteria carefully.
- [Investment 2020](#) - specialist A level recruiters and also offer lots of internships for undergraduates so a great way to be organised and plan ahead.

Other specific activities they could be completing:

- Research companies - create a hit list of who they want to apply to when applications open
- Create a LinkedIn account to look at what those companies are currently doing and any new initiatives.
- Practise on-line tests - some companies have practice tests on their websites.
- Look at the professional qualifications that may be offered with these roles - have an idea of what they involve



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- Create an account on the www.apprenticeships.gov.uk.
- Look at their CV - is it good enough?

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) Update:

As you are no doubt aware, an important aspect of our enrichment programme is our Extended Project Qualification provision. The EPQ offers students an opportunity to develop their academic curriculum beyond their three A levels. By studying a topic in-depth, and writing a 5000-word dissertation, students are able to develop a real love of learning whilst adding an impressive qualification to their CV. We will be launching the EPQ application process later this month and more information will follow at that time.

Sutton Trust Summer Schools: Applications open from next week

A key opportunity we will be sharing with your son/daughter this month is the Sutton Trust Summer School programme. For more information, please [click here](#). Sutton Trust Summer Schools, offered by 13 of the leading universities in the UK offer a life-changing experience, at no cost to students. Whilst there are eligibility criteria, I cannot recommend the programme highly enough:

An opportunity to experience university life first-hand. Summer schools are:

- Residential programmes (varying from a few days to a week)
- Mostly run during July and August (although check each university for specific dates)
- Held at 13 top universities across the UK, courses cover Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering, Science and Medicine
- Free to attend – all travel, food, accommodation and food costs are covered

Work Shadowing: July 14th – 18th

As you are aware, from our letter in November, we promote a week of 'work shadowing' at the end of the summer term. The scheme provides students with an invaluable opportunity of gaining much-needed experience in a placement of their choice. Research shows that work shadowing is a critical component to a successful university/careers application once students are in Year 13 and we hope gives our students a competitive edge against others in the country. Indeed, a number of our students eventually gain meaningful careers in the very organisation in which they completed their work shadowing.

In tandem with our 'Beyond 18' programme, it is now the time for students to start organising their work-shadowing placements for the summer. An important part of the process is the fact that students are expected to find their own placements through preparing letters of applications and a Curriculum Vitae (CV). In order to support students with this process we have worked with them in form time, explaining how to produce a CV and write a successful email/letter of application. Full information about work shadowing can be found via the [letter sent home in November](#).

All students need to provide details of their placement via the [following Google Form](#). Any student unable to find a placement will be expected to complete a volunteering placement. Once again, we have shared with your son/daughter information on potential placements. Any remaining students without any placements, will be expected in school in the final week of the Summer Term.

FutureLearn /Forge courses:

Last term we wrote to you about FutureLearn. As part of our enrichment programme, we recommend that every student complete at least one MOOC (Massive Online Open Learning Course).



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MOOCs offer university-level courses without the need to complete an entire programme of studies and are becoming increasingly popular. They offer a large number of students the opportunity to study high quality courses online with prestigious universities, often at no cost. They are ideal for independent study and users can select courses from any institution offering them. Video-based, they offer interaction either through peer review and group collaboration or automated feedback through objective, online assessments (including quizzes and exams).

We therefore recommend that all Year 12 students complete a 'FutureLearn' course (www.futurelearn.com). Most (not every) course is free and for many you are only required to pay if you wish to download the certificate (which you do not need to!) We hope all students can now take the opportunity to complete at least one.

It is important to point out there is also a huge range of virtual work experience available; [our school website](#) has links to some of the best. For example, '[The Forage](#)' provides free work situation simulations in a host of industries from world-leading employers.

And finally,...

Uniform:

Year 12 are a wonderful year group and it is important that they continue to set a high standard for the rest of the school. We are an 11-18 school community and your son/daughter plays a critical role in acting as a role-model to our younger students. Could I therefore ask:

- Please do not allow your son/daughter to wear anything other than two small and discrete earrings per ear
- Please ask your son/daughter to follow our school uniform code with regards to nail varnish
- No facial piercings (including nose) are permitted
- Trousers should be appropriately tailored, regular fit, formal, black trousers in a traditional school style. Jeans and trousers made of denim-type or lycra-based material are prohibited. Trousers and skirts must be appropriate in length and worn in a manner appropriate for school.
- Students are not permitted to dye or colour their hair in a way which significantly alters their appearance. If your son/daughter is considering this, then they should speak to a member of the 6th Form Pastoral Team before doing so.

Paid employment:

Over the past few months we have been having increasing conversations with students/parents regarding the impact that paid employment is having on study. As a guide your son/daughter should not be working in paid employment for more than 10 hours per week (at the very most!). We know that any more than this almost always has a detrimental impact on A Level outcomes.

Replying to incoming communications:

Please remember that the school has a 72-hour reply policy. We politely request that you do not send multiple messages within this period. If the issue is urgent and requires immediate attention, please call the school directly.

Absence:

If your son/daughter is not going to be in school, then could we please impress upon you the importance of calling the school absence line before 8:30am on that day, and any subsequent day of absence. We are unable to accept a voicemail left by your son/daughter!



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Visitors on the school site:

Due to our legal safeguarding requirements, 6th Form students are not permitted to invite any friends/guests/family members onto the school site. All visitors to the school site must 'sign in' at reception where they would be met by a member of school staff.

All of the information in this letter will be conveyed to your son/daughter via assemblies this month. Thank you for all your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Bell
Deputy Head: Director of 6th Form

Mr Teece
Head of Year 12