



Monday 6th April 2020

Dear Year 11 Students and Parents/Guardians,

This would normally be the time of year where I begin to support Year 11 students with preparing to transition into Sixth Form including taking information about last minute subject changes and inviting students to our induction day. This is usually done through events and meetings in school but given our current situation, I wanted to make sure that all the information was available to you so that we can make the transition into Sixth Form as smooth as possible given the circumstances. Below is the key information for students who intend to join the Sixth Form but please feel free to get in touch with me as indicated below if there is anything I can do to offer additional support.

Year 11 – take care of yourselves, stay safe and sane. I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C. Wilson
Head of Sixth Form

Entry to Sixth Form

I appreciate that the biggest worry for many students will be regarding their pending GCSE grades – in many ways this is not dissimilar to the situation we usually face, but it is certainly very different in terms of the students' ability to affect their final outcomes. This whole process is new to us and we will use our best judgment, always with the students' best interests in mind, to make our decisions in regard to entry into the Sixth Form. This will be in line with our usual grade requirements – 5 GCSE grades at 4-9 including English Language and Maths. Beyond this, there are individual subject requirements which must be met – these can be found on our website here:

<https://www.swracademy.net/sixth-form/sixth-form-applications/>

We will follow a similar process as usual in regards to Sixth Form enrolment which includes students being contacted on Results Day to inform them of whether or not they have met the requirements of their conditional offer. Students who do not meet the requirements for entry to the Sixth Form will be offered advice about their next steps to help support them continuing their academic journey.

Sixth Form Induction and Summer Homework

Our Sixth Form Induction Day is one of my favourite days of the year, and one I am very sad to miss! The students are given a presentation consisting of an introduction to Sixth Form life – the rules and regulations and the new-found privileges they will have. The afternoon session of the day is a chance for me to get to know the new students and for them to get to know each other a little better. We will organise an activity similar to what would have happened on the induction day for September so there is a chance for everyone to feel welcome!





Most importantly, the induction day consists of taster lessons where students get the opportunity to meet their teachers, are introduced to the course and get set some summer homework to complete to help them properly prepare for Year 12 studies. This is vital preparation as it assists with the transition from GCSE to A Level – by far the largest ‘jump’ in the education system. It is expected that students beginning a course will have completed this work by their first day in September as it forms the foundation of the initial lessons. The summer homework will be available on the school website no later than **Friday 22nd May 2020**. I appreciate that some students will be keen to get started right away, but it is our priority at this time that staff have adequate time to prepare and moderate students’ grade outcomes before turning their attention to transition, so please do be patient in expectation of this work.

Subject Changes

Monday 30th March 2020 was due to be the Sixth Form Taster Event where our Head Students, Student Leadership Team and Sixth Form Ambassadors host a presentation and small talks for current Year 11 students to find out information about the subjects they have chosen, including what it’s really like to study at Sixth Form. The event gives insight into not just the topics covered in each subject, but also an insight into workload and the step up from GCSE. To replace this event, we will ensure that students have the opportunity to meet with our Ambassadors during their first two weeks of Sixth Form so they can get advice and support from their peers.

For most Year 11s, this event is a confirmation that their choices have been good ones. However, some inevitably change their minds – or have done so independently anyway – and have the option to change their subject choices. Subject changes are dependent on option blocks which are in place as listed below. If your child has changed their mind about their subjects from what they previously applied for and this works with the option block table, please get in contact with me (charlotte.wilson@swracademy.org) so that I can update your child’s choices. There will, of course, be opportunity to change subjects if the relevant entry grades are met on both the Results Day and into the first couple of weeks of lessons in September.

A	B	C	D	E
Applied Science	Art 3D Design	French	Biology	English Language
Computing	Business	Further Maths	Health & Social Care	English Literature
History	Chemistry	Geography	Maths	Geography
Psychology	Drama	Psychology	Media	Physics
	Maths	Sport		

Subjects in black are A Level courses.

Subjects in red are BTEC/NCFE courses.

