Thursday, 20 May 2021

**Re: St Joseph’s Sixth Form Transition – What Are My Next Steps?**

Dear parents and guardians of Year 11,

I am writing to provide transition information for your Year 11 students who intend to enrol in our Sixth Form in September 2021. Sixth Form study is very demanding and is important that our students are well prepared for it. We have put together a package of resources and guidance to help you make the leap from Year 11 to Sixth Form. I will hold an assembly on Tuesday the 25th of May to explain to the students what the next steps are but please see the following for your information.

Step 1 – Complete the ***Festival of Futures*** transition pack:

We have put together a package of resources that will help students prepare for Sixth Form study. The ***Festival of Futures*** pack includes a variety of study skills, careers and subject specific education. There will be a baseline assessment at the beginning of the autumn term for each subject in Year 12 that will assess your suitability for the course. This will be based on the ***Pixl Progression booklets*** and content taught in the autumn term of Year 12. Students can access the electronic version of the booklets on the One Drive here: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/transition-resources/>

Further, we ask that students complete the careers and study skills resources from the ***Festival of Futures*** checklist overleaf.

Step 2 – Prepare Yourself for **Enrolment** in August:

You will enrol to the sixth form when you receive your GCSE results on the 12th of August. Once you have them, you will see the Senior Leadership Team to officially sign-up to your courses. Remember, you must sign up to 3 courses (A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of the two). Every student will automatically do EPQ (unless you take Philosophy & Ethics). Enrolment is subject to entry requirements found in our prospectus on the school website.

Further, you will receive the **Sixth Form Handbook**, which explains everything that you need to know about the sixth form. You will have a full **induction** on the first day in September but do refer to this document for questions regarding ***uniform, expectations, rules and regulations.*** For more information, see the sixth form website: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/about-us/>

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| ***Festival Event***  |
| **You must complete the PiXL 11-12 Progression booklets for your subjects (including St Joseph’s History, Law and Philosophy & Ethics booklets)** – *a collection of reading resources, vocabulary lists and links to prepare students for the start of the Level 3 course.*   |
| ***It would then be important to complete:*** |
| **Crash Course Study Skills** – 10 short videos that with up skill students on effective study habits for success at sixth form; make sure you look at the Cornell Note taking resources.   |
| **Transition Grids – Post-16 skills:** a bingo board style selection of key skills to focus on for success at sixth form; handy and easy to refer to!   |
| **VESPA – A-Level Mindset** – a bespoke set of theory, skills and tasks that prepare students for sixth form study.   |
| **PiXL Independence booklets** – subject specific booklets with activities for revision, retention and extension of learning starting with small multiple choice questions and leading up to large essay style questions. The format ensures that each stage supports the next and so learning is intuitive. The PDF format has links with accompanying videos and web pages pertinent to the topics. These are aimed at current sixth form students but there is nothing wrong with getting ahead!  |

Step 3 – Getting the Correct Uniform

Whilst Sixth Form students are afforded a bit more freedom in choosing their uniform than in the lower school, we have a strict uniform policy that reflects the professionalism that we wish to instil our students. Please see the policy below:

**Gentleman**

* White Shirt
* Tie in their house colour (which can be purchased for £5 from the school reception) from January 2022. Until then, we ask that students wear their Year of St Joseph’s Tie.
* Smart Jumper – White/Black/Grey/Red (optional) & not including turtle/roll neck or any patterns.
* A black, grey or blue plain suit (i.e. with no patterns visible) with a blazer at all times.
* Smart black or brown Shoes – trainers must not be worn inside the school building or during lesson time at any point. Those who wear them in the playground/on the field must change them where they are playing so that they are not worn inside the building.
* No chains, bracelets, necklaces or pendants visible.

**Ladies**

* White/Black blouse or shirt – shoulders must be covered and no t-shirts.
* Black/grey smart dress.
* Smart Jumper – White/Black/Grey/Red (optional) – shoulders must be covered.
* Black/grey blazer at all times.
* Headbands must be white/black/grey/red.
* Black/grey trousers/skirt – this must be knee length.
* Smart black or brown shoes – trainers must not be worn inside the school building or during lesson time at any point. Those who wear them in the playground/on the field must change them where they are playing so that they are not worn inside the building.

**Outside attire** – coat, anorak or jacket in dark colours (no denim, no leather, no leopard print, tracksuit tops or hoodies). Scarves that are plain and dark.

**Hair, make up and piercings** – all hairstyles and colours must be professional (this excludes extreme colours and cuts, such as lines in eyebrows and hair). Nails and make up must be professional and piercings may be up to two sets of earrings in each ear and a stud in the nose.

**For any non-uniform that is worn for medical reasons** - a note must be written by parents in the school diary as soon as an issue arises and medical proof from a doctor of physician must be given.

All St Joseph’s Sixth Formers will also be provided with a lanyard and an **ID Badge** that will be used for signing in and out. **For safety reasons it must be worn at all times.**

Step 4 – Apply for the Bursary if you Meet the Eligibility Criteria

The 16-19 Bursary fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training, post 16. Bursary funds are to be used to help pay for the costs related to participation in full-time education. If the application of the student is successful, the student will have access to a personal fund that will pay for support in-kind. The eligibility is not just financial and many of our students benefit from it. Please find more information here: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/about-us/16-19-bursary-fund/>

I wish you all the best and I look forward to seeing you this September,



Mr Graeme Clark

Head of Sixth Form

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