



September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers

I trust you are well and that you and your children remain pleased with the start to the academic year here at NLS Sixth Form. I would like to reiterate the thanks for all your support in ensuring the smooth start to 2023-24.

This letter contains some key reminders as well as pointers for up-coming events you need to be aware of.

1. Year 12 Meet the Tutor Event

- This is scheduled for Monday, October 16th
- You will need to indicate you plan to attend by completing this [MS FORM](#)
- This is an event for parents and carers – students should not attend
- We will start off at 16:30 with an ‘informal gathering’ in the Common Room and Mezzanine spaces – you will be directed there by Front of House staff
- Please be aware the Y7 Event is the same day so try to avoid ending up in the session in the Theatre!
- The informal gathering is a chance to speak with some of our student leaders, meet other parents and to talk socially with the tutors and members of the Sixth Form Team
- From 17:00-c.18:00, there will be a more formal presentation by your child’s tutor around expectations, support processes and what we offer
- From 16:00-16:30 (i.e. prior to the main event), there are **optional meetings** available to meet your child’s tutor or a member of the Sixth Form Team if there is a **specific issue** you would like to discuss – these need to be booked in advance so please see the MS Form above in order to do this
- If any **optional** meeting is likely to take more than the allotted 10 minutes or if the available slots become fully booked then please arrange an alternative meeting on another day by emailing sixthform@northleamington.co.uk separately
- You will see guidance on the MS Form as to who you should speak with about specific issues should you elect to need an optional and additional meeting
- Please arrive having reminded yourself who your child’s tutor is – see G4S, for example
- Please complete the MS Form by 29th September to support planning

2. Absence Procedures

- Please recall the procedures communicated before around planned and unplanned absences
- In particular, please recall that you should contact sixthform@northleamington.co.uk by 08:30 if your child will be off school due to illness – and continue to contact us for any subsequent day they will be absent

3. Entrance Exams, Open Days and UCAS (University and College entrance)

- While we are of course very supportive of the principle of students attending Open Days at universities to help them plan their next step destinations, please can you discuss with your children accessing opportunities for these *at the weekends or out of term-time* – please only request a Leave of Absence for Open Days where it is unavoidable as we want students in school learning and being supported as much as possible
- Some Higher Education courses require an entrance examination or similar. It is the responsibility of students via their UCAS research to check where these might be needed – e.g. for Oxbridge, medicine, law at some organisations. We have prompted students various times and have what we believe is a definitive list according to the disclosures students have made and which, where applicable, is now with the Exams Office for registering purposes. If you can please support in checking this and also be aware that Mr Piper is offering a session P5 Tuesday to help begin to orientate students with things like the likely format of the various tests or examination. Again, students - with our collective support - will need to be proactive in ascertaining any specifics via their UCAS research
- Please recall that some universities and courses have a shorter deadline for applications – for example, Oxbridge, medicine, veterinary science require submissions in mid-October. Personal statements and references for this courses should be drawing to a close very soon. Other course submissions will need to be complete by the end of this calendar year with internal deadlines shared with your children. Again, if you can please support what your children and their tutors are doing with this by checking and talking about these exciting potential next steps...

4. Mocks

- Y13 will have the first of their Mock exams directly after half-term
- Both Y12 and Y13 will have Mock exams in early February
- Students will be supported in preparing for these via the Tutor Time curriculum as well as in subject-specific lessons

As you know, Mocks can bring additional stresses and anxieties in to young people's lives – which, again as you know, have already been very significantly impacted by lockdown as well as general life challenges experienced by teenagers. Here at NLS, we really do seek to foreground student wellbeing: we assert the idea that students need to feel safe, happy and confident before they can be successful. As such, please be aware that:

1. Our P.S.H.E and Tutor Time curriculum emphasises ways and means to secure wellbeing
2. We focus our assembly themes on personal and social development as well as community and charity
3. At any point, you should feel free to contact us with anything you think we can be doing to support your children

Finally, and with support in mind, I would like to draw to your attention the fact that there is a means-tested Bursary available to students experiencing genuine financial hardship. An application form can be found [here](#)

Please note that funds are limited and discretionary according to criteria set out.

I hope you have a restful and pleasant weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Steven Taylor
Senior Assistant Head-teacher (inc. Head of Sixth Form)