

Educational Services

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Our Ref: MB/EMcK

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Dear Parent/Carer

WELCOME TO S6

We are delighted to welcome S6 back to school and are looking forward to a very positive year. S6 is slightly different to previous stages so I write to share some of these differences so that you know what to expect!

S6 Contribution to the School and Community

As you may know, S6 is not only a time to build on previous attainment and ensure young people have the qualifications for their chosen courses, apprenticeship or employment, it is also a time to develop important skills and experience that will set them above the competition.

S6 are regarded as leaders in the school and will help to organise and lead a range of school events such as Children In Need Week and the Christmas Fair, as well as helping at parents evenings. Many of them also help in junior classes and at school clubs or our associated primary schools. These experiences help them with personal statements and applications, and build confidence. We hope they get a lot out of this year.

‘Free’ Periods

S6 are allowed to have one of their 5 option columns ‘free’ which gives them 6 periods where they are not timetabled to a subject. They can choose 4 of these 6 periods to be ‘OAT’ (Other Authorised Absence) on the register which means they can be out of school at these times. They are not permitted to sit in the dining hall but can, for example, go for a driving lesson or work from home. Some also use these periods for volunteering in junior classes.

This week they will be selecting the periods they are OAT so that our registers can be updated. The other 2 periods they will be timetabled to study classes. This is to encourage good study habits!

Daily Personal Support

S6 are **not** required to attend Daily Personal Support but instead report straight to their period 1 class at 8.55am. Some S6 will be helping in junior Daily Personal Support classes at this time. Daily Notices that are shared at Daily Personal Support will be posted on their Year Group Team. The Year Group Microsoft Team is our main form of communication with S6. They should check it daily.

S6 Community Time

Every Friday periods 1 and 2, most S6 have no classes. This is S6 Community time where they meet every week in the dining hall for a short assembly with Mr Gardner, their year head, and then work together on the school events they are planning such as Children in Need. The time can be used for prefect meetings and captains meetings. It is also a time for S6 to get together socially as a year group.

UWS Foundation Academy, Higher Leadership and some Advanced Highers are timetabled for one of these periods.

Mr Gardner and I are looking forward to a fantastic year with S6 this session. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher