

It's hard to believe that we are days away from the start of the summer term – Year 13s are about to sit their final A Level and BTEC exams and Year 12s are almost at the end of their first year in sixth form. Time flies when you're having fun and working hard!

The Easter holiday marks the start of the home stretch for Year 13. Everyone should be revising hard but also taking time out to keep mentally balanced ... a walk in the fresh air, cooking a healthy meal, time with family and fun with friends.

The summer term is a busy one so the Sixth Form Team thanks everyone for their continued hard work and support.

### **Pre-exam sessions**

Before each external exam there will be a 30 minute session run by subject staff in order to help learners to get in the right mindset. Staff members will focus on exam technique and top tips for a great performance. Pre-exam sessions will run between 8.20am and 8.50am for morning exams (with exams starting at 9.00am) and 12.35pm to 13.05pm for afternoon exams (with exams starting at 1.15pm). All Year 13s are advised to attend these sessions.

### **Unconditional offers**

A number of universities are offering learners unconditional offers – meaning that no matter what results they get, learners are guaranteed a place on the course. This sounds great but in practice it often has a detrimental effect as learners are prone to then not work as hard as they would have done if given a conditional offer so consequently they achieve lower grades. We recommend that learners only accept an unconditional offer if this is their number one choice. If not their first choice then do not accept it and work hard to gain the grades you deserve. Please speak to a member of the sixth form team for advice and guidance on replying to offers.

### **Progress exams**

Year 12 sit exams during week commencing 1 July. The main aim of Progress exams is to enable learners and staff members to gauge current levels of knowledge in order to then make informed plans to move learning forward. To provide an authentic experience, the Progress exams will run exactly as Year 13 external exams and include results feedback sessions during week commencing 15 July.

### **Work experience and Enrichment fortnight**

The final fortnight of summer term heralds a change for Year 12 - work experience instead of timetabled lessons. Everyone is expected to attend a one or two week work placement and we also run a series of enrichment sessions which learners who are not doing work experience attend. In the past we have offered First Aid, driver awareness, outdoor pursuits, British Sign Language, self-defence and water sports. Learners are expected to participate in at least two of these enrichment sessions plus our careers and wellbeing day. Embracing all that this fortnight offers will see learners acquire new skills, push themselves and enhance CVs and personal statements.

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## A pat on the back!

Congratulations to **Cherri C** who's been awarded a coveted CREST Gold Award in recognition of her project to design and build a robotic arm to assist people with arthritis.

A big shout out to **Lincoln B, Freya B, Ameer C, Liam E, Alexandra M and Zach W** who successfully completed a programme of university-style philosophy tutorials with a PhD tutor. They visited the University of Leeds for an introduction to note-taking and study skills and had six tutorials, organised by award winning charity, The Brilliant Club. All passed their final assessment with the equivalent of a 2:1 or 2:2 and Freya gained a 1st.

Well done to **Charlotte P, Lucy N, Grace B, Kimia C, KC C and Caitlin C** who choreographed and then performed a very challenging dance piece at the Spring Concert. **Charlotte P** along with **Caitlin B** were also great ambassadors for the sixth form, dancing at the Schools' Prom at St George's Hall.

Congratulations to **Iris S and Antonia M** whose poems have been published in a booklet promoting women's engagement with the rail industry. Their English Literature group worked with Northern Rail and Community Rail Lancashire to design a rail journey that celebrated women's achievements. The poems are published in the Women who Wander booklet which was launched on International Women's Day. Visit <https://downtheline.org.uk/projects/women-who-wander/>

Well done to **Caitlin C** who had an audition with Northern School of Contemporary Dance. We are confident that her professionalism and enthusiasm will see her gain a place to train with the group.

Good luck to **Catherine D** who is participating in the World Gymnestrada in Austria as a member of Saltaire Gymnastics Club.

Well done to **Clare F, Tom S and Josh C** who, with help from **Beth Z and Caitlin M** organised a very successful tag rugby tournament for 120 primary school pupils. The schools all commented on how well organised it was and how much everyone enjoyed it.

## Dates for your diaries

29 April	Start of summer term
6 May	May Day Bank Holiday
13 May	A Level/BTEC exams start
24 May	Normal Year 13 lessons finish today
24 May	Year 13 Leavers Lunch @11.20am
27-31 May	Half term holiday
3 June onwards	Year 13 only attend lessons where the final exam has not been held, or where coursework has not been completed to an appropriate standard
25 June	End of A Level/BTEC exams
28 June	Prom at The Bradford Hotel - more details to come
1-5 July	Year 12 Progress Exams
8-18 July	Enrichment/Work experience fortnight
19 July	End of school year

Mr Redhead, Miss Lockerbie, Mrs Clayden

*The Sixth Form Team*