



30th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Despite the disruption and difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Sixth Form students have achieved another fantastic year of results.

We're sending more students than ever to some truly spectacular institutions...this includes 3 students who have achieved a prestigious place at Oxford University (2 reading Medicine) and 6 to Durham University, more than ever before!

From Veterinary Medicine to English Literature, Astrophysics to Politics and even Korean, we're sending pupils on a journey to study a huge variety of fascinating courses.

Destinations include: Oxford, Newcastle, York, Durham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow and Sheffield Universities plus many, many more!

Our students are off to study a wonderful variety of life-changing subjects including: Astrophysics, Medicine, Politics, Nursing, Aviation, Pharmacy, Sociology, Criminology, Natural Sciences, Psychology, Korean, Engineering, Computer Science, Literature, Veterinary Medicine and much, much more!

And it's not just about university - we have students going to train to be a commercial pilot, to a degree apprenticeship at Siemens, and to study music at a conservatoire.

Our support of students is not just confined to Year 12 and 13.

We run a comprehensive Aspirations Programme in Sixth Form, allowing students to prepare for university and employment, and introduce them to a variety of speakers across different academic disciplines and industries. It's never too early to start thinking about the future, and students in lower school have a taster of the Aspirations Programme before they even begin Year 12.

The following opportunities are available for lower school:

Year 11 – Transition to A level

All Year 11s will take part in our Transition programme of study to help you build the skills and knowledge they need to make a flying start. We will be facilitating sessions, setting tasks and challenges to prepare Year 11s for life in the Sixth Form.

Year 10 - Southmoor Scholars

The Southmoor Scholars programme is a year-long academic programme for keen and curious year 10s, who want to experience learning beyond the curriculum. The year begins with two half terms of guest lectures from a variety of academics who visit from universities across the country. In the past this has included: cosmology in an inflatable planetarium, skeleton science, a crime scene investigation, comic book drawing and much more. Following this, students attend study skills workshops to take them above and beyond the requirements at GCSE, which culminates in an

independent project. All students who successfully complete the programme attend a graduation event at Durham University, complete with caps, gowns and certificates.

Year 8 - The Brilliant Club

We have launched the 'Scholars' programme for our Year 8s this year, which is run by The Brilliant Club. Students take part in a 6-week seminar series with a PhD tutor on a topic they are an expert in, and learn higher level study skills and academic content. Our course this year is 'Disease Detectives' - we are looking at the biology behind disease, transmission and prevention, and the composition of things like fungi and bacteria. Students will complete an academic assignment that is similar to a university-style essay, and attend launch and graduation events at highly selective universities in the local area.

Trips

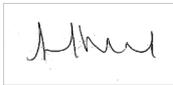
We run a variety of trips for students in lower school, to give them a flavour of higher education and careers. For example, we have taken students to Nissan, a politics day at Durham University, a Medicine and Dentistry day at Newcastle University, and a general introduction to Higher Education at Northumbria University.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us –

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Yours sincerely



Mrs L Bagshaw
Director of Sixth Form