

March 2018

Dear Parent or Carer

As we are now more than half way through the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the forthcoming events and changes that have been made to support your child whilst studying at Framwellgate Sixth Form.

I would firstly like to invite you to discuss your child's progress at Parents' Evening on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March** 4pm- 6pm in the Main Hall. You will receive a current progress report when you arrive and you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's results from the recent assessment week.

We closely monitor students' progress after each assessment week and progress report and if your child is at risk of underachieving we have designed STEP time to focus on subject specific intervention. During STEP time on Mondays and Tuesdays students will attend sessions delivered by individual subject teachers; on Thursdays students will have one-to-one interviews with tutors and on a Friday STEP time is compulsory for all Sixth Form students. In order to support and encourage students' independent learning, we have also recently designated a room in the Sixth Form area which is now a silent work room, supervised by a member of staff. All students are welcome to use this room in order to aid their studies. This room, along with the re-launching of the school library, means that students have a variety of work spaces within school to support them with their studies.

During Friday STEP time, students will be given opportunities to gain wider experiences outside of their academic studies as well as opportunities to focus on moral, spiritual, cultural and social development. For Year 12 students we will begin to focus on their future aspirations and goals and each student will begin this process with an individual interview with the Sixth Form guidance manager, Carolyn Hammond. Carolyn will be available at Parents' Evening to both year 12 and year 13 parent/carers should you wish to discuss any concerns or want any advice on your child's future career aspirations. I wish to also draw your attention to the Sixth Form Bulletin, which is produced once a fortnight by Carolyn. It outlines a range of work experience opportunities, apprenticeship vacancies, university open days as well as many other experiences that may be of interested to Sixth Form students. The bulletin is emailed to all Sixth Form students and is also published on the school website should you wish to view it.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March there is a planned whole school STEP day. All Sixth Form students will be expected to participate in the variety of workshops on offer. The day will include advice on sexual health, financial wellbeing, mental and emotional health and resilience in learning by Newcastle University. During this day there will also be the opportunity for Year 13 students to participate in subject intervention and EPQ support workshops. Year 13 students who have chosen not to apply for university will also be supported in their CV writing, interview skills and gaining an understanding of apprenticeships and gap-year opportunities.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with regards to the importance of attendance in the Sixth Form. We continue to work towards all students aiming for at least **95%** attendance for the year. Sixth form students should strive to achieve consistently good attendance as poor attendance will affect academic attainment. We want all of our students to academically to achieve the best that they can and staff can only do this if students are attending their timetabled lessons and intervention programmes. Students should make every effort to make medical/dental appointments out of school hours; if it is unavoidable to do this then you must contact reception and make the school aware of this. If there is an on-going medical issue that you think we should be aware of that affects your child's attendance, then please do let us know so that we can support your child.

I am very proud of the students who study with us at Framwellgate Sixth Form. Many students have had a fantastic first half of the year and we can celebrate many academic and extracurricular achievements. Many of our students have received Sixth Form Stars from individual directorates to celebrate their successes. You can keep up with these celebrations on twitter @FSDSixth or on facebook @FSD-Sixth Form.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form pastoral team if you require any further information on your child's progress, attendance or opportunities available to students.

Yours sincerely

Leeanne Mersh-Roberts

Head of Sixth Form