

THE PARENTS'/CARERS' GUIDE TO THE 6th FORM





The 6th Form Team

Ms Fassam: g.fassam@uckfield.college

Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form

Mr Simmons : s.simmons@uckfield.college

Director of 6th Form

Mr McLachlan : b.mclachlan@uckfield.college

Director of 6th Form

Mrs Alvarez : s.alvarez@uckfield.college

Director of 6th Form

Mr Elsworth - c.elsworth@uckfield.college

Pastoral Leader (PaL)



A2 Results 2018

- A* = 10% (national 8%)**
- A*-A = 31% (national 26%)**
- A*-B = 63% (national 53%)**
- A*-C = 85% (national 77%)**
- A*-D = 98% (national 91.5%)**
- A*-E = 100% (national 97%)**



PixL6



- Uckfield College is a PiXL 6 school.
- PiXL6 is a national network of over 400 schools who are working in partnership to maximize the results and outcomes for their students.
- We use the PiXL6 philosophy as a basis for many of the key structures that are in place to support our students.
- **The philosophy is based around sharp, personalized intervention to maximize achievement.**



Study skills in the 6th Form

It is essential that students in Year 12 develop good independent study skills early on. This means...

- Being an **active reader**.
- Using a **variety of sources**, not just the main text book.
- Being **persistent** - don't give up if it isn't easy.
- Seeking help** from teachers when it is required.
- Pre-reading** so that they have a better understanding of what will be taught in upcoming lessons.
- Discussing** work in small groups on research and problems.
- Effective **time management**.

Teachers will help, but students need to do a lot more on their own outside of the classroom.

The 6th Form Mindset - VESPA

- An established programme Based on the Character Education work of *Oakes and Griffin*.
- Designed to help students transition in attitude and thinking from GCSE to Level 3 studies.
- A major component of PDT in Year 12 at Uckfield College.

Most students who do worse than expected at 6th Form do so because of poor self-belief, or weak organisation, or bad use of time or lack of drive when the going gets hard - not because of a lack of ability.

Time to meet the mentors....



12N & 12O - SG5 with Mr Medley (N) and Dr Dowell (O)

12K & 12M - E7 with Mr Buschle (K) and Miss Williams (M)

12L and 12E - RS2 with Mr Whilde (L) and Mrs Hardwick (E)

12F and 12U - MU2 with Miss Tomaszewska (F) and Miss Ashton (U)

12I - H2 with Mr Harvey and Miss Cooper

12C - SF1 with Mr Webster

12D - MM1 with Ms Taylor

The linear courses

- To gain an A level in a subject students will be examined on the whole 2 years worth of content at the end of Y13.
- We have reduced the number of subjects that lots of students take to allow for the increase in difficulty level of new specs.
- Students will take end of year exams - these will inform the predictions we make for UCAS applications.

The importance of end of year exams

- Universities look at your trial exam results/ first year BTEC results as an indicator of ability.
- Teachers use them to give their predicted grades.
- This will give them a real experience of the exam but will also give the universities a better prediction.

6th Form is more similar to lower down the college than you would think....

- ❑ The timing of the school day is the same 9am - 3pm (Mon) or 9am-3.25 (Tue-Fri).
 - ❑ Occasionally, some 6th form lessons will need to be timetabled outside these hours (e.g. a P6 - 3.25-4.25)
 - ❑ School and parent/carer contact is the same if not more frequent in the 6th form.
 - ❑ Teaching staff support is the same, if not more, in KS5 - after school sessions, lunchtime help sessions and holiday revision days offered across many subjects.
- The difference is the amount of independent study required of the student and the rigour of the subject specifications.**

PDT and assemblies

- All students must to attend PDT 4x a week 1 of these sessions will be an assembly.
- These are compulsory and non-attendance will significantly affect their attendance record.
- PiXL6 activities, PSHCE tasks, preparation for UCAS and planning for employment will be completed in this time.
- There are weekly assemblies on a wide range of topics delivered by the 6th form team and external agencies.
- There are also termly achievement assemblies where students are rewarded for their hard work and commitment to learning.

PSHCE in the 6th Form

- PSHCE has a variety of functions:
 - To improve study skills
 - Prepare students for progression
 - To build the mentor/student relationship
 - To pass on information and to give students the largest range of opportunities to participate in school life
 - To develop an overall understanding of the world we live in
 - To discuss current global issues
 - One to one mentoring sessions to focus on academic progress

The 6th Form Mindset - VESPA

- **V**ision - Having goals for when the going gets tough.
- **E**ffort - Getting an idea early on as to how much work is needed to get the grades that a student wants.
- **S**ystems - Learning how to organise study notes, prioritise and chunk tasks and study independently.
- **P**ractice - Understanding different modes of revision.
- **A**ttitude - Self-awareness of how they respond to high challenge and the risk of failure. Learning how to get themselves out of patterns of negative thinking.

Dress code

- 6th Form students are important representatives of the college and role models for younger students.
- If a student does not comply with the dress code they will be asked to stay back until 3:45pm. If this happens 3 times they will stay until 4.30pm.
- In extreme circumstances a student may be asked to go home and get changed
- Coats must not be worn in school
- Students must wear their lanyards round their necks with the ID visible at all times

Attendance

- Education is now compulsory to 18 years of age. Therefore we will follow up on absence in the same way as lower down the college.
- Last year all the students who achieved 3 or more A or A*s, had over 98% attendance.
- Every lesson really does count.
- Nothing can substitute class time with your subject tutor.
- If a student is unwell they can find the work on google classroom which often is reassuring for students.
- We will alert you very quickly if attendance becomes a concern and work with the student to identify why they are missing lessons and help them to get back on track.

Guidance for absence

- ☒ Occasions when permission may be granted on a limited basis:
 - ☒ Hospital appointment which cannot be arranged outside school hours
 - ☒ Driving theory test
 - ☒ Driving test
 - ☒ Official study leave (agreed with prior permission)
 - ☒ Attendance at examinations
 - ☒ Attendance at funeral (immediate family only)
 - ☒ Religious observance (this must not exceed 4 days)
 - ☒ University visit for open day or interview
 - ☒ Work experience
 - ☒ Participating in a significant extra-curricular activity (eg sport or drama)
 - ☒ Court attendance
 - ☒ Exceptional circumstances
 - ☒ Other events at the discretion of the head of 6th Form

Guidance for absence

- **Unauthorised absence includes:**
 - Medical appointments
 - Holidays
 - Part-time work which is not part of a programme of study
 - Paid employment (it is illegal to work Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:45am and 3:15pm)
 - Leisure activities
 - Babysitting younger siblings
 - Driving lessons
 - Birthdays or similar celebrations
 - Shopping

Missing lessons

- Legitimate absences such as illness will need to be evidenced by a letter from you.
- Wherever possible medical appointments should be made outside of college hours.
- Driving lessons are not to be taken in college time.
- If a student does miss a lesson without a legitimate reason they will be asked to attend a making up session after college until 4.30pm.
- It is essential for health and safety reasons that if students leave site during the day they must sign out in reception.

Procedures:



To help your son/daughter to maintain their attendance record we ask that you do the following:

- A Parent/Carer (not the student) rings into the absence line when they are ill - before college starts.
- Complete request forms for university visits or any other pre-arranged absence requests.
- Keep us informed of any situation that might have an impact on your child's progress.
- Holidays are not authorised in term time in line with government recommendations, except in exceptional circumstances, you will need to put in a request to Mr Hennebry

Supported study



- In addition to their lessons students will have 8 periods a week of supervised study.
- Students are to use this time to complete specific additional learning activities
- This encourages students to become independent learners, an essential skill for KS5 and beyond.
- Students will need to bring in their own devices, such as laptops or tablets to use in study sessions
- Non-attendance at these sessions will be treated as a missing lesson.

Homework and study

- Students will be regularly set homework for each subject.
- Students are expected to complete personal study in addition to the homework they are set.
- To help this they will be given guided learning booklets which are to be completed in their guided learning lessons.
- They are expected to spend 4 hours per week per subject, in addition to the time in lessons.

But I've done my homework and guided learning...

- At KS5 just completing your homework and guided learning is only one part of being a student:

In addition students should be

- Reading through class notes
- Creating revision cards
- Completing wider reading
- Completing past papers
- Researching key topics

Part time employment

- Part time employment can be an excellent way of gaining experience, taking on responsibility and developing transferable skills.
- However as your son/daughter has enrolled on a full time course we would highly recommend that they take on no more than 10 hours paid work per week.
- It is also important that they are able to stay at school until 4.30pm for revision/support sessions etc so any work should allow for this.

Trial Exams week



- Students will have mock exams the 1st week back after Easter.
- This is to give them the real exam experience before they complete their end of year exams in June.
- This gives students a chance to consolidate knowledge and review the work completed in the first term 2 terms.
- Last year students learnt a tremendous amount from this experience.

The successful 6th form student...

- Attends all lessons
- Arrives on time
- Completes homework task to be the best of their ability
- Communicates with staff
- Responds to feedback
- Becomes an independent learner
- Balances life and work
- Thinks critically
- Has a breadth of knowledge
- Organises time effectively
- Contributes to class discussions

We will help your son/daughter to develop these attributes, which they can take through 6th form and onto higher education or employment.

How to help your child to succeed

- Contacting us when there is a problem, no matter how small, via email, phone or arranging a meeting.
- Help them to develop good study skills e.g. setting aside time for homework, having a place to study, organising their notes etc.
- Talking to them about their progress.
- Attending Parents' Evenings.
- Being aware of important dates in their calendar.

The successful partnership

It is important that we all work as a team to help the student to achieve their potential.

The partnership of home and school is vitally important for success:

- Student
- Parent/carer
- Subject teachers
- Mentors
- PALs
- Three Directors of Year
- Assistant Principal - Head of Sixth Form

Crunch Times in Year 12



- Course selection
- First weeks of the academic year
- Trial examinations
- Trial examinations results
- Coursework deadlines

Crunch times in Y13



- UCAS application deadline - 1st term
- Trial exam periods
- Coursework deadlines
- Easter onwards - revision ramp up

Important dates



- Term dates
- Parents' Evenings (2 per year)
- Leaving dates

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Thank you for attending

We will be available for questions
outside.