

PARENT NEWSLETTER: SPRING



Update from the Heads of Sixth

We are fast approaching the end of another academic year and we have had another busy term.

In January, our learners sat their mock exams which gave them a good understanding of what they needed to do to prepare themselves for the summer exams.

February saw our 'Behind Closed Bars' day for Sociology, Psychology, Criminology and Forensics Y2 learners which is always one of the highlights of the year. March meanwhile, saw the second of our Trips Days with learners taking part in some more amazing trips.

When we return in April, we have the UCAS Discovery Event for all Year 1 learners to speak to different Universities, Apprenticeship providers and employers.

This marks the beginning of the UCAS Process for all Year 1 learners. Meanwhile our Year 2 learners are starting to finalise their plans for next year, receiving university offers or applying for jobs and apprenticeships.

With so much going on, it is important to start preparing well for the end of year mocks and exams. This newsletter contains some useful hints and tips for those starting their revision.

Becky Riddell and Gary Parsons
Heads of Sixth - SGS Sixth



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STEM@LUNCH TALKS

Our STEM@Lunch talks have continued this term with a wide range of talks for our learners studying the Sciences and Maths from a variety of different speakers. The STEM@Lunch talks are one of the highlights of the Sixth Form and are organised by Vaia Adamaki, our Physics teacher.

ALUMNI TALKS

On the 5th January, SGS Sixth Alumni, Kim Drew and Bryce Gapper, both came to the Sixth Form to explain to our learners about life in the first year of their undergraduate degrees in STEM subjects.

Kim is studying Engineering in UWE whilst Bryce is studying Maths in Warwick. Both were able to give some context to our learners about what university life is like and how to make the most of their time on their courses.

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT TALK



On the 2nd February, Andrew Barker, from the NHS Blood and Transplant service, came to the Sixth Form to talk about career opportunities in the NHS. Specifically, he talked about some of the apprenticeships on offer in the NHS, what life is like in the NHS and also about work placement opportunities that are available for those who want to enter into a career in laboratory work.

This was especially useful for our learners on our BTEC Applied Science courses (Biomedical and Forensics) as these courses are designed to equip them with the skills to work in laboratories.

We have developed a very fruitful relationship with the NHS Blood and Transplant service over several years now and we work with this local employer in a variety of different ways to ensure our STEM learners have some unique opportunities with them.

THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE ANKLE JOINT



On Friday the 22nd March we were joined by Dr Elise Pegg from the University of Bath who delivered a talk on the Biomechanics of the ankle joint. Dr Pegg began by explaining all the different ways the ankle can move and how complicated it is. She also detailed a project she is working on to improve prosthetics by developing a model of the ankle for doctors to train on.

This talk was especially useful for our Biology and Biomedical Science learners.

WELCOMING BLAISE HIGH LEARNERS TO THE SIXTH FORM

On Friday 2nd February, SGS Sixth welcomed 70 learners from Blaise High to the Sixth Form. These learners spent the day with our Science department taking part in a series of activities for those interested in the Sciences at A level and BTEC Applied Science.

This has been part of a partnership with Blaise High, led by our Physics teacher, Vaia Adamaki, who has also led some sessions at Blaise High. The learners were also able to listen to the STEM@Lunch talk by Andrew Barker from the NHS Blood and Transplant service.



BEHIND CLOSED BARS CONFERENCE



On the 2nd February, second year learners of Sociology, Psychology, Law, Criminology and Forensics were all able to take part in a full day event called 'Behind Closed Bars'.

This event included ex-offenders speaking to the learners about their experiences in the Criminal Justice system. This is directly linked to aspects of the curriculum for all of these subjects. During the day the learners were encouraged to discuss about the impact of prison and whether it is effective in rehabilitating prisoners.



The speakers talked about the circumstances that led to their incarceration and their experiences in entering prison as young individuals.

CRIME SCENE TO COURT TRIP



Applied Science and Criminology learners had the opportunity to attend a Crime Scene to Court taster day at the University of South Wales on the 20th March. Here, they undertook a range of activities to understand how Forensic Investigators, the Police, Criminologists and other Public Services work together to solve crimes.


Learners were tasked with finding evidence on a particular case and worked in the Forensic Laboratory on visualising fingerprints on various items and using Electrostatic Detection Equipment and Spectrophotometric equipment to view documents recovered from the scene.



JULIAN TRUST DONATIONS

Sixth Form learners and staff have been collecting donations for the Julian Trust over the course of the term. The trust helps to support homeless individuals in Bristol by providing hot meals and overnight accommodation to those who need it.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Eva James, our resident History Teacher, led the Sixth Form in an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

During the event, Eva provided context behind the reasoning for us marking Holocaust Memorial Day, why it is still relevant today and about genocide in the 20th and 21st century.

Learners were also able to see an interactive series of exhibits about genocide and the holocaust prior to the session.

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

MARCH TRIPS DAYS

The 7th and 8th March were our second trips days of the year with learners enjoying more trips to many different locations. Below are some of the highlights.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRIP TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY

First Year English Language learners visited the British Library on Euston Road in London. They had a guided tour of the library which holds a copy of every text published in Britain alongside some global treasures. Students saw King George III's collection of maps and views, the Library's copy of the Magna Carta, handwritten works from some of literature's greatest talents and a fascinating range of Sacred texts. Learners also had the chance to make use of the sound bank at the library, listening to a range of regional dialects from around the UK. There was then time for some sightseeing in London and dinner before heading back to the Sixth Form.

APPLIED SCIENCES TRIP TO NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

Our two groups of Applied Science (Biomedical and Forensics) learners visited the NHS Blood and Transplant hub in Filton across both trips days. They heard about the range of career paths available within the sector, carried out a blood grouping practical in the training lab and took a tour of their manufacturing and testing laboratory facilities. The learners also learnt about the distribution network for blood products after donation, the quality assurance processes and the importance of meeting timeline requirements.

This was especially useful for these learners as the BTEC is designed to prepare learners for careers in laboratory work.

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY TRIP TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Twenty-eight learners undertaking the History and Philosophy A Levels enjoyed a trip to London on Friday 8th March. In the morning they took part in a curated session led by the learning team at the Imperial War Museum before experiencing the Holocaust Galleries.

After a short walk to Westminster, the learners were able to enjoy a guided tour of the Abbey, with the Philosophy learners visiting the Shrine of Edward the Confessor and the History learners visiting the tombs of Henry VII, Mary I, Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. It was an extremely useful day to contextualise some of the concepts that both these groups of learners come across in their subjects.



GAZA TALK

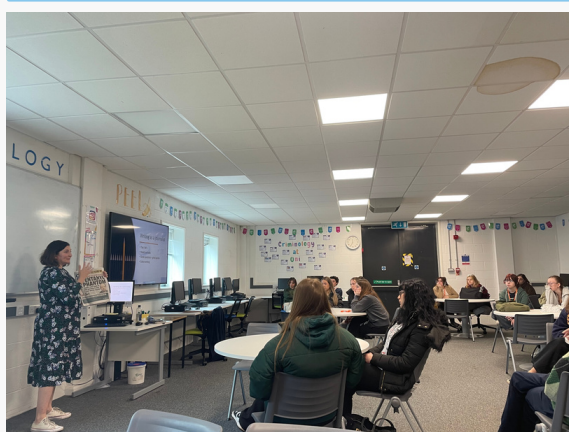


On the 20th March, Madeline McGivern, came to give a talk to Philosophy, History and other learners about the situation in Gaza and the historical context behind it. Madeline is an expert on the Middle East and

has worked as a Human Rights monitor in Gaza and has worked as a peacemaker bridging communities.

Isabel Dolman, one of our learners, commented 'This was very insightful into the conflict. I came in uneducated on the topic and now I feel I know a lot more about the situation in Gaza'. Another learner, Huzafah Aamer, said 'It was very informative and helped me understand the situation much better than I could have on my own. I also appreciate the use of reputable sources and them being available for me to see'.

JOURNALISM TALK



On the 21st March, English Language learners and members of the Marketing Academy joined a talk led by Chantelle Horton from the University of Gloucester about careers in journalism drawing on her background from working as a journalist.

Our learners were told about how the media industry works, how to write as a journalist and the career routes into journalism.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On the 26th - 28th February, Geography learners visited Slapton Sands for the annual Geography Field Trip.

The trip was a three day residential fieldtrip to the Field Study Centre in Devon. They learnt how to study a cost benefit analysis on coastlines and studied evidence of longshore drift on Slapton Sands. The learners investigated inequality in Plymouth and collected data using Environmental Quality Assessments, Index of Decay, Evidence of Crime survey and Housing Quality. The learners also learnt how to calculate the amount of carbon stored in trees. These are essential skills needed for their NEA.

MASTERCARD INNOVATIONS PROJECT

Thirty-five learners from across the Sixth Form have taken part in the Mastercard Innovations Project this term. Over the course of 11 sessions these learners have approached a problem posed by Mastercard around corporate culture. They then have had to project manage and develop a range of solutions that they present back to the company at the end of the project through their Business Advisor, Dominic Jecott.

This has been especially useful for learners who have been undertaking Business A Level as it gives them great evidence for their UCAS statements of working with a large company whilst giving them an insight into how these companies work and developing their presentation, teamwork and leadership skills.

One learner, Rowan Wilmot found this especially useful when he went to an interview with Babcock for a project management degree apprenticeship and was asked to provide evidence of a project he had worked on.

OVER THE NEXT TERM

SIXTH FORM STUDY GROUPS

In the run up to the summer exam series we will be putting on lots of additional support for our learners. They will be able to access drop-in revision and support sessions known as 'study groups'. The days and times these operate are listed below:



General Revision Techniques, Tips and Resources and group study led by the Study Skills Team

Want some help with how to organise your revision, on techniques to revise or to do your revision with someone on hand to give you some tips? Our study skills team will be in the Sixth Form library to help out at the following times:

Tuesday Lunchtimes - 12:10 - 13:10

Wednesdays - Academies slot - 10:40 - 11:40

Thursdays - Academies slot - 11:10 - 12:10



Subject study groups - Wednesdays 10:40 - 11:40

Year 1 - Criminology and Law - Maddie Peace - AEPC

Year 2 - History - Eva James - A109

Year 2 and Year 1 Biology - Rob Aldridge - AEF1

Year 2 Psychology - Mark Jones - A103

Year 2 Philosophy and Year 2 Sociology - Bash Khan - A110

Year 2 Sociology - Lamin Sanneh - A111



Subject study groups - Thursdays 11:10 - 12:10

Year 2 - Criminology - Chelsey Price - AEPC

Year 2 - English Language - Evie Hemmings - A203

Year 2 - Economics - Di Curnock - A202

Year 2 - Physical Education - Holly Gibbs - AG08

Year 2 - English Literature - Leah Prendergast - A201

Year 1 - Media - Simon Greely - A112

OVER THE NEXT TERM



Other subject study groups

Year 2 - Maths and Further Maths - AG12 - Monday lunchtimes

Year 2 - Geography - A113 - Tuesday lunchtimes

Year 2 - Physics - AEF5 - Wednesday lunchtimes

Year 2 - Physical Education - AG08 - Tuesday lunchtimes

Subject study groups are run by the teaching staff and are there to help learners with subject specific support. This can be based around recaps of specific areas of content, exam practice and support and more! Speak to your teachers for more detail of what they are running for you!



UCAS DISCOVERY EVENT - NEWPORT

On the 23rd April we will be taking all Year 1 learners to the UCAS Discovery Event in Newport. We will be providing free transport to the event and will be leaving the Sixth Form at 12:30 and returning at 15:30. All Year 1 learners have been given a consent form to be filled out and returned. If you have any questions or need a form resent, please email sixth@sgscol.ac.uk

The UCAS Discovery Event is the start of the UCAS process for applying to universities, apprenticeships and jobs after Sixth Form. At the event learners can speak to a range of providers to hear about what they offer. There is also lots of different stands and freebies to be had.

To find out more about UCAS Discovery Events, please look at the video at this link: https://youtu.be/OLqNM4KGSNA?si=4Nga_ZjYS8S_HqYw

After Easter we will continue the UCAS Process for learners with sessions on personal statement writing and choices after Sixth Form in Progression.

Top Tips for preparing your personal statement

- Think about what you have been doing outside your subjects - Sixth Form and Sports Academies, trips and talks are all areas that you will be able to talk about on your personal statement.
- Have you found Work Placement that supports your intended career path? Being able to talk about how you have undertaken work placement in a law firm when applying for a law degree, for example, enhances your application immensely.
- Make sure you attend the personal statement sessions in progression. These will give you a step-by-step guide on what you need to think about when completing your personal statement.



OVER THE NEXT TERM

END OF YEAR EXAMS

The end of year exam season is fast approaching with our Year 2 learners sitting their A Level exams, whilst some Year 1 learners will have external exams as well. Year 1 learners will also have their end of year mocks, which will be extremely important as these will be used to inform predicated UCAS grades for university applications.

Top exam tips

- **Start revision early** - Learners should be in the habit of doing weekly revision and consolidation of their notes by this time in the course, however the earlier you start revision the better.
 - **Plan out your revision** - Short, manageable chunks of time on topics is the best way to go. Create a revision timetable to allocate out the time you will spend revising.
 - **Use the Pomodoro technique** - This technique, of 25 minute intensive revision periods with no distractions followed by a five minute break, repeated in four cycles is an ideal way to undertake your revision for bursts of two hours at a time.
 - **Engage your brain whilst revising I** - Reading over notes or highlighting may feel like it is revision, but a much more effective way is to ensure you are testing your brain. Start off with a topic by writing everything you know in one colour pen then read over your notes and add in the detail of what you have missed with a different colour pen. You now can see the difference between what you know and what you still need to learn.
 - **Stay hydrated** - Make sure you are taking regular sips of water to keep hydrated throughout the day. Tiredness and fatigue is often caused by dehydration.
 - **Have high attendance** - High levels of attendance has a direct impact on grades. In the run up to the exams your teachers will do lots of revision-based practice with you, so get the most out of these sessions.
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- **Make sure you are getting enough sleep** - A healthy sleep pattern is one of the most important areas to help with preparing for exams. Unwinding before bed not only helps with stress, but it also means that you get a better quality of sleep. Mobile phones emit blue light which can cause an interrupted sleep so it is advised to not use your mobile whilst you are trying to get to sleep.
 - **Engage your brain whilst revising II** - Make sure you are testing yourself on your knowledge. Flashcards are best designed when you have questions on one side and the answers on the other. That way you are actively recalling the material and can create two piles: content you know, content you need to brush up on.
 - **Practice, practice, practice** - All the exam boards have past papers on their websites that you can practice on. In the run-up to exams teachers will be more than happy to take a look at an essay or paper you have attempted. Make sure you attend the study groups for additional support and guidance in the run up to the exams.
 - **RAG rate your knowledge** - Don't know where to start? Go to the course specification on the exam boards websites and rate your understanding of topics. Red for needs work, orange for partially confident and green for confident.

KEY DATES - 2024



23rd April

UCAS Discovery Event - All year 1 learners are to attend.

9th May - 21st June

A Level exams start (mostly A2 exams, Core Maths, Y2 Forensics and Criminology Y1 exams).

27th May - 3rd June

Spring Bank Holiday.

3rd - 14th June

End of year mock weeks for Y1 learners. Learners are expected to achieve a minimum of a grade D in each of their A levels, or Passes in Applied Science and have 80% attendance to progress into the second year.

17th - 21st June

Y1 Work Placement Mop-up week - An opportunity for year one learners who require a block week for their Work Placement to undertake this.

21st June

End of Year Party of Year 2 learners at Toto's by the Water

24th - 25th June

Y1 Review Days - Year 1 learners receive their mock results and have their final lessons before the summer break

15th August

A Level Results Day - You will be able to pick up your results from the Sixth Form from 8am. Your teachers will be on hand to celebrate with you and offer advice on clearing options if required.

END OF YEAR PARTY FOR YEAR 2

Year 2 learners, led by Bobbie Lynham, have arranged an end of year party at Toto's By the River for the 21st June. Tickets are £12 and are available for purchase the following link or by scanning the QR code below:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ff26b65>



Toto's By the River is located in the centre of Bristol, the event will last from 7pm - 12am.

For more information contact:

Bobbie Lynham

or Evie Hemmings: Evie.Hemmings@sgscol.ac.uk





KEY CONTACTS - 2024

If you have a question about progress, or to do with a subject, please find the contact details of our staff below.

A Level Year 1 - Contacts

Year 1 - Heads of Year

Rebecca Wheeler - Rebecca.Wheeler@sgscol.ac.uk
Also Course Lead - Sociology. EPQ teacher.

Wendy Thomas - Wendy.Thomas@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches BTEC Applied Science (Biomedical and Forensics)

Year 1 - Progress Mentors (Tutors)

Rob Aldridge - Rob.Aldridge@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Biology

Chelsey Price - Chelsey.Price@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches L3 Criminology

Mary Gliddon - Mary.Gliddon@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Geography

Frances Fahy - Frances.Fahy@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Maths and Core Maths

Holly Gibbs - Holly.Gibbs@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level PE and Forensic Science

Simon Greely - Simon.Greely@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Film and Media

Lamin Sanneh - Lamin.Sanneh@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches Politics and Sociology

Eva James - Eva.James@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level History

Evie Hemmings - Evie.Hemmings@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level English Language

Maddie Peace - Maddie.Peace@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Law and L3 Criminology

Romana Maric - Romana.Maric@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Law

Jodie Jones - Jodie.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches L3 Criminology

A Level Year 2 - Contacts

Year 2 - Head of Year

Camilla Gentry - Camilla.Gentry@sgscol.ac.uk
Also Course Lead - Maths

Year 2 - Progress Mentors (Tutors)

Jodie Jones - Jodie.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches L3 Criminology

Maddie Peace - Maddie.Peace@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Law and L3 Criminology

Vaia Adamaki - Vaia.Adamaki@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Physics

Camilla Gentry - Camilla.Gentry@sgscol.ac.uk
Course Lead Maths

Rebecca Wheeler - Rebecca.Wheeler@sgscol.ac.uk
Course Lead - Sociology, EPQ teacher.

Evie Hemmings - Evie.Hemmings@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level English Language

Mark Jones - Mark.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk
Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Course Lead Psychology

Other teaching staff

Leah Prendergast - Leah.Prendergast@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level English Literature

Steve Spokes - Steve.Spokes@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Business. EPQ teacher

Di Curnock - Di.Curnock@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Economics

Bash Khan - Bash.Khan@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches A Level Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, Sociology

Katie Alderman - Katie.Alderman@sgscol.ac.uk
LAM - Art Department, Teaches UAL Sub Dip Visual Arts

Claire Fullarton - Claire.Fullarton@sgscol.ac.uk
Teaches BTEC Applied Science and A level Chemistry

PARENT PORTAL



Parent Portal is how parents can keep up to date with assessment grades, teacher comments and attendance and punctuality.

This is also where you can see termly reports, known as 'Census Points' in each subject.

To sign-up for Parent Portal, please visit:
<https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/parent-portal>

WHAT SUPPORT IS THERE?

Lots of support is on offer in the Sixth Form and the best way to access this is through the Progress Mentor.

Wellbeing Service - This offers a range of support from someone to talk to about your mental health and wellbeing, to support with safeguarding issues and sex and relationships.

Money Management Service - For help with bursaries, support schemes and support with travel to the college. The team also has an office in the main refectory at Filton Campus that is open 10:00 - 14:30 Monday - Thursday

Careers Service - Offers free, impartial advice on career options, finding work including CV writing and more. One to one appointments can be booked through the Professional Futures app on e-campus

Learning Support Team - For help with a learning need or for help setting up an Exam Access Arrangement.



WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT A PROGRESS MENTOR (TUTOR)?

What is the Progress Mentor there for?

The Progress Mentor is your first contact for any query that you may have. They can help direct to any support, help with any issues in subjects and be the key liaison for any important information.

Who is my child's Progress Mentor?

All learners have a Progress Mentor, they will know who theirs is. Alternatively, you can check on Parent Portal or contact one of the Heads of Year who can help you.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF YEAR?

The Heads of Year are the figureheads for each year group cohort.

They will intervene if a learner is particularly struggling or has particularly low attendance. They will also help organise events which learners across the year group might benefit from.

The Heads of Year also assist with questions around next steps such as helping to submit UCAS statements.