



Sherburn High School Sixth Form
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Dear Year 11 students, parents and carers,

I do hope this finds you and your families fit and well. It's strange to think that under normal circumstances, we would have been into the thick of GCSE exam season – what strange times we continue to find ourselves in.

I write to give you a few updates regarding Sixth Form that you may find useful as we approach half term.

Year 12 Induction

Hopefully, those of you who applied to our Sixth Form received your formal offer letters through the post before the Easter holidays!

The next stage is that under normal circumstances, new Year 12 students formally sign up for Sixth Form and their chosen Level 3 courses on their Induction Day. This usually takes place on the first Monday in September - this year it would be 7th September 2020. Students are given time to make their final course selection, as well as receive key information on what to expect as a Post-16 student. After much hard work by the Post-16 team, students are then welcomed back on the Friday to receive their timetables ready to start courses the following Monday.

Clearly with the situation we find ourselves in, there is some uncertainty as to what this induction will look like this year. However, I would like to personally reassure you that I will be in contact as and when government guidance brings clarity around the return of students to school in September. I know our Sixth Form teachers will agree with me that we can't wait to start out Sixth Form journey with you as soon as possible.

Level 3 Course Choices

There is still plenty of time left to make decisions about what you will study in our Sixth Form. Your final decision doesn't need to be made until September, so feel free to change your mind as many times as you like you before then.

Don't forget that our prospectus can be found on the school website, and both the Sixth Form team and subject teachers are here to support you in making your decision.

If you'd like support from myself or Ms. Mills, please email us at sixthform@shs.starmat.uk



Bridging Materials

Transition to Level 3 courses can be challenging, and with your GCSE courses being curtailed it brings a renewed importance to you preparing for A-level. Our Sixth Form teaching staff are setting “Bridging materials” via Show My Homework to help you with this preparation.

It's important that if you are considering taking a subject in our Sixth Form that you engage with the materials being provided, and to really immerse yourself in what being a Sixth Form student in that subject might be like.

If you are having any difficulties accessing these materials, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ms. Mills.



What do our students say? Our first year in Sherburn Sixth Form

by Kara Johnson and Connor Latto

Hello everyone, my name is Kara Johnson and last year I made the decision to join Sherburn High School Sixth Form.

Coming towards the end of Year 11, I found myself feeling so grateful for my school and everything it had done for me. I had realised during GCSEs that I had teachers around me that would go above and beyond to make sure I reached my potential and ended the year with a set of results I couldn't have been more proud of. Personally, I figured going elsewhere, for arguably the most difficult and important two years yet, was unnecessary when considering the things I would be saying goodbye to.

Having teachers that know your strengths and weaknesses is so crucial. I never hesitate to let teachers know I'm struggling, and they never hesitate to help. I consider myself so lucky to have teachers that have known me from Year 7, as they can tell by a funny look on my face that I need some help. The support and care from teachers to this extent can easily be taken for granted. In my opinion, this is what Sherburn provides outstandingly well and makes our school unique. Of course, this is so helpful because you will have a lot to juggle throughout Years 12 and 13, an increased workload and more difficult content, but having teachers that know you inside out gives you one less thing to worry about.

Being in Sixth Form, I have been given a whole new perspective of Sherburn. I have found that I'm given enough guidance to feel supported, but enough independence to feel like an adult rather than a student. The experience of joining Sixth Form was exciting and fun, as it should be, because, making the transition, I was confident Sherburn had everything I needed and more to smash my A levels.



My name is Connor Latto - I am Deputy Head Boy at Sherburn High School's Sixth Form. I'm currently in Year 12 studying Physics, Maths and Geography.

The step up to Sixth Form is really challenging, but at Sherburn we have an outstanding set of teachers who don't just give support with school work, but also mental health and wellbeing support no matter the circumstance. If you would have asked me two years ago if I saw myself in Sixth Form, I would have said no. My grades weren't what I wanted them to be, and I didn't care too much about school. It wasn't until mid-year 11 when reality really kicked in. A couple of months later and after countless hours of revision I had set myself up with amazing grades to walk into Sherburn Sixth Form with.

It was only then I realised the opportunities and doors our own Sixth Form presents. For me personally, I've had a great first year and certainly wouldn't have been able to do it without the teachers we have here.

Mr Kirby, despite it being his first year as Head of Sixth Form, works incredibly hard and always turns the atmosphere into happiness and positive vibes. He is a role model and a perfect Head of Sixth Form. My Sixth Form tutor, Mr Featherstone, has been relentless in supporting me when I've struggled during this year, changing my outlook on life. He has offered support with my mental health when I've struggled and helped me manage the transition to working in a Sixth Form environment. Quite simply, I could not have done it without him and I don't think I would have received that level of support anywhere else.

I'm sure as a Year 11 student you will find the step up scary as you are stepping into the unknown. But once you join the Sixth Form, you no longer feel like a school student. You feel like an adult, and begin to be treated like adults by the staff, but also in the access to the facilities we have. Our common room is equipped with seating areas to eat and relax and we have both a pool table and table football. Work can be challenging to keep up with, but with our three private study rooms and flexibility to study where and when we work best, our Sixth Form is the ideal place to succeed.

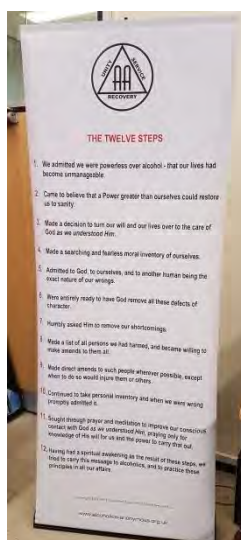
I've really developed over the course of Year 12 and continue to grow. I still find all my subjects interesting and keep wanting to learn, which is all possible because of the amazing staff/teachers and the facilities we have.

More than just your studies – a behind the scenes insight to what else our Sixth Form offers

by Mrs. Hannam - Year 13 tutor

Our tutorial package not only supports your learning and welfare, it also offers opportunities beyond the classroom. This academic year we have been exceptionally lucky to have had a wealth of visitors, some big names including: Jet2, Heineken, Alcoholics Anonymous, York Sexual Health, York Minds to name but a few. In particular, university students have delivered valuable sessions regarding finance, accommodation and generally what university life is all about. Year 12 and 13 Tutors have led students through CV writing, apprenticeship guidance, and of course, the UCAS application process. They have also been there to support your pastoral needs, offering one-to-one help and support. Take a look at some of the highlights!





And finally...

I would like to reiterate what I said in your offer letters, that I don't think the end of Year 11 journey was the ending we all expected. I feel desperately sorry that you didn't have the opportunity to shine this summer.

However, I will do everything I possibly can to ensure the beginning of your studies in our Sixth Form is disrupted as little as possible. In what remain strange and uncertain times, I would encourage you to get in touch if there is anything the Sixth Form team can do to support you.

I can't wait for you all (students **and** parents!) to become part of our Sixth Form family, and for us to begin our journey together.

With warm wishes,

Mr. D Kirby
Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

