



July 21

Dear Parent/Carer

Raising Aspirations Programme Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th July

I am writing to inform you about an exciting event that is taking place next week. It is our intention to run a two-day 'Raising Aspirations' programme for all Year 10 students on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July.

The programme has two key aims. Firstly, we want to raise awareness of the options facing students at the end of their Key Stage 4 courses. They will receive information about our own school Sixth Form and be offered taster sessions in some of the courses we provide. There will be talks from local employers about the skills and qualities they look for when recruiting new staff and a practical session to develop some key employability skills. There will be presentations about the local labour market and apprenticeships, plus we also have some successful ex-students who are going to share their experiences of University and Higher Education.

Secondly, we are acutely aware that these past months during the pandemic have put an enormous strain on the health and well-being of our young people. The disruption to their education has been significant and we need to do all we can to help students catch up and begin Year 11 feeling positive about the future. To that end, we have invited a specialist educational consultancy team to come in and work with our Year 10s to help develop a positive mindset towards the challenges they face over the coming months. It is an additional opportunity/strategy that will be the first of many that school will be introducing to help address the issues Covid has had on students' learning.

As the Raising Aspirations event will be a very different experience to 'normal' lessons, students will **not be required to wear school uniform** on Tuesday or Wednesday. Furthermore, they will be permitted to use the Sixth Form facilities eg. Coffee Shop and Common Room, to buy refreshments and socialise with their friends. Please note that Year 10s will have sole use of these facilities so there will be no risk of cross bubble mixing.

I am sure this will be an extremely beneficial experience for your son/daughter and I am looking forward to working with them on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Regards

Mr D Puddephatt
Director of Sixth Form