

# Sixth Form Bulletin

February

## Lower Sixth

### Key dates coming up:

**March 20 Post-18 Information Evening for Parents**

### Showcasing apprenticeships:

Earlier this year in our Lower Sixth Workshops, students have heard from a couple of our biggest local apprenticeship providers – **GSK** and **Sky Studios** – about the excellent apprenticeship programmes they run for post-18 school leavers. If students think they would be interested in an apprenticeship route after Sixth Form, they can find a wide range of companies offering these at these two websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk> (Hertfordshire only)

### Careers programme:

Throughout Year 12, students have fortnightly Careers lessons. These are designed to give students time to focus on researching the wide range of options open to them after Sixth Form. Students will, by now, be very familiar with the **Unifrog** online platform, which is an excellent resource helping students to research and then apply for whatever their next step may be.

This term, Careers lessons are focusing on the practicalities of job applications. Students will all be completing and refining a **CV** and getting experience at writing a **covering email**, as well as practising using the **STAR** technique in **interview** situations.

### Attendance matters:

We are very pleased that the attendance of our Lower Sixth students is well above national average. Over the year so far, many Year 12 students have maintained 100% attendance, and the average for the year group is over 97%.

A high rate of attendance really does make a difference.

In the A Levels achieved by our 2024 leavers, there was a clear divide between the progress shown by those with high and lower attendance.

- Students who attended college **at least 95%** of days achieved on average **one grade higher** in their A Levels at Freman College than students nationally
- Students who attended **90% or less** achieved **lower** than the national average.

Thank you for helping your son or daughter to maintain a strong attendance and achieve their best outcomes.

### Post-18 Information Evening for Parents:

On March 20 parents and students are invited to join us for presentations about the process and timeline for applying to a range of post-18 options.

At **6:00** there will be a presentation about applying to **apprenticeships**. This will be followed at **6:45** by a presentation about the UCAS application process for **university**.

Please join us for either or both of these presentations, which aim to address common questions about the application process, when and how students should start preparing for their applications, and what parents can do to support them in this.

### Independent careers advice:

Just a reminder of our independent careers advice service. Students just need to let us know when they would like a one-to-one meeting with the independent advisor.

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## Upper Sixth

### Key dates coming up

May 9      Year 13 Leavers' Day

### Making revision manageable:

Students should feel proud of the commitment they have shown to their courses over the last two years.

Many students will understandably feel some nerves as they head towards the final exams, and striking the right balance between doing plenty of effective revision and doing so much that they "burn out" before the exams can be tricky. As always, revision is best done little and often, so many students have decided already that they will maintain a low-intensity revision plan from now until the exams in May, so that the hard work they put into preparing for their recent Trial Exams is not lost. If students would like any help in designing or reviewing a revision plan, we are always happy to work with them on this.

### Freman College network accounts:

Once students have left at Freman College we cannot maintain their college network accounts or email addresses. Any documents they would like to save should be transferred to a personal email address before leaving in May, so they are not lost.

### Leavers' Day: May 9<sup>th</sup>

The final lessons for Year 13 students will take place on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> as A Level exams begin the following week. On Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> we invite all our Upper Sixth students to come into college at 8:45 in fancy dress to mark the end of their time with us at Freman College.

Our current Upper Sixth has made a massive contribution to the college and we will spend the morning celebrating their achievements over the last five years. After our Leavers' Assembly, we will enjoy a final game of rounders together (always a challenge in fancy dress!) before our leavers' group photo, and students will then leave us in the late morning.

### Student Finance applications:

Many students will now have received their place offers at universities and will be deciding which to confirm their "**Firm**" and "**Insurance**" choices. The next stage in the process is to apply to Student Finance for loans to cover the tuition and maintenance costs. We were grateful this week to the University of Hertfordshire, who came in to speak to parents and students about the process of applying loans. This can be done either before or after selecting your Firm and Insurance choice universities, and should be completed **by the end of May**. The application window will open in March (exact date still not confirmed) and we will send guidance once this happens. The application is best completed with parents' involvement and usually takes no more than around 30 minutes.

### Apprenticeship applications:

It is great to see that a great number of our Upper Sixth students who are not considering a university route have now made applications to a range of excellent apprenticeships with companies including GSK, ComputaCenter, Jaguar, KPMG, Pfizer and many more. We will continue to send links to apply for specific apprenticeship to any students we are aware might be interested, so it is important that they keep us up-to-date with their plans. Students still looking for apprenticeships might find the links below useful.

[Business apprenticeships](#)

[Engineering apprenticeships](#)

[Finance apprenticeships](#)

