Dear Parent/Guardian,

With Term 1 well underway, I wanted to write to officially welcome our Year 12 students to Towers Sixth Form and say how wonderful it is to have our Year 13s and 14s back. All students have made a fantastic start and it is lovely to see them taking their studies so seriously.

It has been a busy start to the new term. Due to the complex nature of Sixth Form timetables and course changes, it has taken a few weeks to completely organise all student timetables but we are pleased to report that the vast majority of them are now done.

Last academic year, we made a lot of changes to improve the Sixth Form experience, including: the introduction of supervised study, a more rigorous UCAS application process, increased careers interviews and the introduction of NQAs (non-qualification activities). As such, we were very pleased to see an increase in both the average A Level and BTEC grades and we saw our Year 13s off to a variety of destinations including architecture and law apprenticeships and degrees in English Literature, Banking and Finance and Dance. In addition to this, our numbers in Sixth Form have increased to over 200 students, showing that Towers Sixth Form is the place that students want to be.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly appointed Head and Deputy Head Students and their Year 13 senior leadership team.

Head Students: Sam Elderton and Sophie Shorter
Deputy Head Students: Soniya Aryal and Charlie Cooke
Year 13 Senior Student Leadership Team: Miranda Gwafa, Sam Ingleton, Nell Moir, Sebastian Popescu and Harry Norris.

The deadline for students interested in joining the Year 12 Leadership Team is *Wednesday 4th October*.

16 - 19 Bursary Fund

We do have a bursary fund available for our Sixth Form students. All students were given a Bursary FAQ at the start of term; please email j.kent@towers.school if you would like another copy sent to you.

Student absence

If a student is unwell and unable to attend, parents must contact the Sixth Form office on ext 555 or email *6th@towers.school* by **8.30am** to inform us of the absence. In addition to this, students should email their teachers explaining that they will not be in and ask for any work to be sent to them.

If a student becomes unwell during the school day, they must inform Mrs BA or Mrs Kent before they leave so that we know where they are.

Student attendance

Students must attend all sessions on their timetable. This includes:

- All timetabled lessons

- All PD sessions on the days when they have other lessons, including Friday's Lead Lesson
- All timetabled study sessions
- Any intervention sessions that staff may add as the year progresses
- Any NQAs that students have signed up for

If a student truants one of their timetabled sessions, they will be set an afterschool detention.

Sixth Form Dress Code
We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your child conforms to the Sixth Form dress code. As Sixth Formers, our students are role models to the younger years and they look incredibly smart. As we move into the winter months, I wanted to remind you that hoodies are not a part of the Sixth Form dress code and should not be worn once in school. Sixth Form students are also required to remove their coats when in classrooms so they should ensure that the clothing they wear underneath is warm enough.

As role models to our younger students, Sixth Form students are not allowed to use their phones, this includes listening to music through headphones or earphones, outside of the Sixth Form Centre. Any student seen to be using their phone or listening to music in the main school, will have their phone confiscated for the day and be set an afterschool detention.

Supervised study
Supervised study has now been timetabled. To be successful at Key Stage 5, students must commit time to independent study. At Towers, our Sixth Form students attend 5 lessons per week for each course and we expect them to spend a further 5 hours a week, per subject, studying. This means that for a student who studies 3 courses, they will spend 15 hours a week in lessons and an additional 15 hours a week engaged in homework and independent and proactive study. To support students with this, students will spend a minimum of 4 hours a week in school studying:
1. Three hours are compulsory supervised sessions in the study room. Students will register for this session.
2. 1 hour study in The Lounge or SF2 with their peers to complete group work. These sessions will not be added to students' timetables to allow them the independence and flexibility to use these sessions when they are needed.

Non-Qualification Activities (NQA)
At Towers Sixth Form, we offer a range of non-qualification activities to develop students' character, broader skills, attitudes and confidence, and to support progression. We encourage students, especially Year 12 students, to sign up for at least one of them:

- Student Leadership Team
- Subject Ambassadors
- Reading Ambassador
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Duty support
- Peer mentoring

Looking Ahead
As we move into the academic year, there are a number of important dates for your calendar:

Year 13

Event	Date
Year 13/14 PPE 1	w/c 13th November
Year 13/14 PPE 2	w/c 18th March
Final UCAS Deadline	1st December
National Apprenticeship Show	27th or 28th February
Year 13 1:1 careers interviews	Term 4

Year 12

Event	Date
Year 12 PPE 1	w/c 18th March
Year 12 PPE 2	w/c 20th May
Year 12 1:1 careers interviews	Term 3
UCAS: Looking Ahead Evening	Thursday 21st March 6 - 7pm
Apprenticeship: Looking Ahead Evening	Thursday 23rd May 6 - 7pm
University Fair	Term 5
Work Experience Week	w/c 3rd June

We are very excited about what this academic year holds as Towers Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Katie Taylor-White