

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted that your son/daughter has chosen Eckington Sixth Form to study their A Levels and/or Level 3 courses. I am confident that they will thoroughly enjoy their time at Eckington and be fully prepared for their post 18 destination at the end of year 13.

This is an incredibly important time for your son/daughter and whilst we recognise our students are independent young adults, I have no doubt that you, as parents, can and will play a vitally important role over the next two years. We want to keep you involved in your son/daughter's education as much as possible. To this end, we have an Eckington School Sixth Form twitter account, [Eckington6thform](#), which should keep you informed of important information and updates. Please follow us if you can. We will mainly communicate with you via email so please watch out for frequent letters/information in your email account.

For you to support your son/daughter throughout this year I wanted to outline a few important messages and key dates.

Firstly, students at Eckington Sixth Form are required to do 15 hours of independent study each week. This equates to 5 hours per subject. Students will be able to do approximately half of this time in school during their directed learning periods but will still need to do a large proportion of this at home. Whilst we understand that students may need to get a part time job, we recommend that students should work no more than 10 hours per week and that they do not attend employed work during school hours. Attendance and punctuality are of paramount importance for your son/daughter to succeed. It also ensures that they are in good routines when they progress on to their next stage of education/employment. We, therefore, aim for your son/daughter to have at least 96% attendance and will require them to make up time if they are late to school.

Secondly, your child will have several assessments with frequent feedback throughout the year for teachers to monitor and address gaps in their learning. However, the following dates are the main calendared assessments for all subjects:

1. Monday 4th October 2021 to Friday 15th October 2021
2. Monday 31st January 2022 to Friday 11th February 2022
3. Monday 6th June 2022 to Friday 17th June 2022 (Progression exams)

You will notice that the last assessment point involves progression exams. These progression exams are vitally important in ensuring that your son/daughter is coping with the Level 3 courses. If it becomes apparent that your child is struggling, we will invite you and your son/daughter in to discuss options for ways forward.

During these assessment times we would expect students to be studying for longer periods than normal. However, it is important to ensure that students take regular breaks during these times.

Thirdly, in order to support your son/daughter we have arranged the following events. There will be a 'Welcome to the Sixth Form evening' on Wednesday 15th September at 6pm. We hope that this will take place in our Sixth Form Centre and that it will be a face to face event. During the presentation we will be providing you with information regarding how you can

support your son/daughter to have a successful two years at Eckington Sixth form. There will also be an opportunity for you to engage in questions.

There will also be a parents evening on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 3.25pm – 5.30pm that we encourage you to attend. This will give you the opportunity to speak with teachers about your son/daughter's progress. More information will be provided nearer the time about whether this will be held in school or virtually.

Fourthly, in year 12 there are many opportunities for our students to get involved in activities which help and support them with their career progression. Every student will be involved in the Futures Project programme whereby they will have the opportunity to be partnered with a local employer in an area of their choice. In addition to this there will be a careers week from Monday 4th July 2022 to Friday 8th July 2022. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved in local University programmes and participate in many student leadership opportunities and extra-curricular activities throughout the year. All of these experiences are paramount for building a personal portfolio so that when students begin to think about their career/higher education progression at the end of year 12 they are well equipped to progress on to the pathway of their choice. We encourage students to fully immerse themselves in these opportunities.

Finally, we hope that it will be business as usual this year. However, we need to be prepared in case there is another lockdown or if your son/daughter needs to self isolate. Please be aware that both students and staff are in a very good position now to swap to virtual teaching immediately. Your son/daughter will be working on their own device regularly and will be very used to using TEAMS to access posts, files and assignments. If self isolating, they should be able to attend lessons from home via TEAMS too.

Your son/daughter will be coming home with a learning agreement that you both need to read, sign and return to their form tutor. Please ensure that this is returned to the Year 12 team by Friday 17th September 2020.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your son's/daughter's studies or wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Wigfull, Mrs Holden or myself who will be more than happy to help.

Yours sincerely

K. Needham
Associate Assistant Principal

P. Wigfull
LoSD Y12

