

15th October 2021

Personal Development Week: Monday 1st - Friday 5th November

Dear Student and Parent / Guardian

We are delighted to be holding our first Personal Development Week from Monday 1st - Friday 5th November. During this week the usual Academy timetable will be suspended, with each year group taking part in a variety of workshops and activities. These activities allow us to focus on the Personal Development elements of the curriculum which will enable students to develop communication, resilience and social skills through team building activities, along with enhancing their SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural) awareness, developing their knowledge of British Values and starting to prepare them for the next steps in their educational journey.

The year group themes are as follows:

Year 7: Rising to the Challenge (Mrs Turner and Mr Moore) On Monday and Tuesday, all students will be completing a variety of tasks and challenges in their tutor groups whilst gaining points for their house. These challenges include: computer coding, designing badges and logos, story telling and a variety of sports. Students should wear their PE kit on both days. Students who are not going on the PGL residential will spend Wednesday - Friday taking part in team building style activities and will need to continue to wear their PE kit.

Year 8: Arts Week - Our City (Mr Strachan and Mrs Romanski) Students will explore the theme by taking part in a variety of workshops including 3D design, art, drama, dance, food technology, music and poetry. Students will need to wear their PE kit each day. To complement their work in RS, students will also take part in a workshop with Eric Murangwa, a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.

Year 9: Investigating Human Rights (Ms Gent) This includes workshops using materials from Amnesty International; visiting the synagogue in Plymouth; and listening to a talk from Eric Murangwa, a survivor from the Rwandan Genocide. Students will be provided with a timetable to follow. Students will need to wear their school uniform Monday - Thursday and can be in non-uniform on Friday.

Year 10: Preparing for the World of Work (Ms Arkell) This will include workshops focusing on finance, writing CVs, security and fraud and completing the iDEA Digital Citizen awards. Students will also participate in a testicular cancer workshop from the Oddballs Foundation which was postponed in the summer term. Students will be in their tutor groups for the week and provided with a timetable to follow, which will be published on ClassCharts. Students will need to wear their school uniform Monday - Thursday and can be in non-uniform on Friday.

Year 11: Preparing to Succeed (Mr McCormack) Students will be focusing on preparing for their upcoming core mock exams and for their next steps in Post 16 education. Students will also participate in a testicular cancer workshop from the Oddballs Foundation which was postponed in the summer term. Students will be provided with a timetable

to follow. Students will need to wear their school uniform Monday - Wednesday, PE kit on Thursday and can be in non-uniform on Friday.

Year 12: Preparing for the World of Work. (Ms Arkell and Mr Hartley) As Work Experience is a compulsory element for all Year 12 students, this week will be spent preparing students for the world of work and for their next steps when they leave Sixth Form. There will be a variety of workshops and experiences for students based on careers, finance and PSHE including CV writing, taking part in a mock trial to learn about various aspects of the law and careers involved in the law profession, and continuing to work on the digital enterprise iDEA awards. Alongside these, students will also hear from Eric Murangwa who is a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide and have a workshop on testicular cancer from the Oddballs Foundation. Students who are following the vocational pathway will continue with their placements Monday - Thursday and will only attend the academy if they have exams.

Year 13: Preparing for the next steps. (Ms Arkell and Mr Hartley) Students will spend the majority of this week finalising their applications to university or working towards their next steps by ensuring that their CV, personal statements / cover letters are written and ready to use in their applications. Students will also spend time completing their Bronze and Silver iDEA Awards and participate in a testicular cancer workshop from the Oddballs Foundation which was postponed in the summer term. There will also be personal study time which students can complete either in the Sixth Form study centre or at home.

During this week the Academy day will follow the normal school times, starting at 8:40am and finishing at 3:00pm, although for some year groups there will be no tutor time reading sessions or afternoon tutorials. Students will need to bring their pencil cases with them (they will need the minimum of a black and green pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener - if students have felt tip pens / coloured pencils, then it would be useful for them to bring them as well) and their conduct card. There will be no homework during this week and the extra-curricular after school programme will also be suspended although the LRC will be open until 4:00pm Monday - Thursday as per normal. Students will be able to order food as usual using the Fusion app.

Where students are going off-site as part of their week, the lead member of staff will write to you with further details. Timetables for each year group will be published as an announcement on ClassCharts by Thursday 21st October, with paper copies available in each year group office if you would prefer a paper copy.

If you have any questions about a particular year group's programme, then please contact the lead member of staff in the first instance.

I am really looking forward to our first Personal Development Week of the year and I hope that all students make the most of the week that we have planned for them.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Hartley
Assistant Principal