I am delighted to welcome you to our first edition of the Sixth Form newsletter for the academic year!

I hope that you all had a fantastic summer break. Part of my break involved visiting Philips Exeter Academy where I was able to see some of our Year 12 and Year 8 students partake in the Summer School Programme. A full write up of the Sixth Formers’ experiences will be included in next week’s edition but I wanted to express my thanks to Mr Griffin, Chair of Governors, for funding the trip for the students and me.

We have had a very busy and positive start to the term. We have welcomed 118 students into our new Year 12 cohort and a particularly warm welcome to the 27 students who are new to INA. We are delighted to have Year 12 and Year 13s together in the Sixth Form and both year groups have shown the BRIDGES dispositions of adaptability and flexibility as we embed having two year groups together. Many teachers have commented on the excellent start Year 12 have made.

This week we welcomed Kayleigh from the Mark Evison Foundation as part of our Speakers’ Programme. The Mark Evison Foundation mission is to promote the personal development of young people through the undertaking of challenges. They invite young people to create and plan projects which are personally challenging. Such projects develop confidence, strength, resilience and breadth, as applicants take independent ownership of something they are keen to do. Applications are self-designed and I would encourage students to take up opportunities such as this as they are a great chance to develop BRIDGES characteristics and dispositions.

The newsletter includes many opportunities for Sixth Form students so please take a thorough look through and make sure you take up opportunities of interest!

With best wishes,

Sugra Alibhai
Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form

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**Key Dates**

- **3rd October** – 9:25am start for students (due to Secondary Open Evening on 2nd October)
- **9th October** - Sixth Form Open Evening (5:45pm – 8pm)
- **10th October** - 9:25am start for students (due to Sixth Form Open Evening on 9th October)
- **17th October** - Sixth Form Welcome Evening
- **22nd - 26th October** - HALF TERM
My Education Journey...

Mr Dewal, Teacher of Maths

My journey through education was the foundation of my career as a teacher. During secondary school I developed a thirst for knowledge through my curiosity in the deeper questions about life: Why are we here? How did we get here?

I decided early on that I wanted to give back to the educational system that guided me; particularly my “storyteller” teachers who inspired me so greatly through their openness and passion for making my lessons so interesting and fun.

At age 16, I decided not to stay at sixth form, but continue my A-levels at a local college. I was warned against this by many people but chose to disregard their advice due to my own reasons. The main gripe I had about sixth form were the uniform rules which to this day I find restrictive to my individuality and self-expression and thus I still find the rules poorly thought out, particularly in the hot summer weather conditions.

I also valued the respect that college teachers showed their students, valuing their independence with simple rules like being addressed by first names and not just “Sir” or “Miss”. This yearning for freedom and dissatisfaction at what I consider unjust rules of dress code led me away from the comfort zone of sixth form, at the cost of having much less care and attention paid to me by my lecturers and too much freedom to not work hard with little in terms of consequences for my own actions.

Unsurprisingly, the new found freedom at such a tender young age was too much for a normally diligent and hard-working student and I found myself in a class full of students studying Maths and Sciences at a different level of understanding. I found myself slipping quickly into bad habits of poor practice and skipping classes to spend time with my girlfriend and, unsurprisingly, my first year of A-levels resulted in failure. This hit me pretty badly as I watched my peer group go on to study at university while I languished a year behind.

Thankfully, I learned from my errors and the second time I devoted my time much more fully into focused practice and I worked hard achieving great results and earning a place in my first choice university studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen Mary University of London.

Looking back now, I realise that I had followed Maths and the Sciences not just because I enjoyed them, but because I was always told that they are more highly valued than other subjects that I enjoyed even more such as English literature or Art. I realise now this view was not correct. I also chose to stay in London as I came from a deprived background and felt that it made more sense financially than moving across the country. I realised this was the wrong choice and did not enjoy my time at Queen Mary; I completed the year and decided that I would drop out of university and pursue a different career path. After intense deliberations with my parents; I decided to change my course to Multimedia Technology (which at the time was at the foundations of what is now the ubiquitous technology that we are used to). I moved on to the University of Hertfordshire, reluctantly at first, as it was not a prestigious name like Queen Mary University. This was the most positive change in my life as I excelled at this University; living the campus lifestyle taught me how to look after myself and really be independent. Living with strangers and friends over the 3 years I learned how to be a conscientious housemate and I learned the value of organising myself and my time to maximise my enjoyment and my study time. I began to learn about myself and my own study habits and found myself in the huge library working at ridiculous hours when it suited me best, sometimes even after spending most of the night in the local students union. A particularly fond memory involves me and my group studying for a 9am exam based on internet technologies (what is now Skype video calling) at 3am at the library after having spent the night revelling at a party with world famous DJs. (I passed that particular exam with a first).
During the 3 years of university I reflected back and realised that my original plan (to become a teacher) was my favoured choice, so I undertook Mathematics supplement classes to end with a combined degree of Multimedia Technology with a minor in Mathematics. This set up me nicely to train to be a Mathematics teacher which I went about securing immediately after leaving university.

The next stage of my life led me to a man named (uncle) Bob Vertes, a man who guided me to becoming the Maths teacher I am today. I took a Maths booster class for 6 months, studying various aspects of Maths with pedagogy in an intensive course at Brunel University, Kingston University, Roehampton University and St Mary’s College in Twickenham. This course further strengthened my understanding and developed my passion for teaching Mathematics. I completed my post graduate course in teaching at the same universities.

Less than two years after completing my first degree; I was fully trained as a teacher of Mathematics and I had fulfilled the ambition I had held since I was a young boy. A few years later I stepped back into the learning role, completing a masters level certificate in Education at the University of East London and King’s college.

Looking back; there isn’t much I would change as I strongly believe that all the hard work, disappointments, failures and sacrifices paid off, allowing me to elevate myself from my lower working class background to the middle class lifestyle that I enjoy now.

The only advice I would give my younger self is not just to think about education as a vehicle to get a job or enter a career. In a similar vein; do not dismiss subjects such as Art just because people tell you there is no future in them. I would tell my younger self that the job or career is the by-product of success at education; pursue what you choose to study and the job will come to you. Further Education is much more than just a degree or a piece of paper, it’s the ticket to delve deeper in to your insights and develop your character and learning power so that you can step into the world of work, not just as any other worker, but as a focused and well trained leader or expert in the field you have chosen to give your mind to.

In the end only you as an individual can decide what is best for you and what sacrifices you want to make to get there.

For me, uniform and rules surrounding them led me to the path where I fell a year behind my peers. Worrying about the cost of the degree almost led me to packing it all in before I had even begun University. In retrospect; both of these things were not worth the worry and led me to focus on the wrong things.

Devoting time to study what you choose is the biggest sacrifice, so choose it wisely and be true to yourself.
Isaac Newton Academy’s

Sixth Form
Open Evening

Join us for our Sixth Form Open Evening where you can tour the Sixth Form, meet teachers and participate in taster sessions.

9th October 2018
6pm-8pm

Doors will open at 5:45pm and the Principal will speak at 6pm and 7:40pm.

Sixth Form applications for September 2019 will open on Wednesday 10th October 2018. For more details, please visit the website.
PATHWAYS APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 12 ARE NOW OPEN!

Students applying to Pathways must meet the following criteria:

☐ In Year 12 at the start of this academic year (Except for Pathways to Medicine at Imperial College London, where you must be in Year 11)
☐ Attending a state-funded, non-fee-paying school in the UK. You must also have never attended a fee-paying school
☐ Living within a reasonable commuting distance of the university that you are applying to. This usually means a maximum of an hour’s travel to the university. If you are unsure about whether this applies to you, please email us at applications@suttontrust.com

We also assess applications on the following criteria. The more of these you meet, the more chance your application has of being accepted.

☐ Whether you have achieved at least 5 9/6 (or A*/A) grades at GCSE or equivalent, with at least two 9/6 (A*/A) grades.
☐ Whether you are the first generation in your family to attend university
☐ Whether you were eligible for Free School Meals whilst you were at school
☐ Whether you attend a school or college with a below-average A-Level point score and/or a low rate of progression to Higher Education
☐ Whether you live in a neighbourhood with a low rate of progression to higher education and/or a high level of socio-economic deprivation

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Thinking of applying to Medical School?

Check out the following webinars:

• Webinar 1 - Personal Statements for Medicine - 17th September 2018
• Webinar 2 - The Road to Medical School - 19th September 2018

Click here for more information.
USA College Day

28th - 29th September 2018

USA College Day is the largest US university fair in Europe. The 41st year of College Day will see over 150 US universities exhibit at this free-to-attend event for prospective undergraduates, parents and teachers.

The fair will take place in central London over a day and a half and is expected to bring in 4,000+ visitors from across the UK. Attendance to the fair is free, but you must register in advance.

We will also be holding seminars in the conference hall. Details on the topics covered will be released closer to the event!

Tickets are free - click here to register.

Ladder to Law Development Programme

Students in Year 12 can apply for the Ladder to Law Development Programme which provides support to students throughout their A Level studies. In addition to a work experience placement at Hogan Lovells, successful applicants will be assigned a lawyer mentor, visit Russell Group universities, and take part in development activities, such as public speaking sessions. They will also receive advice on completing their UCAS applications and support throughout the process.

Applications for the Ladder to Law Development Programme are now open. The deadline is 11.59pm on Sunday 7th October. To apply, please click here.

To find out more, please visit the Ladder to Law website.

The students who are selected for the programme will be required to independently attend the Ladder to Law Welcome Day in London on Friday 30th November 2018. Travel expenses will be covered.
K+ is a two-year programme of events, activities and academic workshops created to help support your university application and provide the skills you need to reach your potential as an undergraduate student.

Students who successfully complete the programme are eligible for the K+ reduced offer to study at King’s worth up to two A-level grades lower than the standard offer (excluding medicine and dentistry). K+ is run by King’s College London.

In order be eligible for K+, you must:

- Be a Year 12 student attending a non-selective state school in Greater London
- Have 8 GCSE’s at grades 4-9/A*-C (including English and Maths), and within this a minimum of 5 grades 7-9’s (A*-A)
- Not have parent(s) or carer(s) who have studied at university in the UK or abroad.

As long as you study in a non-selective state school in a Greater London borough, we will consider all applications from students who:
- live or have lived in local authority care
- are a young carer
- are disabled
- are estranged from their parents
- due to the under-representation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students at university, their applications to K+ are prioritised.

Click here for more information.
Travers Smith PRIME, an exciting work experience for those interested in commercial law.

This scheme will take place from Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October.

On the Travers Smith PRIME Scheme, you will learn about the world of law and business. You will get the chance to use your presentation skills, learn how to negotiate and improve your interview technique and CV. But that’s not all, you will also have the chance to get involved in a whole range of activities to help you fulfil your potential.

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the legal profession. However, a law firm needs much more than lawyers for it to function. A law firm also needs departments such as Accounts, IT, Human Resources and Business Development. On the PRIME Scheme, you will learn that there are lots of different career paths available both within and outside the legal sector.

Applications will close on Sunday 23rd September at 11.59pm. To be eligible for the Travers Smith PRIME Scheme you must be:

• In Year 12
• From a lower income background, which is defined as:
  • Being eligible for free school meals in the last six years (i.e. pupil premium) AND/or
  • Growing up in a household in which no parent or guardian attended university
• Growing up in local authority care
• Participants will be expected to attend for all five days.
• Short phone interviews for the Travers Smith PRIME programme will take place on Monday 1st October, between 2pm and 5pm. Applicants will be expected to be available for a phone call on that day if they are selected for interview.

To apply for a place on the Travers Smith PRIME Scheme, please click here.
Staying in rhythm: The trials and fibrillations of a heartbeat

05 Oct 2018
18:00 – 19:00

Professor Prapa Kanagaratnam will describe new diagnostic approaches to types of heart rhythm problems.

The lecture is free to attend and open to all, but registration is required in advance.

Click here for more information about the lecture and how to register.

THE SCIENCE OF FIRE

03 Oct 2018
17:30 – 18:30

How does a fire start, spread or destroy? And what can we do about it?

Fire is the greatest discovery in human history, and there is certainly within each of us an ingrained fascination with flames. From keeping our ancient relatives warm whilst preparing their first cooked meals, to the 19th century industrial revolution, our ability to start and manage fire has been crucial to human development.

Click here for more information about the lecture and how to register.