



25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parent/carer,

**Pastoral Support at Kings Norton Girls' School Sixth Form – Ms Ledwidge**

Firstly, welcome to Kings Norton Girls' School Sixth Form. We are delighted that your sons and daughters have decided to join us in this next phase of their academic career. They have made a fabulous choice!

Despite the challenges posed to all of us during the past 6 months I can honestly say our new Year 12 cohort have impressed staff here with their appetite for learning and a mature approach to the new way of conducting themselves around the school site, so a great start to the year!

This transition, from secondary school to sixth form, from GCSE to A level is a challenge, not just for the students but for parents as well. A challenge because we want to encourage our children to be independent but also maintain an involvement in the lives of our teenagers, possibly when they would rather we did not. As a school, we want the same things for your children, to be able to support them in this transition, whilst encouraging them to be independent learners, getting ready for the world beyond the gates of Kings Norton Girls School and Sixth Form.

Subject teachers have already looked at summer homework which was set to assist students on their A level journey. Feedback from these tasks will be used by the Sixth Form Team to begin any early intervention to work with students who may be finding the initial transition from GCSE to A level particularly challenging.

As Head of Sixth Form it is very much my role to support students pastorally, working with a strong team of sixth form tutors to ensure that all of our students are working towards achieving their personal goals. We put together a tutorial programme for the compulsory afternoon tutor periods on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday that covers a range of topics from Study Skills to Black Lives Matter, from Folder Checks to Personal Statements.

We know that our children are bombarded with a plethora of information, which at times can make navigating their way to adulthood really challenging. This is why, for some time now, we have also made sure that we focus on providing students with a 'mental health tool kit'. Tutors deliver sessions on Emotional Well Being to assist students, not just while they are students here, but hopefully, providing strategies they can draw on beyond A levels.

As a Sixth Form and School I have always been fiercely proud of the support we offer students both academically and personally. In these times of uncertainty, I hope you will be reassured

**Opening a World of Opportunities**



that Kings Norton Girls' School an Sixth Form remains an institution that genuinely wants the best for your son or daughter and I look forward to working with them in the coming academic year.

**Careers Education, Information and Guidance – Mr Charlett**

Sixth Form students have free access to Unifrog; an excellent 'one-stop-shop' for everything from university to apprenticeships. Students will also be made aware of opportunities such as the 'Pathways to Birmingham' programmes and Sutton Trust Summer Schools. Our UCAS programme is delivered by tutors and supports students in making suitable choices around study at university, including the writing of an excellent personal statement. For those students considering medicine and related, or Oxbridge, we offer 1:1 support and practice interviews. We are also able to offer some of the admissions tests at school. In normal years students would also benefit from events such as practice work interviews and careers forums in which external professionals share their expertise and insights. Clearly this is more challenging in the current circumstances, but we will still ensure sixth form students experience the high-quality employer interactions they are entitled to. We would usually be encouraging students to apply for work experience placements to take place in the final week of the academic year. Again, this may not be possible this year but, in its absence, we will be advising students on activities they can engage in to develop their knowledge of the world of work. Finally, we now have our own in-house careers adviser, Mrs Edwards, who is available for 1:1 meetings with sixth form students upon request.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms S Ledwidge

Mr T Charlett