

SUA6 Bulletin



Autumn term – 15/01/21

SLT messages



Dear SUA6 students

I need to begin this week's message with a big, "**Well done!**" to the overwhelming majority of you who have regularly, and now routinely, joined your remote lessons through Teams. As you all know, we are closely monitoring attendance to lessons and phone calls are being made to follow up any absences so we can ensure we support you in any way we can do, so you do not fall behind.

Hopefully you will have read the email I sent to you all last Friday but to reiterate, your participation and effort within your lessons is absolutely essential. At some point in the near future, the government will release guidance to all schools about how grades for Year 13 students will be awarded this summer. Our teachers are being asked to gather evidence and assess the quality of work that you are completing for them – keep doing your best! We know you will want to do well this summer, to support your own next steps, and we are here to support you with your learning whilst you are not physically with us in the academy.

Year 12 – as I said last week, it is essential you are keeping yourselves up-to-date with the completion of all of your learning and tasks that I know your teachers are setting for you. Your exams **will** take place next summer and we cannot afford for you to fall behind. A seamless transition back into your face-to-face lessons is what we are all looking forward to, when we are allowed to offer this.

Essentially, through this lockdown, you must look after yourselves and your own welfare. Rightly so, there continues to be a lot of coverage each week on the importance of mental health. You will know that you have lots of support at the academy, with many members of staff you can turn to, to ask for additional support. One app that can be downloaded for free, from the App or Google store, supporting positive mental health is called 'Headspace'. Why not give this a try?

Have a good rest over the weekend and a productive week again next week.

Best wishes

Mrs Hillier

Thought of the week

“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

The greatest mind of the 20th century, Albert Einstein wrote the quote above about the importance of your learning environment. With the event of our 3rd national lockdown, it is important that we use the time we have wisely and try and get the most out of every online lesson we participate in. Work produced at this time has become more important as our key word for the half term and the foreseeable future is evidence. It is essential that you are logging into Microsoft Teams by using the instructions below in the bulletin. It is important to carefully think about where you will complete your work. Einstein discussed how important it is for learners to ensure that the learning environment is well lit, well ventilated, and free from background noise. To get the most from your online lessons - be prepared, have your paper/folders at the ready as well as any other equipment you may need. Finally, try to have fun and enjoy your learning, ask questions through Teams or by email, engagement is still the bedrock of remote learning.

Expectations

Over the past 2 weeks, attendance to remote lessons has been very good, and engagement excellent. We cannot overstate the need for this to translate to your independent studies. The expectation of you is to spend as many hours on independent study as you have directed lesson time. In the current climate, this is perhaps even more pertinent. As you will see below the academy is moving into providing period 6 study for all year groups. The expectation is that SUA6 students use this time to complete work directed by your teachers. For many this is the norm, and I congratulate you on this, but this work ethic needs to continue as we move through these times. Remember, evidence is key and that goes for independent tasks as well as essay/exam practice.

A reminder that attendance to our weekly SUA6 assembly is also compulsory and continues on Monday at 9:15am, access is through the sixthform Team, and tutor periods on Tuesday (Year 13), and Thursday (Year 12) are also compulsory components and are hugely important to allow tutors to converse with you as a group. Form Tutors have shared with you timings for your one-to-one sessions. Make sure you are available in order for us to check-in with you pastorally, sharing any issues you may have outside lessons or subjects.

Form Tutor Messages

Mrs. Branch:

"Well, Y13 what an interesting start to 2021 but as always you have stepped up and taken the challenge head on. It's a learning curve for us all at the moment.

Well done on your attendance to lessons and it's great to see your engagement within them. Remember our weekly contact time that I will be calling you via teams.

Keep up with the positive attitude and stay safe."

Mr. Smith:

"Happy New Year to Year 12, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. It's been good catching up with you all. I know working from home is not ideal, however, I would like to express how impressed I have been with your engagement to remote learning these past 2 weeks. Keep it up!

As we enter the second term of your SUA6 journey, it is important you all make note and look back on your defining moments last term, as these will help capture you all at your best, moments such as achievement within your subjects. This will help you prepare for a series of milestone moments yet to come, that will build on each other to help you reach your goals (*The Power of Moments, 2017*).

Your well-being is at the forefront of my priorities, therefore it is important to let me know if you are struggling with anything. I am available to support as best I can.

Remember to be available every day during form time to have a weekly catch-up via Teams. We also have a Teams form session every Thursday at 10:40, let me know if you have not yet been added to the group."

Mobile data support

If you are using mobile data to access your remote learning (through a mobile hotspot or dongle) and you are worried about data usage, the government is providing free support to temporarily increase data allowances. If you are with Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile or Sky Mobile and would like more information on this, please email scottwilliams@suacademy.co.uk

Support

If there are any other questions please don't hesitate to contact your form tutor, myself or Mr Baker on the following email addresses.

dbaker@suacademy.co.uk for IT assistance

Key information this week

As a reminder this is how you log onto teams. Make sure that you use the full school email address @staffordshireuniversityacademy.org.uk.

Logging into Teams

Step One –

Go to <https://sua.rmunity.com/> and log into you account as you normally do.

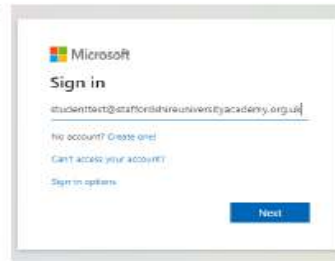
Step Two –

Once you are logged in you're going to want to click on the Microsoft Teams tile



Step Three –

This will redirect you to this page, here we're going to use our long email address which is USERNAME@Staffordshireuniversityacademy.org.uk



If it prompts you for a password use your normal school login password.

That should then load Microsoft Teams in your browser.

Timetable for remote learning.

| Period | Time | Activity |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| Period 1 | 8.45 - 9.45 | Oak National Academy or other work set by your teachers |
| Period 2 | 9.45 - 10.30 | Lesson on Teams |
| Tutor time | 10.30 - 11.05 | Oak National Academy or other work set by your teachers |
| Break | 11.05 - 11.25 | Break |
| Period 3 | 11.25 - 12.10 | Lesson on Teams |
| Period 4 | 12.25 - 13.10 | Lesson on Teams |
| Lunch | 13.10 - 13.55 | Break |
| Period 5 | 13.55 - 14.40 | Lesson on Teams |
| After P5 | 14.40 - 14.55 | Contact form tutor with any issues |
| Period 6 | 14.55 - 15.55 | Oak National Academy or other work set by your teachers |

Be kind

Be kind to one another. We may all be living through this pandemic but it affects everyone differently.

Some of you may be ok with home learning and really enjoying it, others may be really struggling and are not happy about not being with their support network of friends. If you feel like you may be losing control try this Mindfulness technique.



Winter Wellness Project - Speak up Space

The Winter Wellness Project is here to support young people under 18, across Stoke-On-Trent and Staffordshire until 31.03.2021. Speak Up Space is offering instant messaging support during school hours for this limited time only to help young people during these challenging times. You can book these sessions via the website here. We've made the following...

www.speakupspace.org.uk

Celebrations

In every bulletin there will be an exciting opportunity for you to share successes with your peers; these maybe examples of work you are particularly proud of, or even some extra curricular activities you have been enjoying during lockdown, such as baking, playing an instrument, learning a new sporting skill etc.

I would love to share your successes with the rest of the sixth form so please email them to me at nsilcock@suacademy.co.uk.

We start we the Creative department:

Well done to Year 12 & 13 for more inspiring Art work.



University Events

Although the current climate does not allow us to visit Higher Education campuses, universities are still offering virtual open days. Year 13s, you can have a last look at universities, taking advantage of the deadline extension or double check the choices you have made, Year 12s this may be a great starting point for thinking about your future education and career giving you a head start on the UCAS process.



Competition - Three peaks virtual challenge (in your local area)

Aim

Can you take on the iconic three peaks challenge in your local area? You can challenge yourself to complete this individually or with members of your family who you live with. The aim of this challenge is to keep all family members as active as possible during lockdown. You can walk, jog or cycle (as long as these activities are allowed according to the most up to date Covid guidance).

How to take part

During your daily walks, log how far you travel around your local area (you can use an app, smart watch or Google Earth to measure distances covered), then take a screen shot of your app to show how far you have travelled on your walk. Repeat this until all 26 miles have been completed or the deadline has been reached. Once you have finished the challenge, take a photo of your record sheet and email it back to your teacher. They will then send you an 'I completed the Virtual Staffordshire Three Peaks Challenge' certificate. Even if you don't complete the whole challenge, please send your record sheet back to your teacher so they can see the effort you have put into attempting the challenge.

You complete the challenge form as an individual but we would encourage other family members (who live with you) to walk with you and complete the challenge for themselves. Email trowell@suacaemy.co.uk the details below and a screen shot of the app you record your distance when you have completed the challenge.

Name:

Class/Form:

Did any of your family members take part with you?

If so how many?