



DOLLAR ACADEMY

Mr Burbury: Parents of Form VI Pupils

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope my email finds everyone well, and that despite the strange circumstances we find ourselves in, I hope you have been able to enjoy the unexpected plethora of time you currently have with your sons and daughters.

We are very aware that our school closure brings some unique challenges and, unfortunately, some disappointments for pupils in Form VI, who I am sure would have been looking forward to the wide array of activities, events, celebrations and landmark occasions that their last term at Dollar Academy traditionally brings. I would, however, like to reassure Form VI that we aim to ensure this final term at Dollar Academy is still a memorable one for the right reasons, and that, we will, at some point in the future, ensure the landmark moments Form VI have been so very much looking forward to, do indeed take place.

I know that many parents of Form VI pupils have questions as to what this Summer Term will look like without study leave and the traditional post-exam programme. The information below will hopefully give you some idea of what is being discussed. Teachers will be working on these ideas during our Inset day on 14 April, after which we will be in a better position to publish more detail.

However, initially, Form VI will need to engage with their teachers to ensure they bring their SQA courses to their conclusion. All pupils in Form VI should continue to check Firefly, Office 365 and Teams, and engage with the learning and teaching will continue to take place. This is important in enabling teachers to provide what is required of them by the SQA.

Following the conclusion of SQA courses, the following is a taster of what Form VI pupils can expect as the Summer Term progresses:

- A variety of online courses to help prepare pupils for University
 - Critical thinking at Uni – An Introduction
 - Live Smart: Your Essential Guide to Living at University
- A variety of online courses aimed at helping pupils prepare for life and work beyond Dollar
 - How to succeed at: Writing Applications
 - How to succeed at: Interviews
 - Personal Finance
 - Climate Solutions Programme
- The opportunity to take part in a range of special interest courses and projects
 - Virtual Scratch Orchestra
 - People-Powered Research Projects
 - MOOCs
- A programme of Webinars on a range of topics from Personal Interest and Motivational Talks to PSE and Volunteering Opportunities
- A range of career talks/Webinars from professionals as a 'live' alternative to Work Experience

- The opportunity to engage in an extended project, essay or presentation, linked to their future study or ambition, for potential publication in Fortunas
- Inter-school competitions/quizzes/challenges
- We will be looking at how Form VI can contribute to the current Corona-virus crisis through a range of volunteering initiatives within the community
- We will be looking at how Form VI can support The Charities Committee, who, traditionally, through their 'Charities Week' in the Summer Term, have raised a great deal of money for worthy causes. This will, of course, take a different form this year, but they are still aiming to run a number of activities.
- Weekly challenges:
 - Photo/Art competitions
 - Video/Movie challenges
 - The Jigsaw Challenge
 - Book Reviews
 - Quizzes
- In addition to the above there are a number of key 'events' and landmark moments that we want to ensure take place for Form VI:
 - Form VI will still need to support the Yearbook committee in the production of this year's Yearbook
 - This year's Charities Committee will need to research and decide upon the six charities who will benefit from the Sponsored Walk which is planned for late September
 - The Summer Ball *will* still take place – at some time in the future TBC
 - The traditional 'Farewell to Form VI', Champagne Breakfast, Prize-giving and traditional final processional through the Bronze Doors will also take place – at some time in the future TBC
 - Form VI will still receive their final report and Farewell Letter at the end of the Summer Term

Form VI should also be reminded that we are still offering a range of Travel Scholarships. The deadline for the William Dick Brown Travel Prize is 29 April 2020. Details are attached.

A dedicated page on Firefly is currently being created, which will contain links to all the activities and opportunities available to Form VI this term. I will also endeavour to keep you updated as the term progresses. With all this in mind, I would simply like to ask you to remind your Form VI sons and daughters to check their school emails at the start of next week, login to Firefly and Teams, and to make the most of the opportunities that will be available to them this Summer Term.

With very best wishes to you all,



Simon Burbury
Assistant Rector