

Sixth Form Newsletter

November 2023



**THE CASTLE ROCK
SCHOOL**
Lionheart Educational Trust

Gatherings	Topic
WB 7 th November 2023	Remembrance Day – Mrs Parker
WB 14 th November 2023	Using feedback effectively – Ms Anderson
WB 21 st November 2023	You HQ – wellbeing – Ms Kinder
WB 28 th November 2023	Misogyny and healthy relationships – Mr Grainge

Personal Development	Topic
WB 7 th November 2023	Year 12 – Diversity - Ethnicity Year 13 – Careers - Springpod
WB 14 th November 2023	Year 12 – Mental Health and wellbeing Year 13 – Mental Health and wellbeing
WB 21 st November 2023	Year 12 – Teen health Year 13 – Academic reading and Cornell notetaking
WB 28 th November 2023	Year 12 – Academic reading and Cornell notetaking Year 13 – Private study for Trials

Independent study time

Earlier this month we sent out an Independent Study Guidance document to all students and parents/carers. Whilst most of our students work hard in study periods, it remains the case that some do not know what to complete to best support their outcomes outside of set home learning. It is an expectation that Key Stage 5 learners go above and beyond their curriculum to make sense of the learning and reach the highest outcomes.

This guidance not only provides the support for our students to obtain their absolute best, but also to support parents/carers with guiding their young person in what could be completed at home. Our specialist staff have put together pages for each of our curriculum areas and have devised tasks that are best suited to the different times of the day: silent study, study periods, at home learning and reading above and beyond the curriculum.

Students have also been shown in Personal Development lessons how to source and engage with academic reading in our Runnymede Library.

We hope that this provides you with the support to guide your young person to reach their potential in each of their subject areas.

Sixth Form weekly rundown

Each Friday, students are emailed with a weekly rundown of messages and notices for the week ahead. Through this, our students are also sent opportunities and careers links for further research and reading. Our full time Careers Advisor is available to book through our Sixth Form Tutors and some students have begun to make use of this system. Some of the opportunities we have sent this month are:

- Zero Gravity – Zero Gravity’s mission statement is to level the playing field when it comes to securing places at top universities for students from all backgrounds. Students have received an email invitation to join this platform where they can access webinars preparing them for specific subjects, interview preparation and personal statement guidance. For our Year 13 students who have now mostly applied to their universities, they are able to access the blog entries written by students who are currently at university. For Year 12 students, they can apply to have a mentor who will support them with their personal statement alongside the support provided in school. Students are matched with an undergraduate mentor who is studying the course they are interested in at a university that they are considering applying to.

Zero Gravity are also working on an apprenticeship function so students have been asked to sign up so they can receive this support when available.

- BBC Apprenticeships – Students have been sent information regarding apprenticeships in a variety of fields with the BBC. Schemes are available at both Level 3 and above in areas such as media production, data science and cyber security. https://careers.bbc.co.uk/content/EC_Schemes-on-Offer/?locale=en_GB
- Heidelberg Materials apprenticeships – Virtual Event on Monday 12th December 1pm-1.30pm – students have been sent a recruitment poster with further registration details.

Christmas Charity Drive

As in previous years, we will be supporting the Coalville Foodbank during this festive season. Students across the school are being asked to donate, where possible, dry cupboard products and toiletries. We are acutely aware of how these facilities support some of our students so we encourage students to donate only if they can. Students can bring in their products from Monday 4th December until Friday 15th December. There will be a drop off area in the Sixth Form Centre for donations.

Post 18 destinations

As we come towards the end of 2023, we are very aware of the strain students will feel to decide upon their Post 18 destinations. For Year 13, we have started to see some fantastic UCAS offers back following submissions of their applications to institutions such as: University of Cambridge, Kings College London, Newcastle University and Loughborough University to name but a few. Our students have also been applying to apprenticeships with a variety of companies including The BBC and local organisations. With the UCAS deadline looming, Year 13 students have been encouraged to submit their personal statements to Mrs Parker and to speak with their tutors regarding apprenticeships that they should be applying for. Please do have a discussion with your young person whether they have done either/or both of these tasks. We continue to provide careers appointments for students with our full time careers advisor if they are in any doubt as to what they wish to do post 18.

Key events coming up:

Internal UCAS deadline – Thursday 21st December 2024

Year 12 and 13 external vocational examinations – Tuesday 9th January – Friday 19th January 2024

Year 12 Trial examinations – Tuesday 9th January – Friday 19th January 2024.