

WELCOME TO THE NEW COLLEGE YEAR!

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 newsletter and to all our students and their families, new and old. It has been a turbulent few months for all of us but it is at times like this that the strength of the St. Francis Xavier community becomes overwhelmingly apparent to me. I know that all of us, students, staff and parents alike, are working together to ensure that we can provide the best possible learning experience for the young people in our charge. Despite the difficult circumstances, we look forward to challenging and inspiring our students to push boundaries, discovering new ways of learning and to find answers to the “big” questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family well and I look forward to meeting you all at some point in the not so distant future.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEAVERS 2020

The summer exams fiasco seems a distant memory now but I was extremely proud of our students’ resilience and their ability to bounce back after what was a very testing few months for them. This year’s cohort achieved some outstanding results which is testament to their hard work throughout the course, with the majority successfully gaining their places at their first choice universities. St. Francis Xavier’s A Level and BTEC results were again amongst the best of colleges across London this year, with 44% high grades (A* to B) at A Level and a record breaking number of students achieving Distinction/Distinction*, the highest award, at BTEC and UAL. The College also continues to excel in terms of ‘Value Added’ – where students outperform their nationally generated predicted grades based on GCSE results.

COVID INFORMATION

In response to COVID-19 we have put in place a number of Health and Safety measures to mitigate against any risks. My thanks go to the College Estates and Health and Safety teams who have worked hard to ensure that the site remains safe for every member of our community. We are keeping everything under review so please keep checking the College website at www.sfx.ac.uk for any updates.

The safety of everyone is our primary concern so we have taken the decision to make the wearing of face coverings mandatory in all communal areas of the College from **Monday 19th October 2020**. I am therefore seeking your help in encouraging your son or daughter to comply with this requirement. Should your son or daughter be exempt from wearing a mask they will be issued with a card by the ISS office upon evidence being produced. Thank you for your support in this matter.

OTHER NEWS

OPEN DAY NOVEMBER 2020

The College will be launching its first Virtual Open Day experience on **Thursday 19th November 2020 at 4pm**. Please do take a look via the College website if you can, and pass on the date to any prospective students you may know of that are interested in attending the College next year. The in-person Open Day has been re-scheduled for Saturday 27th February 2021.

YEAR 13 UCAS DAY

Earlier this term our year 13 students spent a day researching their future progression routes. Many ended the day having created shortlists of universities and completing their personal statements. I would be grateful if parents/guardians could encourage our young people to process their university applications in a timely manner in order to optimise their chances. The final deadline is Friday 4th December.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

The College is in the second year of its digital innovation strategy which means that it has been well placed to respond quickly to the challenges to learning and teaching that has accompanied COVID-19. As a consequence, the way students learn at SFX has changed dramatically with the distinctive rise of e-learning enabling “blended learning” to be undertaken. Blended learning, in essence, is a combination of face to face interactive teaching and remote learning using digital platforms. We will work with all our students to ensure that they have access to the necessary digital platforms and to ensure that these digital solutions fully meet their learning requirements.

Underpinning the digital strategy is our partnership with Apple and we are currently working towards becoming an Apple Distinguished Provider. As a consequence, we have been able to procure some Apple iPads at heavily discounted prices. If you are interested in purchasing an iPads or would like further information on how iPads are being used to support students’ learning, please contact our digital team at innovation@sfx.ac.uk

CHECKING EMAILS

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students of the importance of checking College emails regularly to ensure that they keep up-to-date with key messages concerning College life. Information on forthcoming College events and careers information is regularly sent via email, not to mention notices from subject teachers and personal tutors. This is especially important if you are required to self-isolate due to Covid-19.

PARENT GOVERNOR

There is a vacancy on our governing body for a Parent Governor for which we are seeking a volunteer to be elected to serve for 2 years. If you are interested email the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Eleanor Lewis, e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk

SFX ALUMNI

Each year students leave SFX to start their journey towards a great future, each through their own unique path. Help us grow the network, so that together we can help inspire and support current students. Sign up by emailing Natalie Green via alumni@sfx.ac.uk

KEY DATES 2020/21

TERM	FIRST DAY	HALF TERM	LAST DAY
AUTUMN 2020	MONDAY 7 TH SEPTEMBER	FRIDAY 23 RD OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 30 TH OCTOBER	THURSDAY 17 TH DECEMBER
SPRING 2020	WEDNESDAY 6 TH JANUARY	MONDAY 15 TH FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 19 TH FEBRUARY <i>Monday 1st March (Non-Term Day)</i>	FRIDAY 26 TH MARCH
SUMMER 2020	MONDAY 12 TH APRIL	<i>Monday 3rd May (May Day Bank Holiday)</i> MONDAY 31 ST MAY TO FRIDAY 4 TH JUNE	TUESDAY 6 TH JULY

KEY ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESS POINTS (KAPP)	BTEC EXAMINATION WEEKS
KAPP 1 week commencing 5 TH OCTOBER 2020 KAPP 2 week commencing 7 TH DECEMBER 2020 KAPP 3 week commencing 22 ND MARCH 2021 KAPP 4 week commencing 14 TH JUNE 2021	BTEC externally assessed exams will take place between 6th-20th January 2021 . Please note that these are external examinations, so all students are expected to be available on all days during this period and should not schedule any other appointments during this time.
PROGRESS REVIEW EVENINGS	END OF TERM EXAMS
Thursday 12th November 2020 : Please note that this evening will take place remotely. More details to follow. Thursday 11th February 2021	Week commencing 23 rd November 2020 Week commencing 8 th March 2021 Week commencing 7 th June 2021

SWITCHBOARD: 020 8772 6000
ENQUIRIES: enquiries@sfx.ac.uk
St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College
Balham, SW12 8EN

FREE COLLEGE MEALS

This year, due to limited access to the college canteen, any student entitled to Free College Meals will have their weekly allowance of £12.05 paid directly into their bank account every Friday. I realise this is then perhaps a little tempting for students to spend this over the weekend, so I would ask that parents encourage your son or daughter to use this money solely on lunches when in College.

PARENT PORTAL

Parents/Guardians will shortly receive their log-in details to the 'Parent Portal'. From the Parent Portal you will be able to view your son/daughter/ward's timetable, KAPP progress reports and levels of attendance. If you are having difficulty in accessing the Parent Portal or need to change contact details, please email e.preece@sfx.ac.uk

STUDENT WELFARE

Saturday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. Should a young person of the College be struggling with their mental health, please remember that they can access support from our Student Welfare Officer and/or College Counsellor.

STUDENT ABSENCE PHONE: 020 8772 6089
STUDENT ABSENCE EMAIL: studentabsence@sfx.ac.uk
If you wish to report a student absence, a parent/carer must call or email the student absence team by 9:30am on each morning that the student is unable to attend college.