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24/04/2020

Dear Year 13 Students and Parents

Our Year 13 students impressed us enormously when school closed on Friday 20th March; your compassion and consideration towards each other were as evident on this unofficial last day as they had been throughout your time at Nower Hill. It was a difficult and emotional end of year, but you exhibited the maturity and composure we have come to expect from you. We know the lockdown period has not been easy for you and understand that some of our families will have been personally affected by this pandemic and our sympathies and best wishes go out to you all.

Even though school ended rather suddenly for Year 13, you are very much in our thoughts and although you may be out of sight, you are not out of mind. You are still Nower Hill students until the end of August and we are here for you if you have any concerns or enquiries. We have set up a new email address for you to use to contact the 6th Form Team if you need to and we will try to get back to you as soon as possible. The email address is Y13@nowerhill.harrow.sch.uk.

As you will hopefully have seen, we are also updating the 6th Form G Suite notice board on a regular basis with messages, information and suggested activities for Year 13, so please check this regularly.

Year 13 Year Book

We are delighted to support students to put together a 6th Form year book. This will be a really nice way for you to celebrate and remember your time in 6th Form. The Senior Student Leaders will be collecting messages and pictures from students over the next few weeks and it would be fantastic if everyone from Year 13 could be included. We are thinking of adding an 'off to uni recipe' section, so if you have a favourite recipe, please send it in!

Leavers' Hoodies

We are in the process of organising an online shop so students can place their orders for these. Due to the GDPR regulations we need permission from you to give your names to the company. This will be done via a google form and details will be put onto the 6th form message board. If we do not receive your consent via this form, your name will not be printed on the hoodie or passed to the company. Should you wish to look up further details, the company's website is here: <https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/>

Student finance

To give you more information about university finance and budgeting, a special quiz has been developed for Year 13 students, which is linked here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPCHtFEVov5zCkXeYHXsy0uK5Ebw7z1QFxm1bIU_zLEgiQQ/viewform

If you have not already done so, we advise that students planning on going to university in September apply for student finance: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>



In terms of how much student finance you can expect, Student Finance England has created a calculator to give you an indication of this: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>

The sooner you apply for student finance, the more likely you will have the funds available at the start of your course. Further details can be found here: <https://www.ucas.com/money>

Pre-university Preparation Work

We want to support and prepare our students for life post-18.

The organisation Student Minds has produced a guide to university life. It is an excellent life skills resource which helps students to anticipate, identify and navigate situations they will encounter when entering higher education and is available here:

<https://www.studentminds.org.uk/knowbeforeyougo.html>

In terms of subject-specific preparation, the HE+ website created by the University of Cambridge has a large number of pre-university transition activities in a large range of subjects and we recommend students complete the activities relevant to their prospective subject area:

<https://www.myheplus.com/>

We would also suggest students undertake an online course in the field they wish to study. The Open University has made a large number of online courses available for free which are of excellent quality: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue> . We would also recommend the online courses offered for free on the FutureLearn and Coursera websites, linked below. These have in many cases been produced by universities and would be excellent preparation for any university undergraduate course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/> and <https://www.coursera.org/>

Of interest to Year 13 students during the lockdown may be the 'Speakers for Schools' Virtual Talks programme which will be taking place over the next weeks and months, enabling you to hear from today's leading figures such as those listed below. The complete schedule of talks is [here](#).

- Monday 27th April, 10am: Richard Murrell, Lead Director, BBC News
Ever wondered what it takes to make news programmes? Richard Murrell will explore with students what a broadcaster does and what you might expect from the job role.
- Tuesday 28th April, 10am: Marco Bertozzi, Vice President for Europe, Spotify
Marco will be interviewed by SFS and answer questions submitted by students on topics ranging from creating your CV, getting your foot in the door for work experience or a job, developing your personal brand and practical tips on how to get started with preparing your social channels for career success.
- Thursday 30th April, 10am: Penguin Talks in Collaboration with SFS – How to boss your mood
Chloe Brotheridge (Clinical Hypnotherapist and author of The Anxiety Solution) and Sara Milne Rowe (Performance Coach, founder of Coaching Impact and author of The SHED Method)
Chloe and Sara will kick-off the Virtual Penguin Talks series by sharing their expertise and practical tips for managing anxiety and taking control of your mood during these uncertain times. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive a free audiobook download of The Anxiety Solution and The SHED Method.



NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Links should be opened in a browser that is not Internet Explorer. Students can view by clicking WATCH TALK LIVE HERE and then clicking 'Watch on web instead' and sign in anonymously. The speakers will appear at the set times e.g. 10am and 2pm.

You have truly been an exceptional year group Year 13, and we have no doubt that you will continue to excel whatever you go on to do. As we are sure you can appreciate, we are not able to tell you yet whether the Year 13 Ball on 26th June can go ahead, but it is our intention to organise some sort of celebration event for Year 13 as soon as the circumstances make it possible to do so. We can confirm that Results Day will go ahead on the original date of Thursday 13th August, when universities will also confirm places and Clearing will open. The 6th Form Team will of course be in school on this date to offer you support.

On behalf of all the staff at Nower Hill High School, we wish you all the best at this exceptional time and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stratton
Assistant Headteacher, KS5
Head of 6th Form

Jessica Abbotts
Head of Year 13