WILLIAM HOWARD SCHOOL

20 October 2023

# SPOTLIGHT on Sixth Form

The first half term is coming to a close and students have settled into their studies. Contact with parents has been possible for Year 12 via a Tutor Evening and The Step up to Sixth Form Evening. I look forward to seeing Year 13 parents on Wednesday, 15 November at the Parents Evening where staff will be available to discuss the latest report that went home on 13 October. If there is ever a time that you feel you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact subject teachers, the form tutor or myself.

16 October was the early deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine and Dentistry applications, which we met with all students. The next deadline for all other applications is 31 January 2024, and I continue to be impressed by how students are drafting and redrafting their personal statement. I would highly recommend that students visit the universities they are applying to if they have not already done this.

## Student Participation

Year 12 students are currently choosing the leadership roles they want to be involved in. One of the roles got underway this month when the students completed a Youth Mental Health First Aid Certificate. The students will now work with Mrs Swan and Mrs Mothersdale to support whole school events to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our wellbeing

The Student Leadership Team took the lead in the recent Macmillan Coffee morning for staff and students, raising a fantastic £350.

## Opportunities

Assemblies continue to highlight opportunities to explore future careers and further study. These assemblies are emailed to students weekly. One such opportunity is the 'Dream Placement' which offers Sixth Form students the opportunity to shadow a CEO of a company through a week of high-level work experience, which takes place during February half term. A range of companies local, national and global take part in the scheme. Over the years, students have benefitted by developing skills and understanding which have informed their future choices, and for some they have secured on going employment.

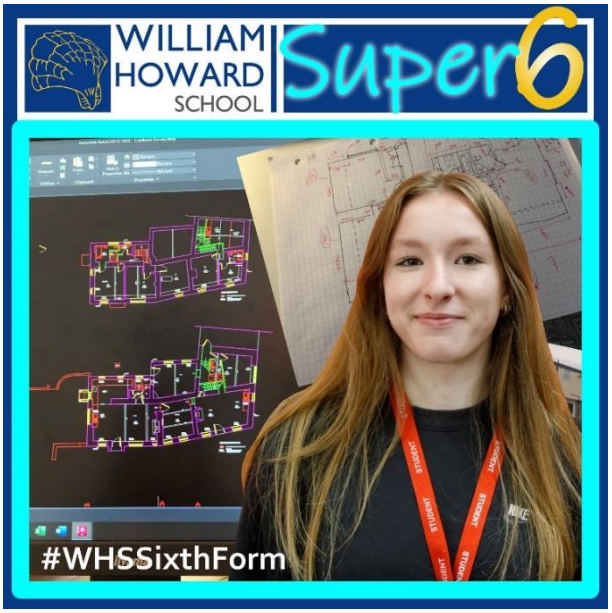
Applications are open now and will close on Monday, 23 October. For more information see **www.dreamplacement.org.uk** or speak to Mrs Swan or Mrs Hill.

Years 12 and 13 were immersed in thinking about their next career steps recently, with an event held in school to alert them to opportunities in Further Education, Higher Education and Apprenticeships. A range of lectures took place throughout the day from colleges, training providers, local businesses and universities. Its never too early to start exploring and it was evident from the day that it provided students with ideas for further research.

Year 12 will have an opportunity to undertake **work experience** in July next year and I have seen how inspirational this can be when students have a great experience. Eilidh is one such student who had a fantastic experience at Black Box Architects, so much so that she carried on doing more work during the summer holidays.

Eilidh said: "I worked alongside Malcolm Wilson and Chris Days for my work experience with Black Box Architects in Carlisle. Being able to experience a smaller practice meant that they were able to be flexible and accommodate me. Malcolm gave me surveys and floor plans to draw up for him. He also dedicated time to showing me his work and explaining how he designs passive housing and concepts such as nutrient neutrality, which ensures new developments don't damage vulnerable watercourses and catchment areas.

"This experience has helped me to better understand what I want to do in the future and opened up opportunities for me – I was offered work there for a gap year before University. Before visiting Black Box, I wanted to do Product Design or Design in Industry, however, now I have decided to take a gap year to help me decide if architecture would definitely be a possible route for me to take."




## Headteacher Award

Angela Lee received a Headteacher Award this month for her service and dedication to the wider aspects of school. Since she was in Year 9, Angela has come into school every Saturday to help feed the animals in Open Spaces. Even in school holidays, Angela is in school, without fail, feeding animals and helping with other aspects of the area when needed. She is described by her teachers as one of the most hard-working students. As a Student Head of House, Angela is an excellent role model to all our school community. She is a student who does not let anything get in the way of achieving her own personal goals and is a great example of someone who strives to be the best they can be.

## Learner of the Lesson Top 10

Congratulations to the students above who have been awarded leaner of the lesson multiple times this half term

| Full Name |
|---|
| Joe Graham |
| Alice Beesley |
| Rosie McCormick |
| Lucy Fleming |
| Hannah Scott |
| Zach Ealey |
| Laura Hetherington |
| Seth Holden |
| Fern Miller |
| Heathcliff Stone |

## Focus on Psychology

Psychology is a new subject to students in Sixth Form and therefore students must learn new concepts and content. To help with this, teacher Mrs Fitton applies numerous teaching strategies one of which is flipped learning. Psychology uses a partially flipped approach, where students are expected to read about topics and begin to make notes on them before they are covered in class. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 5 hours per week independent study. Of this around 3 hours will be to read the relevant textbook pages for the following week, and make preliminary notes which they are expected to add to in a different colour in the teacher lead part of their lessons. This process enables students to access topics and get down the relevant information in their own time, and ensures by the time they leave the class they have covered the topic at least twice. It can also help to highlight areas they are struggling with prior to the lesson, so that they can ask their teacher. The clear layers of information in their notes also act as retrieval cues to support their revision. In order to support this process, students are provided with an organiser for each half term which includes the specification reference, key terms associated with the topic, and a link to find the relevant information in the textbook and the VLE.

For more information, please contact Mrs Fitton

## Students' Out of School interests

It is always lovely to hear about the things our students do out of school that gives them joy. Two such students are below:

Archie Dixon, spent his time training to be a volunteer guard on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway over in West Cumbria. He is following in his father's footsteps, who volunteered for over 30 years as a guard and now as a driver. In late August, Archie qualified as fully competent after an assessment and written rules exam. He now takes responsibility for trains carrying up to 150 people on the seven-mile journey.

Imogen Rome competed at The Horse of the Year Show for the first time this year riding her two ponies Ace and Seren and was placed in the prizes. Imogen has loved horses for as long as she can remember and started show jumping when she was nine years old. She has been selected four times already for the Scottish show jumping team, the first time when she was only twelve years old.

## Up and coming events

Each year we celebrate our students' exam results at Carlisle Cathedral. For Summer 2023 examinations the date is set for Thursday, 4 January. Letters will be sent home requesting numbers for tickets and, as capacity is restricted, I would urge you to reply promptly. It is a magical evening and I hope you are able to attend to celebrate your child's achievements.

**Mrs Swan, Director of Learning (Years 12 & 13)**
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