

Welcome to Year 12 Parents Information Evening

September 2016

Staying on in the Sixth Form

What does year 12 involve?

The Transition

- Child to adult
- GCSE to BTEC / AS
- Discipline to Self-Discipline
- Planning for the Future

Our Aim

- To work with parents and students to produce confident, well-rounded adults who are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives.

New Build - Update

- £20m New Build is underway which will deliver a state of the art new school
- Programme is running to schedule
- Move in is planned for October half term 2016
- Completion (demolition of old school landscaping etc.) due Easter 2017
- Working closely with contractors to minimise disruption
- More information is available on our website
- Queries? e.mail ide@goffs.herts.sch.uk



How do we meet our aims?

By promoting the expectations set out in the Sixth Form Learning Agreement:

- Excellent attendance
- Commitment to Study
- Excellent conduct
- Leadership and contribution to School Life

Sixth Form Curriculum

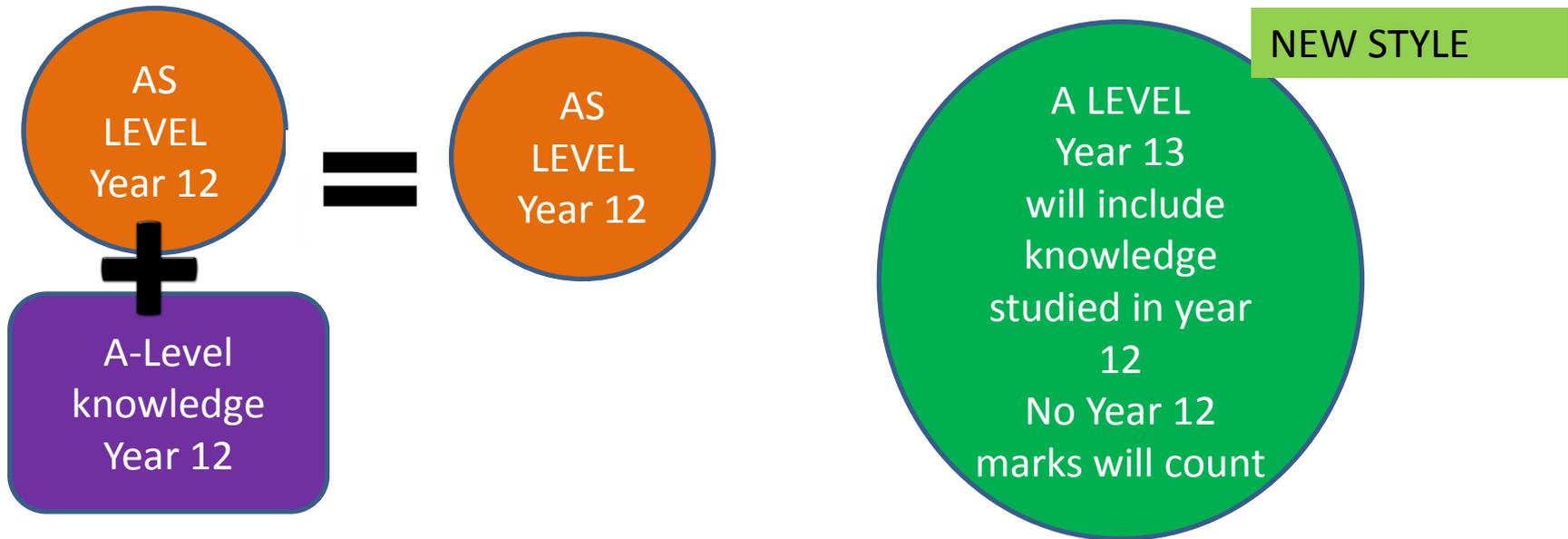
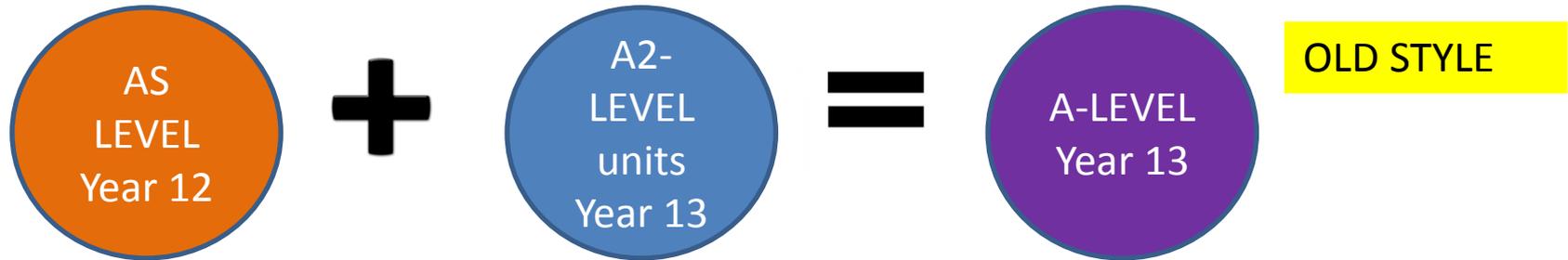
- Four lessons per subject per week
- Some “free” study periods
- A Personal Development and Tutorial programme covering key areas such as study skills, compulsory RS, managing money, relationships and health.
- Assembly programme / Outside speakers
- Careers and Higher Education advice
- Enrichment Visits / Days

Sixth Form Qualifications

Sixth Form students are in Key Stage 5, studying Level 3 qualifications:

- AS levels in year 12, leading to full A levels in year 13.
- BTEC / OCR – coursework based qualifications with drafting and final deadlines for each unit throughout the year.
- A mixture of BTEC / OCR and A levels
- Maths and / or English GCSE re-takes where needed
- An Extended Project – an independent research project for very able students – worth an additional AS level

National Changes to AS & A-Levels



Which subjects are affected?

Phase 1 subjects:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- History
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

Phase 2 subjects (First teaching September 2016)

- Art and Design
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre
- Geography
- Languages
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

What does the curriculum change mean for your child?

- They need to know which subjects are 'phase 1' and which are 'phase 2'
- More exams at the end of year 13 in most cases as AS knowledge is 'retested' for phase 1 subjects
- There is a new UCAS points tariff per subject
- Only Phase 2 subjects can 'retake' units to improve final grades
- Do not 'throw away' AS notes in phase 1 subjects
- Students need to be very clear on how the content they are taught will be assessed and when it will be assessed

Assessment/Reporting

- Targets are set carefully by taking a student's average Key Stage 4 grade and then setting the goal to be at least in line with the national average for that level on a subject-by-subject basis. Students all have a:
 - **Minimum Standard** Grade (a grade that they should make sure they do not fall below) and
 - **Target** (which they should aim to achieve or exceed)
- Reports will also contain:
 - **Current Working Grade** (the grade that they would achieve if they sat the entire qualification now, including coursework elements (this may be very low at the start: Us or Es) – THIS SHOULD BE GRADUALLY INCREASING TOWARDS THE TARGET GRADE AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES)
 - **Predicted Grade** (the most likely outcome that your son/daughter will achieve based on current evidence – THIS SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH THE TARGET GRADE at each report)

Moving from Year 12 to Year 13

- Students need a minimum of three grade D passes to gain automatic entry to year 13 (AS Levels are graded from A to E)
- BTEC / OCR students must have passed all units.

Top Tips for Academic Success

Putting in the Required Time

- Year 12 has the shortest time slot between beginning a course and being assessed that the students have ever experienced.
- Students need to do *at least* 5 hours per subject per week outside lesson time from the outset.
- To do this they need to use study periods effectively and work for at least a couple of hours each night, and at least three hours at the weekend.
- If students are struggling to manage their workload or if they say they have nothing to do, please get in touch.

Tips for Students

- Bring the correct books and equipment.
- Organise folders, and file work each evening.
- Note deadlines and key dates in an organiser/diary.
- Use a weekly study timetable.
- Plan ahead for “crisis” points.
- Work independently and be proactive about finding ways to read around subjects, complete tasks and solve problems.
- Tackle homework well in advance, so that , if necessary, you can see the teacher for help *before* the deadline.

Tips for Students

- Prepare for lessons, so that you already know what questions to ask.
- Review notes – change to mind-maps / revision notes
- Don't waste time copying out notes or just staring at a text book
- Tackle the difficult parts of the subject – re-write part of an essay to improve a grade; do the question you don't understand.
- Get ahead during less busy times – read the next part of the text book, do a past paper, use a revision web-site.
- Ask the teacher what is coming up next.
- Arrange a group revision session with friends
- Go and work in a computer room or department area.

How Can You Help?

- Encourage excellent attendance and advise the school of any absences. Avoid, where possible, booking medical appointments, driving tests etc during school time.
- Ensure that students are abiding by the dress code and other school rules, so that our focus can stay on their academic success.
- Attend Parents' Evenings and always check reports. Stay in touch with the school.
- Ensure that students are available to attend revision lessons after school and avoid planning too much over Easter and May half term.

How Can you help?

- Show an interest your son / daughter's work and talk to them about how they are getting on.
- Help them to develop their organisational and time management skills so that they can work efficiently.
- Help them to get the right balance between paid work, social life and studying.
- Provide a good environment for studying at home.
- Check homework on www.doddlelearn.co.uk
- Buy revision guides and offer to test them.

How Can you help?

- Encourage your son / daughter to communicate with staff but also to take responsibility.
- Listen to their problems and then guide them towards finding solutions.
- Help them to build up resilience, be prepared to have a go at work and increase their ability to study independently.
- Help them to motivate themselves.
- Discuss future career / university goals and help your son / daughter to think about what they are good at and what they enjoy.

How Do Staff Support?

- Regular contact with learning managers, including individual mentoring each half term.
- Focus on facing up to issues and finding solutions.
- Target setting and regular progress reports.
- Tutorial sessions which tackle issues relevant to their age group.
- Revision materials and extra sessions.
- Celebration assemblies to recognise achievement.

All email contact between students and teachers should be via the school email system. All students have a Goffs School email address.

Students and teachers should never share personal mobile numbers or communicate via social networking using personal accounts

If you have any concerns – please tell us!

eSafety

Respect • Confidence • Achievement



Be smart on the internet

Childnet International
www.childnet.com

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.
You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.

ZIP IT

BLOCK IT

THINK U KNOW

FLAG IT

REPORT BULLYING HERE

CLICK CEOP
Advice Help Report

How do we Monitor?

- Key monitoring dates throughout the year – subject staff and learning managers highlight concerns
- Induction assessments: parents will be contacted with any concerns, and support strategies will be put in place.
- Students placed on an report and/or Extended Learning Agreement where required.
- Students who are performing well and are meeting all expectations will be allowed some home study time later in the term. Letters will go home.
- This will be reviewed after each reporting cycle.

Building up CV's

Developing Wider Skills

G - Involved

- Helping in lessons
- Running lunchtime clubs
- Reading buddies
- Charity Events
- Enterprise opportunities
- Prefects
- Student Parliament
- External volunteering

Building a Strong CV

- Find out about future careers and plan in the right experiences and skills. Outside speakers will come in to school to support this.
- Read the Sixth Form Bulletin particularly the enrichment section as we will pass on any opportunities via these.
- Work shadowing – last week of Summer term – try to get organised early
- Look out for master classes, seminars and holiday opportunities.
- The school website is an excellent starting point for careers and university information
http://www.goffs.herts.sch.uk/sixth_form/careersanduniversity2.shtml

Key Dates

- 28th September – Learn to Live Event – Hertford Theatre
- 22nd September - Secondary Transfer Evening – all year 12 students needed as guides from 4pm to 8pm
- 18th October – Curriculum Enrichment Day
- 21st October – Progress Report 1
- w/c 12th December – Mock exam week
- 19th January KS5 Parents' Evening
- Early February – Holocaust Memorial Day Event
- 21st February – Higher Education and Careers Evening
- 22nd February – Curriculum Enrichment Day

- w/c 13th March – Mock exam week
- 29th March - KS5 Parents' Evening
- 15th May – Study Leave begins
- 12th June – Year 12 return to begin year 13 courses after examinations.
- 4th July – Curriculum Enrichment Day
- 17th – 21st July – year 12 work shadowing week
- August 17th 2017? - Exams results are issued