

No.15

11 January 2013

Welcome Back!

This is a very important term for students in all year groups with preparation for GCSEs, AS and A levels, as well as a number of coursework pieces, controlled assignments, practical and oral examinations. *"The County Courier"* will continue to be sent home **every Friday** to keep all sections of our school community informed of all dates, deadlines and events. It is also posted on our **website** each Friday by the end of the day.

Clubs and Activities for the Spring Term 2013

We are pleased to publish this term's programme overleaf and remain enormously grateful to all the staff who offer such a fantastic breadth and depth of activity. We continue to encourage every student to participate in at least one activity each week.

Severe Weather Conditions

Our expectation is that we will stay open, even if we start late. Parents and students should assume that school is open as normal unless the school's website, answerphone message and local radio say otherwise. In the unlikely event of a total closure, the procedure is that this will go onto our website and answerphone message by 7.30 am and the information relayed to Radio Suffolk (FM 104.6) and Heart (FM 96.4) by this time.

German Exchange

Parents and students who are going on this year's exchange are reminded of the meeting in our coffee shop on **Wednesday 16th January at 6.30 pm**. Students should attend with their parents where possible.

Ski Trip

For parents of students going on the ski trip there is a **meeting this Tuesday 15 January at 6.30 pm** in the Community Lounge. Ski lessons for **beginners** are taking place on **16, 21 and 28 January**.

Year Group News

Year 10

Parents' Evenings for Year 10

This term year 10 parents will have a choice of two evenings when they can discuss their children's progress with their subject teachers.

These are:

Wednesday 23th January, 4.30–6 pm

Thursday 31st January, 4.30 – 7 pm

Letters have been sent home today via the students and they will make the appointments with all subject teachers on their parents' behalf. This is an important stage in the GCSE courses and we would like to see as many parents as can possibly get to one of the two evenings.

Year 11

- The written practice examinations start on **Monday 14th January** and last until **Thursday 24th January**.
- Those students who take **additional science** (sets E3x, J1y, J3x, J5x) have their **GCSE module test on Tuesday 22th January**. This is an **external GCSE examination contributing 33% of the final mark**.

West Suffolk College Open Days

The College extends an invitation to prospective students and parents to attend their Open Events as follows:

Saturday 12 January, 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

Wednesday 16 January, 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

The Apprenticeships Open Event is on

Wednesday 13 February, 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

Fixtures

- 14.01.13 U17 Academy Boys' Basketball v Shoeburyness (A)
- 15.01.13 Badminton Coaching 4-5 pm (Sports Hall)
- 15.01.13 U17 Academy Basketball v Columbus College (H)
- 16.01.13 U14 A & B Netball v Stour Valley (H)
- 17.01.13 Series B XC Competition (Culford)
- 17.01.13 Badminton Coaching 4-6 pm (Sports Centre)
- 17.01.13 U19 Academy Basketball v Harris School (H)
- 18.01.13 U14 Boys' & Girls' County Badminton Finals (Suffolk One)

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE SPRING TERM 2013

	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	6 th Form Choir GCSE Dance (main school) (gym) Basketball GCSE Japanese (room 17)	Orchestra History club (H3) Open trampolining (mini hall) Year 9/10 Academy girls' basketball (sports hall) Cheerleading (drama studio) Tchoukball (gym) Year 9/10/11 Rugby club (field) Girls Rugby club (field)	Rock Band Club DofE Silver Award (BS) Chess Club (conference room) Year 9 boys' football (astro) U19 Academy boys' basketball (sports hall) Open trampolining (mini hall) Pilates Club (gym) Astronomy GCSE (5 – 7 pm) (S4) Religious Studies (full GCSE) (RS room)
Tuesday	Clarinet Choir Flute Group Sax Quartet Diminuendo Basketball	Wind Band Animal Club (H1) Religious Studies (full GCSE) (RS room) Year 9/10 Academy boys' basketball (sports hall) Year 9 girls' football (field/astro) PE Theory Catch up (PE1) Year 9 boys' football (field) Open volleyball (gym)	Drum Club DofE Bronze Award Debating Club (library) Academy girls' basketball (sports hall 5-6.30 pm) Year 11/6 th form netball (sports hall) GCSE Theory class (PE1) Open Fitness (gym 4-4.45 pm) Fixtures
Wednesday	Glee Club (all years) Clarinet Quartet Snape Composition Group Cross Country Basketball GCSE Japanese (room 17)	Chamber Choir Music Year 11 Coursework Session Politics Society (conference room) Science Club (S2) Spanish (21) Open badminton (sports hall) Girls Cricket club (gym) BTEC/Sports Leaders (PE1) Year 9/10/11/6 th form Inter Year competitions	Swing Band Year 9/10 netball (sports hall) U19 Academy boys' basketball (leisure centre) Year 10 boys' football (astro) Trampoline (mini hall) Fixtures
Thursday	Barbershop (boys' vocal) Girls' Choir Cricket Club GCSE Japanese (room 17)	Dixie Band Sax Group Media Technology (ICT suite) Year 9/10 Academy boys' basketball (gym) Year 9/10 netball (courts) U16 girls' basketball (sports hall) Year 9/10 boys' football (astro) Year 9/10/11/6 th form Inter Year competitions	Drum Club Drama Club Japanese for beginners (conference room) Year 12 Engineering Scheme (S2) Open badminton coaching (sports hall 4-6 pm) U19 Academy girls' basketball (leisure centre) Open girls' football (field/astro) Fitness (track/gym) Fixtures
Friday	Theory Class (Music) Crescendos Basketball	String Orchestra Guitar Club (starting after half-term) Christian Union (community lounge) Citizenship (H3) Creative Writing/Book Club (room 17) Open badminton (sports hall) Dance Club (theatre studio) Year 11/6 th form football (astro) Table Tennis (gym) Open Hockey (astro)	Debating and Public Speaking Society (library) U19 Academy boys' basketball (sports hall)

The schedule auditions for 'Grease' will be notified once the January examinations are over.

In addition there will be the usual range of one-off activities and trips, notified as they occur.

The main Computer Centre (from 1.25 pm), the **Graphics Suite** and the **library** are open every lunchtime. The **Arts Award** scheme, the **Engineering Education** scheme and the **technical team** will continue. The **Gold Duke of Edinburgh group** meets by mutual arrangement. The **Art studios** are available to GCSE and 'A' level students after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students need to book this in advance with their art teacher.

We continue to encourage all students to participate in at least one extra activity each week and it is never too late to join.