



May 2009

Re:Taster Days for Year 11 students

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Principal: M C J Barker
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Dear Students

You will by now be well into your GCSEs and I hope they are going even better than expected. Try to enjoy the exams and enter the examination room in a positive frame of mind. Remember all the hard work is definitely worthwhile and you should be giving your undivided attention to your revision and exam performance. So much depends on good GCSE results; progression into year 12, A level predicted grades, university entrance, progression into employment.

I would like to focus your attention for a few minutes on the Sixth Form Taster Days on Monday 13 July and Tuesday 14 July. The aim of the taster days is to ease you into year 12 and your subjects and to enable you to refine your choice of subjects if need be. The following is a summary of the key features of the taster days:

1. All students will meet on Monday (13/7) morning at 8.30am in the hall for a briefing, this means that you should arrive for an 8.30am start. In the briefing I will provide some finer points about the sixth form and explain in more detail how the taster days will operate.
2. We will run a sixth form timetable for you on Monday and Tuesday. **Your timetable is enclosed with this letter.** You can also see your timetable and class lists on the Academy website "Year 12 Taster Days". Your timetable is arranged in double lessons with some marked as "non-contact".
3. As well as your subject lessons you will also have a UCAS/Careers lesson led by Jan Graves, Vocational Manager. You will have the opportunity to choose which UCAS/Careers lesson you attend on arrival for the taster days.
4. Once your lessons have finished for the day you may go home or if you wish to stay and talk to me about your subject choices you are more than welcome.
5. On Tuesday you need only arrive for your lessons.
6. There will be a buffet lunch provided on both days.
7. On the Tuesday lunchtime there will be a performance by the performing arts students in the hall to which you are invited.
8. Should you have non-contact lessons you need not stay on site, but if you do leave you must ensure you arrive back in good time to attend your next lesson.
9. I have tried to accommodate all 6 subject choices but must apologise if this is not the case for you.



10. In the lessons, I have asked staff to keep to a common format:
- syllabus outline
 - course expectations
 - sample activity
11. The dress code for the taster days is "smart casual". Please make your own judgement on this but be warned!no hats, hoodies, ripped denims or any clothing that others may find offensive, again, please use your own judgement. When you start proper in August/September I expect you to follow our sixth form dress code. The following is an extract from the sixth form handbook regarding the dress code:
- Dress Code**
Males: suit or tailored trousers, shirt and tie worn correctly (top button should be fastened) and polishable shoes. Females: suit or tailored trousers/knee length skirt/dress, blouse/shirt covering shoulders and polishable shoes. Leggings, combat type trousers or any form or material resembling denim is not acceptable.
- Facial piercings (eye studs, upper lip/cheek/nose piercings etc etc) are not allowed but jewellery may be worn in moderation.*
12. Make sure you are in the right place at the right time and have appropriate lesson equipment (pen/pencil and a notebook may be useful). The taster days are organised to a specific time schedule and involve all subjects and many staff. I expect the days, with your cooperation, to run smoothly.
13. Those taking PE should attend in recognised smart sports/leisure wear.

I intend to hold a pre-taster briefing for those students who are joining us from other schools and Colleges on Friday 10 July at 10am. This briefing will last for approximately 1 hour and will include another tour of Ashcroft Technology Academy.

Please enjoy the taster days. I am very much looking forward to seeing you and working with you over the next 2 years and needless to say I hope the rest of the exams are to your liking. Don't worry about enrolment next year, you will be given this information during the taster days and details will also be available on the Academy website.

Kind regards



M E Roberts
Assistant Principal