



Hereford
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Parent's Handbook 2024 - 2025

Term and Holiday Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2024

1st Years: Monday 2nd September - Friday 25th October 2024

2nd Years: Monday 9th September - Friday 25th October 2024

Half Term: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024

Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December 2024

Staff Development Days:

Monday 21st October 2024, Friday 22nd November 2024, Tuesday 3rd December 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025

Monday 24th February - Friday 11th April 2025

Staff Development Day: Tuesday 25th March 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 28th April - Friday 23rd May 2025

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025

Half Term: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025

Monday 2nd June - Friday 11th July 2025

Please note, first year students on two year courses have lessons after examinations in June and July. Attendance at all lessons is vital. Leave of absence for students cannot be granted and holidays with family or friends should not be arranged during term time.

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Introduction

THE COLLEGE WELCOMES THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS AND WE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU, WORKING TOGETHER IN ENCOURAGING YOUR SON, DAUGHTER OR WARD TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

We ask that parents and guardians read this handbook so that you know and understand what we expect of students in terms of behaviour and approach to work, as well as what students themselves can expect from the college. The College Prospectus and website also provide useful information. The college expects that students will accept responsibility for their own learning and academic progress. Nevertheless, there is a continuing role for parents and guardians to play in that process and the college will liaise with you accordingly, taking into account the needs of individual students.

THE COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

YOU CAN EXPECT THE COLLEGE TO PROVIDE:

- » A personal link with the college via your son's, daughter's, or ward's Personal Tutor or Lead Tutor;
 - » an opportunity to meet the Principal and Deputy Principal at the Information Evenings for Parents and Guardians of New Students early in the autumn term;
 - » Parents' Evenings with the opportunity to discuss your son's, daughter's or ward's progress with Subject Tutors and their Personal Tutor;
 - » a prompt response to any query or concern;
 - » contact from the college should we become concerned about your son's, daughter's or ward's attendance or progress;
- » an appointment with the Personal Tutor or Lead Tutor if either you or we need to discuss an aspect of your son's, daughter's or ward's progress;
 - » representation on the college's Governing Body through the Parent Governors;
 - » a copy of the college's complaints procedure, on request (see summary on page 5).

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR SON'S/DAUGHTER'S/WARD'S LIFE AT COLLEGE

WE ASK PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO:

- » encourage your son, daughter or ward to understand and meet the obligations outlined in this handbook;
- » inform us if you become concerned about any aspect of your son's, daughter's or ward's progress;
- » discuss reports with your son, daughter or ward;
- » inform us of any changes in personal circumstances, for example change of address, telephone number or domestic situation;
- » notify us via the Parent Portal or e-mail absence@hereford.ac.uk when your son, daughter or ward is too unwell to come to college;
- » avoid taking holidays in term-time;
- » continue to support your son, daughter or ward in the work they do outside lessons - this should be at least 15 hours of study per week;
- » provide, as far as possible, a suitable environment for studying at home.



ParentPay®

Pay online...
for peace of mind



Pay online for

- meals
- trips
- and more

A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the College safely and is used for its intended purpose.

How to pay online...

- Step 1 - Have your activation letter ready
- Step 2 - Login at www.parentpay.com
- Step 3 - Follow instructions to activate account
- Step 4 - Click on 'Items due for payment'
- Step 5 - Click on 'Alerts' to set text/e-mail alerts

“ No more having
to look for change
or writing cheques.
It's so easy now. ”



www.parentpay.com

A - Z of Key Information

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Excellent attendance and punctuality are important factors in any student's success and we are very anxious that no work is missed. Students are expected to aim for 100% attendance. If a student is unwell or has another valid reason for absence, parents are asked to notify the college through the Parent Portal or e-mail absence@hereford.ac.uk as soon as possible. The college will not tolerate casual absence. Students should not make routine dental and medical appointments, or arrange for driving lessons or driving tests, during college time. Students with a poor record of unauthorised absence may be asked to pay for their examination fees or may not be permitted to enter for examinations. As with progress, the college will contact you if absence becomes a cause for concern. Non-attendance can result in loss of EMA or Bursary payments.

BUS/RAIL TRANSPORT PASSES

Please see Travelling to College on page 15.

CAREERS AND OPTIONS AFTER LEVEL 2/3 PROGRAMMES

The Careers Department's main purpose is to support students with their option choices including higher education, employment, apprenticeships and gap year.

A team of internal Careers Tutors ensures that information and guidance is readily available when students need it, either as a member of a group or on an individual basis, through a programme of Careers education and guidance.

The Careers Department recognises the key role parents and guardians play in the education and employment decisions of their daughters, sons and wards. With this in mind, evening meetings are held each year to keep parents and guardians fully informed. You will be notified of these in due course.

CAR PARKING

Parking is available at Aylestone Park, at the bottom of Aylestone Hill as you enter Hereford from Worcester. Permits are available from the College Reception and these must be displayed when the vehicle is parked.

Owing to a shortage of car-parking space, there is no parking for students on the college site. Any cars parked improperly may receive a parking fine. The parking fine is strictly enforced and is currently £80. Parents visiting the college should park and report to Reception for a permit. Parking space is provided on campus for students' bicycles, mopeds and scooters.

CHAPLAINCY

Our Chaplaincy is readily available to all students, of all faiths and none, to offer help and advice, support and encouragement and to be a sounding board and a "friendly-ear". This may be especially helpful for students who have particular problems and concerns and who would welcome a confidential discussion with someone outside of their circle of family, friends, or staff.

COLLEGE PROPERTY

Students are expected to treat all college property with respect and will be asked to make good, or pay for making good, wilful or careless damage. All litter should be placed in the bins provided. If all students act in a responsible manner, the college remains a clean and tidy community for all. All books, equipment and other materials issued to students on loan become the responsibility of the student, who is expected to return them in good condition. Loss or damage, other than reasonable wear and tear, will be charged for at the actual cost of repair or replacement.

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COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We hope that your son, daughter or ward will be happy and successful and that you will also be satisfied with the way the college works with you to achieve this. Nevertheless, we will listen carefully to any criticisms or complaints you may have about the college and particularly in relation to the commitments we make.

If you should be dissatisfied, an informal approach to a Personal Tutor or to a Lead Tutor may be sufficient to settle the matter. You can also contact the Deputy Principal directly. If the matter is not settled by such an informal approach, you may pursue it through the formal complaints procedure. A copy of this can be obtained from the College Reception.

The Deputy Principal can exclude students, either temporarily or permanently, or prevent students from completing a course for which they have enrolled. Except in cases of serious breaches of discipline, parents are always given adequate warning of such a possibility so that the student has time to remedy matters. In the event of disagreement with actions taken by the Deputy Principal, there is a right of appeal to the Governing Body.

CONTACTING THE COLLEGE

The address, telephone number, e-mail address and website details for the college are on the back cover of this handbook. During term time the College Reception is open every day from 8.15am to 4.30pm apart from Wednesdays when it is open from 8.15am to 4.00pm. Reception hours are limited to 9.00am - 4.00pm outside term time. You can choose to leave a voicemail message when reception is closed.

It is useful for parents and guardians to know the name of their son's, daughter's or ward's Personal Tutor in case information needs to be passed to them. It may not be possible to speak to the tutor immediately because of teaching or other commitments. However, a message can be taken asking the tutor to contact you. Please note that a telephone message can only be delivered to a student if the message is from a parent or guardian and is urgent. Tutors can also be e-mailed.

COUNSELLING

In most cases students are very happy at college, but in the event of personal difficulties, counselling support can be helpful. We have a qualified and accredited counsellor available at the college during term time offering confidential counselling to students who wish

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to make use of the service. The Wisdom app is also available to all student's offering a free, confidential helpline.

COURSE CHANGES

Whilst we hope that students will settle well into their chosen courses, if a student wishes to change a course they should see their Personal Tutor. Changes are not recommended after the first few weeks of term.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The college has disciplinary procedures for dealing with students who break college rules. In some cases this involves a formal College Contract. The aim of such contracts is to prevent further problems by providing additional supervision and support. The college will treat any incidents involving alcohol or drugs as serious breaches of discipline. If a student is likely to fail courses through lack of effort, then they may not be entered for their examinations (or may be required to pay for them) or progression might not be allowed onto the second year of a programme; similarly, a student following a Level 2 programme might not be offered a place on an advanced programme for the following year. Parents and guardians are always involved in such cases and sufficient warning is given so that the student has time to remedy matters. Serious breaches in discipline may be referred to in references supplied by the college.

DRESS

There is no uniform. Students can choose what to wear provided that it is suitable for work in college and is not dirty, distracting or offensive. The Principal reserves the right to determine whether or not a student's clothing is suitable. Appropriate kit is required for participation in physical education sessions. For certain team sports, for example football and hockey, strip is provided by the college. For individual sports, it must be provided by the student.

Students on work experience placements, community care placements or similar college-organised activities must be suitably dressed in accordance with the placement requirements.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Currently this is available to students whose usual address is in Wales and whose household income is £20,817 per annum or less if there is one dependent child or £23,077 per annum or less if there are two or more dependent children. Payments of up to £30 per week are paid fortnightly into the student's bank account and are dependant on attendance at all lessons. Full details of how to apply can be found at: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk or a pack may be collected from the Student Finance Office.

The EMA scheme for students who live in England has now closed.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

The college is a diverse community and we are proud of this. The college provides an inclusive, personalised learning and working environment in which students, staff and visitors are valued as individuals, according to their merits, abilities and potential.

There are a number of characteristics that are protected by the law, through the Equality Act 2010. These are race and ethnicity, economic or social background, gender, transgender, sex, pregnancy, parenting, marital status, age, religion or belief, disability and sexual orientation. As detailed in the college's Equality Objectives (published on the college's website), we are fully committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all. Two elected student members from the Student Council (SC), help to promote awareness of equality of opportunity amongst students and to assist with monitoring the implementation of the Equality and Diversity Policy and Procedures.

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Our aim is to advance equality, tackle discrimination and foster good relations in the wider community. Our diverse, successful community works so well because we all support the four Fundamental British Values.

- » **Democracy** Once we are 18 (or 16 in Wales), we have the ability to vote for our political representatives. We encourage all students to register to vote.
- » **Rule of Law** We are all bound by democratic laws and no one is above the law.
- » **Liberty** We are free to do or say anything that doesn't harm the liberty of others.
- » **Tolerance** We all need to help make good relationships between different groups in our community.

EXAMINATIONS

All students have formal assessments in December, March and June to monitor progress and allow staff and students to target improvements and to prepare for the external examinations.

Most students starting an A Level programme will take three subjects. Students on a one-year GCSE programme normally take four or five subjects.

Students will be entered by the college for all appropriate examinations and examination fees will normally be paid by the college

unless students fail to meet assessment deadlines or where attendance or work has been unsatisfactory. In such cases, the college reserves the right to refuse to enter students for the examination.

A student may be asked to pay examination fees if, through their own actions, it is impossible for a grade to be awarded by the examination board – for example, by failing to complete coursework or by missing an examination. The college can also require the payment of fees where attendance or work has been unsatisfactory. If a student resits an examination, then the fees are normally paid by the student.

Students are responsible for completing and checking examination entry forms as requested and for familiarising themselves with all examination regulations, procedures and timings. See Overview of Examination Year on page 17.

Cheating in any examination or assessment, internal or external, is regarded by the college as a most serious matter. Students should be aware that cheating in external examinations or assessments may result in penalties by the examination board concerned. Using the work of others with the intention to deceive will always be pursued under the college's disciplinary procedures.



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EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

The college will expect to be open save in the most extreme weather conditions or circumstances. Up-to-date information will be posted on the college website and via social media. Every attempt will also be made to alert local radio.

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

It is important that you have the opportunity to give us your views on all aspects of college life. You can do this by:

- » writing to or telephoning staff;
- » responding to any questionnaire which may be sent to you.

Surveys are sent to parents and guardians from time to time. The results are used to inform planning. You should also feel free to contact the Principal by phone or in writing at any time.

FEES AND EXPENSES

Tuition fees are not payable by students ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom who are under the age of 19 at the commencement of their course.

For the Music Academies, Sports Academies, Actor Training Academy and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award a parental contribution is requested. Currently this is £390 per annum for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, £315 per annum for Music Academy, £315 per annum for Actor Training Academy. The Sports Academies fees are up to £290 in the first year and £190 for the second year.

Students aged 16-18 who have, or whose parents have, rights of abode in the UK are currently usually exempt from fees.

Most essential textbooks and materials are provided free of charge, unless they are kept by the student after the course. In this case, books and materials obtained by the college will normally be charged to the student at cost.

Field trips and visits are chargeable at cost, with concessions being made on a discretionary basis.

Examination fees are normally borne by the college, but resit fees are chargeable to the student, as are examinations taken against tutor advice.

Parents and guardians are invited to contribute to the College Fund, which is a discretionary fund. Currently, this contribution is £75. The college reserves the right to bill parents and guardians for non-return of books.

(Please note that all costs in this section were current at the time of going to press, but may be subject to change prior to the start of the academic year.)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is administered by the Student Finance Officer, who deals with all cases in a confidential manner. If a student has difficulty in meeting costs relating to their studies, e.g. transport, trips, books, and equipment, they may apply for financial assistance. This fund may also be used in exceptional cases for providing assistance with living expenses. The fund is means-tested and students will be required to provide documentary evidence of household financial circumstances in order to qualify.

Students who are 'looked after', care leavers, in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit or disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support and Disability Living Allowance may qualify for the full Bursary (currently £1,200).

In addition to this, the Principal also has discretion to use College Fund monies to provide assistance to students in relevant situations.

FIRST AID/HEALTH

If a student feels unwell during the college day, they are asked to go to the College Reception

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or to the Student Support Team Office, where a number of college staff are qualified first aiders. In the event of illness, parents/guardians will be contacted and will be responsible for taking the student for treatment. We ask that students who are unwell do not attend college.

When urgent action is required students will be taken to hospital by staff or ambulance and parents or guardians contacted.

The College Well-Being Centre also provides general health guidance and information.

FITNESS TO STUDY

Hereford Sixth Form College is committed to supporting students and recognises the importance of a student's health and well-being in relation to their academic progression. The college has a Health, Well-Being and Fitness to Study protocol which outlines the process and procedures which will be followed when a student's health, wellbeing and/or behaviour affects their ability to cope at college, to study or progress on their course or when their health, well-being or behaviour poses a risk to the health and safety of themselves and/or others. This protocol can be accessed on the college website.

FOOD

Our cafeteria, The Diner, serves snacks and light meals throughout the day and is a social/study space. A range of snacks are also served in the PAC foyer and The Hut outside of Thornbury Building.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Estates Manager and all members of staff are responsible to the Governing Body for the enforcement of the college's Health & Safety Policy. Students are required to exercise personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and others, to observe standards of dress consistent with safety and hygiene and to use, and not wilfully misuse, neglect

or interfere with, all items provided for safety reasons. Students must familiarise themselves with and observe those parts of the Health and Safety Policy which are drawn to their attention by way of verbal and/or written instructions, for example, notices warning of hazards arising from cleaning, maintenance and other operations, fire procedures, etc.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Students should not take holidays during the academic year either with family or with friends. In the exceptional case of a need for leave in term time, parents are asked to write to the Principal, as far in advance as possible, to request leave of absence for the student.

HOMEWORK AND COURSEWORK

At the beginning of the year students are given initial advice on study skills and on using time effectively and planning their workload.

You may wish to discuss this with them. The amount of homework will vary from day to day and week to week. The college recommends students spend 30 hours a week on their studies for the best chance of future success, this can be broken down as: 13 hours of lessons, 15 hours of independent study, and 2 hours of enrichment activities. It should be noted that most students have at least 8 hours independent study time at college to do some of this.

Students are expected to plan their work ahead so that they can manage heavy workloads.

Students are also expected to meet work deadlines required by Subject Tutors and to complete work to the best of their ability. All subjects provide students with a student handbook which includes the department's approach to assessment, coursework requirements and directed study.

IMPACT PROGRAMME

Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities including, for

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example: the debating society, drama, the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme, first aid, music, and sports. Details of the Impact Programme activities are posted on the Impact section on the Student Portal. Parents and guardians are asked to make a financial contribution to the college for certain activities which are not funded.

Alongside their academic course, your son/daughter/ward will be required to follow the Impact Programme which is timetabled for one hour sessions on a weekly basis.

The Impact Programme covers topics designed to promote their personal well-being including: Equality & Diversity, Online Safety, Safe Relationships, Mental Health Awareness, Drugs & Alcohol Awareness, and Healthy Living as well as Careers Education and study skills.

INSURANCE

The college will not accept liability for loss or damage to private property or personal belongings which occurs on college premises other than that which arises through the negligence of the college or its employees.

Students should make their own provision for all their property, for example by "all risks" insurance. In particular, bicycles should be insured as well as padlocked. You may also need to add to your household insurance items of equipment which are loaned to students by the college (for example, laptops or musical instruments).

INTERNET AND E-MAIL

On first logging-on, students accept the IT Acceptable Use Policy and agree to abide by the E-Safety Policy for Students. Copies of these policies can be found on the college VLE. The Internet is a valuable educational resource and the college has a commitment to develop students' familiarity with modern IT. Parents may be concerned about some of the material that might be accessed but student access

to the Internet is monitored and filtered. The IT Acceptable Use Policy makes it clear how seriously the college would regard attempts to access unacceptable material.

Useful supporting information for parents about e-safety can be accessed on the college website.

IT SERVICES

IT provision is expanding and becoming more flexible to meet the needs of students. Students have access to computers in dedicated drop-in rooms, the Library, classrooms throughout the college and laptops which can be loaned for the day for use on campus. College computer use is monitored for safeguarding and IT security purposes.

Students will gain access to Office 365 applications and e-mail which also includes cloud storage for college work and the ability to download and install Microsoft Office on their own devices.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and Microsoft Teams provides access to resources from both within college or at home. Students have access to multifunctional devices, situated in key locations in each building, in order to scan, copy or print. On first logging on, the student accepts the IT Acceptable Use Policy which they must abide by. Students responsible for any damage to equipment are required to cover repair or replacement costs.

LAPTOP LOANS

If students wish to make use of this free service they should see a member of the Library staff to request access. Students are able to borrow a laptop for use within college. These laptops cannot be taken off campus and therefore must be returned to the self-service laptop lockers each day. The lockers are located in between A010 and A011 inside the main student entrance of the Aconbury building. Please note that any repair or replacement costs for any damage found to have occurred

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during the loan will be charged to the student. If a student would like to loan a laptop to help with the completion of homework/coursework, if they do not have access to one at home, they will need to speak to their Personal Tutor.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The college welcomes students with a learning difficulty or disability. We offer learning support for students with a wide range of needs. Further details of what is available can be found in Supporting Your Learning. If you would like a copy, please ring the college, ask for Pippa Denman in Learning Support and request one to be sent.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Students must ensure that their mobile telephones are switched off during lessons unless instructed otherwise.

NEWS

The News page of the college website is regularly updated and contains articles and features written by both staff and students.

PARENT GOVERNORS

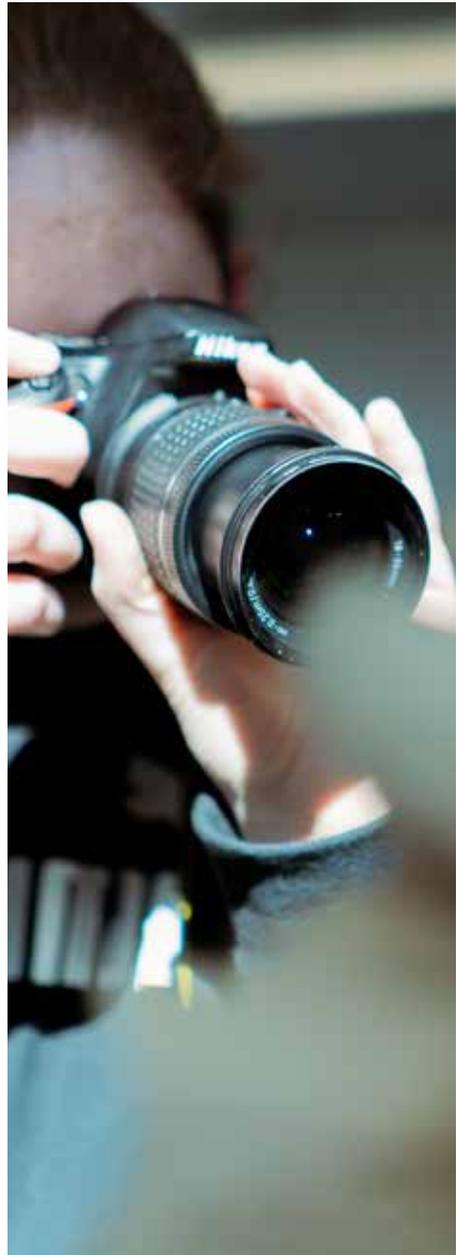
Two Parent Governors provide a parental perspective on the college's Governing Body.

PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal allows you to access information about your son's, daughter's or ward's progress throughout the year. You will receive an e-mail with instructions for accessing the Portal following enrolment.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Part-time work can provide a useful educational experience in addition to the obvious financial gain, but the hours must not interfere with college work. We strongly recommend a maximum of 10 hours of part-time work per week.



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PHYSICAL WELL-BEING MANAGER

The Physical Well-Being Manager can help students find ways of improving overall wellbeing through physical activity.

PLAGIARISM

Students are advised on how to avoid plagiarism in assignments and coursework.

Deliberate plagiarism is treated as a serious disciplinary issue and, in coursework, can lead to disqualification.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), if not appropriately sourced, will also be viewed as plagiarism. Students are given advice in lesson as to how to use AI appropriately.

PREVENT

The Counter Terrorist Act 2015 requires us all to be aware of the signs of people being drawn in extremist or terrorist activity. Signs might include where someone likes or shares hate speech online or has joined a group you know to be extremist. If you are worried someone is being radicalised - perhaps online - please speak to a Lead Tutor.

Under the Act, we promote Fundamental British Values. We remind students that we live in a DEMOCRACY where we elect politicians to vote for LAWS to promote TOLERANCE and protect our LIBERTY, and these are our shared values.

PROGRESS REVIEW EVENINGS

We will send you a letter before the appropriate evening and your son, daughter or ward will make appointments for you with members of staff. We encourage both students and parents/guardians to attend Progress Review Evenings.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports are e-mailed to parents. They include a Target Grade and a Progress Grade.

The definition of the grades are as follows: The Target Grade is the minimum most students

are expected to gain based on national statistical data that compares GCSE results with performance at A Level (please also see the entry on value-added on page 15). For Level 2 students the Target Grade will normally be grade 4 (or left blank if no data is available). In some resit GCSE subjects at a lower tier, a lower grade may be given.

The Progress Grade is a grade based on the impression the Subject Tutor has at the time of writing of the student's work, attitude, ability, skills and knowledge. It indicates the A Level/GCSE grade which the tutor believes that the student is likely to gain on the basis of their overall performance in the subject to date.

- » The Progress Traffic Light status reflects attitude in class, attendance and homework completed as well as quality of work both inside and outside the classroom. The following key has been compiled as a guide for parents/guardians to consider when reviewing a student's report and the Progress Traffic Light status:
- » **Purple - Excellent**
The student is excelling academically in the subject.
- » **Green - On Track**
The student is progressing as expected.
- » **Yellow - Slight Concern**
Minor concerns have been raised by the subject tutor with the student directly, for example, slight concerns may arise when a student has failed to submit a piece of work or where punctuality is causing concern.
- » **Orange - Concern**
An orange concern will be raised by the tutor if there have been several incidences of poor academic performance or progress which have not been resolved following discussions with the student directly, for example, continued failure to meet homework/coursework deadlines,

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incompletion of class work, etc. The student may be working below their Target Grade or there may be concerns about effort or behaviour which have arisen and continue to be a concern.

» **Red - Serious Concern**

This will only be used in the most serious cases. It is expected that a student would be at high risk of failing the course or consistently seriously underperforming if they are on a red concern and that all remedial action taken by the subject tutor and through the personal tutor has failed to get them back on track.

Reports on progress will be sent each term. There will be three formal assessments in December, March and June/July in a student's first year of study, and December and March for second year students. The result of the formal assessment will be shown on the Progress Report.

SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION

Hereford Sixth Form College is concerned that all students remain safe and free from harm and the college is committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to safeguarding and child protection concerns. (This complies with the Prevent duty.) The college has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy with accompanying procedures which is accessible via the college

website. The policies are reviewed annually by the college's Governing Body.

If you are concerned about your son/daughter/ward's safety or well-being please do contact their Personal Tutor or Lead Tutor.

SITE SECURITY

At the beginning of the year, students will be issued with an ID card which they must carry with them at all times. CCTV cameras are operational across the campus.

SMOKE-FREE/VAPE-FREE CAMPUS

Hereford Sixth Form College is a smoke-free/vape-free campus. Students who break the no-smoking/vaping rule are subject to disciplinary action. On the first offence, students receive a written warning (a copy is sent home to parents/guardians). Should students re-offend, they will receive a penalty notice. This fine is strictly enforced and is currently £60.00. Any subsequent offence is referred automatically to the Principal.

STAFF ABSENCE

In the event of staff absence, lessons will take place as normal either with a replacement Subject Tutor or with a member of staff setting work and monitoring the group. Work set in the case of staff absence must always be carried out in the usual classroom and at the usual time, unless specific permission is given for an



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alternative arrangement. Students who “hear” a Subject Tutor is absent should not assume lessons are cancelled but should always attend. Parents/Guardians are always informed if a member of staff is likely to be away for a prolonged period and are made aware of the arrangements which the college is making to provide a replacement.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

In order that students may share in the administration of student affairs, the Student Council has been formed, with a Student Executive being elected by the student body as a whole. Every student on entry to the college automatically becomes a member of the student body and so has an opportunity to influence the conduct of matters to do with the student community. Two student governors are elected by the students and serve throughout their time at college.

STUDY AND SOCIAL SPACE

The college provides a number of areas in which students can study or socialise. The Library offers a range of study environments to choose from. Students may need the complete silence of The Cloisters or the Silent Study Room or they may prefer the calming atmosphere of the quiet Reading Room or Study Space. The Library and Study Centre provide spaces to work with friends.

The Diner and Student Pavilion can be used as social and study space.

STUDY SKILLS - HOW YOU CAN HELP

We realise that you already have years of experience supporting your son, daughter or ward through school. However, we recognise that it is often difficult, as a parent, to help 16-18 year olds without being made to feel you are interfering. This said, there are certain things which you can do to help your son, daughter or ward with their studies at the college:

- » talk to them about progress and college life;
- » help them to find a quiet place to work at home where they will not be frequently disturbed;
- » be sensitive to periods of examinations when stress levels can rise and tensions mount - be as sympathetic as possible;
- » discourage excessive part-time work and talk about how they plan to study outside college.

Your support in this way would complement the college’s programme of study skills which includes learning styles, time management, note taking and revision strategies.

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Please see the inside front cover of this handbook. Dates are also available to download on the college website.

TIMETABLE

A timetable blank is included on page 18. Each first-year student will have about 16 periods on their timetable, but the exact pattern is determined by subject choices at enrolment. The remaining blocks are intended for private study. Students can choose to study at home if such blocks are at the beginning or end of the day, but many students choose to work in the Library and IT Centres or study areas. The Library is open from 8.00am-6.00pm, Monday Tuesday and Thursday, and 8.00am-5.00pm, Wednesday and Friday, term time only.

College hours are from 9.00am to 4.00pm and lesson times are shown on the timetable grid. Students may be able to use some facilities before 9.00am or after 4.00pm and such opportunities are advertised from time to time in the internal college bulletin.

Please note that all college facilities are only open to students when staff are available to supervise. Sports clubs and drama rehearsals regularly take place after teaching hours and on Wednesday afternoons.

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TRAVELLING TO COLLEGE

All students are entitled to apply for a travel pass, online through Herefordshire Council, if they live more than three miles from the college, regardless of where they live. However, you may find it more cost effective to buy your own travel pass if you live within 15 miles of the college.

To purchase a train or a bus pass, the link through the Council website is as follows: https://hcc.flexiroute.net/app_form_paid_transport.html

The parental contribution towards travel for the academic year 2024/25 is £1000. This is payable in one amount in September 2024 or by ten direct debit payments of £100 from September, 2024 to June 2025 inclusive.

If you are applying through the Bursary Fund, you will need to complete the application form (as above) but not the direct debit mandate.

Please contact the Transport Coordinator, Laurie Williams, by emailing laurie.williams@hereford.ac.uk if you have any questions.

TUTORIAL SUPPORT

Each student is allocated to a Personal Tutor who is responsible for monitoring students' academic progress and welfare. The Personal Tutors work with Lead Tutors who coordinate the activities of the pastoral support offered within the college and the Tutorial Programme.

If your son, daughter or ward is experiencing a significant health, mental health or personal issue that may be having an impact on their academic and college life, please do not hesitate to contact the allocated Personal Tutor. This allows the college to make adjustments and offer support to the student as appropriate. Any such information is treated sensitively and confidentially.

Students will meet with their Personal Tutor each week during their Impact timetabled sessions. During this weekly session, the Impact programme is delivered to students covering

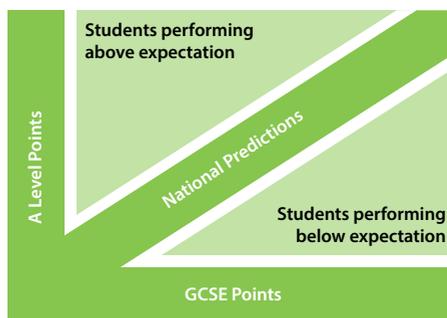
topics designed to promote their personal development and wellbeing. Personal Tutors will also use this time to make appointments to see their tutees if any areas of concerns arise and for scheduling one-on-one progress review interviews which will take place at key points throughout the academic year.

VALUE-ADDED

The college uses value-added data to monitor its own performance and to encourage individuals to achieve their own potential within each subject. Value-added analysis examines a student's GCSE grades on entry to the college and, using national statistics, predicts future likely performance.

For example, a student with predominantly grade 5s at GCSE may have target grades of Ds at A Level (although clearly could do even better). A student with predominantly grade 7s or above, however, would have target grades for the same subjects of As or Bs at A Level.

Minimum Target Grades and progress grades for all subjects are discussed with students on a regular basis. (Please also see the entry on Progress Reports.)



VISITS OUT OF COLLEGE

During class time it may be necessary for students to take part in day visits as part of their studies. Your permission will be sought in advance of any visit. For some subjects, visits are an essential part of the curriculum and all

A - Z of Key Information

college visits have a clear educational purpose. Visits are arranged to a variety of venues, including exhibitions, conferences, theatres and businesses. The college expects students to adhere to the rules of each college visit.

WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVISOR

Our Well-Being and Mental Health Adviser provides confidential information, advice and support on any personal issue including: keeping safe; sexual health and healthy relationships; housing; finance; benefits and legal rights. Health awareness is also promoted throughout the college year with regular poster displays, information and events on a range of topics.

WELL-BEING CENTRE

The Well-Being Centre on the first floor of Aconbury Building offers a range of confidential services to help students get the most out of their time at college and to support their health and well-being.

The support services housed in the Well-Being Centre include: the College Chaplain, the College Counsellor, and the Student Well-Being and Mental Health Advisor.

There is a Sanctuary within the Well-Being Centre for those students needing some time and space for quiet reflection during college hours.

The Physical Well-Being Manager is located in the PE office in Poston Building.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The college has an Employer Engagement Coordinator who can help students find work experience and voluntary placements. Parents who organise work experience privately should contact the Careers department (careers@hereford.ac.uk).



Overview of Examination Year

DATE	ACTION
September	Entries made for University Entrance Examinations and GCSE English and Mathematics
October	Certificates arrive from summer examinations. Students will be notified when certificates are available for collection. University entrance examinations take place.
November	GCSE English and Mathematics Examinations take place.
December	Formal Assessments. Entries made for summer examinations. Provisional timetables will start to show on Student Portal pages. Students sign-up for examination re-sits in classes.
Mid December	Deadline for referrals to Learning Support for students with public examinations this academic year.
January	Written external examinations. Results of November examinations.
March	Formal assessments. Results of January external examinations.
April	Examination timetables will be emailed to students. The Exams office should be informed immediately of any amendments.
May/June	Written external examinations. Year 1 end of year Formal Assessments.
Late June	JCQ Examination Contingency Day - all students must be available to sit examinations up to and including this date should it be necessary.
August	A Level, BTEC and Cambridge Technical results issued. GCSE and Level 2 vocational qualification results issued.

NOTE: IF ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION THE STUDENTS FEELS THAT THEIR WORK HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY ILL HEALTH OR ANY OTHER REASON, SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN THE EXAMINATIONS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AS WE CAN CONTACT THE AWARDING BODY.

Timetable

Monday	9.00 A	10.10 C	10.15 C	11.15 BREAK	11.35 B	12.45
Tuesday	9.00 F	10.10 E	10.15 E	11.15 BREAK	11.35 C	12.45
Wednesday	9.00 C	10.00 A	10.05 A	11.05 BREAK	11.25 F	12.25
Thursday	9.00 E	10.10 D	10.15 D	11.15 BREAK	11.35 F	12.45
Friday	9.00 F	10.10 B	10.15 B	11.15 BREAK	11.35 E	12.45

Timetable

12.45 - 1.15	Workshop	1.45	2.55	3.00	4.00	Monday
Lunch		D		E		
12.45 - 1.15	Workshop	1.45	2.55	3.00	4.00	Tuesday
Lunch		A		D		
12.30	Lunch	2.00	3.00	Impact Activities		Wednesday
1.30		Impact Activities and Meetings				
12.45 - 1.15	Workshop	1.45	2.55	3.00	4.00	Thursday
Lunch		B		A		
12.45 - 1.15	Workshop	1.45	2.55	3.00	4.00	Friday
Lunch		C		F		

Guidelines to follow if you have a concern

CONCERN	CONTACT
<p>Progress in a subject</p> <p>Teaching methods</p> <p>Marking of work</p> <p>Need for individual advice, e.g. how to organise study time</p> <p>Difficulties with another member of the College</p> <p>Safeguarding - personal welfare issues, concerns about safety or concerns which may be impacting College life and student well-being</p>	<p>Subject or Personal Tutor</p> <p>Head of Department</p> <p>Lead Tutor</p> <p>Academic Progress Manager</p> <p>Safeguarding and Pastoral Manger</p>
<p>A personal problem requiring a confidential interview</p>	<p>Well-Being Adviser, Chaplain or Counsellor, Personal Tutor</p>
<p>Change of subject or course</p>	<p>Personal Tutor - who will probably involve the Careers Department and Lead Tutor if appropriate</p>
<p>Equality of Opportunity - if you feel have been discriminated against as REGARDS Race, Economic or social background, Gender, transgender, pregnancy, parenting, marital status, Age, Religion or belief, Disability, Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Elected student of Equality of Opportunity Officers</p> <p>Personal Tutor/Lead Tutor</p>
<p>Any form of bullying or harrassment</p>	<p>Personal Tutor</p> <p>Lead Tutor</p> <p>Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager</p>
<p>Learning difficulties and/or disabilities e.g. dyslexia, wheelchair access</p>	<p>Head of Learning Support</p> <p>Referrals can also be made through discussion with the Personal Tutor</p>
<p>Difficulties in relating to a member of staff</p>	<p>Subject or Personal Tutor</p> <p>Head of Department</p> <p>Lead Tutor</p> <p>Academic Progress Manager</p>

15

HOURS OF
INDEPENDENT
STUDY

13

HOURS OF
LESSONS

2

HOURS OF
ENRICHMENT

30

HOURS PER
WEEK

H₃O



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