



TOOT HILL COLLEGE

BULLETIN

February 2018

Welcome—Sarah Fox, Head of College

This half term seems to have flown by, and both Year 12 and Year 13 should be commended on another excellent half term of hard work, demonstrating their continued commitment to their studies and achieving their best during their time with us. I have been equally pleased to see many examples this half term of the community spirit we emphasise at Toot Hill College—students have been proactive in supporting the College enterprise group initiative for this coming valentine's day, in volunteering to support the Anthony Nolan charity fund, and in organising their end of year College Prom. The Student Union continues to grow from strength to strength as they have launched two new initiatives this half term—a Winter Sports Olympics mentor group challenge, and Leavers' Hoodies for the current Year 13 cohort. Finally, I am immensely proud to see individual examples of consideration each day—from the respect students demonstrate towards their shared spaces, to individual examples of kindness I have had the

Year 13—Cath Roberts, Y13 Achievement

Year 13 have continued their term with great enthusiasm, addressing their internal exams with confidence and a certain amount of gusto. Students studying vocational subjects faced real exams and took on the challenge calmly and with professionalism.

With UCAS now all done and dusted, students are awaiting their offers and are now looking into the options for destinations, post Toot Hill, in their mentor periods. These include university courses, apprenticeships and gap years.

A visit from Anthony Nolan prompted students to sign up to be stem cell donors and also to be placed on the organ donor register. The Year 13 team would just like to say well done to those students who took the time to do this and we think it was a very brave but rewarding step to take.

The recent Careers Networking event was a great success and well supported by parents and students. Thanks goes out to Fiona Farmer, who was the main organiser and promoter of this useful evening. This was also followed up with a Destination Day for those students not planning to go to university, where there was an opportunity to meet some external agencies and talk through career choices for the future.

Year 12—Philippa Coates, Y12 Achievement

Anthony Nolan joined us last week to encourage students to join the bone marrow register. After an incredibly moving assembly, I'm delighted to report that 63 of our year 12's signed the register and are now waiting on the call to be a lifesaver! Well done to those students, this is an incredibly brave and rewarding thing to do.

We are currently looking at destinations in mentor period, in this we are giving students time to think about their future whether this is university, apprenticeships or travel.

After half term we will be conducting our second round of internal assessments, it is crucial that students spend some of their half term preparing for these—good luck year 12!

Student Destinations Programme—Spencer Lawrence'

The Y13 interview programme continues this term with Mr. Peter Waterland, our Chair of Governors, as the interviewer. To date he has conducted almost 100 practice interviews for our Year 13 students, for which we are very grateful for his support. His feedback has been extremely positive regarding the performance of students at these practice interviews and it is no surprise to hear of the continued offers coming in from universities and other alternative destination pathways.

Meanwhile, Ms. Farmer has organised an excellent series of workshops to further support those students considering alternative destinations. Group sessions will be held on the importance of networking, writing CVs with personal statements, how to apply for apprenticeships, how to impress an employer and how to explore the options whether that be a GAP year, apprenticeship or employment. There will also be 1-1 advice and guidance sessions where needed.

In their mentor programme, students recently covered the process for replying to offers, a consideration of unconditional offers from universities and the advantages and disadvantages of accepting these, as well as how the adjustment and clearing processes work on Results Day this summer.