

17 July 2025

Dear all

We are drawing to a close another academic year and as always it has flown by. I may have only been Head of VI Form since January, but in those 6 months I can see how determined and excited all students are. We have had so many successes with students embracing the changes we have implemented. In Year 12 attendance is up on average to just under 91%, this is a whole 5% increase compared to Year 12 last year. The Year 12 mock exams have seen students increase the average grade across the cohort by one whole grade, and finally the engagement in enrichment sessions have been very high with students accessing advice and support on mental health, volunteering options and UCAS and careers advice. Students have much to feel proud of.

Looking ahead here are some key dates for your diaries:

Friday 25 July - Last day of term - lessons will end at 12.40
Thursday 13 August - A Level Results Day - collect results from VI form 08.30 - 12.00
Friday 14 August - A Level queries at the VI form - 09.00 - 12.00
Thursday 21 August - GCSE results for GCSE Maths and English resits & Maths Functional skills to be collect from Medina between 09.00 - 12.00
Wednesday 3 September - Year 12 start back at 08.45
Thursday 4 September - Year 13 start back at 08.45

There have already been some changes implemented across the VI Form this half term:

- 1) A new student entrance has opened up to enable us to better safeguard students and visitors coming in and off site.
- 2) The wall between the staff carpark and student carpark has been repaired.
- 3) We have new outdoor table tennis tables, basketball and netball hoops.
- 4) Student Services has moved to be next to the main student entrance.
- 5) Students now tap in and tap out when leaving the site to ensure better evacuation procedures.
- 6) The new Head of Year 12 into 13 has started.
- 7) We held a successful Awards evening.

In September we continue to implement some more changes to increase a sense of community and ensure better outcomes for students.

- 1) We will have in place a Head of Year 12, Chris Williams and Head of Year 13, Phil Stott.
- 2) The flow of the day will change to two double periods in the morning and a single period in the afternoon. With lunchtime being longer and break time being shorter.

The Island VI Form (Year 12 and 13)		
Period (name)	time from	time to
Tutor time	08:45	09:05
P1	09:05	10:05
P2	10:05	11:05
Break	11:05	11:30
P3	11:30	12:30
P4	12:30	13:30
Lunch	13:30	14:15
P5	14:15	15:15

- 3) There will be more clubs and extra-curricular activities for students to get involved and will start in the Autumn term.
- 4) Hours of taught time will increase from 9 to 10 hours a fortnight.
- 5) We will now have tutor time to ensure that students are getting advice on careers/universities, support with their mental health and general advice and encouragement in understanding the transition for childhood to adulthood. Below is an overview of the schedule for Year 13 in the first half term to give you a sample of what will be covered. Attendance at tutor time is compulsory and will count towards students overall attendance mark.

Week Commencing		
1/9/25	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After VI Form Briefly talk through the various options.
8/9/25	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Into Year 13
15/9/25	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS Applications - Structure and Guidance
22/9/25	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS - Apprenticeship Advice
29/9/25	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Statements and Application Letters
6/10/25	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Interview
13/10/25	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision Skills

Things to remember:

- 1) Attendance is really important with good attendance being classified as 95% or above. There is a direct correlation between attendance and outcomes in terms of academic ability.
- 2) If a student is ill they must email in to attendance@theislandviform.org.uk by 08.30. Working, driving lessons and holidays for example are **not** permitted as authorised absences. A student's attendance that drops below 90% will trigger an attendance monitoring process that could result in a student losing their place at the VI Form. Most current Year 12's have embraced this and are achieving exceptional attendance.
- 3) Dress code - please continue to remember this should follow the basic principles of not to short, not see through, no expletives on clothes, covered footwear and no crop tops. Students should be wearing smart casual clothes.
- 4) Most students have on average 10 study periods a week, this should be utilised to complete home learning, further develop their super curricular knowledge of their subject, applying for apprenticeships or UCAS and accessing extra support from their teachers. Students are encouraged to use the school facilities in these periods. There are many computers and study areas available to use.
- 5) The main Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the VI Form site is myself and I am supported by deputy DSL's who are Mr Stott and Mr Williams. Our student services team are also DSL trained and can provide assistance and advice. It is important as part of safeguarding that all students wear their lanyards and tap in and tap out of the site every time they come onto site or leave site.
- 6) As a reminder our SEND team is run by Jayne Rockley (jayne.rockley@theislandviform.org.uk) and our exams team is run by Cat Cousins (cat.couzens@theislandviform.org.uk) both of whom can be contacted via email or through student services.

From all the staff at the VI Form, we wish you a safe and happy summer holiday and we really look forward to welcoming you back for a new academic year in September.