

Sixth Form News

Mrs Morris - Head of Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at St Alban's

In the last few weeks our Sixth Form leavers have started University courses across the UK and internationally, including music at Cambridge, medicine at Imperial College London and Birmingham, textile design at Norwich University of Arts, Architecture at Plymouth, Law at Manchester and many more. An impressive 87% gained a place at their first choice University, and 57% have entered STEM based courses. In particular this year we have a number of female students pursuing STEM courses, studying motor sport engineering at Oxford Brookes and studying electrical engineering at Loughborough for example, which we hope our younger students will find aspirational.

We are very proud of our 2020 Sixth Form results which are testimony to the hard work of our students. Our value added progress was **outstanding**, this means that individuals regardless of their starting points made excellent progress. Overall this summer 34% of A Level grades were A*-A and 61% of all grades were A*-B, individual achievements were from Shirley (A*, A*, A, A), Simon (A*, A*, A, C), Tom (A*, A*, A*, A), Andria (A*, A*, A*, A, A) and Marnie (A*, A*, A, A) who secured places at a number of Russell group universities. We congratulate all our young people for their enthusiasm and determination to succeed and thank the subject tutors for their inspiration and commitment.

We wish all our young people every blessing as they now begin the next chapter of their lives and look forward to hearing about their future achievements. To find out more about what our past students are doing now, or to join our alumni please visit our Sixth Form website <https://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/sixthform>

Our Sixth Form application for September 2021 is now available on our website and we welcome applications from both our own Year 11 students and external students. On Tuesday 10th November we are inviting prospective students and their families to join our LIVE Virtual Open Evening event on YouTube (6pm – 6.45pm) during which you will get to meet some of our current students and ask them questions about studying and life in Sixth Form. Here is the link to the scheduled event <https://youtu.be/Ng6pIYhJdIY>.

Meeting our Sixth Form Student Leadership as they reflect on their first half term.



Hello, my name is Clive Sam, and I am the Head Boy here at St. Alban's. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Philosophy at A level and I hope to go on to do Medicine next year. I love to read, eat good food and learning about different cultures. Lockdown was an interesting experience and although the teachers provided plenty of support and encouragement throughout, it just was not the same sitting at home on my laptop. It is seeing my friends, learning from teachers face-to-face and being in school, that allows me to thrive. I am glad to be back.

The newly formed Sixth Form council have already started to make exciting plans for the upcoming year. Our role is to take on feedback from the student body and act upon it, to improve our school. In recognition of the strange times that we find ourselves in, there is a greater focus on making sure the whole of the school can engage with the council and we are discussing ways that it can be more representative of lower years. The council meets monthly and the latest agendas have included: securing a new water fountain in the Sixth Form, food availability for all year groups and how we use free periods in Sixth Form timetables. We are making a difference, and we will continue to work to better St Alban's.

Hello, my name is Annabella Labella, and I am the Head Girl here at St. Alban's. I am currently studying Psychology, Art, and Biology at A-Level in addition to my AS Level in core maths. I am also completing an EPQ qualification centred around investigating 'How gender influences a diagnosis within the autistic spectrum' as I plan on studying psychology at university. I work part time at a retail store in town and enjoy spending my free time looking after the many different animals I own. It is great to finally be back at school and to a somewhat 'normal' routine - with the addition of the iconic mask wearing, floor mapping, social bubbles and the handy sanitiser stations outside of each classroom! This is certainly a new experience for us all but it's nice to see everyone playing their part in making sure the school stays and feels safe.



It is also great to see our lovely new year 12 students settling into the Sixth Form. The responses given by students about their Wednesdays off have been extremely positive! Many have commented on how productive their extra day has been. It has been a great time to consolidate notes, finish up on any incomplete homework and do some reading ahead in preparation for future lessons. They are now actively looking and applying for work experience - thinking about their future plans. Year 12 seems to have gotten off to a very good start!



Hello, my name is Oliver Johnson, and I am the Deputy Head Boy here at St. Alban's. I have been at St Alban's since Year 7 and I am now studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. I will go on to study Physics at university, for which I have already received offers from some of the universities that I have applied to. In my spare time I enjoy playing the flute, sailing competitively and volunteering with my local Cub group. In the build-up of our return to school, I was unsure as to how the school would manage to safely function with all year groups back. Coming back, I was amazed at how well the timetabling has been done to keep our bubbles apart - I hardly see the other years at all! I love no longer being alone in

my room all day.

On Monday the 5th of October, Daniella Lord led an assembly for Year 13 about finance - one of the more daunting aspects of going away to university. Daniella took us through the two student loans that we can get, explained what we can expect from each, and where we go to apply for them. As always, Daniella was happy to answer all our questions, and it was true for everybody that we were much more comfortable with the idea of finance leaving the assembly than before it. At the end, as it was her last day working with us as a Higher Education Champion, we all said goodbye and a massive thank you for all the help and advice Daniella had given us since Year 9.

For Year 13, this term is dominated by four letters - 'UCAS'. Since we returned in September, many of us have been in an almost endless loop of drafting and redrafting our Personal Statements until they reach perfection. Helping us to get out of this loop are our teachers, who have assisted massively by suggesting edits and giving us advice about our statements. On top of this teachers have been doing an amazing job of writing our references, which are equally important for our UCAS applications. Our Oxbridge and Medical School applicants are now finalising their applications as we draw near to the early applicant deadline, whilst many others are making good progress and will be looking to submit their applications in the coming weeks. The apprehension of waiting for decisions and the excitement I felt seeing my first offers is something that I look forward to going through and celebrating with my friends and peers once they start receiving offers too.

Hi, I'm Charlotte Codd and I am the Deputy Head Girl of St. Albans. I am currently studying A-Level Business, Music and English Literature alongside an EPQ and Cambridge Pre-U qualification and will hopefully further pursue a degree course in Business Marketing with Management or Business Law at University. In my free time I attend a theatre group where we perform up and down the country: singing, dancing, acting...the whole lot! Returning to the school in Year 13 built up a lot of apprehension regarding our A-Levels and the future decisions that may affect them. The school has provided us with after



school lessons and revision sessions to fill us with confidence regardless of the form that A-Levels may take.

Within the Sixth Form we have a team of House Captains who represent and support the six houses of the school. Every two weeks the house captains and senior student leadership team come together to discuss the house charity days. We try to come up with fun games and activities for the students to get involved in while raising money for our chosen charities: SVP,

Mind and CAFOD. During lockdown, zoom quizzes became highly popular, uniting friends and family around the country when we couldn't see them face-to-face. At the end of September, I released a fun quiz for all of the forms in the school to take part in. These monthly quizzes test the forms general knowledge as they compete for the highest score within their year and the rest of the school. This has brought form groups together through working as team to complete the quizzes and have been especially effective for the new Year 7 form groups as a way of getting to know one another.

The upcoming terms are normally a time of excitement with festive events and fairs, this year we want to try and emulate that same spirit - even if we cannot do it in the usual fashion. It is important that despite our situation, we do not forget to have a bit of fun.

We look forward to serving the school and making the most of the year ahead. Thank you for your time and we hope you stay safe.

Best regards,

Senior Student Leadership Team – Clive, Annabella, Oliver, and Charlotte