**Y12 Wednesday Afternoon, Personal Development Opportunities**

Throughout year 12, Wednesday afternoons form an integral part of your student personal development programme. The programme is carefully balanced between a range of structured activities, those which support your wider development as you study for A levels and those focused on offering information and guidance , enabling you to make sound decisions about your next steps following A levels.

Much of the year is divided into 5 separate blocks of time that last six weeks with structured activities in period 4 (mostly) and those which support either your A level study or help inform your next steps in period 5. For four of these blocks, in most instances you will be given the opportunity to choose which structured activities you would like to participate in and which next steps sessions are most suitable for you, whether you have a clear idea of your future beyond school or not.

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| **Time** | **Period 4** | **Period 5** |
| Sep/Oct | Structured Activities | Carousel of skills and resources |
| Nov/Dec | Structured Activities | Post 18 Options and how to research them |
| Jan/Feb | Work experience and Volunteering: self-arranged | |
| Mar /April | Structured Activities | Comparing universities, find apprenticeships and researching job opportunities |
| May/June/ July | Structured Activities | Focus on specific courses, apprenticeships and career sectors |

**Work Experience or Volunteering**

Block 3, which takes place after Christmas, is a little different. You will be expected to use the time profitably for work experience or volunteering opportunities outside of school. You will be given some support but the emphasis is for you to arrange these placements for yourselves to best gain relevant experience, both on your placement, but also develop the skills needed to make arrangements with external agencies or employers; something you can later reference in applications.

These blocks are punctuated at times either with breaks eg during revision for exams in May or specific activities that are appropriate for either some or the whole year group, eg STEM, healthcare conference and introduction to applications for UCAS/apprenticeships/employment.

**Structured activities**

The structured activities allow you to pursue your sport/leisure interests eg table tennis, learn key life skills eg driving theory or take part in broader academic activities eg debating. Many of the activities are repeated between the blocks and there is something to suit everyone.

**Next Steps Preparation**

****The activities in p5 begin with a carousel of activities that will help you to support your learning and memory skills as well as introducing resources such as ‘Unifrog’ that help begin the process of identifying your next steps, amongst others. After October half term you get to choose sessions that will enable you to consider the main options beyond school eg, apprenticeships, university, or employment. In the spring term, the sessions become more focused eg how to compare universities, preparing for degree apprenticeship assessments or writing your CV. In the summer term these would be much more focused on specific apprenticeships, university courses, job opportunities etc.

The sessions in these time blocks complement the additional specific activities that punctuate the programme throughout the year.