

Welcome

Making the Most of Y13



DENBIGH SCHOOL
Aspire, Innovate, Achieve, Belong

29th September 2025

We all belong

Denbigh 6th Form – meet the team

Whole school community



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Aims of Evening

- Year of opportunities
- Maximising potential
- Next steps
- Expectations & mental wellbeing

Year of opportunities



Opportunities are like doors

Every opportunity is a chance to grow, learn, and become the best version of ourselves.

Year of opportunities

This is your son/daughter's big chance

Every skill they have today — reading, writing, playing sports, drawing, even making friends — came from a moment when they said “yes” to learning something new.

What if they had said “No” because they were afraid or unsure?

Opportunities in learning



Opportunities in choices



Opportunities in challenge

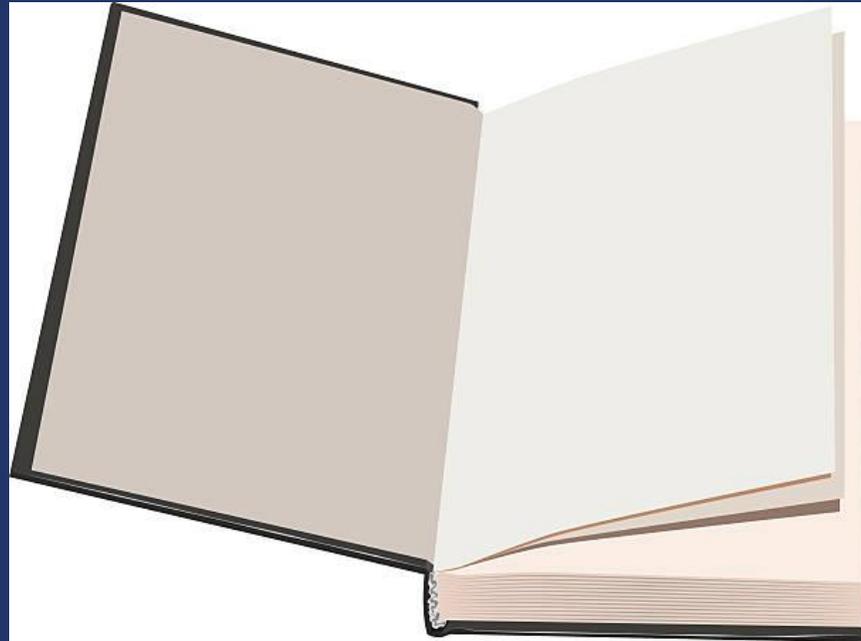


Time to create opportunities



“What opportunities are in front of me right now? How can I make the most of them?”

Time to create opportunities



It is time to write your own story – parents/teachers are here to help & guide.

Maximising Potential

- Different to Year 12 – Year 13 more challenging
- Year 12 learning must be maintained/improved
- Exam technique
- Coursework deadlines
- Efficient use of study time
- Independent learning = minimum 4 hours per subject per week
- Aiming for A – 30 hours a week

Maintaining balance

Maximising Potential

Productivity

- Time does not = learning
- It is about how students work smartly
- Review lessons/lesson notes on a weekly basis
- Prepare for upcoming lessons by reading around the subject
- Complete ALL set HW tasks
- Aiming for B and higher – need to go beyond that which is delivered in lesson.
- Content for most subjects is very heavy at A level

Maximising Potential

Getting the most out of mentoring

- Tuesday and Thursday group mentoring session
- 1-to-1 mentoring appointments with mentor
- UCAS & Careers advice
- VESPA
 - Vision (Next steps – Future dreams)
 - Effort (Putting the time in)
 - Systems (Organisational skills)
 - Practice (Most valuable use of your time)
 - Attitude (Motivation and resilience)
- References – Now and later
- Wednesday 1st October - parents mentor consultation - online

Maximising Potential

Progress reports

- Paper copy will be given to students in Mentoring – please ask your child if they don't show it to you.
- Homework is a percentage – acceptable completion not necessarily quality
- Attitude to Learning – 1 to 5
- CLG - Current Learning Grade
- First one available Thursday 23rd October

Next Steps –UCAS & Apprenticeships

- UCAS (University) applications now open
- UCAS early entry Denbigh deadline – 10th October; UCAS deadline 15th October
- Denbigh UCAS deadline – 28th November
- High profile company apprenticeship applications beginning to open
- Some Degree Apprenticeships are already up on UCAS and University Websites – eg PWC
- Both applications require a personal statement
 - This is in a new style for UCAS – Three Boxes
 - For Apprenticeships this comes as either the covering letter or final section of the application form

Next Steps - Apprenticeships

LEVEL

2

Intermediate
apprenticeship
Level 2

3

Advanced
apprenticeship
Level 3

4 7

Higher
apprenticeship
Level 4-7

6 7

Degree
apprenticeship
Level 6 & 7

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE & BEHAVIOURS

Next Steps –UCAS & Apprenticeships

🏠 / Discover

ADVICE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

Explore this section ▾

Support with Apprenticeships and future careers

- Careers advice
 - Mrs Agbame - Careers Advisor
 - Appointments and drop in
- Support with mock interviews, for both apprenticeships & universities
- Looking for alternatives
 - Encourage applications to both university and apprenticeships
 - www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
 - www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk
 - www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Predicted Grades

- Both UCAS applications and degree apprenticeship applications require predicted grades
- Year 12 PPE grades and past GCSE grades will be used to predict **realistic** predictions for the end of Year 13
- Must be based on data evidence
- Students need to be aspirational yet realistic when applying to universities
- These have been shared with students

Student Finance Tuition Fees

Most students won't have to pay for tuition fees up front – you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay your fees.

How much you can get depends on:

- how much your university or college charges
- whether you're studying at a publicly or privately funded university or college
- when you started your course

You could get a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,535 if you're studying at an eligible uni or college. If you're studying an accelerated degree course, you could get up to £11,440.

For Foundation Years, you could get up to £5,760 or £9,535 depending on your course – [find out more about Foundation Years](#).

If you're not sure if a course qualifies for student finance, check with the uni or college.

Student Finance Maintenance Loan

Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2025/26 academic year

Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2024/25 academic year

Living with parents

Up to £8,877

Up to £8,610

Studying in London, and not living with parents

Up to £13,762

Up to £13,348

Studying outside London, and not living with parents

Up to £10,544

Up to £10,227

Living and studying abroad as part of your UK course

Up to £12,076

Up to £11,713

Next steps

Be Engaged | Be Kind & Respectful | Do No Harm



DENBIGH SCHOOL

Student Finance Maintenance Loan

Household income of £100,000

Maintenance Loan

You could get a £4,915 [Maintenance Loan](#) to contribute towards your living costs.

How your Maintenance Loan is calculated:

£10,544 (the maximum Maintenance Loan available)
- £5,629 (the amount you might not be eligible for, based on your answers)
= £4,915 (the amount you could be eligible for, based on your answers)

You can find out more about [how Maintenance Loans are calculated](#).

You may get less Maintenance Loan in your final year.

If you need more money to fund your living costs and you qualify, you can apply for extra help.

Household income of £50,000

Maintenance Loan

You could get a £6,779 [Maintenance Loan](#) to contribute towards your living costs.

How your Maintenance Loan is calculated:

£10,544 (the maximum Maintenance Loan available)
- £3,765 (the amount you might not be eligible for, based on your answers)
= £6,779 (the amount you could be eligible for, based on your answers)

You can find out more about [how Maintenance Loans are calculated](#).

You may get less Maintenance Loan in your final year.

If you need more money to fund your living costs and you qualify, you can apply for extra help.

Student Finance Eligibility

UK nationals

You'll be eligible for student finance if all of the following apply:

- you normally live and work in England
- you've been living in the UK, the Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man for three years before starting your course

AND you are a

- a UK national or Irish Citizen, or
- settled under the EU Settlement Scheme, or
- granted indefinite leave to remain for other reasons

Lived outside the UK, EU, or EEA?

You can also apply if you've been living in the UK, the EEA, Gibraltar or Switzerland for the past 3 years and are:

- a family member of a UK National - both you and your family member must have lived in the UK, EEA, Gibraltar or Switzerland for the past 3 years
- the child of a Turkish worker and you and your Turkish worker parent were in the UK by 31 December 2020, with your parent being granted extended leave to remain beyond that date

You can apply if you have one of the following Home Office statuses:

- Refugee/Humanitarian protection/Stateless status or the family member of someone with this status
- Classed as 'leave to remain' – there are many specific name groups of people that are eligible under this category including the various Ukraine Schemes. Please check your personal eligibility

If you have Leave to Remain (including Discretionary Leave to Remain) and have lived in the UK for three years before the first day of your course. Further requirements depend on what age you are:

- If you're 18 or over on the first day of your course, you must have lived in the UK for at least half your life or at least 20 years, whichever is less
- You must also live in England on the first day of your course.

UCAS – What's Next

Students should be nearly ready to submit their application – school deadline 28th November. Not a target. Beat it

Can send application with 1+ course choices. Add the rest before the 14th January equal consideration deadline

Students will then receive offers back from universities

Visit Applicant Open Days – January to Easter

Student Finance applications will open towards the end of February – date TBC

Make Firm and Insurance choices – Deadline 6th May

Apply for student accommodation

Sit Exams and wait for results day

Clearing if needed

Next Steps – how you can help

- Support
- Communication
- Working in partnership

- Book an appointment for Wednesday afternoon to meet with your son/daughter and their mentor

Key dates

17th October – Independent Study day

21st October & 26th March Sixth Form enrichment

23rd October & 12th February- progress reports

Early entry UCAS, school deadline 10th October

18th November – Y13 Apprenticeship Day (More info to come from Careers).

28th November - School deadline for all other applications

6th – 20th January – PPEs (Trial exams)

13th February Course work entry final deadline

25th February - Subject consultation evening

5th May – Leavers Assembly

11th May - Study leave begins

Final JCQ contingency day 24th June

13th August – A level results day

Expectations

Attendance & Punctuality

- Required to attend **all sessions** on their timetable including mentoring and study
- Explanation of absence – must be from **parents** (even if students are 18 or over) via the absence number or ParentMail
- Known absence must be in writing to request absence - illness on the day must be notified by 8.30am
- Punctuality is paramount
- Formal attendance warning process followed which can result in not being entered for the exam

Expectations & punctuality

Contact re absence

- Mrs Billings – Sixth Form Attendance Administrator
- Parents are required to notify school by 8.30am on every day of absence.
- Absence messages can be left by any of these ways:
- ParentMail app
- Email: billingsd@denbigh.net
- Phone: 01908 773940
- Mrs Billings will endeavour to phone home if a student is absent from a lesson

Punctuality Changes

After arriving 5-minutes late, students are marked 'late' and minutes added to SIMS

Students apologise, does not disturb the lesson, immediately engages with the lesson

Student encouraged to remain in lesson

Students unsettles the learning environment and is clearly not ready to learn

Teacher informs the student they have not entered the room in an appropriate manner ready to learn, and therefore is not permitted into the lesson

Teacher logs this as a **C3 After Withdrawal** on ClassCharts

Student reports to the Sixth Form Centre Withdrawal Area and completes independent study work

Teacher contacts home via email regarding C3 and changes outcome on ClassCharts to 'Contact made'

Expectations

Employment

- Part-time jobs – maximum 8-10 hours paid employment
- Short-term vs long-term benefits
- Should not be expected to start work before 4pm

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Mental wellbeing is about how you feel right now, and how well you can cope with daily life.
- It can change for many reason and sometimes for what feels like no reason at all
- It can affect the way we feel about ourselves, other people, and the things we face in our lives
- It's important because it can help us to..
- Feel and express a range of emotions
- Deal with change
- Increase confidence and positive self-esteem

Mental Health & Wellbeing

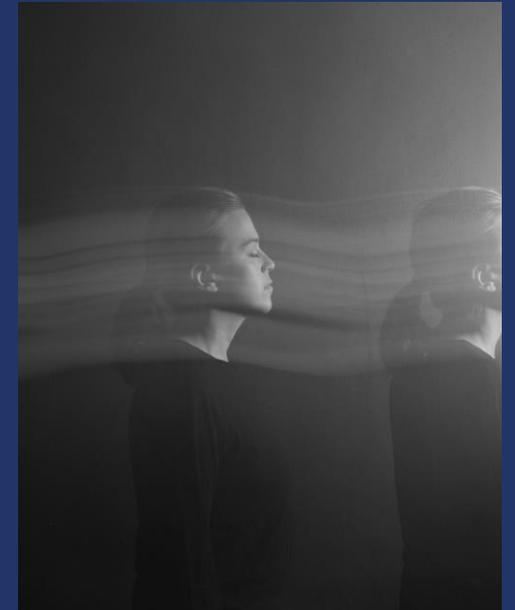
Anxiety is a normal human emotion

Anxiety keeps us safe and alerts us to danger

Feelings of anxiety will usually subside once a particular moment - such as taking an exam or trying something new has passed.

Anxiety can become a disorder when it significantly interferes with daily life.

Feeling uncomfortable is not anxiety – it is necessary for growth.



Mental Health & Wellbeing

Social media links

Less emotional stability



Less curiosity



Lower psychological wellbeing



Lower self control



Among 14 – 17-year-olds those who used screens throughout the day were twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression and anxiety



Mental Health & Wellbeing

Exercise

Research shows that exercise improves our mood, our ability to learn, and protects the brain from the negative effects of ageing.

Exercise also releases neurotransmitters such as dopamine, noradrenaline and serotonin that have a positive impact on our brains.

Encourage your son/daughter, go with them.



Y13 The Challenge

- Review of Year 12 learning
- Year 13 content
- External pressures
- Working with their mentor throughout the year



Please use
the QR Code
to log your
attendance
and provide
feedback on
the evening

Any questions?

