

Welcome

Making the Most of Year 13



DENBIGH SCHOOL
Aspire, Innovate, Achieve, Belong

28th September 2026

We all belong

Denbigh 6th Form – meet the team

Whole school community



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Be Engaged | Be Kind & Respectful | Do No Harm



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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

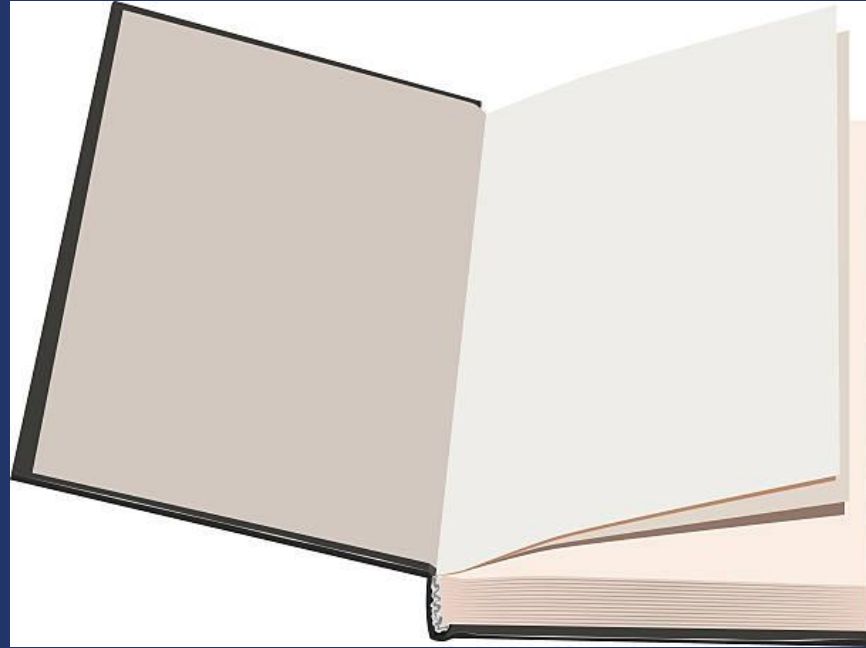


Time to create opportunities



“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 **30th September**- 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 22nd October**

Next Steps –UCAS & Apprenticeships

- UCAS (University) applications now open
- UCAS early entry Denbigh deadline – **12th October**; **UCAS deadline 15th October**
- Denbigh UCAS deadline – **30th November**
- High profile company apprenticeship applications beginning to open
- Some Degree Apprenticeships are already advertised on UCAS and University Websites – e.g. Barclays
- 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 ▼



Student Finance

- Tuition fees
- Maintenance loan
- Student Finance England

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.

Next steps

Be Engaged | Be Kind & Respectful | Do No Harm



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UCAS – What's Next

- Students should be ready to submit their application by the **30th November**.
- Can send application with 1+ course choices. Add the rest before the **13th January** equal consideration deadline - falls in the middle of their PPEs!
- Students will then receive offers back from universities.
- Student Finance applications will open towards the end of February – date TBC
- Make Firm and Insurance choices – by May.
- Apply for student accommodation.

Please see POST-18 Futures Information presentation, available on the website from July 2026

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

- 12th October - Early entry UCAS, school deadline
- 20th October – Post 18 enrichment day
- 22nd October – Progress report 1
- 23rd October – Independent study day (Y11 Futures day)
- 17th November – Y13 Apprenticeship Day (more information to come from Careers)
- 30th November - School deadline for all other UCAS applications
- 5th to 15th January – PPEs (Trial exams)
- 11th February – Progress report 2 including PPE results
- 24th February - Subject Consultation Evening
- 24th March – Independent study day
- 25th March - course work entry final deadline
- Leavers Assembly & Study Leave – May (final dates TBC)
- 23rd June - Final JCQ contingency day
- 12th August – A level results day

Attendance and Punctuality matters

Students are expected to attend all teacher-led sessions on their timetables (taught lessons, mentoring, study sessions, enrichment).

- Absence from any session must be accounted for in line with the absence policy (website).
- Explanation of absence – must be from **parents/carers** (even if students are 18) via the absence telephone line, email or ParentMail.
- Advanced known absence must be in writing to request the absence.
- Illness on the day must be notified by 9am.
- Unauthorised absences may result in a sanction such as a removal of privileges, leadership detention, one day in isolation up to a possible behaviour pack for persistent absence.

Attendance and Punctuality matters

With regards to punctuality, students are expected to manage their time to ensure that they arrive to all teacher led sessions on their timetable on time.

- Students get 5 minutes transition time (apart from mentoring and lessons directly after break and lunch).
- Any instances of lateness are followed with a 30-minute punctuality detention at 3pm the following day.
- A list of students on punctuality detention is displayed every morning on the Sixth Form noticeboard.
- If a student fails to attend the 30-minute detention, it is upscaled to a 60-minute leadership detention.

Attendance and Punctuality matters

Why does attendance matter so much?

Attendance	Lessons missed in a year	Equivalent
100%	0	Ideal
95%	1 day per month	Nearly 2 weeks missed
90%	1 day per fortnight	Around 4 weeks missed
85%	1 day per week	Around 6 weeks missed

With regards to punctuality...

- Arriving **5 minutes late each day** equates to approximately **3 full days of learning lost** over an academic year.
- Arriving **10 minutes late each day** can equate to around **6 days of learning lost**.
- In sixth form, where lessons are fewer but more intensive, missing the start of lessons often means missing key explanations, instructions, exam technique, and independent study guidance.

Contacting school

- ParentMail app
- Email - **sixthformattendance@denbigh.net**
- Phone 01908 773940
- We endeavour to phone home if a student is absent from a lesson
- **Problems with ParentMail? Please email generaloffice@denbigh.net

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

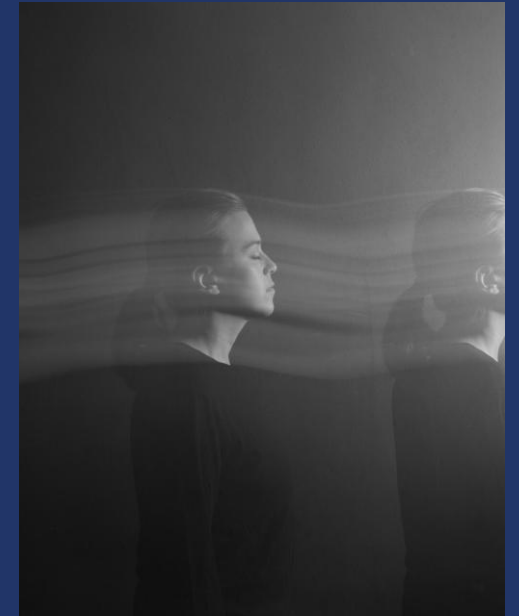


Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Mental wellbeing is about how you feel right now, and how well you can cope with daily life and any challenges that arise.
- 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 promote 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



Thank you for your support

Snap the QR code to go to School
Cloud login page to make your
Mentor Consultation appointment

