

Padworth College - Spring 2021 Newsletter

An Update from the Principal

Over the past 12 months, the focus of our regular newsletters and other updates to agents, guardians, and parents has understandably been COVID-19. I would like to break from 'tradition' and start this newsletter with an update on the progress that Padworth students have made in securing entry to top universities.

A key part of the programme at Padworth is to help students in Years 12 and 13 prepare for entry to university. This focus has continued throughout the global pandemic, albeit with some changes. For example, rather than attending university fairs and open days in person, students have had to attend virtual events. Similarly, those students keen to secure work experience during the summer holidays last year had to opt for Zoom-based internships. More recently, we have relied on Zoom to connect guest speakers sharing their perspectives on different careers with our sixth form cohort.

All of us at Padworth are committed to ensuring an increasing proportion of Year 13 students secure entry to Russell Group universities. To this end, I am delighted to share that based on offers received to date, c.60% of the Year 13 cohort have secured offers for the leading Russell Group universities, including Cardiff University, Durham University, King's College London, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, University of Sheffield and University of Southampton. Students are planning to pursue a range of undergraduate courses, including Accounting and Finance, Biomedical Science, Electrical Engineering, International Business Management, International Development, Mechanical Engineering and Medicine.

Elsewhere, we are pleased to share an update on activities and events during the Spring Term, an update on the NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY) programme, the appointment of a new Deputy Principal for the 2021/22 academic year and availability for the Summer Term. Please continue reading for further details!



Finally, whilst students and staff are currently enjoying a well-deserved Easter break, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back on campus later this month for the Summer Term.

With my best wishes.

Lorraine Atkins Principal

Weekend Activities The Great Padworth Bake-off!

In light of the ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19, we have had to adapt our extracurricular programme during the Spring Term. Although there have again been no trips, the students have had an enormous amount of fun baking! Highlights have included making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, baking cupcakes to celebrate Valentine's Day, preparing and then enjoying a traditional afternoon tea as part of the Half Term Programme and most recently, baking some yummy Easter nests!



In February, staff and students in the resident boarding bubble enjoyed a feast of Chinese food to celebrate Chinese New Year, courtesy of Amit, our Head Chef and the team at Chartwells.



Update on NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY) Programme

From September 2021, we will be extending the number of pathways on offer as part of the International Foundation Year (IFY) programme to cover all four pathways: Business, Engineering, Humanities and Science. To recap, the IFY is a modular programme that prepares international students for first-year entry to undergraduate degree courses. Students study a combination of modules that fit with their degree destination. Alongside the academic modules, all students study the core English for Academic Purposes + Study Skills module. Successful completion of the IFY provides guaranteed access to one of over 40 NCUK Partner Universities, including University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Exeter, University of Manchester and University of Sheffield.

We work closely with the team at NCUK and at the end of March, we were delighted to host an online information session with NCUK and four of NCUK's Partner Universities with a focus on pathways to Business degrees. We were delighted that agents and current and prospective students were able to interact directly with representatives from Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Exeter and University of Leeds.

If you would like further details on the NCUK IFY at Padworth, please contact Betty Dagistan, Director Global Engagement at betty.dagistan@padworth.com

Rebecca Clyde Appointed Deputy Principal, (Effective September 2021)

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Rebecca Clyde as Deputy Principal, effective September 2021. Rebecca will replace Mike Colville, Director of Studies following his retirement at the end of the current academic year.

Rebecca will be joining Padworth from Cardiff Sixth Form College, where she is currently Deputy Head Academic Studies and Outreach. Rebecca has 27 years' experience in education, including 6 years at Cardiff Sixth Form College, which like Padworth, is an independent boarding sixth form college. Rebecca who will be part of the College's residential team, will be accompanied by her husband, Michael and Poppy the dog! We are very much looking forward to welcoming Rebecca to Padworth and would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Colville for his many contributions to the College over the past two years.



Summer Term Activities Key Dates

With the final restrictions relating to the four-stage roadmap out of lockdown in England due to be lifted on 21 June, we are delighted to be able to offer a number of activities in the last couple

of weeks of the Summer Term, including a 'mini Enrichment Week'. Key dates include:

17 June: A Level Taster Day for Year 11

18 June: Sports Day, followed by Virtual Speech Day and Leavers' Dinner

19 June: Year 12 UCAS Preparation Day

21-22 June: Expedition for Years 11, 12 and 13

23 June: Geocache/Orienteering Exercise and Picnic for Years 11, 12 and 13

Further details will be provided in due course.

Summer Term Availability Study Abroad Programme

Our Study Abroad Programme provides an opportunity for international students to experience life at a UK boarding school. We have places available during the Summer Term, commencing 19 April 2021.

The Study Abroad Programme offers international students the chance to immerse themselves in life at a British boarding school and improve their English language and academic subject skills. Students will learn about British history and culture by experiencing it first-hand on our 12 acre campus, close to the university town of Reading and London. We will give students the opportunity to experience a variety of subjects which will help them to decide what they would like to eventually study at university in the UK or in their home country. We are able to be flexible in terms of start dates and the duration of stay.

For further details, please contact Clare McNally, Registrar at admissions@padworth.com

COVID-19 Update

Padworth College opened for the Spring Term on 4 January, with the majority of students on campus. Throughout the term, classes were delivered face-to-face - by those teachers who formed part of the resident 'boarding bubble' - and online. We continued to offer a full programme of extracurricular activities, albeit with some restrictions.

On 22 February, the Prime Minister announced the government's plan for the return of all students to schools and colleges in England. In accordance with this plan, Padworth returned fully to face-to-face education on Monday 8 March, with a number of arrangements in place, which will continue for the Summer Term (commencing Monday 19 April):

College staff and students are being tested twice per week, as part of the NHS Test and Trace Scheme.

Staff and students are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, as a temporary extra measure.

Social distancing and the restriction of visitors and off campus activities will continue.

We were delighted that we were able to welcome students back to Padworth and look forward to welcoming further students back on campus for the Summer Term.

Over the course of the past 12 months, we have only experienced two cases of COVID-19 at Padworth. In both cases, the students had returned to Padworth after the holidays and were displaying no symptoms. They were able to re-join the Padworth 'bubble' after a period of self isolation.

The College benefits from a rural location and we are confident that the campus provides a very safe environment for our students. For example, in West Berkshire (the local authority where Padworth is located), there were 24 cases per 100,000 people in the week ending 30 March. This compared to the average in England of 47.3 per 100,000.



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