

Franklin News – September/October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The current details we hold for you as an emergency contact are below. If they are incorrect, please let us know by following the link in the email version of this newsletter, emailing reception@franklin.ac.uk, or contacting the College on 01472 875000.

Home phone:

Daytime phone:

Mobile phone:

Email:

It's been a very busy start to the academic year and such wonderful weather too (well most of the time)! We've been truly bowled over by how quickly our new and returning students have settled in.

There are several key items I want to share with you about the College going forward and, as last year, I intend to send a newsletter out every month or two to keep you informed.

This letter gives some further detail on the following:

1. The Welcome Evening event for parents / carers new to Franklin – **Wednesday 27th September**
2. Our 'Keeping Safe Day' – **Thursday 28th September**
3. Our Parental Pastoral Toolkit
4. Welcome to the Centre for Professional Development and our 'Careers and Progression' Newsletter
5. Our ABC expectations of all students
6. Update on Independent Study, Skills Development, and preparation for Reading Week
7. A reminder about available financial support
8. An update for second years on university applications
9. Parent Governor vacancy

1. The College's Welcome Event – Wednesday 27th September, 6pm

The event, lasting an hour or so, is for parents and carers unfamiliar with Franklin. It includes a presentation about how the College supports students through their education journey, along with our expectations, values and wider aspects of College life, and the valuable role parents and carers play in supporting students.

This is always a very busy event, so please let us know if you're coming along by registering yourself and any family members attending via the link below. We'll have refreshments available from 5.30pm with the presentation beginning at 6.00pm.

Please register your attendance via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/54hznepe>

2. Keeping Safe Day – Thursday 28th September

We'll be welcoming a range of external service providers into the College to educate and offer advice, support, and guidance to our students on a range of pastoral and safeguarding issues such as: healthy relationships, spiking, substance misuse, domestic abuse, road safety, radicalisation, and cyber safety.

3. Parent Pastoral Toolkit

We've collated information covering a range of local and national services for parents under the Parent Pastoral Toolkit section of our website. This is designed to signpost you to external agencies and support networks, should you require them in supporting or advising your child. There are services to support a wide range of the issues affecting young people.

You can access the toolkit here: <https://tinyurl.com/4fh528kp>

4. Welcome to the Centre for Professional Development and our 'Careers and Progression' Newsletter

Discover more about how our Centre for Professional Development can support students' career aspirations – from professional programmes and careers guidance to enrichment activities designed to develop skills and promote health, wellbeing, and interests.

You can read the welcome in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh9sbha>



The weekly Careers & Progression Newsletter is sent by email to all students each week. It covers a wide variety of opportunities available to them in planning and working towards their future goals – including work placement and paid employment opportunities, university open days, and apprenticeship information and offers.

You can see the newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/272c7hx3>

5. Our 'ABC' expectations

All students have signed our ABC (Attend, Behave, Commit) expectations. We treat this as our 'contract of employment' to enable students to understand their responsibilities going into adult life. We've learned – even more clearly through and beyond Covid – that the impact of poor attendance can be catastrophic for students' grades and harmful to their progress through and beyond College. This is why we expect full attendance from students and do not authorise any holiday absences. All absences must be reported by 8.30am.

6. The Bridge, Independent Study, Skills Development, and preparation for Reading Week

We invested £2 million last year, developing our learning and social spaces, refitting our Wi-Fi, and upgrading the canteen, coffee shop, and several rooms / areas.

We're very proud of our new learning space, The Bridge. Students now have access to a university-style learning environment, which includes drop-in support space, open access IT, and independent study spaces.



This development supports young people in beginning to build their skills and their maturity, resilience, and independence so they can progress towards a positive future. We expect all students to undertake skills development as an integral part of their Study Programme and include a university-style 'Reading Week' in late October to help embed progress. Teachers and Progress Coaches will support and set work so students can make the most of their College experience.

7. A reminder about available financial support

We don't want finances to get in the way of the best possible education, and we know circumstances can change. The threshold for financial support is now any household with an income of less than £36,000. If you need more information about what's available, please get in touch.

8. An update for second years on university applications

The internal UCAS deadline for applicants for Oxbridge & MDV (Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary) programmes is 22nd September 2023. All other UCAS applications have an internal deadline of 27th November 2023.

Please direct your child to their Progress Coach who will guide and support them during the process. Attendance at Aspire is a compulsory part of a student's Study Programme to develop personal and professional skills ready for their progression.

9. Parent Governor vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent (the term "parent" includes natural parent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, and stepparent) interested in joining our Governing Body and helping to transform lives through learning. This voluntary role brings many rewards. If you're interested in becoming a parent governor and would like some more information, please email Sharon Stenton sharon.stenton@franklin.ac.uk by 5th October 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kennedy', followed by a large, loopy oval flourish.

Peter Kennedy
Principal & CEO