



Sixth Form Newsletter

June 2023

After another successful year, our students continue to make the Sixth Form the place that it is. Our Year 13s have put in the hard yards and now enjoy some time to relax (and to prepare for their next steps) as they wait to receive their results in August. We were delighted to be able to conclude the year with our annual garden party to celebrate their achievements over the past 2 years, followed by the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form prom and we hope that our students will look back with fond memories as they move to the next chapter of their lives.

Year 12 students now find themselves exploring their post-18 options and are busy exploring apprenticeship options, applying to university and identifying the skills and experiences that will support their applications. Our Core programme has continued to develop over the past 3-years and students now hear from a range of universities and post-18 speakers about the routes available to them beyond school.

Year 12 students have also recently completed their second set of mock examinations, which are used to help to inform the predicted grades for UCAS along with the other assessments that students have completed throughout the year. Our Senior Prefect Team is now firmly in post and is already having a positive impact on school life. Head Subject Prefects are now running support sessions for Year 10 students, while our Heads of School Council have met with tutor group representatives and are exploring whether any of the suggestions can come to fruition.

In the short time that Year 13 students have left the rigor of everyday school life, we have seen Year 12 students really start to step it up a gear. Increasing numbers are working productively in our silent workspace and our senior students are actively volunteering to support whole school events. I have every confidence that students appreciate the application that is required to succeed over the next 12-months and will showcase their abilities over the coming year.

Senior Prefect Team 2023-24

Throughout February and March, Year 12 students were invited to apply for a position on the Senior Prefect Team. The application and interview process is designed to be very thorough and provides an opportunity for us to truly appraise the skills that our students have and for students to benefit from their experiences in supporting applications in later life. The process started with an application letter to the Head of Sixth Form which requires students to reflect upon the skills that they have, why they feel that they would excel in the role and the initiatives that they would like to present in furthering the school experience for our student body. Students were then required to record a 60-second video to enable staff and their peers to cast their votes. Following this, students completed a 5-minute presentation to showcase why they felt they would be the ideal candidate before having a short interview with the serving Senior Prefect Team. All of this information was considered before students were shortlisted and formally interviewed by Mr Law (Executive Headteacher), Mr Smith (Head of Sixth Form) and Mrs Green (Head of Year 12). Candidates were tested on their responses to scenarios, how they would fulfil the needs of the student body and were required to highlight examples of when they have displayed attributes fundamental to the role of Head Boy or Head Girl.

The interview process is understandably daunting for our students, but all applicants reinforced the range of talents that we have within the year group. Students reported that the experience was extremely beneficial in promoting self-reflection and that they now feel prepared for the next interview they have, be that as part of their university application or for a job in the future.

Taking into account all of the information and after much deliberation, we were delighted to select Danny Davies as Head Boy, Agatha Redgrave as Head Girl, Alexander Corbould and Callum Terry as Deputy Head Boys and Lydia Edwards and Chloe Mulhall as Deputy Head Girls. The field of candidates was incredibly strong, and we thank all students who applied. The process was deliberately challenging, and all candidates showed tremendous strength, resilience and character throughout the process.

We also thank our outgoing Senior Prefect Team for all their hard work this year. They have all been a credit to the school and an absolute pleasure to work with.



Danny

Head Boy

Hi, I'm Danny and I feel extremely privileged to have been appointed as Head Boy. I am studying English Language, History and Photography at A-Level, which are all subjects that require dedication, hard work and patience that I believe are transferable to the role. I therefore feel fully prepared to be able to represent all of you as best as I possibly can, and to help to make the school and its environment feel positive and inclusive for everyone.

The policies I would like to implement have an emphasis on both an increase in charity work within the school as well as the mental health of students. I appreciate that the last few years have been difficult for everyone, and I would love to use this role as a platform to help others within both the school and the surrounding community. I'm beyond excited to get started, and I have full confidence that, alongside the other members of the Senior Prefect Team, we will be able to represent you, and help Carre's to become even better.



Agatha

Head Girl

Hi everyone, I'm Agatha and I've been appointed as Head Girl here at Carre's Grammar School. I'm studying Biology, Fashion & Textiles and Chemistry at A-level, with the hope of going to study Pharmacy at University.

I genuinely enjoy all of my subjects, so am excited to oversee the other Subject Prefects in running their support sessions for both Year 12 and GCSE students. I'm excited to work closely with our Heads of School Council to listen to the student body, along with teachers and the wider school community, to make some positive changes around school. I would like to introduce a suggestion box ensuring your voices are heard as effectively and attentively as possible. I also hope to introduce more joint activities with KSHS for all years, working closely alongside the Senior Prefect Team at KSHS.

The Senior Prefect Team and I are looking forward to representing you all and are excited to see what the next year holds.



Senior Prefect Team 2022-23



We've been fortunate to have another outstanding Senior Prefect Team this year and we're all extremely grateful for their contribution over the past 12-months. Angus, Meera, Lucas, Josh, Amelia and Sophie have all played their part in helping to create a respectful and thriving Sixth Form environment. They have led by example and have made the last year a positive environment for our students – thank you. The Team leaves us with our admiration and thanks in playing such a pivotal role throughout the year.

Angus (Head Boy)

Angus plans to study Chemical Physics at the University of Edinburgh.

Meera (Head Girl)

Meera hopes to study Graphic and Communication Design at the University of Leeds.

Lucas (Deputy Head Boy)

Lucas plans to study Physical Education at Leeds Beckett University.

Josh (Deputy Head Boy)

Josh hopes to study Sports Journalism at Leeds Beckett University.

Amelia (Deputy Head Girl)

Amelia plans to study Law at the University of Cambridge.

Sophie (Deputy Head Girl)

Sophie plans to study Midwifery at the University of Leeds.

Edward (Head of School Council)

Edward plans to accept a Level 7 Degree-Level Apprenticeship with Collins Aerospace.

Zosia (Head of School Council)

Zosia plans to study Law at the Leeds Beckett University.

Sixth Form Induction Days

On Wednesday 28 June, we welcomed Year 11 students to the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form to experience two induction days. Students submitted their application to the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form in November and have had the opportunity to discuss their Sixth Form choices and how these may enable progression to their post-18 choices. Students have been working hard to achieve the grades required to access their chosen courses and the induction days provided an opportunity to confirm their subjects for Sixth Form.

At the start of the induction days, all students spent an hour with the Sixth Form Team at their base school to reflect upon what Sixth Form life is like. Students had the opportunity to hear from our students, who also passed on their advice should they be starting Key Stage 5 courses again. Following this, students were able to experience three one-hour lessons in their chosen subjects, where they would meet their teachers (for the first time in some cases) and explore the content that they would study in September. One of the main benefits of studying in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form is the range of courses available across the three schools, enabling students to study their preferred subjects in the vast majority of cases. The induction days also provided an opportunity to travel to St George's Academy and Kesteven and Sleaford High School, which should ensure that students are not worried about where their lessons will be held on the first day of term. During the 'free block', students experienced a talk on Extended Project, Core and Enrichment from Mr Rooney, enabling students to appreciate the opportunities available to them to develop their skills beyond their academic studies.

On the second induction day, all students across the Robert Carre Trust experienced a team building session organised by Mrs Green (Head of Year 12). The session started with a whole year group Kahoot on general knowledge. For the team building activity, students worked in small teams with the task being to create a freestanding structure using only newspaper and Sellotape to raise a tennis ball as high off the floor as possible. Students had 25-minutes to work together to find the most effective solution. The winning team managed to elevate the tennis ball an impressive 2.2-meters.

Following the Sixth Form induction days, students are now required to complete transition work for their subjects, with this work needing to be completed before we return in September. The transition work provides an opportunity to bridge their learning from GCSEs to A-levels and to ensure a smooth start to their Year 12 courses. Transition work can be found on the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form website at: www.sleafordjsf.org/transition-packs/

We look forward to welcoming students back to Carre's Grammar School in September.



Mock Interviews

I think I can speak for both Amelia and myself when I say that the opportunity to meet with Luc, a practicing lawyer, and put our interview skills to the test in preparation for the university process was a brilliant experience. We enjoyed asking Luc questions about his experience in the law sector and talked a lot about how you should present yourself in a law interview at any chosen university. Personally, I learnt to be more confident in what I was saying and trust my knowledge further. We are both happy to have Luc as a contact if we ever need help within the law sector in our careers in the future.

Josh

We recently had a great opportunity in which four of us who are applying to medicine/veterinary medicine at university got the chance to do a mock interview with a volunteer from the local community. All of us went in individually to sit an interview as if we were doing it at a university, which gave us the best possible insight into what sort of situations and topics we may get asked about. We were able to get feedback to see where it went well and which areas could have been improved to help us prepare for our real interviews. Afterwards we did a group activity looking at different medical case studies which was extremely helpful and interesting as it enabled us to make decisions and analyse situations we may be presented with in the future in these careers. The opportunity to have a mock interview by a real interviewer working at a university is the best form of preparation that we could have asked for from the school and for this we are really grateful as it was both valuable and enjoyable.

Zosia



My Degree Apprenticeship process started at the RCT futures evening towards the end of Year 12. I distinctly remember Mr Smith mentioning a student from a few years ago who went on to do a Degree Apprenticeship with Jaguar Land Rover. After this evening, I decided to look into Degree Apprenticeships, which I hadn't considered before. Starting with JLR, I researched a variety of companies that offered Engineering Degree Apprenticeships. I created a short list through researching companies that I would be interested in working for, from word-of-mouth recommendations, and other online resources.

When I started researching, I was considering a degree apprenticeship as a back-up for university, to which I had applied to study Physics. However, the more research I did, the more convinced I became that DAs were the right path for me as they offer a career head start, and the opportunity to earn while you learn. For most of my applications, the window opened between early September and Christmas, with most closing for applications in February. The application processes tended to consist of submitting a CV, then online assessments, leading into an interview or assessment centre. In total I applied to 10 different companies for Electronic Engineering.

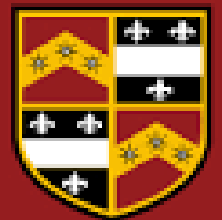
Fairly early on, I had an interview (my first ever) with Leonardo; unfortunately, I was made a reserve candidate - though the feedback they gave was an invaluable learning opportunity. Having only completed some online assessments and another interview between my Leonardo decision and mid-February, I was then invited to an assessment day with GE Aerospace in half-term. The day was fantastic and not nearly as daunting as I thought it would be.

Then, in the middle of my mock exams and my 18th Birthday celebrations I received 2 offers in as many days. Leonardo had been able to increase places on their course, and I had been successful following the GE assessment day. Around this time, I withdrew some of my other applications upon invitation to an assessment centre. However, I attended 2 more assessment centres for different companies, one virtual and one in-person. This resulted in me receiving 2 more offers from Collins Aerospace and Airbus. What followed was the most difficult part of the process - deciding between my offers. After hours of thought and discussions, I eventually decided on Collins Aerospace, a part of RTX (formerly Raytheon).

When I start at Collins in September, as a member of their 1st cohort of Engineering Degree Apprentices, I will work 5 weeks out of six and attend University during the other week. Throughout the apprenticeship I will rotate around different engineering departments and projects to gain an eclectic view of Collins business before specialising in the final years.

I would recommend that everyone looks into Degree Apprenticeships – no matter how sure (or unsure) you are about what you aspire to post-18. It might just be one of the best decisions you make.

Edward
Year 13: Head of School Council



I'm Alexander and I'm delighted to have been appointed as one of your Deputy Head boys alongside Callum. I study Maths, History, German and EPQ and I aspire to continue my studies at university.

I'm looking forward to being able to ensure the student voice is represented as effectively as possible and hope to bring in suggestion boxes to further this goal. Another of my main aims this year is to try and implement a revision guide bank to reuse old revision guides, which I believe is especially important in the current economic situation, as well as an environmentally friendly thing to do.

I am excited for the chance to represent the school and the student voice at this higher level and will work hard with the rest of the Senior Prefect Team to make sure this is done the best we can.

Alexander

Deputy Head Boy





Chloe

Deputy Head Girl

Hi, I'm Chloe and I've recently been appointed as Deputy Head Girl for the coming academic year alongside Lydia. I am excited for the year ahead to take on a new challenge in this position, with the hope of maintaining the supportive and friendly atmosphere here at Carre's.

I am studying A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and PE, and these are three subjects which I am extremely passionate about. When looking into my future, I hope to use my A-Level studies to continue on to university, hopefully to study a degree in Physiotherapy.

I strongly believe in the importance of a combination of academic drive and commitment to your mental health, particularly through the outlet of physical activity. I am looking forward to working alongside the other senior prefects, to promote a well-balanced mixture of all of our passions, to create a positive school life for all students.

We are hoping to carry on the fantastic work of previous Senior Prefect Teams and put our best efforts into all our initiatives, to create our own legacy.





Wellbeing Ambassadors

This year, there are 22 Wellbeing Ambassadors, who are a group of Year 12s going into Year 13, taking over from a very successful previous Ambassador Team. The role of the Wellbeing Ambassadors is to be a bridge between students and teachers at school, and each of us has been allocated a student who the Student Support Team feels may need someone to talk to that isn't necessarily a member of staff, in order to help them with any issues or concerns they have regarding not only school, but anything going on in their life they wish to talk about.

Following our applications to Mrs Clapham, we have completed three weeks of mental health training and skills with the Student Support Team, learning about our roles and responsibilities as a Wellbeing Ambassador for younger students. Firstly, we learnt about the important concepts of confidentiality and the key ambassador skills. We were also taught about the five steps of mental health First Aid. In addition to being taught the skills and techniques involved in talking to students, we also took part in practical learning through role-plays and scenarios that we may have to deal with, to help us learn practically how to talk to students and how to act in meetings. We are also undergoing online mental health training with Mental Health First Aid England and will receive a certificate to show our training achievement and skills we have obtained.

Following all of this training and learning about mental health and talking skills, the Wellbeing Ambassadors are well prepared to begin meeting with designated students, as well as to anyone who wants someone to talk to in school. The Wellbeing Ambassadors all wear an identifying badge of the Sigma symbol meaning the 'sum of everything', representing that the ambassadors are here for any concern or issue however big or small it may seem. During the past few weeks, all students have also been made aware of the service available in the Wellbeing Ambassadors through being mentioned in the Senior Prefect Teams introduction assemblies to all year groups in the school, to raise awareness of the importance of seeking help and not being scared to talk to one of us about anything you are worried about.

Overall, the main aim of our Ambassador Team is to act as a friendly face for any student who needs someone to talk to when they don't necessarily wish to speak with a teacher, and to further improve the help and support available to students with the successful legacy left by the previous team.

Lydia
Wellbeing Ambassador

SJSF Post-18 Visits Day

On Friday 30 June, Year 12 students across the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form had the opportunity to visit the University of Sheffield, De Montford University in Leicester, or to attend the Lincoln College to hear about apprenticeships and employment.

At the University of Sheffield and De Montford University, students listened to student ambassadors about university life, had a tour of the campus and received advice and guidance on the application process. Students received guidance about where their degree could take them, how to enhance their super-curricular activities, opportunities available during their studies, guidance on what admissions tutors look for and how to start their applications.

At Lincoln College, students were able to hear about courses that would be available to them and the benefits of applied courses and apprenticeships. Students experienced a range of taster sessions and workshops to support students' understanding of how to apply and the benefits of apprenticeships. Students were able to receive guidance on how to prepare for the application process should they decide that an apprenticeship is the most appropriate route for them after Sixth Form.

Students reported that they found the visits day very useful, either in terms of confirming their choices or by supporting them with their decisions making process when exploring their future.



Children in Need: 5-Hour Challenge

In November, Josh and I set out to run and bike for 5-hours in the school fitness suite to raise money for Children in Need. We both set out with big goals: Josh to run a marathon and me to bike over 100-miles. We also had a relay team of Sixth Form students who ran alongside us, each taking turns to complete the 5-hour target.

Doing this challenge was important for the team as we all know we are lucky to live in a safe environment where we can get a good education, take part in clubs, go on trips and have some amazing experiences. However, not everyone is fortunate enough to have this and we wanted to do our part to try and help those who are less fortunate.

We were all super proud to not only achieve our goals, with the team finishing the 5-hours strong and both me and Josh going an extra 15-minutes to make sure he could reach the marathon and I could ride 120-miles, but also in raising £750 for an amazing charity.

Thank you so much to all those who donated and cheered us on the day.

Georgia Lancaster
Head Girl for Sport





Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Prom

On Thursday 29 June, our students enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with friends, and the conclusion of their Sixth Form journey, at the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Prom. The DoubleTree by Hilton by the Brayford Pool in Lincoln was once again the venue and the event was organised by the Senior Prefect Teams from Carre's, KSHS and St George's. The Teams worked together to organise the booking of the facility, menu choices, decorations in the room and entertainment during the evening. Their hard work paid off as the event was a huge success and was a fitting conclusion of their Sixth Form journey.

Hello everyone. I'm Callum and I have been appointed the role of Deputy Head Boy alongside Alexander. I am studying Biology, Chemistry, and Maths, and I am looking to pursue a career as a future Doctor.

I want to help bring the best out of the school and introduce more interschool events to involve the student body and broaden the opportunities for all. I hope to contribute towards improving both the school's community and your experience here at Carre's.

My main goals are to create stable communication between the team and the students as well as working with the outside community to create networks through the school. I especially look forward to working with the rest of the Senior Prefect Team this year.

Callum

Deputy Head Boy



Lydia

Deputy Head Girl

My name is Lydia and I am very excited to have been appointed as Deputy Head Girl. I am studying Geography, English Literature and Ethics and Philosophy, hoping to study Politics at university.

As Deputy Head Girl, I will work with the rest of the Senior Prefect Team in order to listen to ideas and feedback from everyone in school in order to make school a positive, inclusive environment where every voice is heard. One of my ideas in this role would be to introduce a friend system for Year 12 students who join Carre's Grammar School from other schools. This would help these students to settle into the Sixth Form community when they start.

Overall, I am most excited to be a voice for students and to give back to the school by being dedicated to this role.



Biology Olympiad

On 6 March, 19 Year 13s sat the British Biology Olympiad. This is an exam that is open to students around the world. The Biology Olympiad challenges and stimulates students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. In offering a wider syllabus than A level, it allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised by the award of certificates. Over 13,000 students from around 800 schools took part this year so we are very lucky to announce that we were awarded 6 Highly Commended and 3 Bronze (Amelia Shaw, Lucy Wilkinson and Jacob Clint), 1 Silver (Benas Merkininkas) and 2 Gold Medal winners (Oliver Gray and Lydia Ibbs).

Congratulations to all – this is a testament to all our Year 13s and their hard work in Biology.

Mrs Sardeson





Hi I'm Elliot and I am currently studying Geography, Spanish and Media Studies. I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed as one of the Heads of School Councils this year. I chose to be a part of the School Council because I feel like I have a responsibility to give back to the school and make life around school a little easier.

I'm Alissa and I am currently studying Maths, Physics, Biology and Russian at A-level, and I am planning to go to university in the future. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to represent the student voice alongside Elliot and build on everyone's ideas.

Together as the new representatives of the School Council, we hope to keep the School Council's input in the school positive and helpful over the next year. We would like to see the Council play a bigger role in student life in order to enable them to feel welcome in the school community. Our job for the next year is to make sure that all ideas of both students and teachers are heard so that further action can begin; and focus on improving wellbeing and the environment around Carre's Grammar School. We want to make a difference and are happy to also help the lower years with their transition up the school. We hope to see more positive changes to our school this year.

Elliot and Alissa

Heads of School Council



Sixth Form Core

Throughout the academic year, students are fortunate enough to hear from a range of organisations and institutions on a range of topics that will support them with making informed decisions in the future, both in Sixth Form and beyond. More recently, our students have received talks on the following topics. Both year groups also received talks on misogyny and respectful behaviour, testicular cancer: symptoms, checking and diagnosis by the Oddballs Foundation and breast cancer: symptoms, checking and diagnosis by Coppafeel and illegal substance awareness

Year 12

- Safe driving awareness
- Making the most of an open day (University of Lincoln)
- Applying for Medicine and Dentistry (University of Newcastle)
- Writing your personal statement (University of Nottingham)
- Preparing for National Apprenticeship Week (National Apprenticeship Service, Pilgrims and the Network)
- Critical Thinking (Bishop Grosseteste University)

Year 13

- Transition to university (University of East Anglia)
- Student Finance (Bishop Grosseteste University)
- Student life (University of Lincoln)
- Interview success (University of Lincoln)
- Apprenticeship ambassadors (National Apprenticeship Service)

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Selection

Selection courses give you the chance to get to know Project Trust, and gives us enough time to make an informed decision as to whether you would be suitable for a long-term voluntary placement.



Fundraising

Fundraising is an important part of the journey and is an opportunity to learn and develop skills which will be useful overseas and beyond. Project Trust's dedicated Fundraising Support Team will work with you to help you reach your fundraising targets.



Training

Before your placement you will attend a Training Course which prepares you on the specifics of the country and project you are going to. Volunteers are trained in country groups where you will also meet your project partner for the first time.



Placements

A challenging long-term volunteering placement engaged in teaching, youth work or outdoor education offers a unique opportunity to learn about the wider world as well as learning about yourself.



Debriefing

This two day course takes place on the Isle of Coll and is a fun and beneficial opportunity to share individual experiences and celebrate achievements while reflecting on their experiences with other Volunteers.



Citizenship

We believe that Volunteers, as active Global Citizens, now more than ever, have a valuable contribution to make to global learning and understanding.



Student Prefect Support Sessions

Support sessions are being organised and delivered by Subject Prefects for Year 10 students, with a view to this provision being accessible to Key Stage 4 from September if the demand is sufficient. They present an opportunity in which to seek support from students who have a high-level understanding in their course and will promote the importance of revision 'on the job' during GCSEs in order to achieve the highest possible results. This is something which support sessions provide students with ample opportunity for!

A further benefit of the support sessions is that it will further help to increase the connection between senior students and students in lower year groups. This will help the school community to feel more connected, especially as the Head Prefects are running these support sessions voluntarily.

The Subject Prefects have worked incredibly hard to formulate sessions to help students to achieve the highest grades possible, so we are hopeful that Year 10s will appreciate this opportunity. A Key Stage 4 timetable will be circulated with all of the necessary details once we return in September.

Danny
Head Boy



Results Day Procedures

Year 13 results day is on Thursday 17 August this year and students are advised to be aware of the procedures regarding the release of their results, UCAS confirmation and Clearing.

In a change to how results have been distributed during the past few years, examination result will be collected in school this year from 8am. Students are asked to enter the school via the Main School Reception and to go up the stairs into the Main School Hall. Results will be available to be collected from a member of staff in this room. We will have a member of the Senior Team available in the hall and hope to take a few photographs of students celebrating their results.

Students are encouraged to check that they have achieved the grades that they require to access their next steps. Our careers morning during tutor time in Term 4 revolved around results day and clearing, so students should already have their UCAS personal ID number to hand and are advised to contact universities to explore available places promptly if they have missed the grades. Their first call should be to their Firm Choice university, as they may be able to reconsider their application.

Wherever possible, if there is a problem with your university place, you should first try to contact the university as they might be able to help you. It is always useful to be well prepared in advance and if you think you might need help sorting out your university application, please ensure that you have all details with you, including your UCAS application number, telephone numbers of university departments, Track username and password.

