

Monday 21 February



Welcome back from half-term to all our readers. I hope that students enjoyed the break and used it to recoup from an always busy, short half-term. Thank you to all the parents and carers who showed their support for our work in Diversity Week. There will always be elements of this week that challenge the thinking of students. As we look to:

1. raise awareness of different groups within society – gender, ethnicity, race, belief and faith, disability, age, sexuality;
2. celebrate and understand differences within society;
3. prepare our students for life in modern Britain i.e. to be an active part of democratic life; to promote British values, including freedom, tolerance, respect for the rule of law, belief in personal and social responsibility;
4. promote the importance of students looking after their own health – physically and mentally.

We will undoubtedly cause students to think and ask questions and, as the Department for Education guidance suggests, creating an environment where discussion is open is the best way to approach tolerance and understanding.

If you wish to download the resources mentioned in the talk by Dr Hazel Harrison: Surviving or thriving the teenage years, then please follow the links below:

- **Copy of the slides from the powerpoint**
- **Hazel's newsletter containing more information on the PERMA model**
- **A link to her website and blog**

This week, we hold our Year 9 Options Evening, with a chance for all students and their parents and carers to explore the different subjects available for the next stage in their learning. The evening starts at 6.30pm with a talk in the main hall, followed a chance to chat with the different subject specialists about what their courses entail. With new GCSEs, grading on the new 1 to 9 scale in every subject by September 2017 it is important that parents and carers attend the evening, even if they have had older siblings through the GCSE years, as many of the courses have changed in content and assessment style.

Julia Upton