



Brine Leas Sixth Form

An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has come to our attention that an increasing number of Year 12 students have secured part-time employment, with many currently working more than the maximum numbers of hours recommended by BL6. We support students undertaking part time work as it does promote an increased level of responsibility and gives student extra financial support. However, we would draw your attention to an excerpt from the Student Handbook that students were given access to upon enrolling at BL6, which states "We will not discourage you from undertaking part-time work whilst studying for your A Levels. However, you should ensure you do not exceed 12 hours a week and must ensure you do not work between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm." There are a large proportion of students who are currently working in excess of 12 hours and in some cases, in excess of 20 hours per week.

Our recommendation for the maximum number of hours to be worked is based upon the amount of independent study that we believe is required to be carried out by a successful BL6 student. We aim to encourage students to maintain a healthy work-life balance and this can include an appropriate proportion of time being spent in school, studying at home or elsewhere, undertaking part-time employment and also having a social life.

A typical Year 12 student studying 3 A levels should be completing 27 hours of teaching per fortnight (this excludes EPQ or Core Maths) and a minimum of 40.5 hours per fortnight of independent study outside of lessons. Within school hours, they have approximately 20 hours per fortnight available to complete independent study if they were to work in every non-contact period. There would still be an additional requirement to complete another 20 hours per fortnight (as a minimum) outside of school hours. A student studying 4 A levels has the amount of independent study increased to 54 hours per fortnight, with only approximately 12 hours being non-contact time in school. There are also some concerns about the times of day that some of our students are working as many are employed by hotels, bars and restaurants. Please see the information below taken from the ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) website:

Those aged 16 or 17 must not work after 10pm or before 7am. They can work until midnight or from 4am onwards if it's necessary in the following types of work: Advertising, agriculture, a bakery, catering, a hospital or similar, a hotel, pub or restaurant, post or newspaper delivery, retail, but this is only if:

- *there are no adult workers available to do the work*
- *working those hours will not have a negative effect on the young person's education or training*

We would ask you and your child to use MCAS (My Child at School) to keep up to date with their target grades and most recent predicted grades. Where there is a discrepancy between the two sets of grades (target v predicted) we would ask you to ensure that any part-time employment is not creating a barrier to success. It is sometimes the case where a student finds it difficult to refuse shifts for fear of losing their part-time job. In the first instance, we would ask the students to try and have a conversation with their employer to strike an appropriate balance. Failing this, we would like BL6 to work with parents to make employers aware of the expectations of students who are still completing full-time education.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H Bailey
Year 12 Progress Manager

Head of Sixth Form:
Miss Charlotte Lewis

Headteacher:
Mr David Cole

Audlem Road, Nantwich
Cheshire, CW5 7DY

Tel. 01270 621612
Fax. 01270 610373
Email. admin@bl6.org.uk

www.brineleas.co.uk/BL6



Brine Leas School is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (company number 7344747) at the above address