



## An open letter to Year 11 from Year 12 SMT



Dear Year 11,

It's that time of year when exams are looming, you're stressing about revision, grades and, of course, the prom! But there's a reason you're working so hard and that's to give yourself choices for what comes next...

What we, in Year 12, want to tell you are some of the reasons we chose Belfairs Academy for Post 16, and no, we didn't think we would come back for another two years either!

This time last year we were only a few weeks away from sitting the exams that, like you, we'd been preparing for since Year 10. It's a terrifying time!

When we first thought of returning to Belfairs for another two years, many of us felt it would be more of the same and started making our plans for alternative pathways.

However, as we now approach the end of our first year in Post 16, there is no doubt that staying at Belfairs was the best decision we could have made.

Here a few reasons why:

The difference between lower school and the Sixth Form is the amount of **freedom** you have. Depending on the day, you might only have three lessons in the morning and have non-contact lessons until registration time. Having that free time allows you to catch up on work, get loads of revision done and spend time with the new friends you'll make. Post 16 is a mixture of Belfairs and external students, which is great.

TK, says he chose Belfairs in favour of his old school, Saint Thomas Moore, because of the modern facilities that are offered here and how welcoming the staff were on Induction Day.

Shari, another external student, agrees and says he too was impressed by the overall standard of the Post 16 and the fact he felt respected by the engaging staff.



*Year 12 and 13 students taking a break during an A Level business conference in London*

You choose your favourite subjects and then focus on them. The content is interesting, lessons are **fun** and you're with like-minded people, who also love the subject. Plus being in Post 16 and studying at a higher level allows for teachers to treat you more like an adult. Classes are smaller in Post 16, so that undivided attention you may need is guaranteed. It is also really comforting that you already know the teachers and they have an understanding of your strengths and weaknesses, to help you from the start. A Levels are hard but it feels great to concentrate on the subjects you love.



**Left:** Sam and Will speaking with a representative from Barclays Legal during a workshop  
**Right:** Health & Social Care students present Little Havens with a cheque with monies raised from various Post 16 charity events

Working towards the **future** you want is always catered for. Here in Year 12 we get to meet people from various industries; they come in for Interviews Week and also to speak to us during assemblies and lessons which isn't guaranteed in other sixth forms or colleges. We also have the opportunity to mentor other students, organise charity events, competitions and trips that relate to our subjects.



*The 3 Josh's celebrating their excellent grades on Results Day 2017  
The trio achieved A\*s, As and Distinction\*s in all their exams*

Finally, we couldn't *not* mention the café! Nothing gets you through until tutor time like a caramel latte!

So, Year 11, if your plan is to choose a future at Belfairs, we think you've made a fantastic decision. If you've yet to make up your mind about where to go for the next stage of your education, then take some time to talk to one of us, or ask your teachers about Post 16.

In short, Post 16 at Belfairs is all about **freedom** to make choices, subjects that are **fun** and ultimately, your successful **future**!

All the best!

The Post 16 Social Media Group x