



Michaelmas Term 2021
Report for Sekula, Edward
Lower Sixth Crosby

Computing

Mr K Arnold

Ned is a strong student who consistently demonstrates high levels of knowledge and understanding in the theoretical elements of the course. He has impressed with his motivation and discipline to work independently away from taught lessons and has consequently made significant progress in all of the topics that we have studied so far, performing very well in each of his end-of-topic assessments. He does need to 'relent' a little in lessons however and give others the opportunity to contribute: try and resist the temptation to 'shout out' Ned, as it will help others in the group to process new material at their own speed. Well done though; an excellent start to the course.

Computing

Mr R I Cunniffe

Ned has been working well in the practical side of the course, he does have a tendency to over-complicate things at times and should aim for "simple but effective" solutions where possible. He is currently working on a library database website in which he will come across a variety of problem which will need solving. Learning to use the Internet as a resource to help will be key, learning to extract relevant techniques and apply them to his own system will be key. I hope that he will also attempt to complete some of the advent of code challenges over the coming weeks.

Ned is great company in the classroom. He is engaged with his learning and thrives with challenging material. He is making good progress. His score of 27/37 in the recent test was sound though some of his mistakes would be easily improved - completing the square and triangle geometry were GCSE topics, but it culminated with 3 excellent answers when the topics became more meaty. He is reflective about his small mistakes and knows that practice is key. Preps have been encouraging too and his answers have been clear enough for him to know exactly what he needs to go over again afterwards. The structure of his proofs needs some work.

Ned enjoys his time in lessons and works well with his peers in this set. He is often ready with an answer (or a point of humour) and is an interactive presence in the classroom. His prep work is always well attempted although I have encouraged him to waste (use) more paper in order to make his working more legible. At times he needs to reflect and try a method again but he works hard and is making good progress. His score of 77% in the block test was good and in keeping with this good set.

Edward has shown a promising attitude to repertoire and musical appreciation in lessons since I have been teaching him, and I am sad that he has decided to give up flute lessons, although I quite understand why. I wish him well in his organ studies, and hope that he will continue to play the flute for enjoyment.

This term Ned has displayed the best playing that I have heard from him to date. He has shown great commitment and patience in learning a far from easy piece by Bach. He has worked out the fingering and pedalling himself and performs it with careful phrasing and a real sense of musical line. I'm thrilled to see what he has achieved almost entirely by his own efforts. Ned is still a little too 'self sufficient' as a student - he likes to do things his way despite gentle suggestions to sometimes consider alternative approaches. However, he has the grace and wit to admit this. If he continues with his practise and maintains his focus I'm looking forward to seeing what he might achieve!

Physics**Ms C A Rees**

Ned is a lively and amiable member of the set who is a pleasure to teach. He is a conscientious pupil with a great work ethic who has made a promising start to the course, obtaining increasingly good marks in the preps. He quickly realised the level of focus and commitment required to achieve a decent mark and has responded accordingly. His natural ability in Physics has allowed him to progress through the Mechanics topic with relative ease however, he needs to develop a far more considered approach in order to achieve marks in line with his potential. Ned will rush tasks and all too often make avoidable errors. I admire his enthusiasm but he needs give himself adequate time to think.

Physics**Mrs S Waring**

Ned participates well in lessons, regularly answering questions correctly verbally and asking intelligent questions to improve his understanding. While he generally works well in the lessons, some of Ned's preps have been late, so this is an area for improvement. Ned achieved 64% in the recent deformation of solids and electricity test (class average 55%). Although he completed most of the calculations correctly, he struggled with some of the questions which required him to draw graphs or circuits, and did not explain himself clearly enough in the "show that" calculation question. More experience answering questions should help Ned to improve further.

Ned has been an excellent member of his Quadrivium set. He has very much thrown himself into the idea of discussing new topics and making connections across different types of subject area. He is a leading voice in class discussion and - although sometimes his ideas would benefit from having read the provided materials first - his answers are thoughtful and interesting. His first essay - on the 'Good Death' through time - was a carefully written and pleasingly evidential argument. It was also a thoroughly enjoyable read.

At the end of their Fifth Form year, as part of their Life of Learning programme, pupils were given a short presentation on how they might wish to approach their studies in the Sixth Form. The change in focus and expectation of teachers moves towards that of allowing pupils more independence in the approach that they take to their learning. Thus, the talk focussed on how they might wish to use their PR time, reflective practice as well as the necessity to balance academic commitments with time to relax. Earlier this term, all Lower Sixth pupils were reminded of this talk and asked to consider how they have acted upon the advice given. I hope that both were very useful.

Ned has been on form this term, despite his pretty hectic schedule, which has obviously included ACT prep. I understand he wants to push his mark up a little further so is having another attempt at the end of term. Best of luck!

Across his subjects, Ned is pushing himself to excel - and contributing well to discussion, and driving the pace of the class (particularly in Computing!).

He is doing well in double Maths, with good test scores and a keen interest in uses of Maths, particular in the financial world. He is educating me about finance too, with our latest conversation on the pricing of options! But there remains a healthy interest in applied Maths too, which drives his interest in the Physics and Maths syllabus material and keeps him focussed on the end goal. From his report Ned seems to be doing well in Physics - it sounds, from the class average, that he sat a particularly hard test - which I approve of, and should stretch Ned.

I am also really pleased to see his writing ability tested in Quadrivium, and the comments there are very complementary - I think this will be something worth emphasising in his applications to university - it shows that he is really well rounded. The ability to write, and argue, using evidence is a skill in far too short supply - Ned sets a great example in this regard.

Ned has also, whilst pushing himself on the academic front, started a finance 'club' in school, where he has garnered the interest of a large group of 6th formers at the inaugural session, which Ned has led. Again, this is going to be really supportive for his university applications, but he has a genuine motivation here and wants to put himself out there amongst the pupil body which is lovely to see - I haven't had the chance to really congratulate him on getting this off the ground, but it's a great achievement!

There hardly seems time in Ned's week for other activities, but he has decided to throw his hat in the ring for an organ scholarship (and as you know is giving the flute a rest) to really focus on this. He has not rated his chances of success very highly on this front, but he enjoys his music making and has already said that even if not successful he will still plan to be as involved as possible in chapel music at university, which I am glad to hear. His organ teacher is very complementary, and comments on his mature and self-sufficient approach - subject to the comment that he always needs to be open to other ways of doing things!

Overall a great start to the Sixth Form, with much to recommend him to top universities. Ned is increasingly independent, and this coupled with his relaxed nature and obvious ambition should mean brilliant opportunities lie ahead - well done Ned!

Ned has made an excellent transition to the Lower Sixth and it is a great pleasure to read such a strong set of academic reports: very well done. He is part of a group of bright, hard-working and capable boys in the Lower Sixth and it is lovely to hear their conversation over the breakfast table as they touch on all manner of issues, none of them mundane! They feed off each other's enthusiasm for their subjects and the collective example that they set for the rest of the House is an inspiring one.

More widely Ned is making the most of all the opportunities that Oundle has to offer and I love the energy and enthusiasm he shows for taking on new challenges and making the most of life. Over the last 2 - 3 years he has softened slightly and he is now more aware and considerate of others. I note Mr Arnold's comment in lesson time and there are still moments where he must not let his enthusiasm get the better of him.

In House Ned sets an excellent example to the other boys. He is always kind, thoughtful and polite and I am very grateful to him for accompanying the carols at the Christmas dinner; it was typically helpful of him and I was impressed by the time he spent preparing.

Earlier in the term we had cause (not related to Ned's behaviour, but related to his response) to have a conversation about integrity and loyalty and I hope that Ned learned from this; I believe he did and I was pleased by his thoughtful and reflective response.

You have made an excellent start to the Sixth Form Ned, well done.