

To the parents of students in Year 13 September 2017

Welcome to the first Year 13 Parents' Consultations Evening for your son.

As your son enters his final year at school I think it is helpful to have some key information and dates well in advance so that meetings are not missed and all parents are aware of general deadlines which affect the majority of Year 13 students. Term dates can be found on the school website.

You will note from the key dates overleaf that our Year 13 report arrangements consist of two parents' evenings in addition to two summary reports. We feel it is much more beneficial to discuss in detail the academic progress of sixth formers with their parents face to face. At these two consultation evenings you will have the opportunity to talk to your son's teachers about the progress he is making and what he should be doing to secure his target grades. We have chosen the timings of these parents' evenings to coincide with key points in the students' academic life. I trust you will be able to attend the second meeting on Thursday 8 February 2018 when staff will be in a position to highlight specifically what your son has to do to prepare himself thoroughly for his A level exams. We strongly recommend that your son attends these consultations with you.

All of the students are now in the process of completing their UCAS application or researching apprenticeships and/or job opportunities. The booklet issued at the beginning of July – "Applying for apprenticeships. Applying to university – An Essential guide for parents and students" - outlines the apprenticeship and university application routes and students should be using this information to help them. I urge you to use this booklet to support your son. There is a copy of this booklet on the school website in case your son has mislaid the one he was given in July. There have already been several assemblies where the Apprenticeship/UCAS application has been the focus so students are familiar with what they should be doing.

If your son is applying to university he will receive information about student finance in the New Year. Applications for Student Finance do not need to be made until early in 2018 and I will inform the students as soon as this application process opens. Students and parents can research Student Finance through the UCAS website.

I send the students a significant number of emails over the course of the year relating to many varied career opportunities and I have already impressed upon the students the need to investigate such opportunities thoroughly on an individual basis. Additionally, to support the students we have a large number of text books in the Sixth Form Centre to help them with all aspects of the UCAS and Apprenticeship processes, writing a CV and career routes.

Below are some key dates.

- Friday 22 September – this was the deadline for UCAS applications for students applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or Oxbridge.
- ***Friday 13 October – deadline for all remaining UCAS applications.***
- Effort and attainment grades - issued just before October and February half-terms
- ***Year 13 Parents' Consultations - Thursday 8 February 4.00 to 6.30pm.***
- 16/21 April 2018 – Year 13 mock exams week.
- ***Wednesday 23 May – study leave begins. (This date may change.)***
- Monday 25 June – last GCE exam.
- ***Thursday 16 August – A level results available between 08.30 and 09.30 in the sixth form centre.***

Staff are working hard with the Year 13 students to enable them to achieve their target grades. I hope that your son makes the most of the opportunities offered to him this year and takes on board all the advice given to help him reach his potential. Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries about any aspect of your son's work.

My best wishes for a successful final year in school.

Mrs D Halestrap.

Head of Sixth Form.