



15th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Start of term next year

As Ms Sheriff has explained in her recent letter, we are really looking forward to welcoming students back into school to start Year 13 and teachers are busy planning the best ways to support students when they return. Further details about the full arrangements for opening school will be shared in August, but in the meantime I wanted to highlight a few points to support Sixth Form students on their return.

HE/Careers advice

Students have had the opportunity to meet with their form tutor this week, either in school or over Teams, to get some advice about their draft personal statements or CVs. It has been great to see so many students benefitting from this. Time will be set aside in the first PSHE day for further support and students could usefully spend time during the holidays working on their drafts. For parents and carers who wish to discuss individual queries about Higher Education, there will be an opportunity to book individual appointments for our support evening on 24th September – a letter will be sent out with the arrangements for this in September. Students will also be able to book appointments next term with our Careers Advisor, Mrs Robinson, who will also be running support sessions for students seeking apprenticeships in the Spring term.

Progress Reports

Students should have received progress reports this week which can be accessed via the Parent Portal on Firefly. The predicted grades are based on progress across the year and not simply on during lockdown, as we recognize this has been a difficult period for some students. Predicted grades for university entrance are collected via a different process and can be viewed by students on Unifrog. These are provisional at this stage and may be revised once students are back in school in September, depending on the standard of work seen at the start of Year 13.

Equipment for September

As part of our measures to reduce risk in school, we will be trying to minimize sharing of equipment and resources. It is therefore important that students come to school fully equipped with the usual pens, pencils, calculators and also, if students use these regularly in lessons, glue sticks and scissors to minimize sharing. Teachers will be using technology where possible to share resources and to collect, mark and give feedback on student work. This means it is essential that student have a fully functioning, fully charged iPad or laptop for use in school each day – although this has always been an expectation for Sixth Form, students have not historically always had their devices ready to use in lessons. A mobile phone is not an acceptable alternative as the screens and functionality make it very difficult for students to access the learning.

Dress code

One of our main aims is to return to a situation as close to 'normal' in school as possible and therefore the Sixth Form dress code will apply as usual in September. This can be found in the Sixth Form planner and on the website. We have allowed some flexibility during our limited re-opening this term as we

recognize that haircuts and clothes shopping have both been difficult during lockdown, however as both are now easier to access, we will return to our ordinary standards.

Qualification amendments

Ofqual are currently consulting on any necessary amendments to the A-level curriculum and the possibility of delaying the start of A-level exams. Once the consultation is complete and we receive guidance about any changes, we will share build this into our planning and communicate any changes of date. I am aware that many people have postponed holiday plans until 2021 and just wanted to raise the possibility now that exams may be scheduled for later in the year and the opportunity often taken with students in Year 13 for an early getaway before the end of term may not be possible as a result.

GCSE Results

For any students expecting resit GCSE results in August, these will be emailed out via school email along with the results for Year 11 students.

I hope that those students who have been working really hard during this lockdown period take a good break over the summer so that they are ready to tackle Year 13 with enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school in September.

Yours faithfully

C Willis

Mrs Claire Willis

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