

February 2019

Dear Parent

Year 12 Grade Review

Please find enclosed your student's recent Grade Review. This shows the most recent information regarding the grades projected by subject teachers, along with their January assessment grades (where applicable) and effort comments. You should also receive an attendance report for the period from 17 September 2018 to 18 January 2019. To confirm that you have received this information, please return the reply slip; if you wish to discuss any concerns arising, please contact the relevant Senior Tutor via the Sixth Form Office.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the information in this Grade Review at the Parents' Evening on Thursday 7 February from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm at St Aidan's. (Please note that there is limited parking availability on site: we would encourage you to plan accordingly and park in the local area.)

Attendance in School

As stated in the Associated Sixth Form Attendance Policy, there is a strong link between attendance and achievement and we continue to urge students to attend all sessions at this important stage in their courses. Please encourage students to avoid sickness absence if at all possible and to ensure that they do not make medical appointments during timetabled lessons.

Summer Term

In order to help us to monitor and track the progress of our Year 12 students, we will be holding formal mock examinations in the two weeks from Tuesday 7 May to Friday 24 May. A copy of the mock exam timetable will be available on each of the schools' websites in due course.

There are a number of Applied courses that are completing qualifications this summer. Students on these courses are sitting external examinations and the dates for these qualifications are published on both schools' websites.

There is no formal study leave period for any Year 12 students this year, although if a student has an external examination in the afternoon, they can use the morning of the exam for private revision.

Post-18 Options Evening

This event will be held on Wednesday 1 May at 7.00 pm in Constance Green Hall at St Aidan's and will provide information regarding applying to university, apprenticeships and student finance.

Please note also the following arrangements for the summer term. Can we remind parents and students to avoid holiday bookings in the summer term as there are teaching and Sixth Form commitments taking place.

Monday 17 June & Tuesday 18 June:

Wednesday 19 June - Friday 12 July:

Monday 1 July - Friday 12 July:

Friday 12 July:

Mon 15 July - Friday 19 July:

Sixth Form Conference

Timetabled lessons continue as normal

Designated 'enrichment' period

End of term for Year 12

Week of opportunity for Sixth Form Work Experience

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Please note that students are expected to attend the Sixth Form Conference. These days will be spent on a range of activities including personal health and safety issues, economic well-being post-18 and further opportunities to prepare for applications to Higher Education and employment. This will provide a carefully structured programme involving students in a variety of activities which will allow them to develop inter-personal skills and to investigate important issues that can be under-represented in the context of the A Level curriculum. Attendance at all sessions is essential.

With the exception of the Sixth Form Conference, the Year 12 timetable continues as normal during the Summer Term. Between Monday 1 July and Friday 12 July a selection of trips and activities are arranged by subject teachers with the intention of enriching the curriculum experience of Year 12 and preparing students for Year 13 courses. Where students are not involved in such trips, they must attend lessons as normal up to Friday 12 July.

The Summer Term ends for Sixth Form students earlier than for the rest of the schools' communities: this allows students the opportunity to find independently a useful work experience placement which might support their future applications. We strongly encourage students to use this time profitably and ask that all placements are registered with the relevant Senior Tutor.

Timetable Re-organisation

At the end of Year 12 we conduct a review of teaching groups and staffing arrangements and it is anticipated that a number of students will be re-allocated to new teaching groups, with a 'knock-on' effect in other subjects. Whilst we shall endeavour to minimise disruption, parents and students should be prepared for possible group changes in Year 13.

You will be aware that funding of public services including education is facing significant pressure. In this context it has become clear to us that Sixth Forms in schools and colleges will not now receive funding for students who wish to repeat courses at A Level. In practice, this means that **we are not able to offer students who are disappointed with their Year 12 performance the opportunity to return to classes to repeat courses in order to improve performance.**

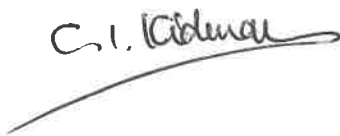
Progression to Year 13 is not automatic and it will be subject to a review of attendance, behaviour, performance and work ethic throughout Year 12. Whilst we understand there may be significant pastoral reasons for low attendance or under-performance, each case will be considered individually and will involve a discussion with the Senior Tutor and, where necessary, the Head of Sixth Form.

Dress Code

May we take this opportunity to remind parents of the requirement of the Associated Sixth Form that students continue to wear smart, business-like dress. Students' lanyards should also be worn visibly at all times. This helps us to control the security of the school sites and to ensure that students provide a suitable role model for younger students and within the local community. Senior Tutors reserve the right to send students home if they are inappropriately dressed.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting your student throughout this challenging academic year.

Yours sincerely



C I Kidman
Head of Sixth Form, St Aidan's



A Joy
Head of Sixth Form, St John Fisher

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