

January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the February half term I wanted to provide you with an update on some key matters for our Year 13 students.

Mock Examinations

Students will begin their final internal exam series on Monday 20th February. All students have received a copy of their individual exam timetable to their Gmail account. A-Level lessons will not take place during this week which will allow students the chance to study either at home or in school if they choose. BTEC and Finance lessons will continue, as their final coursework deadlines are fast approaching. Students should attend these lessons unless they have an exam. These exams are an important moment in the assessment calendar – mock examinations can be used if external examinations do not take place, so students must take them seriously. They should be preparing for these exams already and should spend at least some of the half-term revising.

Students will receive their mock results during enrichment assembly on the 14th March. An important focus will then be on building upon their performance in the final weeks of teaching before their summer exams. We have a programme of enrichment and tutor sessions designed to support them in these final weeks. Our expectation is that each student will attend every lesson, enrichment and tutor session, unless there is a valid reason for their absence.

Revision Timetable

Many departments around the school now offer after-school revision sessions to help students begin to prepare for their final examinations. Please find attached a copy of this schedule.

Next Steps

Most Year 13 students have applied to university via UCAS. We have advised that students should only confirm their firm and insurance choices once they have had responses from every university. Once they have confirmed their choices they can begin to look at student accommodation (although it is possible that some universities will not yet have applications for accommodation open). You are able to begin the Student Finance application from March 2023 and can do so without confirming offers. The relevant website is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login>

Students who have not applied to university have a lot of guidance and support through enrichment assemblies and tutor time sessions to help plan for next year. They can attend workshops with our apprenticeships specialist Miss Davies to search and apply for apprenticeships. Miss Lord is the Careers Coordinator and can help students apply for either college courses or employment opportunities. We are also able to provide external careers appointments to those who are unsure at this stage of their next steps. Please do contact us if you believe that you son or daughter would benefit from this.

Paid Work

Please bear in mind that our suggested maximum number of working hours for students at this stage of their education is 10-12 per week. As we reach the final stage of A-Level study, many students find balancing academic study with paid work a real challenge, so it is a good time to review their current arrangements.

If you would like to discuss further any of the points raised in this letter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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