

March 2017

Dear Parent

Year 12 Grade Review

Please find enclosed your son's or daughter's recent Grade Review. This shows the most recent information regarding the grades projected by subject teachers, along with their January mock assessment grades (where applicable) and effort comments. You should also receive an attendance report for the period from 28 November to 9 March 2017. 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.

Dates for the Summer Term

This year, the majority of our courses are not sitting AS examinations, and therefore to allow us to monitor and track the progress of our Year 12 students, we will be holding formal mock examinations in the 2 weeks from Monday 27 March to Friday 7 April. A copy of the mock exam timetable is available on each of the schools' websites.

There are a number of courses that are however still completing AS qualifications this summer. These subjects are sitting external AS examinations and the exam 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.

Please note 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 19, Tuesday 20 June:	Sixth Form Conference
Wednesday 21 June am:	Timetabled lessons
Wednesday 21 June pm:	Sixth Form Conference concludes
Thursday 22 June - Friday 14 July:	Timetabled lessons continue as normal
Monday 3 July - Friday 14 July:	Designated 'enrichment' period
Friday 14 July:	End of term for Year 12
Mon 17 July – Friday 21 July:	Week of opportunity for Sixth Form Work Experience

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.

The Year 12 timetable resumes on the morning of Wednesday 21 June and then continues as normal from Thursday 22 June. Between Monday 3 July and Friday 14 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 14 July.

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The Summer Term ends for Sixth Form students earlier than for the rest of the schools' communities: this allows students the opportunity, if they wish, to find independently a useful work experience placement which might support their future applications.

Timetable Re-organisation

At the end of Year 12 some students who have not already done so elect to discontinue one of their subjects to concentrate on three subjects only at A Level: the inevitable consequence of this is that some teaching groups are diminished to the extent that they are no longer viable. It is anticipated therefore 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 the immediate future. 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 throughout the Summer Term, **including the examination period.** 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, for example wearing trainers, shorts, jeans, tee-shirts or vests.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting your son/daughter 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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