

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we prepare to say goodbye to Year 13, A Levels move ever-closer for Year 12. This term is an important one as exams beckon and we will also begin planning for next steps, beyond Sixth Form. We will launch the UCAS process in June for those intending to go to university, and are busy planning numerous exciting sessions on apprenticeships, careers, gap years, so that all students can make well-informed choices.

As covid restrictions begin to ease, we are hopefully heading towards a more normal, sociable and 'bubble-free' school experience in September, which we are all looking forward to very much. Head Student Applications will begin shortly for Year 13 – more information below – and after half term Year 12s move to being the eldest in the school and even bigger role models to younger students.

There is certainly a lot going on and pressure is beginning to ramp up for Year 12. 2020/2021 has been a challenging time for us all and we are offering lots of support and guidance in College for students to set clear targets and approach the next few weeks as positively and productively as possible.

Kind regards at this busy time,

*Mrs McMillan*

### AP2

You will have received your child's AP2 grades last week. These give an indication of students' effort in lessons, effort with homework, their 'working-at' grade for each subject and whether they are 'on track' to hit their A Level target grades. The target grades are generated based on GCSE results, and are a good guide but estimations only — **if the grades are already being exceeded for example, then teachers (and students) will most certainly form new, inflated expectations.** Most Year 12s are working very hard - however, if students have received 'Concerns' or 'Serious Concerns' then they need to liaise with teachers about how to rectify this, certainly before exams in June. The Sixth Form team are having one-to-one meetings with every student over the next week to discuss progress, revision planning, next steps – and of course self-management and wellbeing.

### Year 12 Exam Dates:

- **Photography Exams – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June**
- **Exam week – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**
- **Art Exams - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

### Exam Revision

I delivered an assembly about exams and revision strategies last week and issued a variety of revision planning templates for students to use (attached). These resources were also emailed and issued as hard copies to students. As no formal GCSE exams took place last year, preparation for these exams and knowing what revision techniques work are essential skills. The Year 12 exams are important preparation for Year 13 mocks in January and the real thing in summer, 2022. This has been a really difficult year and this year group have been affected greatly, however VERY low results this summer – UUU, EUU – will inevitably result in discussions about how, and if, progression into Year 13 will be in students' best interest. They should be working hard over the forthcoming weeks, and over half term, in order to do their very best and consolidate the year's work. Your support would be much appreciated here.

There are some useful video links on the attached, and these short, free courses may also be useful:

- **University of Groningen – Free Course – Improving Study Techniques**
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/improving-study-techniques>
- **Tutor2U – Free Course – Revision / Organisation / Study Skills / Motivation**
- [https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/effective-revision-skills-booster?fbclid=IwAR1qPFoW2awflyISU3oP\\_y4qARdGfPJRF5dy2GdC1wMYssDtK28AW-Khs7M](https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/effective-revision-skills-booster?fbclid=IwAR1qPFoW2awflyISU3oP_y4qARdGfPJRF5dy2GdC1wMYssDtK28AW-Khs7M)

### TERM Magazine

The TERM Team have completed their SHINE Award Edition – after many late nights in College - we have also produced an accompanying website and podcast. The final edition will be uploaded to the College website this week, before our print run; I will send out a link as soon as this is ready. Please do take a look as it is a wonderful edition – quite possibly the best yet! Well done Team Term!

If successful at the Shine Awards (a National Media Awards Ceremony, judged by experts in their field) some students will be invited to a winners' lunch at the Guild Hall in London on **27<sup>th</sup> September**. The awards ceremony will be virtual again this year on **29<sup>th</sup> June**, with comments from judges, students and teachers to augment the announcements – just like the Baftas. We plan on watching this together in Sixth Form - exciting and fingers crossed!

### EPQ

Students should all have been reading and researching widely around their chosen topic and will be meeting their Supervisors over the next two weeks to check on progress. Their Production log on Project Q should be up to date and the plan is that students are ready to begin writing their 5000 word report over summer. The early process is entirely independent, so students need to set aside time to manage this additional workload. It is a brilliant qualification but it does require self-discipline and independence. Laura, one of this year's EPQ students offers this advice which is entirely true:

- 1. Devote a set amount of time each week to your EPQ and be disciplined in your approach**
- 2. Choose a topic you are passionate about so that work does not become a chore.**
- 3. Enjoyment is key - make research into a new area / new subject inspiring and this will keep you motivated.**

### Head Student Applications

As Year 13 leave us on May 28<sup>th</sup>, formal applications for Head Students will take place – we have two Head Students and two Deputy Head Students. The deadline for these applications is the first Monday after half term: **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June and I am launching this process in next week's assembly**. Many other bespoke positions are also available - such as Sports Representative, Diversity Lead, Social Secretary, Mental Health Lead and more. In addition, new positions are formed every year around students' own passions and priorities. We would encourage your child to think about applying for these leadership roles which are both prestigious and genuinely valuable to the Sixth Form Team. We want confident, charismatic innovators to work with and learn from. In a post-covid environment (hopefully), next year's student leaders can really make their mark.

### Post-Sixth Form Sessions – Summer Term

In the summer term, we will launch our Post Sixth Form sessions, where students plan next steps and life beyond A Levels – apprenticeships, employment or our most popular choice: university.

### Post Sixth Form Days - key dates:

- **Day 1 – 23<sup>rd</sup> June**
- **Day 2 – 29<sup>th</sup> June (in place of Star Day)**

We will start filling in the UCAS application form and hear from some external speakers and former students to get inspired. Students will learn about many Post-18 options and begin practically planning for their futures. Before this, they should have a think about which courses they are interested in applying for and which Universities or pathways might suit them. The following sites are great for these first investigations:

<https://www.whatuni.com/>  
<https://www.ucas.com/>  
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>  
<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer>

**UCAS**

 **TheUniGuide**

 **Complete University Guide**



### University Open Days

Universities are offering summer virtual Open Days from May to July. Then the next series of Open Days run from September to November. It is very early now I know, and students have so much on, but anyone intending to apply to Oxbridge or for Medicine / Veterinary Science / Dentistry really needs to get involved before Autumn, due to the early application deadline of **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. These courses also involve additional examinations which I intend to speak to students about next week.

This site is really useful to see what is happening and when – you do need to register for Open Days in advance: <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/> Please don't panic about this – there is plenty time! Many students will not know what they want to do yet and this is normal. The June Post-Sixth Sessions will be really informative and useful.