

February 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 13 pupils have just received their January examinations results and should now be turning their thoughts to preparation for the forthcoming AS examinations. With this significant milestone in mind, we would like to outline a number of points which you may find useful as you support your son/daughter over the coming months. These will also be discussed in Careers classes and during Assembly on 21 February.

Careers classes are currently encouraging pupils to research and consider a range of career pathways and to evaluate these choices, and their entrance requirements, in light of their recent examination results. Target setting and identification of how they can, if necessary, raise their performance in order to realise their career goals are also being discussed.

The entrance requirements for post A level pathways should be considered carefully as pupils must, in August 2018, achieve the required grades/UCAS tariff points in order to realise their aspirations, whether this be for university or for more vocational courses. Given the importance of this stage in your son/daughter's career planning, we would ask that you consider the following with them:

- Are they on target to secure the grades/ UCAS tariff points required for their preferred destination/course? **AS grades, being worth 40% of the final A2 grade, provide a solid foundation from which to secure high grades at A2.**
- If results indicate room for improvement pupils should discuss these with their subject teachers; issues such as the following may be worthy of consideration:
 - o Did my answers highlight particular topics which require further study?
 - o Would my work benefit from more effective and challenging revision techniques?
 - o Can I improve my examination technique?
 - o Pupils should monitor their progress/Tracking scores over the coming weeks.
 - o All pupils should now be embarking on a realistic revision schedule

This is also a very important year for your son/daughter as a lot of the preparation for applications to post A level pathways is completed in Year 13. **Following the AS examinations, the Careers Department will be holding UCAS Workshop days in June during which pupils will receive guidance on the completion of their UCAS application form.** In addition, to work already covered in class, staff will also assist pupils with their Personal Statement which forms an important part of the UCAS application form. Given the academic pressure in Year 14, and the limited time available for completion of applications in the Autumn term, we ask you to encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of these days in June 2017.

We wish each of our pupils much success in the forthcoming examinations and trust that the points outlined above will assist you in supporting your son/daughter over the coming months.

Yours faithfully

R S McLoughlin
Principal

A Gilpin
Head of Careers