

February 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 14 pupils have just received their January examinations results and will now be turning their thoughts to the forthcoming A2 examinations. Many in Year 14 can also be congratulated on having already received a number of university offers.

With these significant milestones 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.

Importantly, pupils must evaluate their recent results in light of the A2 grades/points required for their chosen courses/career pathway. In assisting them to do so, it may be useful to discuss the following questions with them:

- Are they on target to secure the grades/ UCAS tariff points required for their preferred destination/course?
- If there is need for improvement pupils should discuss this 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?
- They should also consider the AS grade which they currently hold in each subject; does this provide a solid foundation from which to secure the required grades or have they a lot of ground to make up?

In addition:

- Pupils should continue to monitor their progress/Tracking scores over the coming weeks.
- All pupils should be embarking on a realistic revision schedule, especially if re-sitting AS papers.

Those who have applied to university will have received a UCAS reply for each of their chosen courses by the end of April. Pupils must then choose their **Conditional Firm (preferred course) and Conditional Insurance (back up course, with lower grade/tariff requirements)** at the beginning of May. It is imperative that these choices are confirmed with UCAS by the date shown on your son/daughter's UCAS Track screen.

When selecting their final courses, it is important that entry criteria are compared to academic achievement and progress; entry to all courses is very competitive and in order to actually secure a place in their Conditional Firm course at the end of August they must meet the grades/tariff points stipulated in their offer; if required, they must also meet entry requirements for their Conditional Insurance choice.

This is, without question, a stressful time for all our senior pupils. However, challenging target setting, methodical planning, and the combined support of subject teachers, Careers staff and parents/guardians are crucial in helping them to achieve their personal best.

We wish our pupils 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