



9th May 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the summer examination period, I would like to keep you up to date with the plans for the summer term. Study leave for the internal and external exams starts at the end of the day, **Friday 10th May**. This allows students to immerse themselves in appropriate preparation for their Advance level examinations. It is important that they build appropriate breaks / activities into their revision schedule and, of course to eat well and try and get sufficient rest. Students return to lessons on **Monday 10th June**, when they will be starting their Year 13 courses.

- **Continuing with courses.** We encourage students to continue with all courses in the June / July period. This gives them more choices and a better chance to make the best decisions about their Year 13 courses after the results of the internal and external assessments. Students who drop a course early will not be able to restart it in September as they will have missed the transition work covered in the summer term. In order to secure a place on a Year 13 course students need at least a D at AS level. Those students not achieving at least a grade D in any course may be able to choose to study another course at AS if there is space in Year 12 classes and they meet the entrance criteria for that course.
- **Exam results and enrolment for Year 13 courses.** For internal assessments, students will receive a report on **Friday 28th June**. External exam results will be issued on **Thursday 15th August**, from 10am. There will be a Year 13 enrolment form for **ALL** Year 12 students on 15th August and to allow us to build a personalised timetable, this must be completed and returned to school by **Thursday 22nd August**.
- **Preparation for Post A Levels.** We work hard to help steer students through their choices for post A level. For most of our students, this means university study, including Degree Apprenticeships. Since January, Year 12 students have had fortnightly lessons (PHE) to help them research and prepare for their next step. This course continues into Year 13 and includes student finance and application / interview guidance finishing in December 2019. Additionally, we have visited the UCAS convention and regularly have lunchtime sessions e.g. The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK) and Warwick, Bath and Edinburgh universities have recently spoken with students. To give parents an insight into what we are doing in PHE, and how you can support students, we would like to invite you to attend an information evening on **Tuesday 9th July at 6pm**. In the summer term, many universities have their **Open Days** and this is a very good way for students to get a feel for where they want to go after A levels. To minimise disruption to study, I would encourage students to visit on Saturdays where possible. If school days are to be missed, students should show their tutor evidence of the booking (usually an email) and ensure they have spoken with subject teachers in advance – and of course complete any work missed.



Headteacher: A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Deputy Head: R McFadden MEng

Director of Resources: H Charlton BA, MBA

Assistant Heads: J Bell BSc, MA

S A F McArdle BSc

N Weaver BA

M J Wright BA



- **Wellbeing week:** 15th – 19th July. During the final week of the summer term, younger students are off timetable and participate in a range of activities. For our Year 12's, as well as educational visits e.g. Naples for our Geographers, we encourage students to arrange relevant work shadowing / experiences to inform and support their university and future choices. Any student completing work experience that week will be expected to complete a Reflective Report for me, to be handed in the first week of the autumn term. Some of our students are doing an Extended Project Qualification, and this final week is a good opportunity to make good progress with this and Mr Bann (our Centre Coordinator EPQ) will be available in Durham University library to support these students. Our students will also be able to help out with departments and younger students.

When Year 12 students return for the summer term, they are the most senior members of the school student community. It is often during this period that they really come into their own, taking on new responsibilities and having a clearer idea about future plans. Many will take on lead roles in our thriving student-led societies and / or become Subject Ambassadors for departments, allowing them to communicate with prospective students and their parents, about studying a given A level subject.

This is a very busy and exciting period. As I tell the students all the time – you don't solve issues by ignoring them. If you, or your child have any concerns / queries throughout their time with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Anne Lennon
Head of Sixth Form