

July 2017

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

I am writing to provide you with detailed information about the recent examinations and follow-up, AS Results Day and the beginning of term arrangements for September.

Year 13 Qualifying Examinations and Reports

We have collected data from these important examinations and Report Grades from staff including Projected and Potential grades. In August we will add the AS results and then publish a full report to students and parents in early September, which will provide a comprehensive picture on the current progress of students as they begin Year 13. This will allow parents the opportunity to speak with tutors, members of the Sixth Form Management Team or specific subject teachers at the start of term, if they have any queries or concerns. Overall they are very encouraging and many students are making very good progress.

July 2017 Interviews

In the final week of term, the Sixth Form Management Team held priority meetings with a small number of students about concerns relating to their progress and performance in the recent examinations. In many cases these students will be required to complete re-sits in September to qualify for Year 13. If this is the case then you will receive a letter by post explaining this.

Thursday 17th August – Results Day

Students can collect results on Thursday 17th August between 10 and 12 am. Please do not come earlier as Year 13 students must have priority due to the need to confirm university places etc. Sixth Form staff will be available on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th August from 10am to 2pm to discuss any issues arising from the AS results.

Re: Start of Term Arrangements for Year 13 Students: September 2017

The start of term arrangements for Year 13 students are different to those of students in Years 9 -11 because there are often a number of course changes to check and finalise. We will therefore use the first few days of term to deal with issues arising from the AS exam results so that all students are ready to begin their courses on Monday 11th September. Students will, however be required to attend school on Thursday 7th September in the morning. The programme for the first few days is as follows:

Thursday 7th September

Students need to come in to school at 8-55 am and go to the theatre for an assembly where they will receive their timetables. (These will be different to their current timetable). Tutor group lists will be posted outside the theatre. At 9-30 am there will be a presentation in the theatre for all students on writing personal statements led by an expert admissions tutor from Loughborough University, followed by a practical workshop between 10 and 11 am to support students in beginning to draft their statements. Students will also be able to have informal discussions with ex-students who are currently at university about the application process and the university experience in general.

After break at 11-30 am there is a Higher Level Apprenticeship presentation in the theatre, followed by an apprenticeship workshop in the library. **All students are welcome to attend but it is compulsory for those who are not planning to go to university.** These opportunities to gain support and advice are critical and take a great deal of time to plan. Please make the most of them.



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Monday 11th September

Students will need to be in at 8-40 am as lessons will begin at 8-55 am. (Note the change in the timings of the school day that are detailed below). Students will have already received their timetables and will need to be in school for all lessons from this point. Any students who have questions about their courses or who wish to change courses should make appointments with Mr Downey or Miss Silkstone on either Thursday 7th or Friday 8th September to finalise their timetable.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us by email on;

silkstoner@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk or downeys@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk or fahyc@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.

We will be in school for some of the holiday and can respond to you during that time.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Downey', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mr Sean Downey
Director of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher

New Timings of the School Day from September 2017

Reminder re: our changed school day timings from September.

Monday-Friday

08.40 – 08.45 Movement time
08.45 – 08.55 Tutor time for Year 9-12 (including assembly for one year group)
08.55 – 10.05 Lesson 1
10.05 – 11.05 Lesson 2
11.05 – 11.25 Break
11.25 – 11.30 Movement time
11.30 – 12.30 Lesson 3
12.30 – 13.30 Lesson 4
13.30 – 14.00 Lunch
14.00 – 14.05 Movement time
14.05 – 15.05 Lesson 5

Assemblies for the Sixth Form will be on Tuesday each week from 8-40 to 9-05 am