

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 12 Internal Examinations 1: 23-27 January 2017

I am writing to remind you about the forthcoming Year 12 examinations. These are of course extremely important and students must prepare thoroughly for them as they have been regularly advised to do, both in assembly and by their subject teachers. The results of these may determine whether students are able to continue on their courses and will certainly determine whether any planned AS entries are approved for the summer.

All students, except for those studying BTEC courses (lessons will continue as normal for these courses), will be on Study Leave for the week. However, the school study facilities will be available as normal and students may wish to use these rather than prepare at home between examinations.

Students currently studying 4 subjects (not including EPQ): decision time!

It is important that students currently studying 4 A Level subjects make a decision about which subject they intend **not to continue with** to Year 13 by **Monday 16 January**. There is a form attached to this letter that must be completed and returned to Clare by this date. Students can then choose to take one of the following options.

- Continue to study the subject and sit an AS examination in the summer where this is possible. **As previously advised this is not possible in English Language, English Literature, French, German and Geography.**
- Drop the subject now and concentrate on their 3 chosen A Levels.
- Continue with 4 A Levels to Year 13. This situation will be rare and will only be possible if students have demonstrated through their work ethic to date and internal examination results, that they possess the necessary ability and aptitude to cope with this demanding workload.

There may be an opportunity for a very small number of students to reconsider their choice following the internal examinations but exam entry deadlines make this extremely difficult, so if this is the case, then students must contact me immediately the results are published.

Arrangements for the AS summer examinations

The situation that confronts all schools in the summer of 2017 due to the phased nature of the A Level subject reforms, means that arrangements for study leave for those taking AS examinations are complex.

Most students will have no AS examinations and it is important, therefore, that lessons continue as normal for all Year 12 students during the AS public examination period. Students sitting AS examinations will be allowed to take some study leave but this should be minimal. It is important that they do not fall behind in their other subjects where lessons will continue as normal.

As ever, we will work with individual students to help them plan the most effective way of managing the dual demands of their examinations and lessons. More details will be provided nearer the time but it is important for parents and students to understand the above in advance.

Year 12 Internal Examinations 2: 26-30 June 2017

These important examinations will determine whether students are able to continue into Year 13 and take place the week before students go on work experience. More details will follow later in the year.

Holidays in term-time

The summer term of Year 12 is a very busy one. There are AS examinations, internal examinations, work experience and important UCAS preparatory work. It is therefore critical that no holidays are booked in term time in line with established school policy.

Aim Higher Evening: Thursday 2 March 2017

A further important date for your diary is the Aim Higher Evening on the 2 March where Progress Report 2 will be issued and there will be an opportunity to meet with the tutor as well as attend presentations on UCAS and Apprenticeship/Employment Opportunities post-18. There will be a range of universities, employers and apprenticeship providers in attendance and I would strongly recommend that you take advantage of everything that is on offer on that evening.

I hope you find the contents of this letter useful in helping you and your son/daughter to plan ahead. Please feel free to contact the Sixth Form Office if you have any questions or queries.

I look forward to seeing you on the 2 March.

With every good wish

Sean Downey

Assistant Headteacher

Director of Sixth Form