

16 November 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

RE: Year 13 Progress Reports

Students have been provided with their first progress report of the year from teaching staff. It contains their **target** for the summer and their **current estimated grade**; this is the grade that staff feel they will receive in the summer if they continue to work at their current performance. Obviously there is still time for this to improve as they continue to mature into their A level studies, consolidate understanding from the lock down period and pursue specific goals relating to employment and university offers. Also included in the report are grades relating to their attitude to learning and their ability to meet deadlines. A grade 3 highlights that the staff member feels that the individual student can further improve and grade 4 represents a serious concern. Please take the time to discuss the progress report with your child, as success in the summer will only be possible if the students are doing the right things now.

Many students who have already completed their university applications are currently receiving conditional offers and offers of interviews. This is an exciting time and one that provides great motivation for students. If students have yet to complete their university applications then they only have a limited time remaining to do so and must prioritise this. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of students gaining an unconditional offer for some of their university choices. Whilst this can ease the pressure to perform it can see some students relax too much and their final grades do suffer as a result. Students must understand that they will be writing these grades on every job application that they ever complete and that they must resist the temptation to relax and should still strive to be the best that they can be. Students who are interesting in seeking apprenticeships need to regularly be checking relevant websites and need to attend their "futures" morning so that staff can help their more bespoke preparations.

To prepare students for the demands of the summer examinations we run formal exams in January, so that we can assess progress and exam technique. The students will undertake an examination in each subject area in the week beginning the **18 January** in the exam hall under full examination conditions. After the events of the last year it is vital that the students prepare for the exams properly and that they aim to achieve the highest grades possible. The students will soon be receiving their individual examination timetables and have been encouraged to establish a suitable revision timetable to follow between now and then. Students will benefit significantly in the summer by developing appropriate revision techniques over these weeks so that they can review and refine, ready for success in May. In addition to their allocated lessons and assessment time the students should be spending approximately four hours per week of additional study; consolidating notes, carrying out wider research and completing past questions. Students who fail to prepare well now, tend to perform poorly in the summer. The examinations are extremely important as they will inform the predicted grades that we enter on the students examination entries and will

enable us to consider whether an entry for the AS or full A level qualification is the best course of action for the student.

Many subject areas have already commenced "Period 4 Intervention Sessions" which are being offered in order to consolidate "lock down learning", to provide revision and to prepare students for exam success. A full timetable of these lessons will be emailed to you in the next few days. Please encourage your child to attend them where appropriate.

Following this report there will be a **Year 13 Progress Evening on 10 December** where you can talk directly with teaching staff. Due to the current circumstances, the evening will operate virtually and details about how to log on to access appointments will be sent in due course. However, if at any point you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact either the Sixth Form team or the subject teachers directly to discuss matters.

This cohort of Year 13 students are a tremendous year group and we are confident, that despite the circumstances, that through working hard in partnership with parents and students, the Sixth Form staff will be able to help the students to realise their potential and reach their desired destinations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Andrews', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mr D Andrews
Head of Sixth Form