

27 February 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

Students have now been provided with their final 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 and with a similar approach (it takes into account their mock exam performance). With approximately 9 teaching weeks and the Easter holidays before the examinations, there is still time for students to improve on their estimated grade.

The students continue to be supported in lessons and assessed fortnightly in the assessment centre so that they are well prepared for the summer. In addition to their allocated lessons and assessment time the students should be spending between **four to six hours** per week of additional study; consolidating notes, revising and completing past examination questions. This should be completed during the week, either in study periods, or at home on an evening. Students should also look to make additional use of time at the weekend (although it is of course important that they take time to rest and relax too). Students who fail to prepare well now, tend to perform poorly in the summer which will impact on their chances of reaching their preferred destination. It is often advisable at this point of the year for students to consider reducing their hours of paid employment to ensure they can manage the demands of their studies.

As you are no doubt aware, to support the students the school provided them each with £50 to spend on revision materials and they must ensure that they make full use of these. Furthermore, there is a comprehensive programme of intervention sessions that run in the morning, at lunch and from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm, offering opportunity for students to consolidate key aspects of the course with A Level specialists. Students should attend as many of these as possible. The timetable offered is on the attached document.

Your child should, by now, have a full study plan in place to support them in managing their revision. If they need support with this then they can approach the Sixth Form team or their college tutor at any time and we will assist them in developing a plan.

Many students applying to university will by now have received their offers and will be considering which two to make their Firm and Insurance choice. They have until 18 May to make this decision, but it can be entered at any time should they wish to. This may depend on the universities they are considering as sometimes students cannot

apply for accommodation until they have made their choice. If they want specific accommodation choices it may be wise to make the decision relatively soon.

Student Finance will open towards the end of March and the students will have an assembly at that point to explain how the application process works. I would advise completing this as soon as possible once it opens, to ensure funds are available for the start of term in September. As mentioned in my previous letter, you can sign up to attend a live webinar about student finance with the University of Hull on Monday 13 March at the following link:

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3862468228504156505>

Students interested in applying for apprenticeships are all able to have an individual meeting with our employability and careers specialist and just need to ask Miss Bateman to arrange this. There will be an increasing number of apprenticeships starting to become available in the coming weeks, so I would advise students to be checking the following websites weekly to look for opportunities:

- <https://careerfinderucas.com/searchjobs/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

If any parent would like to make an appointment to discuss university places, apprenticeships, or student finance then I will be offering an open “surgery” from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Monday 6 and Monday 27 March. If you would like to book an appointment, please email me at darren.andrews@driffieldschool.org.uk

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to contact either me or the subject teachers directly to discuss matters.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr D Andrews
Head of Sixth Form