

6 April 2011

To Year 12 Parents

Dear Parents

Year 12 Key Events

I am writing to outline some key events for Year 12 pupils (A Level and IB) for the remainder of this academic year.

Event	Date
Year 12 Practice Interviews	6 and 7 June
Year 12 Examinations (AS and IB)	13-17 June
Aspirations Meeting for all staff involved with Year 12	4 July
UCAS Morning	5 July
Year 12 Parents' Evening	6 July
PGS and Beyond Day	7 July

Year 12 Examinations

The Year 12 examination period is an important one, and one that comes at a crucial time in the Sixth Form. The examinations provide an excellent opportunity for teachers to determine performance and, as pupils will not be receiving module results from the examination boards, we will be using performances from the Year 12 examinations to help make A Level and IB predictions for UCAS.

Pupils and parents will receive examination grades and predicted grades, and this will include the newly introduced A* grade for A Level pupils. Pupils are expected to

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obtain a minimum of a C grade and at A Level or a 3 at IB in all their subjects in order to transfer successfully into Year 13. A review is likely to take place where pupils do not achieve grades A*-C at A Level or 7-3 at IB.

The following guidance is offered to help pupils stay fit and focussed throughout the examination period.

1. **Have a timetable.** Make it realistic. Allow space for getting behind. Record the work you have done in each topic.
2. **Have breaks.** Have recreational breaks: those who get the best results are generally those who keep their full set of commitments, and who ensure that all their activities, both academic and otherwise, are carefully structured and planned in advance.
3. **Bear the nature of the tests in mind.** If you find timed answers difficult, practise them during your revision programme.
4. **Be honest about weaknesses.** Work out what you find more difficult. Make a list and eliminate the points on it.
5. **Always have a pencil or pen to hand.** If you are not writing, you are not revising. The process of revision should be a process of reduction, as you feel more and more confident of what you know, and have less and less to take on board freshly.
6. **Ask for help.** Your teachers want you to do well and have a record of helping people to do well. They are there to help you. Ask them if you need it.

Aspirations and UCAS

At the end of the summer term all staff involved in the academic and pastoral life of the Sixth Form attend the Aspirations meeting. This meeting allows staff to discuss the university and career wishes of each pupil. The Year 12 examination results will play an important role in shaping these discussions and our subsequent advice to pupils.

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At the UCAS evening on 15 February parents and pupils received a PGS UCAS guide and I encourage you to make full use of this excellent document. The school's policy is to ensure that UCAS applications are made early, as we have strong evidence to suggest that this results in more offers for our pupils. Year 12 pupils will have the opportunity to open their on-line UCAS applications at the UCAS morning on 5 July. By the end of the summer term we expect all pupils to have completed their applications, with the exception of the sections on University Choices and Personal Statement, which will be completed shortly after their return to school in September.

There is a considerable amount of support on offer. Please forward any questions or concerns to Dr. Galliver in the first instance, p.galliver@pgs.org.uk. Mr Taylor will also be pleased to answer any IB-specific queries, s.taylor@pgs.org.uk. In September all pupils will receive a senior teacher interview ahead of their application being sent to UCAS.

If you have any queries relating to examinations or UCAS please do not hesitate to contact me using email, my address is n.gallop@pgs.org.uk

Yours sincerely

N D Gallop
Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)