



9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Year 12 Parents/Carers,

We were delighted with the way in which Year 12 approached their Predicted Grade Examinations; thank you for all your support from home.

With students returning from study leave this week, we have spoken to them about the aims for the final weeks of Year 12 which we wanted to share with you:

- 1) To enable students to build on their learning from their recent exams to develop even stronger academic foundations for Year 13, including strong attendance at school
- 2) To provide students with further careers opportunities to help them to plan their futures and write the first draft of their Personal Statements
- 3) To challenge students to step up as the oldest year group in the school to lead the Waddesdon Way and act as excellent role models for younger students.

To provide you with further details:

## **1) Strong academic foundations for Year 13**

Although the recent exams contribute significantly to each student's predicted grades, teachers will continue to carry out assessments in class this term and at the beginning of Year 13 to add to the picture, so continued hard work is key. Sometimes students think that once their internal exams are over, they can reduce their study hours and whilst it is important to get the balance right between study and rest, the hard work must continue this term. Many departments will be starting Year 13 content in the coming weeks as well as coursework. Part-time employment hours should be kept to a minimum and you should see your child completing homework and revision at home further to their study periods in school. We strongly recommend students create condensed revision resources as they go as well as memorising key content. All of this work will very much pay dividends in Year 13.

Attendance in school is crucial for academic success. A recent national study has clearly shown the strong link between academic success and attendance at school; students with 95% attendance at school are likely to achieve one grade higher in each subject than their peers with 85% attendance. We will be monitoring attendance very closely for the rest of the year; students with strong overall attendance or rapidly improving attendance will be awarded an early home study period, where they can leave site at the end of second break once a week. We will contact you with more details about this in mid-June.

## **2) Careers opportunities**

Alongside presentations and workshops in Extension Studies this term to support students with the drafting of their Personal Statements, we have also arranged some additional events:

### **Life After Waddeson Evening: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

This is an evening at school aimed at Parents/Carers, with a talk from a university, apprenticeship provider and gap year company to ensure you have all the information you need as a family to support with students' future choices and applications. Again, a letter will be sent home nearer the time, but please mark the event on your calendar.

### **UCAS applications - first steps: 9<sup>th</sup> May**

This event is from 7-8pm today. It is designed to inform parents about the importance of the personal statement in the UCAS application process. It is completely free to attend, and a recording will be available for those with tickets who are unable to attend the live event.

<https://events.parentguidetoeducation.com/words-that-wow>

### **Year 12 Work Experience: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Mrs Bridges is supporting students with securing placements for work experience. If a student needs further help, they can see Mrs Bridges in her office at the back of the library.

#### **3) Leading the Waddeson Way: privileges and responsibilities**

With the departure of Year 13 from Monday, Year 12 will be able to decide where to spend their study periods (Library, Study Centre or Common Room) as long as they are meeting all deadlines with high quality work.

### **Lunchtime in the Village**

From this Monday, Year 12 will be allowed to sign out and go into Waddeson village for lunch. This must be on foot and they need to return to school promptly for 11.40am.

### **Waddeson Manor Car Park**

As Year 12 pass their driving tests and drive to school, students can now park in the Manor Car Park, which is a 5-minute walk from school and can reduce car insurance costs. Students must collect the link to an e-form from Mrs Long which you will need to complete with them at home. Access to the Manor Car Park is by registration plate recognition and there are strict rules which are explained on the e-form.

### **Sixth Form Summer Business Dress**

With the warmer weather on the horizon, we have had a number of questions from students about summer business dress. We appreciate the challenges of professional summer dress, and so thought it would be helpful to clarify what is appropriate with everyone, to pre-empt any issues and support students who might be considering buying new clothes:

- Formal suit jackets/blazers must be worn at all times (we do relax this when it gets very warm, but students should have their blazers with them every day).

- Jeans, skinny jeans or jeggings are not permitted.
- Shorts, flip flops, beach sandals, Doc Martin boots and trainer-like footwear should not be worn.
- Tops/jumpers should not have large logos or writing on them.
- A reminder that a nose stud is permitted, but they must be a small, simple stud.
- Short sleeved shirts may be worn instead of long-sleeved shirts.
- Summer dresses and skirts may be worn, but they must be of a length and fit suitable for the school environment. Denim and leather fabric are not permitted.
- Sleeveless tops and dresses are permitted, but these should have thick straps to cover shoulders, must not be see-through or show midriff. Strappy vest tops are not permitted.

If students aren't sure if an item of clothing is suitable for school, we are very happy to have a look at the item or see a picture of it online, before it is purchased. We are very grateful to the vast majority of students who adhere so well to the Sixth Form dress code and make such an effort to look so professional. We have been directly approached by a number of local businesses to ask if our students would be interested in an apprenticeship or job after Sixth Form, due to the professional reputation our Sixth Form has in the community, supported by our dress code.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aldridge  
Head of Year 12

Ms McIver  
Head of Sixth Form