

6th September 2024

Dear Year 12 Parents and Carers

Welcome to Waddesdon Sixth Form as parents and carers! We are delighted to be working with our new students in Sixth Form; it is wonderful to see our Year 12 students settling in so well and getting to know each other. It is our endeavour to support our students throughout the two years, and in so doing, enable them to be in the best position for wherever their aspirations may take them, once they leave us at the end of Year 13.

As the new term begins, we would like to provide you with some important information:

Year 12 Parent/Carer Information Evening – Wednesday 18th September at 6pm

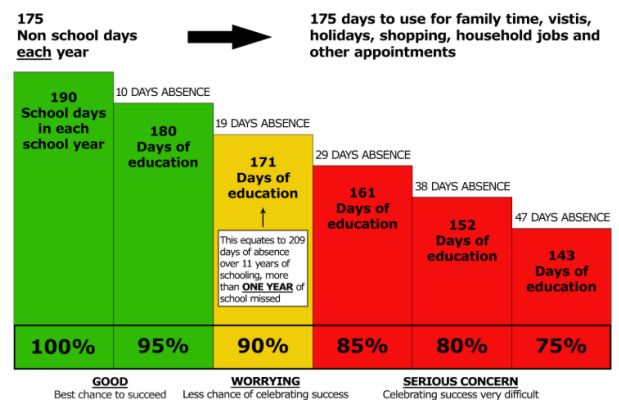
You are warmly invited to this important evening where we will be introducing you to the Sixth Form Team, discussing the transition from GCSE to A level and how parents/carers can support with this change at home. We will also cover expectations in the Sixth Form, how we monitor progress, and how we support students with their post 18 options. The presentation will take place from 6-7pm in the School Hall. The information booklet we provide at this event supplements information in the Main School Parents' Handbook.

Student Health and Wellbeing Support

We are keen to support all students with their health and wellbeing as young adults. Each student has a form tutor who they meet every morning as a first point of pastoral support. We also have a Sixth Form Student Support Officer, Mrs Hay, who can help, as well as the Head of Year and Head of Sixth Form. Mrs Leech is our school medical officer and we also have two school counsellors. Students are welcome to approach any member of staff for support. Sometimes students would rather access support outside of school via their GP or use online services such as Kooth (<https://www.kooth.com/>) and we are happy to help with signposting.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you are aware, high attendance at school is crucial for success at A level and we want to work with you to ensure the best attendance possible for each student. Recent research of Sixth Form students nationally shows clearly that a student with 95%+ attendance (10 days of absence) is more likely to achieve at least one grade higher in each of their A level exams than their peers with 85% attendance (29 days of absence). Punctuality to school in the morning is also important for starting the day well and universities/employers require us to comment on this in references.



Of course, we understand if a student has a long-term health condition or needs some time off for illness. If a student is not well enough to attend school, please e-mail the school office (absence@waddesdonschool.com) or select option 1 when calling the school, as soon as possible, on each day of absence. Mrs Long is our Sixth Form administrator, so please mark any correspondence for her attention or ask to speak to her on the telephone and she can direct your call to someone who can help you.

Where possible, medical appointments should not be made during timetabled lesson time; if a student has an appointment during the school day, we must have an e-mail, phone call or note ahead of time, to authorise the student leaving the school site, for safeguarding reasons. Please note that we are unable to authorise holidays during term time.

We monitor attendance and punctuality carefully in Sixth Form to support students, and we will be in contact with you by telephone or letter if we are worried, so we can work with you to put support in place to ensure each student gets the most from their education. We will also be in contact to acknowledge strong attendance and punctuality records.

Year 12 Reports and Parent/Carer Consultation Evening

Please be aware that we will be sending these home with students on the following dates: 13th November; 12th February; 21st July. These reports will provide an invaluable insight into how each student is progressing with their A levels. Year 12 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening takes place on 6th March.

Financial Support for eligible Sixth Form students

For information about the 16-19 Bursary Fund and financial support available to eligible students, please see the letter sent home this week and for more information see here: <https://www.waddesdonschool.com/sixth-form/16-19-bursary-fund/>.

Careers Support for Year 12

We have a full careers programme at Waddesdon to support students with their options and applications after Sixth Form, be those at university, an apprenticeship, employment or a gap year. We hold a school Careers Fair in February each year that you are encouraged to attend as well as a 'Life After Waddesdon' Evening on 19th June. Students have access to a wonderful online careers platform called Unifrog and we organise a whole series of events, presentations, workshops, work experience and visits to enable them to make informed choices about their futures as well as completing competitive applications.

Parent/Carers have found the following websites useful as a starting point for all options: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers>

If you have any queries on any aspect of Sixth Form, please do not hesitate to contact form tutors, subject teachers or either of us at school.

We look forward to working with you over the next two years and thank you in advance for all your support from home.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Popat
Head of Year 12

Ms McIver
Head of Sixth Form