

22 May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Re: Up-date on Wednesday 20 May letter - Looking ahead to Trinity 2 and examinations

Following my UCAS letter of last week and in response to valuable discussion and feedback, we are confident we can evolve our position on end of year examinations for Year 12 in a way that even better supports the students. This evolution is not without complexities, but it responds to welcome feedback and we feel it will give the best support to the most children – academically and pastorally – and we are confident it can be managed logistically.

We will hold two sets of end of year Examinations – the first in the **week beginning 22 June** and in the second in the **week beginning 31 August**. Students will be invited by me to choose the exam cycle they would prefer to be part of. This survey has been sent out today, Friday 22 May, to be undertaken between **now and Monday 25 May, 12pm**, to allow time for families to consider individual circumstances. The choice is designed to support your child's circumstances, and yours as a family, and to ensure they give of their best at the time that they choose to be assessed. It has been clear to us in our review of feedback that students and families are divided over whether they would prefer tests to be at the end of this term or before next, and we have therefore wanted to find a way to accommodate choice in these exceptional circumstances. If students do not reply to this survey, then the Sixth Form team will sort them automatically into one of the exam cycles.

Exams will be sat on site for June and for August (not remotely) and will be of **equal style and type** in each sitting for each subject (with different questions, of course). They will be marked and moderated to ensure their outcomes are fair irrespective of when they were sat, and it is our view that the reliability of this data will be more robust than from assessments sat remotely from home via open book sessions. The choice of when to sit exams is therefore entirely about when each student feels they will be best prepared, and what their personal and family circumstances are likely to be at that time. **We are not expecting students to sit the same subject exam twice**, however, except in circumstances where a June sitting proves a significant cause for concern over their readiness to make a success of Year 13 at the College. **I do not envisage students being able to choose to opt into both examination cycles** – they would have to write directly to me requesting to do so and setting out the reasons for such a request. It only be granted in exceptional circumstances (such as major illness, that had caused absence from lessons previously).

By the end of this week, Heads of Department in all subjects will have finalized a summary and revision document setting out what the students have studied this year, what the coming exam question types and timings will be, and what revision content and strategies they recommend. **This will be sent to students by Monday 25 May**, and enables those choosing the June cycle to have

four weeks of informed revision time before that examination week begins. For those choosing the August cycle, it will mean an early return to College by, we think, one week.

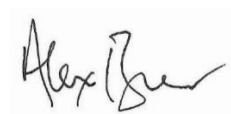
In all circumstances, we are determined to run these important assessments ahead of our UCSAS predictions cycle, in a way that respects and supports family circumstances, and where feedback and marks from papers taken can be provided as soon as possible afterwards.

Remote teaching will continue for Year 12 after Exeat. We are planning for there to be limited opening of the College site to Year 12 in the week beginning 15 June. That will not be for lessons which can and are being provided remotely and successfully, but for more bespoke pastoral/academic interventions and for exams for those who choose them. **I will expect all students to start revision in their study periods and non-lesson time from this Monday 25 May, regardless of June and August choice.** This enables all students to access teachers equally in June for advice about their revision. The week beginning 22 June **will see no taught lessons for any student:** those opting for June will be in the exams, those for August are given a week 'back' that they would lose from early summer return in August. Students will receive an end of term report that includes their annual Learning Score average and their Tutor report. **Clearly, we will hold back their end of year attainment grade until all exams have been sat, and provide that in September,** whereas marks and feedback from exam papers will be given back in the week following the exam, whether June or August. The final week of next term, beginning 29 June is still being constructed. However, it is most likely that the 29 & 30 June will be UCAS taught days with no subject lessons, but where all the year group construct their UCAS Apply pages under guidance from the Sixth Form Team and write their personal statements. More detail on this week to come after Exeat.

I hope many of you were able to join the Sixth Form team for on-line UCAS questions and answers last Wednesday 20 May. The feedback I have had thus far suggests you found it helpful, and UCAS work will continue with the students next term.

I wish you all a happy and healthful few days away from your desks over Exeat.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alex Brewer
Head of Sixth Form