

# *Welcome to Year 13 Parents' Information Evening*

*September 2016*

## An Exciting and Stressful Year

- The final year of school
- Finalising exam grades
- Planning for the Future
- Widening independence

# Our Aim

- To work with parents and students to produce confident, well-rounded adults who are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives.

## Key Ingredients for Success

- Study and future plans must be top priorities
- Excellent attendance – attendance is reflected in student references
- Commitment to Study – at least 5 hours per subject, per week outside lessons – including work at home.
- Thorough research into next steps
- CV building

# Sixth Form Curriculum

- Four lessons per subject per week
- Compulsory supervised study sessions
- Some “free” study periods where they may be able to work at home, if eligible, or in school. (Please note that students are not allowed to come into school at break time, though they can come in at lunch time where applicable).
- A Tutorial programme preparing them for “Life after Goffs”
- Assembly programme / Outside speakers
- Careers and Higher Education advice
- Statutory Religious Education
- Enrichment Visits / Days - attendance is compulsory

# The Year 13 Curriculum

Students may be studying:

- A levels.
- AS – if they have switched to a new subject this year.
- BTEC / OCR – they will be working on new units to complete these qualifications. Draft and final unit deadlines are crucial.
- They may be taking a one year BTEC certificate course if they have started the subject this year.

# A Note on A levels

- In phase 1 subjects – see below \* - students will be taking 100% of the A level qualification this year. Their AS grade is a separate qualification, but will not count towards their final A level.
- \* Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Literature, History, Physics, Psychology, Sociology.
- In all other subjects, students have already banked 50% of their marks, but may need to re-take a module to improve their final grade. They should discuss this with subject staff. Students will need to pay for the entry and complete the required form later this term.
- Students can order exam papers back from the board if they would like to review them and see where they lost marks. They will need to see Miss Thorogood (Exams Officer ) asap if they wish to do this.

# How We Support Students

- High expectations – aiming for the best.
- September Induction Assessments. Regular progress reviews and reports.
- One to one interviews with all students this half term.
- Support and encouragement with future plans.
- Extra intervention where needed.
- Subject advice for parents about how to support your child.
- Keeping up contact with parents.



# How Can you Support?

- By knowing your child best!
- Ensure excellent attendance and contact us on each day of any absence.
- Ensure that work is being done at home - at least 5 hours per subject / per week. Monitor homework set on: [www.doddlelearn.co.uk](http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk) .
- Help with organisation / time management. Identify a time to talk through what work they have coming up and how they plan to fit it in.
- Encourage your son / daughter to be making revision notes from the outset. For BTEC / OCR / coursework help them to stick to deadlines and plan ahead.
- Ensure that they attend all revision sessions and have a structured revision timetable. Avoid family holidays at crucial times.
- Help them to sort out priorities and balance study, hobbies, relaxation and paid work.
- Don't forget to give praise where it's due.

# How Can you Support?

- Always check progress reports – focus on the predicted grade and check how far it is from the student's target grade.
- Contact us with concerns.
- Help with researching opportunities – keep an open mind and try to pick the right time. Make sure that they set aside time to meet deadlines for job and university applications.
- Listen when they are stressed, acknowledge the pressures they are under and then work with them and us to find a way forward.
- Keep calm!

# Planning for the Future

- Tutorial work in Year 13 will also focus on next steps, applications, CV's and interview techniques.
- All students should research future career paths and courses thoroughly – they need to become experts in this.
- Goffs website is a good starting point - [Sixth Form Careers and University](#)
- Be aware of where work experience, wider reading, audition, interview and portfolio preparation are needed.
- Look into apprenticeships and sponsored degrees.
- Keep options open by putting in a range of applications – the choice between university and employment is an individual one. Students often change their minds!

# Apprenticeship Opportunities

- Students should register on the national apprenticeship website and create an account.
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- They will also need to research opportunities in their specific areas of interest. A good starting point is the school website [Apprenticeships Presentation](#)
- Students should generally be looking for Higher, Advanced and Degree Apprenticeships and should ensure that there is clear career progression and the opportunity to gain qualifications.
- Employers often recruit at one or two key points in a year and students will need to be ready for these.

# Some Useful Websites for Jobs and Apprenticeships

CHECK OUT THESE SITES...	...AND FOLLOW THEM...	...ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOO
<a href="http://apprenticeships.gov.uk">apprenticeships.gov.uk</a>	<a href="http://icaewjobs.com">icaewjobs.com</a> (finance)	<a href="http://milkround.com/earlycareers">milkround.com/earlycareers</a>
<a href="http://allaboutcareers.com">allaboutcareers.com</a>	<a href="http://schoolleaverjobs.co.uk">schoolleaverjobs.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk">allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk">apprenticeshipguide.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://lawcareers.net">lawcareers.net</a> (law)	<a href="http://future-talent.com">future-talent.com</a>
<a href="http://myjobs.cimaglobal.com">myjobs.cimaglobal.com</a> (finance)	<a href="http://notgoingtouni.com">notgoingtouni.com</a>	<a href="http://unisnotforme.com">unisnotforme.com</a>
<a href="http://directions.org.uk">directions.org.uk</a> (finance/law)	<a href="http://thebigchoice.com">thebigchoice.com</a>	<a href="http://thescholarshiphub.org.uk">thescholarshiphub.org.uk</a>

# Applying for University

The majority of students put in an application for Further or Higher Education this term.

- Students apply on line using [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) They should all now have registered.
- [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance) and <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/> are both useful in explaining the student loans system.
- Students will need to apply for their loans via the Student Finance England website, from around January 2017.

# Money Matters

- All students are eligible for a loan for fees
- Living cost loans are means tested
- Students do not have to repay anything until they are earning at least £21,000
- Payments start at 9% of anything above £21,000 eg  
£25,000 salary = £30 a month  
£40,000 salary = £142 a month
- Any debt not repaid after 30 years is written off

# Applying for University

- Choosing courses, writing a personal statement and completing the application accurately is the student's responsibility. Students have been given a [Higher Education Guide](#) and Learning Managers will support.
- Students must make sure that they register for any admissions tests required eg for Oxbridge, Medicine, Maths and Law etc.
- Parents can also help by reading through and checking for clarity and accuracy.
- Teaching staff give predicted grades and write subject references.
- Learning Managers collate and complete references.
- [UCAS Timeline](#) can be found on the school website and in the Higher Education Guide.



## Predicted Grades

- These are based on subject teachers' professional judgement, and students' prior attainment eg AS grades / first year of BTEC / OCR.
- Students should use the predicted grades to help them choose appropriate courses and universities – within this range, include aspirational, realistic and “safety net” choices.
- Read university requirements carefully. Some ask for grades eg ABB and specify certain subjects, others ask for a total score eg 112. If in doubt, phone their admissions office.
- Universities will know all of the students' previous exam results and they have to put them on their application.
- Students must check that their predicted grades are as expected on their reference.

# The UCAS Tariff

EPQ	AS level	A level	Points	BTEC / OCR level 3 (one year)	BTEC / OCR level 3 (two years)
		A*	56		D*
		A	48		D
		B	40		
		C	32		M
A*			28	D*	
A		D	24	D	
B	A		20		
C	B	E	16	M	P
D	C		12		
	D		10		
E			8	P	
	E		6		

# The Personal Statement

- This is the most important part of the application form. Students have all been issued with guidance to help them structure this.
- Personal statements need to be individual, analytical, accurate and focused.
- The deadline for personal statements to be given to learning managers is 30 September. Time needs to be spent on these – they can make the difference between an offer and a rejection.
- Learning Managers will read these over and give feed back so that students can amend them by half term.

# Sending Off the Form

- Students must complete their form and pay £24 on line by Friday 21 October. When students pay, this enables me to send off the form. By paying, students are agreeing that they are happy for the application to be sent.
- Staff will prioritise references for students whose applications are complete.
- I will begin the process of reviewing staff references and sending off forms which have been completed accurately. Students should check their school email in case the form has been sent back for improvement. In this case, they will need to go through pay and send again, though they will not be charged a second time.
- There is an opportunity for students to extend their deadline until 14 November, where necessary. In this case, their forms will be processed after those handed in on 21 October.

# Sending off the Form

- Please appreciate that there is a large amount of work to be done by staff before a form can be sent off. We will be as fair and as quick as we can, and will send off forms well before the national deadline.
- Whilst we will review all applications, students have final responsibility for the accuracy and quality of their application.
- The national UCAS deadline is 15 January and universities are required to give equal consideration to all students who meet this deadline.
- However, if a student submits a very late application to us, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to send it off in time for this deadline.

# Exceptions

- Students applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science should be completing forms now – applications must reach UCAS by 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Students applying for Performing Arts must check deadlines carefully – Music Conservatoire deadline is 1 October. Drama schools vary.
- Students applying for courses such as Art and Design and Fashion may need to complete a Foundation Course first.

# What Happens Next

- Students will receive conditional offers or rejections from their 5 choices via ucas track.
- They must check Track regularly for information eg requests for interviews and applicant days.
- In May – once all their replies have been received – students will need to make a firm choice and an insurance choice by a set deadline. They will give up all other offers. (Students should bear this process in mind when considering how many Open Days to attend before completing their form).
- The insurance choice should be lower than the firm choice.
- Ensure that students respond promptly to information about accommodation choices etc.

## UCAS Extra and Clearing

- Students can make a late application after January 15<sup>th</sup>, but may not receive equal consideration.
- If a student is rejected by all their universities, they can use UCAS Extra from March, to put in a new choice.
- Clearing opens at the end of June for students without offers.
- Students can also apply through Clearing in August if they do not meet the requirements of their offer.
- Students who exceed their offer can go through Adjustment to see if they would like to swap their choice of university.



# Key Dates

- 22 September - Secondary Transfer Evening – some Y13 students will be required to help out in departments
- 30 September – Personal Statement Deadline
- 18 October – Curriculum Enrichment Day
- 21 October – Deadline for completion of UCAS form.
- 2 November – University Admissions Tests (within half term)
- 1,2,4 November – re-take English and Maths (within half term)
- 7-11 November – AS re-sit mocks. All students completing work on line from home.
- 14 November – return to school. Deadline for later UCAS applications.
- December – students to enter and pay for re-sit exams
- w/c 12 December – Mock exam fortnight. All exams will begin at 3-15 to avoid disrupting lesson time.

# Key Dates

- 19 January – KS5 Parents’ Surgery
- 21 February – Apprenticeships Evening
- w/c 13 March – Mock exam week
- 29 March – KS5 Parents’ Evening
- 26 May – Year 13 Graduation Day
- 7 July – Year 13 Prom at De Vere - Theobalds
- 17 August – Results’ Day

# All Leading Up to .....

