

12th September 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers and Students,

It has been hugely reassuring to see our Year 13 cohort returning so successfully to A Level and Vocational Study after the summer break. Year 13 is the most pivotal year in our young people's academic careers and with only two terms until external A Level exams, it is vital that students commence the term in a focused manner, prioritising their studies alongside exploring post-18 destination options. In response to our ongoing work with student voice, and in recognition of the increased maturity and independence in year 13, most students will be able to sign out at 1.30pm for **home study** if they don't have a timetabled lesson. This is a privilege and may be withdrawn should there be concerns regarding a students' progress or independent study habits within school. We may also timetable students into supervised study to support their progress if this is deemed beneficial by their class teachers.

We understand that deciding whether to go to university is an important and individual choice, and as such the next half-term will be spent preparing for the application process. We ask that **all** students engage in this process, as the reflective tasks and support around writing personal statements proves equally useful for job and degree apprenticeship applications. Please continue to check Open Day dates at potential universities, as this allows for students to meet current undergraduates, tutors and experience aspects of university life.

Upcoming deadlines for your diary:

26th September: second draft of personal statement submitted on unifrog

15th October: EPQ deadline

7th November: 13.1 Report: Attitude to Learning, Realistic Grades and UCAS predicted grades.

24th November: Mock Exams (exact dates to be confirmed)

29th November: final draft of personal statement to be submitted on Unifrog and online UCAS application to be completed.

15th December: final school deadline for UCAS applications

18th December: Parents Consultation Evening

14th January: external UCAS final deadline at 6.00pm.

If your young person has decided to apply to apprenticeship positions, they should now be researching which companies they are interested in to ensure they know when the employers open their applications. Each will have a different process, and many but not all follow the UCAS timeline. The applications can be time-consuming, with psychometric tests, situational judgment questioning, assessment centres and face-to-face interviews. Please ensure your young person builds in planning time for these and they are careful not to neglect their studies as most job offers are grade dependent too. I will be offering support on a Monday week A p5 for any student interested in the professional route.

If you wish to explore options together at home, the following links may be of use:

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/ucas-personal-statements>

<https://www.ucas.com>

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/1204/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>

We are very much looking forward to a positive and productive term.

Yours sincerely



Ms Helen Banks
Head of Sixth Form



Mr Tony Woods
Head of Years Sixth Form



Mrs Jenny Clements
UCAS and EPQ Coordinator