

12th December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Re: Year 13 end of term update**

I hope that this update finds you well. It has been a privilege to lead Year 13 through one of the more challenging of the six terms students spend in the Sixth Form. In particular, students have had to contend with the pressures of assessments and post-18 applications. The resilience, determination and work ethic that so many of them have shown has been admirable and truly commendable.

Despite these pressures, it has been wonderful to see many Year 13 students throw themselves into various whole-school and Sixth Form events this term. The students shone as the most senior student tour guides at the Year 6 open evening in September, and again when helping sell their A-Level subjects to Year 11 students at the Sixth Form open evening in November. It was also fitting to see so many Year 13 students both helping out and receiving awards at the school's annual Presentation Evening on 10th November. We are currently preparing for the Sixth Form's first Community Christmas Event since December 2019. On 14th December, we will invite elderly members of the local community into school for a Christmas tea and concert, and I am confident that the Year 13 students will volunteer with their typical enthusiasm to help at this uplifting event.

At the time of writing, students are preparing to sit their January PPEs, which they have been working extremely hard towards. These PPEs will give students a clear idea of which areas of their courses they most need to revise, and will allow teachers to target their support to the areas of the curriculum that most need it. Following on from the PPEs, there will be a Parents' Evening on Thursday 9th March. This will give you the chance to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers, and further details about this will follow in January.

Throughout this term, the Year 13 students have been hard at work on their post-18 applications. The majority of the year group are applying to university, and it is really pleasing that so many are already seeing offers of places. This is testament to the fantastic wider reading, work experience and other super-curricular work that the students have been putting in. The final UCAS deadline for applications to be approved and sent off by the school is 6pm on Wednesday 25th January, so it is imperative that students who wish to apply for university send their application well in advance of this date. Students will have heard back from universities by the end of March, and will then have to select a "firm" and "insurance" choice from their offers. This, along with the student finance process, will be explained in the spring term. Students who are applying for apprenticeships have been working hard on their CVs and draft cover letters, and will soon be supported to apply for apprenticeships via the apprenticeship mentoring programme that their form tutor will run in the spring term.

I would like to thank you for your support of the school this term, and wish you a restful break. I look forward to welcoming the Year 13 students back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Yours sincerely,



Mr B Peacock  
Head of Year 13