



U:\HOY\12\ Y12 Birmingham
April 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that your son is making any necessary adjustments to his study patterns during the examination period. There is certainly an atmosphere of purposefulness in and around the independent study areas in school and any additional encouragement you can provide will be helpful too of course. Even at this late stage, greater discipline will reap rewards.

Teaching for A2 begins straight after A/S examinations have been completed in a subject and it is essential that your son settles down immediately to the new challenges this will pose. Your son's primary rationale for choosing his A-levels, namely his deep interest and ability in those subjects, should remain the same. However, a student's programme of study at A2 may need to be modified in the light of his A/S results or his HE and/or other career plans. If your son is at all unsure about his options or wishes to make a change to his programme of study it is most important that he comes to discuss the situation with me or Mr Whales as early as possible. Invariably the advice given will be to continue with his existing programme at least until all the examination results are known on Thursday 17th August. However, there may be some students whose attainment and/or attitudes to study have been ill-suited to A-level study and may thus be exploring alternative routes Post Year 12. If this situation might apply to your son I would urge you to be in touch as soon as the examination period is over.

As part of our continuing preparation for University applications there is a UCAS day timetabled for Wednesday during which students will register on UCAS Apply 2018; enter their personal details; GCSE results and examinations to be taken next year as well as being introduced to the requirements of Personal Statements. We will be attending the Birmingham University Open day on Friday 23 June. As highlighted at our HE Evening, in earlier correspondence and on the school website:- all students with plans for university entry are expected to attend since the day provides an appropriate shared experience of a campus and city based Russell Group University which can readily be discussed in tutor time and will help to inform each student's personal decisions. With this in mind it would be helpful if any alternative Open Day visits are arranged on a different date. To ensure that costings for the trip are not affected (they are based on hire for the whole year group with according beneficial economies of scale) it is essential that I receive any requests for permission for absence by Friday 9 June the same date that the £15.00 payment for the trip should be made via the online payment service at www.parentpay.com. If you have any queries regarding this payment method please contact the Finance Office who will be available to help. The arrangements for the day will be as follows:-

Depart King's:	7.50am
Arrive King's:	5.00pm (approx)
Dress:	Smart casual
Food:	Either take pack up or use on site facilities
Emergency Tel:	07899756485

After the examination period your son will need to be both proactive and positive about his plans for A2 and beyond. If your son works with real intent until the end of the year and in the subsequent holiday period he will greatly increase his chances of meeting or exceeding his personal targets for 2017 and access his first choice university, Apprenticeship or place of employment. Post exams will also be a time for your son to be effectively completing his personal statement for his UCAS application or CV in the event of him pursuing other career paths. In the past students have also used the summer to: - complete typing/touch typing qualifications; improve a foreign language; complete career related work experience; undertake paid employment, voluntary work or first aid/lifesaving qualifications. Any opportunity to develop his extra curricular profile will provide a useful impetus for the future and be beneficial personally as well as helping to convince selectors that his interests and abilities stretch beyond the academic.

Of course wider reading, whether subject specific or merely for pleasure is essential for any student applying to competitive undergraduate courses or outstanding universities and can prove a welcome source of enrichment and relaxation too. Your son is entering a particularly exciting but challenging period of his life and we look forward to working with you and him to ensure his future development and success.

Yours sincerely,

N C Barton
Assistant Head/Head of Sixth

N O Whales
Head of PE/Assistant Head of Sixth

✂✂.....
NB You need only complete and return this tear off slip if unable to use Parentpay.

STUDENT NAME: _____ FORM: _____

My son will/will not be attending the trip to Birmingham University on Friday 23 June

PARENT NAME: _____ PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

In line with the school's charging policy, you are advised that if you experience difficulties funding this trip you may contact the Finance Office