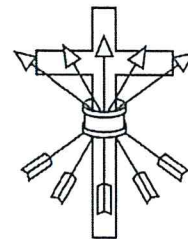


WADDESDON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Matthew Abbott



8th September 2021

Dear Year 13 Parents and Carers

We hope your family had a safe and restful summer break. We are very much looking forward to working with your son/daughter in Year 13.

As term begins, we wanted to let you know the following information:

Rising to the challenge of Year 13 and support available at school

In our first assembly back this morning, we talked to students about the need to make the most of their final year at school and offered advice, based on our experience, as to how best to rise to the challenges, in order to have as enjoyable, productive and successful a Year 13 as possible. A healthy balance is essential; there is no doubt that students need to work very hard in Year 13 and put in the hours, but this must be carefully balanced against relaxation time and spending time with family and friends, especially with the current national challenges.

In terms of their A level studies, we stressed to students the need to make productive use of their study periods at school, but also the need to be spending a couple of hours a night at home on their A level studies as well as significant time at the weekend. Teachers will be working hard with students to consolidate work completed last year and giving students plenty of past paper practice, including assessments this month to further inform predicted grades. Once students have completed homework set by teachers, we recommend wider reading to deepen understanding, making condensed revision notes to consolidate learning, or the completion of past paper questions on the topic the student is studying in lessons.

To enable students to get the balance right, we strongly recommend that students keep their part-time employment hours to a minimum in Year 13 or if possible, consider stopping, so their A level studies are the focus, alongside all-important rest and relaxation which are so crucial in terms of well-being.

If you feel that your son/daughter is struggling pastorally, academically or is not working hard enough at home, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us at school so we can work together to put support in place.

Home Study

In recognition of the many contributions Year 13 make to our school community as well as extending their experience of independence, we award students a home study period each week. Once we have Year 13 timetables finalised, we will confirm how this works with students; it is usually Wednesday period 5 unless students have a lesson then in which case we arrange it for another period 5 when they have a study period. Students who had particularly strong final Year 12 reports have been awarded a second weekly home study and they will confirm this with Miss Hay.

Key Dates for your diary

Please be aware that we will be sending school reports home with students on the following dates: 9th November; 9th February; 19th May. Year 13 Mock Week takes place during the week of 10th January, with results on 9th February. Year 13 Parents' Evening takes place on 3rd March.

Post 18 application support

To build on our careers work in the summer term, we will deliver an assembly this week to students with an overview of post 18 application support available at school, as well as key deadlines. Students will be getting back marked first drafts of their Personal Statements this week; once the second draft is submitted with amendments, we then meet with students individually for one-to-one support.

We registered students for UCAS in June and there is a 'Completing your UCAS Application' guide on Show My Homework which takes students through the completion of their university application step-by-step. If your son/daughter is applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, the deadline is 15th October. We aim to send off all other university applications from mid-October to mid-December.

Workshops on apprenticeships, employment and Gap Year opportunities and applications are delivered into the Spring term and we invite a number of companies and former students into school to talk to students in assembly, with deadlines usually later in the year.

If your son/daughter is still unsure what they want to do after Year 13, they are very welcome to make a careers appointment with Mrs Bridges, which you can attend too.

Predicted grades

Teachers will confirm each student's predicted grades with them in the first week of October in lesson time. Predicted grades will be based on student progress over the course of Year 12 as well as their start to Year 13 courses including the upcoming assessments.

Absence and medical appointments

As we know you are aware, high attendance at school is crucial for success at A level. If your son/daughter is ill, please e-mail the school office (absence@waddesdonschool.com), as soon as possible, on each day of absence. Where possible, medical appointments should not be made during timetabled lesson time; if a student has an appointment during the school day, we must have an e-mail, phone call or note ahead of time, to authorise the student leaving the school site, for safeguarding reasons. Please note that we are unable to authorise holidays during term time.

Driving onto the school site

If a student has passed their driving test and wishes to park in the Year 13 Car Park, both you and they must sign a school parking contract, available from Miss Hay, with regulations outlined to ensure everyone's safety. A reminder that we are able to authorise driving tests which take place during school time, but not the driving theory test, which can be booked outside of school hours.

If you have any queries about any aspect of your son/daughter's Year 13 education, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's form tutor, subject teachers or either of us at school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs McKenzie
Head of Year 13



Ms McIver
Head of Sixth Form