



17th May 2023

Dear Year 12 Parents/Carers,

We were delighted with the way in which Year 12 approached their Predicted Grade Examinations last week; thank you for all your support from home.

With students returning from study leave this week, we have spoken to them about the aims for the final weeks of Year 12 which we wanted to share with you:

- 1) To enable students to build on their learning from their recent exams to develop even stronger academic foundations for Year 13.
- 2) To provide students with further careers opportunities to help them to plan their futures and write the first draft of their Personal Statements
- 3) To challenge students to step up as the oldest year group in the school to lead the Waddesdon Way and act as excellent role models for younger students.

To provide you with further details:

1) Strong academic foundations for Year 13

Although the recent exams contribute significantly to each student's predicted grades, teachers will continue to carry out assessments in class this term and at the beginning of Year 13 to add to the picture, so continued hard work is key. Sometimes students think that once their internal exams are over, they can reduce their study hours and whilst it is important to get the balance right between study and rest, the hard work must continue this term. Many departments will be starting Year 13 content in the coming weeks as well as coursework. Part-time employment hours should be kept to a minimum and you should see your child completing homework and revision at home further to their study periods in school. We strongly recommend students create condensed revision resources as they go as well as memorising key content. All of this work will very much pay dividends in Year 13.

2) Careers opportunities

Alongside presentations and workshops in Extension Studies this term to support students with the drafting of their Personal Statements, we have also arranged some additional events:

Life After Waddesdon Evening: Thursday 22nd June

This is an evening at school aimed at Parents/Carers, with a talk from a university, apprenticeship provider and gap year company to ensure you have all the information you need as a family to support with students' future choices and applications. Again, a letter will be sent home nearer the time, but please mark the event on your calendar.

Year 12 Work Experience: Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June

Mrs Bridges is supporting students with securing placements for work experience. If a student needs further help, they can see Mrs Bridges in her office at the back of the library.

3) Leading the Waddesdon Way: privileges and responsibilities

With the departure of Year 13 this week, Year 12 will be able to decide where to spend their study periods (Library, Study Centre or Common Room) as long as they are meeting all deadlines with high quality work.

Lunchtime in the Village

This week, Year 12 will be allowed to sign out and go into Waddesdon village for lunch. This must be on foot and they need to return to school promptly for 11.40am.

Year 13 Car Park

This week, Year 12 can park in the Year 13 Car Park if they have passed their driving test. Before parking on the school site, the student must collect a contract from Miss Hay which they should sign to say they understand the safety rules we have in place. Your child will also ask you to sign this contract.

Sixth Form Summer Business Dress

With the warmer weather on the horizon, we have had a number of questions from students about summer business dress. We appreciate the challenges of professional summer dress, and so thought it would be helpful to clarify what is appropriate with everyone, to pre-empt any issues and support students who might be considering buying new clothes:

- Formal suit jackets/blazers must be worn at all times (we do relax this when it gets very warm, but students should have their blazers with them every day).
- Jeans, skinny jeans or jeggings are not permitted.
- Shorts, flip flops, beach sandals, Doc Martin boots and trainer-like footwear should not be worn.
- Tops/jumpers should not have large logos or writing on them.
- A reminder that a nose stud is permitted, but they must be a small, simple stud.
- Short sleeved shirts may be worn instead of long-sleeved shirts.
- Summer dresses and skirts may be worn, but they must be of a length and fit suitable for the school environment. Denim and leather fabric are not permitted.
- Sleeveless tops and dresses are permitted, but these should have thick straps to cover shoulders, must not be see-through or show midriff. Strappy vest tops are not permitted.

If students aren't sure if an item of clothing is suitable for school, we are very happy to have a look at the item or see a picture of it online, before it is purchased. We are very grateful to the vast majority of students who adhere so well to the Sixth Form dress code and make

such an effort to look so professional. We have been directly approached by a number of local businesses to ask if our students would be interested in an apprenticeship or job after Sixth Form, due to the professional reputation our Sixth Form has in the community, supported by our dress code.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McKenzie
Head of Year 12

Ms McIver
Head of Sixth Form