



13th May 2026

Dear Year 12 Parents/Carers,

We were delighted with the way in which Year 12 approached their Predicted Grade Examinations and especially with their attendance. Thank you for all your support from home.

With students returning from study leave, we have spoken to them about the aims for the remaining two and a half months of Year 12 which we also would like to share with you. These are:

1. To enable students to build on their learning from their recent exams to develop even stronger academic foundations for Year 13, including strong attendance at school
2. To provide students with further careers and super-curricular 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.

Additional details are below:

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 son/daughter 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. This work all pays dividends in Year 13.

Attendance in school is crucial for academic success. A national study has clearly shown the strong link between academic success and attendance at school; students with 95% attendance at school are likely to achieve one grade higher in each subject than their peers with 85% attendance. We will continue to monitor and encourage strong attendance for the rest of the year along with punctuality.

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 18th 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.

UCAS applications - first steps: 20th May

As a reminder, this event is from 7-8pm on 20th May and you can sign up on this link: <https://www.parentguidetoeducation.com/reg/ucas-and-y13-success>. It is designed to inform parents about the importance of the personal statement in the UCAS application process. It is completely free to attend and a recording will be available for those with tickets who are unable to attend the live event.

Year 12 Work Experience: Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July

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 in the Sixth Form Building.

3. Leading the Waddesdon Way: increased responsibility and earned privileges

With the departure of Year 13 last week, we will gradually introduce Year 12 to Year 13 privileges, dependent on their increasingly independent and responsible attitude, behaviour and reliability as a year group.

Choice over where to study in Periods 1 and 5 in the Sixth Form Building

From today, Year 12 will be able to choose where to spend their period 1 and period 5 study in the Sixth Form Building, continuing to use Focus for silent study or the Sixth Form Cafe and Collaborate for quiet, collaborative work.

Lunchtime in the Village

Once students are back into school routines and step up into the more independent approach needed for Year 13, we will allow students to sign out and go into Waddesdon village for lunch. This must be on foot (not in a car), and they need to return to school promptly for 11.40am. We will let you know when this starts.

Home Study

Students with particularly strong homework and punctuality records will be awarded a home study period, where they can leave site at 1.50pm once a week (or arrive at 10am if they do not have a period 5 study period). We will contact you with more details when this starts as appropriate.

Waddesdon Manor Car Park

As Year 12 pass their driving tests and drive to school, students should park in the Manor Car Park, which is a 5-minute walk from school and can reduce car insurance costs. It is the nearest place to school for students to safely leave their cars. Students must collect the contract and link to an e-form from Mrs Long which you will need to complete with them at home before they drive to school. Car registrations must be provided for our school records. Access to the Manor Car Park is by registration plate recognition and there are strict rules which are explained on the e-form. We advise students not to park in the streets around the school.

Sixth Form Summer Business Dress

With the warmer weather on the horizon, we have had a few 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, jeggings, hoodies or sports sweatshirts 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.
- Formal sleeveless tops and dresses are permitted, but these should have thick, broad straps to cover shoulders, must not be see-through or show midriff or backs. 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 several 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,

Miss Aldridge
Head of Year 12

Ms McIver
Head of Sixth Form