

To: Parents/Carers of Year 13 Students

Our Ref: 872709

4 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Year 13 December Update

As the term draws to a close I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you with a number of updates relating to our Year 13 students.

### Mock Exams and Catch-up Sessions

You will hopefully be aware that our students will be sitting their Y13 mock exams when we return after the Christmas break. The timetable for these exams has now been finalised and students will be issued with their own copy this week. Having not had the opportunity to sit end of Y12 exams, these exams provide us with an invaluable opportunity to assess the progress of our students, alongside the continual, on-going assessment carried out by subject teachers.

As previously communicated, we have radically adapted our teaching timetable this year in light of the changes the pandemic has presented us. For Y13 students, this has meant that extra teaching time has been added to their timetable, when compared to the usual Y13 programme. This extra teaching time equates to approximately one hour extra per subject per week and has meant that our subject leaders are confident that the specifications have been given the same coverage in lesson time as would normally be the case. Following the mock exams we will review our catch-up provision and where necessary add additional sessions to support students further.

We have of course also been closely following the recent announcements from the Education Secretary regarding exams and grading in the summer and will write to you in more detail on this once we have more information on the finer points.

### UCAS

The university application process has been a challenging one this year, with our usual launch events in the summer term having to be done remotely. Students have also found the decision-making process challenging without the opportunity of attending physical open days, although many have made good use of the large array of online events. The adapted timetable has also meant that Form Tutor 1-2-1s have not been as easy to hold, but we have put in additional staffing to support the students and also made use of email and Teams communication where necessary. I would urge all students to ensure that they are attending their scheduled 1-2-1 meetings and/or to respond in a timely manner to any communication from their Form Tutor.

It has been confirmed that the usual UCAS deadline of 15 January will still stand this year, even though many schools and colleges have reported that they are behind where they would usually expect to be at this time of year. It is therefore crucial that students who have yet to complete their application devote some time to this over the coming week. If anyone is unsure of what to do they should contact their Form Tutor in the first instance for support.

For those students not considering going to university, or those unsure of their plans, Mrs Barley continues to work with our apprenticeship students, offering guidance and support and links through her many local contacts. Mrs Barker, the careers advisor, is also available on request should students wish to make an appointment to see her.

### **Pastoral Support**

Finally I wanted to make you aware that Mrs Berry, our Sixth Form Pastoral Support Officer, will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Berry joined us in the Sixth Form in 2008 and has played a crucial role over the years supporting students and their families. I am sure that you will all join with me in thanking her for the outstanding job she has done and wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Whittaker, our afternoon LRC Supervisor is also leaving us and we would also like to thank her for her many years of service. We will update you in January on the new staff who will be joining the team and we look forward to welcoming our new colleagues.

### **Progress Evening and Reports**

I hope that by now you have all managed to access the most recent student reports on the SIMS app and have also successfully made your bookings for the online Progress Evening. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with me [paul.jacobs@southhunsley.org.uk](mailto:paul.jacobs@southhunsley.org.uk)

I wish you and your families a peaceful and safe end to the school year and a restful Christmas break.

Yours faithfully



Paul Jacobs  
**Director of Sixth Form – Year 13**