

7 November 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

To Parents and Guardians of Year 11 Pupils
Examination Arrangements and Careers Advice

Your son will be sitting School Examinations, commencing Monday 1 December until Friday 5 December 2014 which are to prepare him for the public examinations in the summer. *This is with the exception of students who are taking Art; they will begin on Friday 28 November.* No study leave will be granted during this period. Boys will follow their normal timetable during the examination period, attending their examinations when appropriate. The timetable for these exams is included. Lessons will not continue in the normal format, but will be supervised revision slots, where boys can revise the subjects of their choice. The whole year group, except boys taking the Music examination, will be dismissed at approximately 2.40 pm on the afternoon of Friday 5 December.

There is a checklist to accompany this letter to help the boys in their planning for this period. The examination results will be used to inform the decisions made with regard to the tier of entry for your son in the GCSE papers. You will, therefore, receive a full report on your son's examination performance in mid-January. There will be an opportunity to discuss these results with us at the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 21 January 2015. However, you should not regard this meeting as the only time when you can talk with us about any issues.

All members of Year 11 are offered Careers Interviews conducted by our Independent Careers Adviser; these interviews are intended to develop ideas and direct thinking towards specific goals for the future. In some cases it is appropriate to consider entering employment at 16+, but for the majority of boys these interviews are a means of considering the most suitable pattern of study beyond GCSE level, either at BWS or other institutions, as may be appropriate to a boy's aims and abilities. We hope that these career interviews will lead to a full discussion in the home. Mrs Armstrong, the Independent Careers Adviser, and myself will be pleased to help with any matters that arise from this process.

I would like to remind you of the requirements that are laid down for admission to our Sixth Form which are that pupils require 6 or more GCSE A*-B grades, including Mathematics and English Language to secure their place. Individual AS/A2 level courses have their own grade requirements, as outlined in the school Sixth Form Brochure. In addition, importance is attached to the range of grades achieved across all subjects taken and the pupil's attitude to academic work and the school as observed by his teachers in Years 10 and 11. It must be emphasised that should the pressure on space become too great, it will be those with minimal qualifications who will be at a disadvantage.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M J Jenner
Head of Middle School.