

9 February 2015

Dear Year 13 Parents

I would like to update you with some forthcoming events and developments.

STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2015 – WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH AT 7.00 PM

If your son is intending to go into Higher or Further Education in September 2015, he can apply for financial support. All students are required to pay tuition fees and will need to support themselves as well. Administration of loans and grants is dealt with by Student Finance England. Applications are now OPEN if your son is likely to be starting university this autumn.

Applications are made through the following website: www.gov.uk/studentfinance. You will also find a wealth of information about student finance here: <https://www.gov.uk/studentfinancesteps> and also on the Student Room website here: <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/StudentFinance>.

To explain the process to you, Mrs S Armstrong, the School's Careers Adviser, will be giving a presentation to parents (students will benefit from a separate talk by Mrs Armstrong on 25 February) on the evening of **4 March 2015 at 7 pm in the Sixth Form Centre** here. No booking is required – please just turn up! Unfortunately no car parking will be available on site. The evening will finish by 8 pm.

Your son should be aware that he will need to make decisions relating to his university offers over the next few weeks. Details of deadlines can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/track-your-application/replying-your-offers>. Mrs Armstrong will also remind students of procedures during her talk to students on 25 February.

If your son has not applied to University this year, he is welcome to attend our Higher Education and Careers Fair on Friday 13 February – and we welcome parents too. The exhibition will be open from 3 - 4 pm for Year 13 students and their parents. Even if your son has applied he may wish to talk to representatives from one or more of the 50 universities present here at BWS on that day. Finally, it is highly recommended that your son arranges an appointment to see Mrs Armstrong in the next few weeks if he has not applied this year.

STUDENT USE OF SELF-DIRECTED STUDY PERIODS

Your son has a number of self-directed study periods on his timetable every week. As the public examinations approach, we are very eager to make sure that he is making appropriate use of these and therefore with effect from Monday 23 February **all Year 13 students will be required to register in the Work Room at the start of each self-directed study period.** Students will be expected to make use of the private study facilities in the Work Room and the Library during these periods. We will also be reminding students that they must register in the Sixth Form Common Room every morning before the start of lessons – this applies even if students have self-directed study in their first lesson.

Students with their first lesson at South Wilts Grammar should register there as normal. Year 13 students with no timetabled lessons during Periods 7 and 8 only may study at home once they have signed out of school via the register in the Work Room at the start of Period 7; students with lessons at SWGS during Period 6 do not need to sign in at BWS at the start of Period 7. Students are not required to sign out on Friday afternoon at the start of Period 7. We think that proper use of study periods will make a significant contribution to your son's academic progress and we are very grateful for your support. Lessons in all subjects will run up to Friday 22 May. From Monday 1 June the normal timetable is suspended for Year 13 and your son is not required to register. However many departments will be arranging revision classes from this date.

REPORTING

You will receive a second report on your son's academic progress in **mid-March**. Most Departments are setting mock exams over the next few weeks. If subject teachers have concerns about your son's progress they may wish to invite him and you for discussions on Monday 23 March from 4 pm. You will be contacted nearer the time if that is the case.

Yours sincerely

R V Burnside
Head of Sixth Form

S A Armstrong
Careers Adviser