



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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**Website:** www.bws-school.org.uk

**Head Master:** Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

14 January 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

Further to my letter at the end of last term, I am writing to you with some more details of the arrangements for your son's A Levels.

Your son is currently studying a combination of old-style (modular) and new style (linear) subjects. He studies four subjects in Year 12 and almost all students reduce their programme of study to three subjects in Year 13.

In modular subjects, the AS examination is taken in May/June of Year 12 by all students with the A2 examination following in Year 13. In linear subjects the assessment takes place at the end of Year 13; the exams therefore cover the work undertaken during the two years of study (further details of A Level reform can be found at [http://www.bws-school.org.uk/main/Sixth\\_Form/A-Level\\_Reforms/](http://www.bws-school.org.uk/main/Sixth_Form/A-Level_Reforms/)). Students taking linear subjects will take internal exams in the week beginning 20 June. This year, the period between Monday 16 May and Friday 27 May are designated 'Reading Weeks' at BWS. During this time students will focus on revision and, in the case of linear subjects which are not being examined, independent project work. Normal lessons will not therefore take place. All students will return to lessons on Monday 6 June. A small number of students will have examinations after that date: they will be granted leave of absence from lessons in the morning in the case of an afternoon exam. For morning examinations they have the previous evening to make their final preparations. Exam timetables will be issued by the Examinations Officer, Mrs Glasson, in due course. A further full Report will be issued towards the end of the Summer term.

Your son will shortly be required to make a firm and binding decision as to which three subjects he wishes to continue in Year 13. The outcomes of the mock examinations taking place in the week beginning 18 January will assist in the decision making process, as will your son's performance as outlined in last term's report. We are also organising a Parents Consultation Evening – details are provided below. **Mock examination results will be issued on Friday 29 January.** Normal lessons and registration arrangements are suspended for the duration of the mocks week; private study facilities will continue to be available if your son wishes to revise in School.

On **Monday 1 February** from 5.00pm - 7.30pm we hope you will be able to attend a **Consultation Evening** with your son to discuss his progress. In advance of this meeting your son will arrange 5 minute appointments for you with his teachers using the appointment sheet which is attached to this email. On arrival we ask that you sign in at the Sixth Form Common Room, where the Head Master, Head of Sixth Form and Careers Adviser will also be available.

Your son will need to inform me or my colleagues in the Sixth Form Office which subject he wishes to drop at the end of Year 12 by 4pm on **Friday 5 February**. This decision is required to enable us to meet the tight deadline set by the examination boards for subject entries for AS qualifications. Students who fail to make this deadline will be subject to a 'late entry fee', levied by the examination boards. As there will be limited flexibility to change options at the start of Year 13, we recommend that students take advantage of independent advice available from our careers adviser Mrs Armstrong – she will be available for consultation by students during the week beginning 1 February.



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All students studying modular courses will be entered for AS examinations at the School's expense in modular subjects in May/June 2016. As you may be aware, BWS policy is not to enter students studying linear subjects automatically for the reformed, stand-alone AS level. AS examinations taken in linear subjects do not count at all towards the final A level grade in linear subjects, and the A Level qualification awarded at the end of the two years study in linear subjects will be wholly assessed by examinations in June 2017. We are very much in favour of students concentrating on their linear A Level studies, rather than being distracted by preparations for a stand-alone qualification that does not contribute in any way towards their overall A Level grade. Students at BWS will only be entered (at the School's expense) for the new AS stand-alone AS Level if they have nominated to discontinue that subject at the end of Year 12.

Students have recently been introduced to the Extended Project Qualification (E.P.Q.) and are now free to apply with a closing date of February 1. The E.P.Q. is a very different type of qualification which allows students to develop their independent research skills and their organisation. As such, it is greatly valued by universities.

Finally, I will shortly be writing to you with details of our forthcoming Higher Education and Careers events.

Your sincerely

R V Burnside

Head of Sixth Form

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