



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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6 January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

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/). Students taking linear subjects will take internal exams in June. A full Report will be issued towards the end of the Summer term.

Your son will be required to make a firm and binding decision as to which three subjects he wishes to continue in Year 13 by 4pm on Friday 24 February. The outcomes of the mock examinations currently taking place (a summary of results will be issued in the week beginning 23 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 on Monday 6 February – further details will follow in due course. 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 is available for consultation by students and she will also be present on 6 February.

All students studying modular courses will be entered for AS examinations at the School's expense in modular subjects in May/June 2017. 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 2018. 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 will be introduced to the Extended Project Qualification (E.P.Q.) at a talk on 18 January and will be able to apply to study for the qualification thereafter. 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.

Yours sincerely

R V Burnside
Head of Sixth Form