



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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

23 April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you've all had a good Easter break and have been enjoying the recent sunshine. I thought it might be helpful to write as your son begins the summer term of Year 12.

## Year 12 Exams

Year 12 Exam Week is Tuesday 7 May to Friday 10 May. I hope your son's revision has gone well so far; we've encouraged the boys to take these exams seriously and prepare for them well – they are an important check on his progress so far, allowing him and his teachers to set clear targets to improve further over the rest of the A level course, as well as providing our best evidence for predicting A level grades to universities and employers. In exam week he will only be required to come in for actual exams – his timetable is on Insight now. We will also subsequently report exam results via Insight, with a Year 12 report to follow in July.

## Founders Day

On Friday this week, 26 April we have Founders' Day, which is compulsory for all students. We are teaching p1/2 as normal, and then going to the Cathedral, where you will be very welcome to join us. School will finish at 1.00 pm with no afternoon lessons at BWS. Students who normally have lessons at SWGS p3/4 must attend the Cathedral instead, but otherwise should go to any SWGS lessons p1/2 or p5/6/7/8.

## EPQ

We are very proud of the 54 students who submitted their EPQs and very much enjoyed their presentations in the two weeks before Easter. Students will be informed of their marks by Mrs Wilson in the next week or so – these have been marked by their supervisor and then moderated internally, but could still change after External Moderation at the Exam Board. Final results will be released in mid-August (via Insight).

## Looking Ahead

Many students will have already arranged university Open Day visits for after exams, and others will be in the process of doing so – our guideline is that overall up to 3 days out of school are reasonable if we have advance notice, (but try not to hit the same day of the week three weeks in a row). Students should submit a Visit Form to me a couple of weeks in advance of any visit (available to them in the Sixth Form Area of our Network) – you sign that form as well as subject teachers whose lessons will be affected, so you don't need to also email for permissions.

After half-term the boys will use the Tuesday Enrichment slot for Higher Education and Careers sessions, which will include getting them started on UCAS, a Personal Statement workshop, and sessions for those likely to apply for courses with a an earlier deadline. Early application courses are Oxbridge + Med/Vet/Dentistry – all 15 October – and many of these will involve the sitting of an exam in autumn half-term, so if your son has aspirations in any of those areas, please don't book to be away in autumn half-term before he has double-checked if this could affect him. For early application courses, we expect students to produce a first draft of a Personal Statement by the end of the summer term, and to be close to a final draft in early September. For all other courses we expect students to be producing a draft statement in September and submitting later in the autumn (the UCAS deadline is 15 January, but students will need to submit before Christmas if they want us to supply good individual references, which take time to produce).

Our Careers Consultant, Mrs Armstrong has emailed all the Year 12 boys about arranging an interview to discuss future aspirations and plans, whether for university, apprenticeship, or employment, with or without a Gap Year. They can email her to request an earlier appointment or wait for her to send a date and time through. I've also advised the boys to make sure they keep their mentors up to date with their thinking, as it is the Mentor who will write their reference in the summer or early autumn.

### **Bursaries**

Sixth Form Bursaries are still available in cases where a grant of money may be valuable in supporting a student's sixth form education. Do get in touch if this might be helpful to you.

I hope that is helpful for now. Do get in touch with any queries or concerns you may have.

Best wishes



Alastair Endersby  
Head of Sixth – Year 12