

24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Year 12 students

UCAS Exams, Predicted Grades and Year 13 Mocks

The summer term of Year 12 is one of the most formative periods in the lives of our Sixth Form students. It is the time when they take their UCAS exams and, off the back of these along with the work they have done throughout the year, are given the predicted grades that allow them to look forward to Year 13 and plan where and what they want to study at university if that is to be their destination next year. This year, with the school under lockdown and the date of reopening yet to be fixed, there has been some understandable concern about whether UCAS exams would go ahead and when predicted grades would be issued. I would like to take this opportunity to provide clarity on both of these issues, and also address the timing of the Year 13 mocks.

Predicted Grades

Predicted grades will be issued for all students in the week beginning Monday 22nd June. Predicted grades are based on a wide range of evidence drawn from across Year 12, including attainment and attitude to learning grades, the results of assessments and end-of-topic tests, and the January mock UCAS exams. (The RGS Predictions Policy, which accompanies this letter, explains the process in more detail.) For most students these will be indicative predicted grades and students may request reconsideration of a prediction if they can provide evidence of sustained work at a higher grade. For a smaller number of students who are applying for Oxbridge, or places on Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine courses, the grades will be their actual predicted grades. This is because the shorter application deadline for these courses does not allow time for reconsideration of the grades.

UCAS Exams

We recognise that studying at home for an extended period, out of the usual learning environment, is not ideal preparation for an important set of exams. Even if our Year 12s were to return to school before the end of term, it is unlikely they would perform to the best of their abilities after being out of the usual routines for so long. We have therefore decided to move the UCAS exams to the start of Year 13, in the week beginning Monday 28th September. We believe this will give them time to readjust to their normal school working patterns and to access the support they need to revise any material they struggled with during the lockdown period. It is also a good opportunity for students to provide evidence of higher achievement if they want to request reconsideration of an indicative predicted grade.

Year 13 Mocks

These usually take place immediately after the Christmas holidays in Year 13. In recognition of the additional pressure placed on our current Year 12 students by the UCAS exams in the autumn term, however, the start of the mocks will be shifted back by three weeks to the week beginning Monday 25th January. We hope this

will give our Year 13s time to unwind over the Christmas break before gearing up their preparations for the mocks on their return to school.

We hope all this is clear and thank you again for your continued support of the School. Right now, the priority for our Year 12s remains to stay on track with the work set by their teachers, to stay in touch and to ask for help if they don't understand. We have been greatly impressed by their engagement so far and are confident that they will be able to resume their studies smoothly when school reopens.

Yours sincerely,

James Eve
Assistant Headteacher