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## Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to the first spring half term letter to parents, I hope you find the information useful to you as we enter this crucial phase in the academic year.

### Year 13 A Level Exams:

We only have 11 weeks until the start of the A Level Exams, but this includes 3 weeks of holiday, half term and then the Easter Break for 2 weeks at the end of March and start of April. This means the students have 8 school weeks or approximately 40 school days until the start of the exams.

As parents, please support your son/daughter through the next 11 weeks, the holiday period will be crucial as there is a lot of time they can spend revising. They will need a break, but they must be working at full capacity now. Many students have University offers and this can be a great motivation as they can see the end goal, but these offers are not easy to attain, and students must work hard to ensure they get the best A Level Grades possible so that they gain those University places. Equally apprenticeship opportunities are sent by the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Team to students all the time and they should be working hard to apply for these positions as well as making sure they are also giving themselves the best chance of securing a great apprenticeship through achieving fantastic A Level Grades.

### **Revision time:**

Students should work to a proper Revision Timetable, and they should start NOW if they haven't already. Students should be completing at least 2 hours of revision per day to prepare properly for the exams. The best way to revise is in short chunks, so 2 hours should be split into 20/30-minute chunks of work with a break in between, that way students can focus hard for a short period of time and then rest, which is better than trying to work for long periods as the brain gets tired and they will lose focus and concentration.

### **UCAS Applications:**

All the students met the 31 January deadline comfortably and are now getting offers to study at Universities all around the country which is a really exciting time for all involved. Students will need to choose a 'Firm' Offer (First Choice) and an 'Insurance' Offer (Reserve Choice). The Firm Offer should be their favourite and the Insurance is the University they would also be happy to go to if they don't manage to achieve their Firm Offer. Often the offers are in UCAS Points rather than Grades, please see the link below to understand what the offers mean. I urge you to support your son/daughter in this process, make sure you ask them to show you their offers as they come in and discuss this with them. Below are some useful links which will support you in the next steps for UCAS applications:

# **UCAS Points Information:**

UCAS Tariff Points - what are they and how do they work?

Student Finance:

Student Finance And Support Available | UCAS

Offers and what to do next?

<u>University offers - conditional, unconditional, unsuccessful & withdrawn (ucas.com)</u>

### Year 12:

Year 12 continue to impress with their levels of motivation and aspirations. Students need to continue to get involved in all aspects of 6<sup>th</sup> Form life as well as continuing to have great attendance and punctuality and working hard in independent study periods. We have some volunteering opportunities coming up after half term, hours of volunteering will be linked to rewards, such as a Lunchtime Rewards Card and A Rewards Card + (choose a period when they can study at home). More information on these volunteering opportunities will be given to the students soon:

- Lower School Reading Buddies
- Lunchtime Duty
- Reading Buddy at Thorpe Primary School

## **Year 12 Students – Summer Schools:**

Summer Schools are held all over the country by various universities and organisations, they are a great way to build experience of university life and also to show enthusiasm and passion for your chosen pathway, this is especially important for students wanting to study Medicine, Law, Teaching etc. But these opportunities are not exclusive to these subjects, we are collating a timetable of Summer Schools which we have placed on the website, the link is below. Please look through with your son/daughter and encourage them to apply!

https://www.jackhunt.net/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=168

## Year 12 Mock Exams:

The Mock Exams this year are running from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, these are going to be crucial exams as we will be using the Grades from these Mock Exams to formulate UCAS Predicted Grades. Therefore, the students University offers will depend on these summer Mock Exams.

### **Rewards Trip:**

We are running a Rewards Trip for 6<sup>th</sup> Form students to the Forest Facility in Stamford on Wednesday 27 March, this is an Outdoor Adventure Centre and students will have the opportunity to spend the afternoon doing some exciting and different activities, a letter will be sent home shortly with more details.

A reminder of some key dates that you can support your son/daughter with:

- Wednesday 27 March Rewards Trip to Forest Facility, Stamford
- Wednesday 8 May External A Level Exams start
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June Year 12 Mock Exams
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June Year 13 Prom (Orton Hall Hotel)

We want to work closely with you to get the best outcomes for all our students. If you have any issues or questions about anything then please don't hesitate to contact me at <a href="mailto:tperkins@jhs.pkat.co.uk">tperkins@jhs.pkat.co.uk</a> or Mr George at <a href="mailto:cgeorge@jhs.pkat.co.uk">cgeorge@jhs.pkat.co.uk</a>.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T Perkins

Assistant Headteacher (6th Form)