



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

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February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

## Review Day, UCAS Examinations, Enrichment and Higher Education Evening

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach a very busy period for Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students, I am taking this opportunity to update you on the all the key dates that of which you need to be aware, including Review Day, Enrichment, UCAS examinations and Higher Education Evening.

### **Whole School Review Day (8<sup>th</sup> February 2019)**

As you will be aware the whole school Review Day takes place **February 8<sup>th</sup> 2019**. The premise for L6th students is to discuss their future aspirations regarding post-18 study and the steps they have undertaken in order to achieve this so far. To help with discussions students have been completing the attached self-reflection form in afternoon registrations. These forms will be used to guide conversations with tutors on the day and hopefully identify critical areas to further develop in preparation for a well-rounded and high calibre application, for whichever path they choose. I will be analysing each reflection form and ensuring that all students are as well-equipped as possible to make informed decisions and choices regarding their futures. Parents are more than welcome to attend on the day and I look forward to seeing those that can.

### **Enrichment**

The deadline for confirmed enrichment places (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 is February 8<sup>th</sup>), and these placements need confirming with Mr Yates as soon as possible. This is a compulsory aspect of our education provision in Lower 6<sup>th</sup> and all students are expected to undertake work experience during this period. There is no doubt that it is challenging to find certain placements related to specific lines of work and I would be very grateful if there were any parents who may be able to offer any contacts within the fields of medicine, engineering, law and business and economics; any suggestions or avenues of support would be most helpful. Please contact me if you may be able to offer or know someone who can help.

### **UCAS Examinations**

UCAS examinations are all in the half-term post Easter and your daughter/son will be issued with their individual timetable in due course. These examinations, which count for **70%** of the overall predicted grade in combination with the nominated six assessments in each subject, which count for **30%** of the overall predicted grade will be used for references regarding any apprenticeship or UCAS application and reference. I have attached the programme for parents but in summary examinations start **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** and culminate on **May 16<sup>th</sup>**. I cannot stress how critical the next nine school weeks plus three weeks of holiday are in determining your daughter's/sons future. To clarify, when departments have marked all the summer examinations we will then use a **+1 rule**. For example if they achieved a C, we would predict a B and so forth. In all conversations I have had with students, they are aspirational but to achieve those goals there are no

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corners to cut at A-Level. We recommend a minimum of **25-30 hours work total per week**, inclusive of supervised and independent study periods. I have been very pleased to see a number of students remaining behind after school to complete work, managing their distractions. I actively encourage students to adopt this mind set if home study isn't effective. To assist this, we have designated the common room as a social room only and Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students have been allocated ample spaces to complete independent work away from distraction.

### **Higher Education Evening**

On **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March (6.30-7.45pm)**, I invite you to join us at the H.E Evening in school. This is always a very well-attended evening and this year we have a keynote speaker from the University of Birmingham, discussing student finance and what admissions tutors looks for. To supplement this, we will have speakers regarding apprenticeships, challenges and processes for students and the opportunity for questions. A separate letter will come out for this in due course but I look forward to seeing you all again in March.

### **First Data Report**

Finally, you will receive your son/daughter's first data report in the final week before half-term. In combination you will have the most recent attendance and punctuality certificate. I will be analysing your daughter/son's data and then inviting students, accompanied by parents who may be underperforming in their UCAS assessments for academic review meetings after the holidays. Where this applies a separate letter will be sent out to you explaining this and convenient appointment times arranged.

As always please keep me updated with appointments for your son or daughter, so that we can keep accurate records of attendance or indeed if you have any queries or can help with placements on the e-mail below.

Kindest regards

Alex Davis

Head of Lower 6<sup>th</sup>

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