



Heathfield School Ascot

February 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

Fifth Form Study Arrangements and Post GCSE plans

It was good to see so many of you at the Parents' Meeting on Friday 24th January and I hope that you found the Options Talk informative. As was mentioned, the GCSE examinations are fast approaching and the girls will soon receive their individual timetables (a copy will also be sent to you). With such a wide variety of subjects, the written examinations extend from mid-May through to mid-June, although practical and oral tests will be conducted before this.

Fifth Form girls will be expected to undertake the bulk of their revision during the Easter break. Teachers will be providing revision material and past papers and we will contact you if this has not been completed. Experience has shown that the best results come from students who pace themselves rather than relying on last-minute attempts at revision. Tutors will be discussing a revision programme and plan of action for over the Easter break; the recommendation is for girls to study for an average of 4-5 hours per day where possible. The girls have also received a revision guide and advice from the Elevate session held in school during the Michaelmas Term to help guide their studies.

Although formalised lessons will end on **Thursday 7th May at 3pm**, lessons will continue to be offered throughout the examination period on days where the girls are not sitting examinations and it is therefore advisable for girls to remain in school during their 'study leave'. **After half term girls may opt to study at home if there are at least three days between examinations. However, they must guarantee to be back the night before any examination if it is the following afternoon, or by lunchtime if it is in the morning after.** A letter must be sent from parents to the Head of House **before Monday 4th May** confirming in advance arrangements for study leave.

Once the girls have completed all their GCSE examinations they may go home. **However, please note that there is a contingency day for GCSE and / or GCE examinations should sustained national or local disruption arise during the examination period. The date for the contingency day this year is Wednesday 24th June and girls must be available for examinations on that day if needed.** As in the past, we allow the girls to use the time after GCSEs to carry out work experience or community service. With places at the best universities becoming ever more competitive, this time enables the girls to explore possible career options and provides an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into the workplace in the 'real world' and therefore increases their experiences beyond the school environment. We would also recommend that the girls sign up for university Open Days and start researching the courses available for study.

Work experience should ideally be completed in the period between the end of GCSEs and the end of term, or during the summer holiday. All girls will need to return to school on Thursday 25th June at midday for an introduction to Heathfield Sixth Form on Friday 26th June and Parents' Day on Saturday 27th June. Girls should be in summer uniform on the Thursday and Friday. They should be in full winter uniform on the Saturday.

Yours sincerely

David Mitchell
Director of Studies

Incorporating St Mary's School Wantage

London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8BQ Tel 01344 898343 Fax 01344 890689 www.heathfieldschool.net
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