

Dear Parents of year 12 students,

Study Leave Information

Year 12 AS students will begin study leave on **Monday 16th May**. They will return to school for one morning of work experience training on **Friday 10th June** and begin their work experience week from **Monday 13th to Friday 17th June**. All AS level students will commence their A2 courses on **Monday 20th June**. It is very important that they have full attendance during this 5 week period up to the summer holiday (**Friday 22nd July**) as many students will be covering material preparing them for examinations in January 2012. Students will also be receiving a range of information and support regarding university applications and apprenticeships during this period. Please discourage your son / daughter from booking holidays during this period.

It is very important that our students work to their full capacity until study leave begins and that they make the most effective use of their revision period. During the final stages of preparation for exams students should be making use of past papers and sample questions to develop their understanding and exam technique. Some staff will arrange further revision sessions for students during study leave in their usual timetabled slots.

Students following BTEC National Award subjects alongside their AS levels will be expected to continue attending their BTEC award lessons but will be granted study leave for the remainder of their timetable in order to allow them to concentrate on revision for their examination subjects. For example, if a student has BTEC award lessons during periods 3 and 4 he/she would not be required to attend registration or periods 1,2 or 5 but would be expected to sign in and be present for periods 3 and 4.

During the study leave period students will be expected to attend all of their examinations punctually, and will also be able to attend a range of additional revision lessons that staff will put on in their usual timetabled slots.

Revision

Students performance in the final exams will largely reflect the quality of their preparation. Our advice for effective revision includes the following points.

- 1) Plan your time. Look to revise a minimum of 3 or 4 hours per day. Start as early as possible, leaving some afternoon and evening time for relaxation.
- 2) Use active revision methods. Make revision notes, index cards, power points, revision games, spider diagrams, flow charts, Post It notes, essay plans etc.....
- 3) The closer students get to the exams the more they should focus on practising answering questions – particularly exam questions from past papers which they can access on the internet.

Exam results

Students will be able to collect their exam results from the cyber cafe on Thursday 18th August from 10.30 onwards. As usual, the sixth form teams, and a range of specialist staff, will be on hand to advise students should any support be required.

Work Experience Week, Monday 13th to Friday 17th June.

As competition for places in Higher education, training or employment is ever increasing we feel it is important to offer students the opportunity to gain work experience relating to their own potential career path. Students are expected to arrange their own work experience placements and confirm their details (address, contact person and phone number) with the school. Students will receive advice on how to arrange placements after Easter, although many students may wish to arrange their placements over the next two weeks. Our work related curriculum manager, Mr Noorani, will be able to provide students with the contact numbers for Park Hall's work experience partners should students require an initial contact. Our learning coordinator Amanda O'Neill will keep a record of all work experience placements and will provide support for those students that need it. **Students following BTEC National Diplomas in Media, Sport, Public Services and Early Years will not have a work experience week due to the high levels of vocational experience incorporated into their course programmes. These students will follow their normal timetable with some additional enrichment opportunities just for them.**

Parents Higher Education Advice evening at Aston University

In response to my previous letter I understand a number of parents and students will be attending the above event at Aston University on Wednesday 15th June 2011 from 6.15 to 8.15.

The programme will include presentations and advice regarding

- **The benefits of studying at university**
- **The application process**
- **Employment opportunities for graduates and**
- **Student finance advice**

If you would like to book a place at the above event you can still do so by Wednesday 1st June (with a limit of three tickets per family) through the Aston University website; www.aston.ac.uk/schliaison

Alternatively you can contact the appropriate department at Aston on 0121 204 4750 or by e-mail on a.bisel@aston.ac.uk.

Year 12 students will be receiving advice themselves on the application process and attending a student conference at Aston after the summer examination period in June. Students will also be given an opportunity to apply for the Birmingham University A to B scheme through which successful applicants are able to attend a Birmingham University residential event and potentially receive a reduced points offer of a place at university (i.e. be offered a place on the basis of achieving grades ABB instead of AAA for example.)

Students applying to university will submit their applications electronically so you will be able to follow the progress they make at home. More information from UCAS (the organisation through which students apply to university) is available from their web site **www.ucas.com**. There is a special section here for parents and by registering your details you can request a free UCAS parents guide and quarterly e-mail bulletins.

We are also aware that not all students will wish to apply for university and will provide training and instruction on how to access information regarding modern apprenticeships.

We are already very proud of all that our year 12 students have achieved during their first year in the sixth form. They have collectively been a joy to work with and we have great confidence that they could achieve our best ever year 12 results.

As always, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr Cornell', written in a cursive style.

Mr Cornell
Director of Sixth Form Studies