December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the start of your son/daughter’s penultimate term at Adams College, I would like to inform you of some important information and dates for 2019.

**UCAS – University applications**

Students have been busy applying to UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) and it has been wonderful to see students’ delight at being offered places for their undergraduate study. Most students have applied to five universities and, if they are lucky enough to have been offered places at all institutions, they now have a decision to make as to which university suits them best.

I would urge students not to make a hasty decision as to where they wish to study just yet; there is no rush and students should continue to research where is best for them. Many universities now offer Applicant Open Days which are a super opportunity for students to revisit and ask probing questions about the course content, accommodation and funding. The deadline for decision making varies from course to course, but most universities don’t require an absolute decision until May.

In terms of financial advice for university, the Student Finance England website is comprehensive and offers much advice. <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

In a bid to help with the financial side of university, I would also suggest that you look at <https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/> This website lists (sometimes little known) scholarships which are available at UK universities.

**Apprenticeships**

Students should now be beginning to think seriously about applications for apprenticeships. The world of apprenticeships, and in particular *degree* apprenticeships, is a competitive one. A great resource for regional apprenticeships is [www.ctapprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.ctapprenticeships.co.uk). For national opportunities, [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) is an invaluable website.

**14th January – Mock Exams**

All Year 13 students will have mock exams after Christmas. These exams will be an excellent opportunity for students to gauge their progress and knowledge in their subjects. Grades will be reported back to you, and a written report will be sent at the end of the half term.

**8th February – Year 13 Mock Exams Results Day**

We will be giving students the grades from their mock exams formally. We feel that opening that all-important brown envelope will allow students to experience the euphoria, or disappointment, that they will feel when the real results are given out in August.

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**February – Mentoring**

All Year 13 students will be mentored by their form tutors. This mentoring opportunity will allow students to reflect upon their mock exams and to look forward to plans for next year, be they university, apprenticeship, employment or a gap year.

**26th February – Elevate Exam Preparation**

All Year 13 students will have the opportunity to participate in a study skills seminar, delivered by Elevate Education.

Elevate Education has revolutionised the way study skills are taught around the world. Since expanding to the UK in 2013, Elevate’s programmes have already resulted in tangible improvements in student performance at over 850 UK schools. Having benchmarked the study habits of thousands of past students, their award-winning seminars cover the techniques utilised by the country's top students. You can find out more at [www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com)

**12th March – Targeted Consultation Evening**

As we near the summer exams, this targeted evening will allow the college team an opportunity to meet with parents of those students who are underperforming academically. Letters of invitation will be sent at the beginning of March.

**17th May – Exam Leave starts**

Exam leave begins on 17th May. Students will be given an individual examination timetable, but it should be noted that the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has announced a contingency date for the summer exam series 2019.

The contingency day for ALL external examinations may be used “in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examination during the June 2019 examination series”. This means that any students sitting external examinations in June 2019 must be available until Wednesday 26th June to sit any exams that had to be postponed.

**3rd July 2019 - Leavers’ Ball**

Our student committee are busily working away in the background to organise the Leavers’ Ball, which will be held at the Albright Hussey Manor Hotel. This evening is the highlight of the calendar and is a wonderful celebration.

**15th August 2018- A Level Results Day**

Don’t forget to pop this important date on your new calendar. Students are invited to come into college on this day, where teachers will be available to discuss results and help with next steps.

I look forward to welcoming students back to college on 7th January 2019 at 8.45am.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best wishes,

Julie Squire

**Key Stage 5 Manager**