

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful break over Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that our year 13s are now over half way through their last year in sixth form before they move on after their summer exams. I am writing to inform you of some important events happening during this half term in Year 13 as well as provide some additional information about various matters. I hope this information makes it easier for you to support your child at home.

Year 13 Spring Term Events

- **Thursday 9th January 2020 – Apprenticeship workshop.** Our academy career adviser, Mr Panting, will deliver a workshop on apprenticeships; what to look for, where to find them, the differences between them and how to apply. This session is focused towards those that have not applied to university but is open to all.
- **Final UCAS Deadline – Wednesday 15th January 2020.** This is the final deadline set by UCAS, after which students cannot submit an application.
- **Thursday 30th January 2020 – Sixth Form Parents Evening.** This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers. By this time you will have received your child's latest report detailing their mock exam results and predicted grades. Details of when the booking system is live will be sent out separately.
- **Friday 31st January 2020 –** Deadline for the deposit to be paid for the Leaver's Ball, details of which were sent out before Christmas.
- **Monday 3rd February 2020:** Afterschool Quiet Study starts. From this date onwards West Hall is available for quiet study 3-5pm. This is voluntary and is simply designed to provide students with a silent place to study. The classrooms in the sixth form centre also remain available for students to use as normal.
- **Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March 2020: Year 13 Mock Examinations.** Students will sit mock examinations in all subjects during this time. During this time period their normal timetable collapses as students are on study leave. They only need to attend for their examinations. This is a real opportunity for students to test themselves and see what progress they have made since their mock exams in December. Students should be using their study periods to revisit work and revise so they are as prepared as possible for any assessment such as their mock exams.

Accepting University Offers

Most students who have applied to university have received offers and are already considering which university offers they will accept. Below is a list of deadlines (from UCAS) about accepting university offers.

- If you receive your last decision on or before **31 March 2020**, your reply date is **5 May 2020** (if your postal address is in the EU).
- If you receive your last decision on or before **6 May 2020**, your reply date is **4 June 2020** (includes applicants with a postal address outside the EU, but not applicants using Extra to find a place).

- If you receive your last decision on or before **4 June 2020**, your reply date is **18 June 2020** (except if you're using Extra to find a place).
- If you receive your last decision on or before **13 July 2020**, your reply date is **20 July 2020** (including Extra choices).

A few words of caution about Unconditional offers: A significant number of our year 13 university applicants have received unconditional offers, which means, if they accept the offer, they can go to study their course at that university regardless of their A-level results. While this signifies the strength of their application and of course relieves some pressure in the run up to exams I do want to share with you some words of caution, as I have with the students, who may be tempted to prepare less for their A-levels as a result of accepting an unconditional offer.

1. A-levels stay with you for life - Future employers will still want to know what your A-level grades are regardless of what classification of degree you have from university. So while you may be able to get into university with poor results, it will make you less employable after university – Your A-Levels don't go away!
2. To progress from first to second year at university you have to pass your first year. If you don't you may be able to resit the first year again. However, some universities are not allowing students to do this if their A-level grades were below the entry requirements for the course, despite them having been accepted onto the course in the first place with an unconditional offer. This means some students have no university course and poor A-levels, which makes it difficult for them to access any further Higher Education a year after leaving sixth form.

So in summary – if you accept an unconditional offer you must still work as hard as if you had a conditional offer! If your child has been made an unconditional offer I would strongly advise you talk through these points and ensure they understand the importance of still performing as best as they possibly can in their A-levels even if they accept the unconditional offer as their firm choice. All of the above has already been shared with the students and I will continue to reiterate this message during this term.

Student finance for 2020/21

The Student Finance England full-time undergraduate application service for 2020/21 is expected to open in February 2020. New students can apply online at www.gov.uk/studentfinance.

The deadline for submitting applications is normally 25th May for new students (and 22 June for continuing students), however, the final deadline dates will be published when the application service goes live.

Below are some useful links about student finance:

<https://www.ucas.com/finance/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-student-loans>

<https://www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan>

Afterschool Support Sessions

Subject teachers and Heads of Department will be contacting home to inform parents and students who, based on performance in the Autumn term, are required to attend **compulsory** afterschool support in their subject. These afterschool support sessions are designed to support students in preparing for their A-levels. They also continue to remain open for any student who wishes to make use of them.

Please see the table below with all subjects listed for your reference.

Subject	Afterschool session	
	Year 12	Year 13
English Language	-	Friday 3-4pm in W19
English Literature	Thursday form time in W9	Tuesday 3-4pm in W6 Thursday form time in W9
	Wednesday 3-4pm in W6	
Media English Lang/Lit	Tuesday 3-4pm in W6 Thursday form time in W9	-
Biology Chemistry Physics Psychology	Monday 3-4pm in W36 Tuesday 3-4pm in W53 Wednesday 3-4pm in W32 Alternate Wednesdays 3-4pm in W60	Tuesday 3-4pm in W36 Thursday 3-4pm in W53 Wednesday 3-4pm in W32 Alternate Wednesdays 3-4pm in W60
Forensics/Criminology	Thursday 3-4pm in W36	Thursday 3-4pm in W36
History Government and Politics	Tuesday: Russia topic in E17 & Thursday: Tudor topic 3-4pm E18/20 Individual appointment only	
Sport	Tuesday and Wednesday 3-4pm in W41	
Drama	Thursday 3-4pm in Drama Studio	
Maths Further Maths Core Maths	Tuesday and Thursday afterschool in E3	
Geography	Wednesday 3-4pm in E30	
Music	Thursday 3-4pm in W23	
Business Economics Financial Studies Law	Thursday 3-4pm in W55 Tuesday 3-4pm in W63 Individual appointment only Individual appointment only	
Art Photography Textiles	Monday-Thursday 3-4.30pm in E5	
French	Individual appointment only	
Computer Science	Individual appointment only	
DT	Tuesday 3-4pm in W24	
Religion and Philosophy	Individual appointment only	

Easter Holiday Revision sessions: Advanced notice that during the two week Easter holidays there will be revision sessions available for students to come to and receive additional support from their teachers. The timetable for these revision sessions will be sent out nearer the time.

A few reminders:

- Students must dress appropriately for a professional working environment. Therefore, they are not able to wear ripped jeans or tops showing their midriffs.
- Students are not allowed to have their phone visible anywhere on the school site apart from the sixth form block. Phones must never be seen or heard during lessons regardless of location. If students don't meet these expectations then their phones can be confiscated.
- It is a basic expectation that students attend all their timetabled lessons and tutor sessions, arriving on time. If your child is unable to attend school please contact Mrs Edwards (ext 274) or email cedwards@clwacademy.co.uk

I do hope all of the above information will allow us to work together in achieving the best possible outcomes for our students. If you have any queries or wish to discuss anything further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Mrs A Emsley

Head of Sixth Form