



From David Dawswell: Second Master

13 January 2017

To: parents of boys in fifth year

Parents' Evening for parents of Fifth Years  
on Monday 30 January 2017,  
5.30 - 8.30 pm

Parents of boys in the fifth year, together with their sons, are warmly invited to the School to discuss with the staff their sons' progress and his suitability for further study in subjects he is considering. Interviews will start at 5.30 pm. At 7.00pm the Headmaster's address will begin in the Amey Theatre. Interviews will resume at 7.50pm. A light buffet and coffee, provided by the school caterer will be available from 5.30-8.00pm in the Charles Maude Room.

Your sons will ask you for the names of teachers with whom you wish to book an appointment which should last for a maximum of **five** minutes. It is, of course, vital that you do not over-run your time. **Should a more detailed interview be necessary, then please arrange one at a more convenient time with the member of staff concerned.** The Headmaster will be available by appointment through his PA, [victoria.adams@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:victoria.adams@abingdon.org.uk), and he will also be in the Charles Maude Room in the middle of the evening.

Your sons will be the active agents in booking appointments. They will be given a sheet a week before the Parents' Evening on which teachers will write their names against times, together with the rooms in which they can be found. Your sons will be told to allow gaps between appointments, to allow time to move between venues and so help ensure appointments run to time. Occasionally boys are absent during the week when most appointments are booked. If this happens, parents should contact their son's tutor, to see if he can arrange some interviews for that evening.

Seven years ago we introduced the opportunity for fifth years to attend with their parents, and we are continuing the arrangement this year. The meetings were a good opportunity for dialogue about progress so far, particularly following the mock examinations in early January, and the need for decisions about choices for the next academic year. Parents may feel it necessary to have a private word with a member of staff, and so come to the decision that their sons will not attend the evening. If, however, your son attends, we would discourage you from sending him away, even temporarily. Parents are encouraged to continue the conversation by contacting the

teacher by phone or e-mail. We would hope that your sons can be included in nearly all discussions. The fifth years will have been told to expect that comments may be “robust”, as we think it important everyone develops a clear vision of the current situation and possible future prospects.

Your son will be told that, if he attends, he should be smartly dressed in school uniform.

Interviews will be situated, by departments, in rooms in Big School and in Greening Court. Parents who are waiting for interview are asked to wait outside the rooms, except in the case of the libraries. Chairs will be provided and doors left open so that you can see at a glance whether or not a teacher is occupied. (It is sometimes possible, in emergencies only, to improvise an appointment on the spot, if both you and the teacher are free, but please do not allow this to run into someone else’s appointment time, or the schedule will fall behind.) If you think you will find it difficult or impossible to move freely up and down the staircases between appointments, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can make alternative arrangements.

Cars should be not be parked on Park Road or Park Crescent as clampers are in operation both day and night. If there is no space within the school grounds you may need to go further afield. The town’s multi-storey carpark is not far from the pedestrian traffic lights between the end of Park Road and the town centre. There is a charge for using this carpark between 8am and 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. Free parking is available on levels one and two after 6.30pm. Please note that levels three and above are locked at 7.30pm and are not re-opened until 7am. There is a release fee.

Yours sincerely

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