



ABINGDON

From Head of Sixth Form: Nick O'Doherty

29 April 2016

For parents of Lower Sixth students,

Advice on absence for university open days

Whilst the school recognises the benefit of visiting universities in which a pupil has a genuine and realistic interest it is essential that disruption caused by these visits is kept to a minimum. It is in the interests of both students and teachers to expect full attendance in classes during mid June. This year the nine-day period between Friday 17 – Saturday 25 June contains the majority of open days for Abingdon students' most popular universities.

University visits can often take place outside advertised open days, in holidays or at weekends free from school commitments. For example, the Exeter open days are during the half term holiday and Newcastle and Manchester can be visited on Saturdays, which may involve an easier journey. In fact there are strong reasons to visit outside open days when thousands of sixth formers are subjected to the full marketing machinery of universities. Should there be no alternative a term time university visit may be arranged as follows:

- By returning the Open Day Request form to the Upper Master at least one week in advance of the proposed visit.
- Keeping to a maximum of two weekday visits in total.
- Thinking carefully about which universities to visit. It may be more useful to experience institutions that a student is not yet certain he'll apply to as opposed to those that are definite.
- Using Saturday, if not selected for a school sports fixture, or school holiday options instead of weekdays.
- If there is a clash with a fixture the student should plan ahead and talk to the master i/c at the beginning of the summer term and follow the normal procedure for requesting absence on a Saturday (to write to the Head's office at least one week in advance, sending a copy to the Director of Sport & PE).

June	16	Bath								
	17	Bath	Bristol	Edinburgh	Manchester	Reading	UCL			
	18	Bristol	Leeds	Manchester	Reading	Swansea	UCL			
	22	Imperial								
	23	Imperial	Leeds	Sheffield						
	24	Birmingham	Durham	Leeds	Liverpool	Loughborough	Nottingham	Warwick	Yorl	
	25	Birmingham	Liverpool	Loughborough	Nottingham	King's	Warwick	York		
	27	Durham								
	29	Oxford								
	30	Cambridge	Oxford							
July	1	Cambridge	Cardiff	Newcastle						
	2	Durham	Newcastle							