



# ABINGDON

From Head of Sixth Form: Nick O'Doherty

28 April 2017

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 June.

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 Manchester, Newcastle & Durham 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 | 9  | Edinburgh    |              |            |            |         |
|      | 10 | KCL          |              |            |            |         |
|      | 15 | Bath         |              |            |            |         |
|      | 16 | Bath         | Bristol      | Reading    |            |         |
|      | 17 | Bristol      | Leeds        | Reading    | Swansea    |         |
|      | 21 | Sheffield    |              |            |            |         |
|      | 22 | Leeds        |              |            |            |         |
|      | 23 | Birmingham   | Leeds        | Liverpool  | Manchester | Warwick |
|      | 24 | Birmingham   | Liverpool    | Manchester | Warwick    |         |
|      | 26 | Durham       |              |            |            |         |
|      | 28 | Imperial     | Oxford       |            |            |         |
|      | 29 | Imperial     | Oxford       |            |            |         |
|      | 30 | Loughborough | Newcastle    | Nottingham | UCL        | York    |
| July | 1  | Durham       | Loughborough | Newcastle  | Nottingham | UCL     |
|      | 2  | York         |              |            |            |         |
|      | 6  | Cambridge    |              |            |            |         |
|      | 7  | Cambridge    | Cardiff      |            |            |         |

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

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