



From David Dawswell: Second Master

22 November 2019

Dear Parent,

***Parents' Evening for parents of Lower Sixth
on Thursday 5 December 2019, 5.30 to 8.30pm***

Parents of boys in the lower sixth year (together with their sons) are warmly invited to the School to discuss with the staff their sons' progress. Interviews will start at 5.30 pm. At 7.00pm the Headmaster and the Upper Master, Nick O'Doherty, will address parents and students in the Amey Theatre. Interviews will resume at 7.30 pm. A light buffet and coffee, provided by the school caterer will be available from 5.30-8.00pm in the Café.

There will be space for you to wait between appointments in part of the **Sixth Form Centre**, on the ground floor of Beech Court.

Badges will be given out in the entrance foyer of Beech Court.

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 seven 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, and he will also be in the Café in the middle of the evening.

Your sons will be the active agents in booking appointments. A week before the Parents' Evening, they will be given a sheet on which teachers will write their names against times, together with the rooms in which they can be found. We recommend strongly that your sons leave brief gaps between appointments, to allow a cushion against delays. Alternate bookings and gaps are the ideal. 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 or she can arrange some interviews for that evening.

As for the fifth year parents' evening in January 2019, the attendance of your son is for you to determine. 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 sixth formers will

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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.

Parents of boarders are of course very welcome, but we understand that it may not be possible for you to attend if you have to travel long distances. We are happy to arrange meetings with teachers at different times of the year if you are visiting Abingdon. If you want to ask about this or other opportunities for feedback on your son's progress please speak to his Housemaster or Tutor in the first instance.

Interviews will be situated, by departments, in rooms in **Greening Court and Beech Court**. Parents who are waiting for interview are asked to wait outside the rooms, except in the case of the library. 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.) **All rooms above the ground floor are now wheelchair-accessible by the lift located in Beech Court. Level access to G101 to G106 is via the courtyard under the Colonnade.**

Cars should not be parked on Park Road or Park Crescent as there is a risk of a parking ticket and current fine of £100. 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 6pm Monday to Saturday. Free parking is available on levels one and two after 6pm. **Please note that levels three and above are locked at 7.30pm and are not re-opened until 7am.** There is a release fee.

Career Guidance, Non-UK University Applications, and Gap Year: Michael Triff will be available throughout the evening in the Upper Library. Appointments can be made (email michael.triff@abingdon.org.uk) but drop-ins are welcome.

Yours sincerely

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