

From David Dawswell: Second Master

24 April 2020

Dear Parent,

Parents' Evening for parents of Fourth Years on Monday 18 May and Tuesday 19 May 2020, 4.30 – 6.30pm

Parents of boys in the fourth year are warmly invited to discuss with staff their sons' progress via Zoom. Given the current remote working arrangements, plans for parents' evenings in the first half of term have been altered. This time the appointments are being organised across two days, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Boys will be organising the appointments with their teachers, and also using their Abingdon accounts to join the Zoom meetings in the teacher's usual Zoom meeting room. Boys will be emailed an appointments sheet a week before the Parents' Evening on which to record the appointment times which have been agreed with his teachers. Your sons will be told to allow gaps between appointments, to help ensure the five minute appointments run to time. 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. Please wait outside the Zoom room: the teacher will then invite you in, though they might be delayed by the previous appointment.

The boys have now completed about half of their GCSE course, and the meetings are a good opportunity for dialogue about progress so far. Just before Christmas boys will be asked for their preliminary preferences of A level subjects, then in January they will have their mocks, and a parents' evening shortly afterwards. The boys then provide firmer A level subject preferences. So we would discourage you from sending your son away from the forthcoming Zoom meeting. Parents are encouraged to continue the conversation by contacting the teacher separately by phone or e-mail if they wish. We would hope that your sons can be included in nearly all discussions. The fourth 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.

Clearly the remote working situation may change, so plans may need to be altered. Thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely

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