



ABINGDON

From: Second Master David Dawswell

8 January 2021

Dear Parent

Parents' Evening for parents of Fifth Years:
REVISED DATES

- Fifth Year parents' evening talk live webinar on Monday 1 February, 7 - 8pm
- Meetings with teachers on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 February, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Parents of students in the fifth year are warmly invited to discuss with staff their child's progress and suitability for further study in subjects they are considering, via Zoom. This time the appointments are being organised across two days, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. When arranging the meetings, the student will need some flexibility on appointment times as there are some staff who are caring for young children on their own: staff will endeavour to make alternative arrangements. Thank you for your understanding.

The Headmaster and other staff will talk at the webinar on Monday 1 February, 7pm, to set the scene for the following parents' evenings, bringing parents up to date on recent developments from the government about gradings. We would ask parents to attend, or listen to the recording which will be sent round to them.

Students will be emailed an appointments sheet a fortnight before the Parents' Evening on which to record the appointment times which have been agreed with their teachers. It is, of course, vital that you do not over-run the five-minute appointment. If a more detailed interview is necessary, then please arrange one at a more convenient time with the member of staff concerned. Occasionally students are absent during the week when most appointments are booked. If this happens, they may be well enough to organise the appointments via email, but, if not, parents could contact the teachers, to see if he or she can meet you on Zoom.

In many cases, parents accompany the student, as happened for the fourth year parents' evening. The meetings are a good opportunity for dialogue about progress so far, 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 child will not attend the evening. If, however, they attend, we would discourage you from sending them away, even temporarily. Parents are encouraged to continue the conversation by contacting the teacher by phone or e-mail. We would hope that students 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.

A few days before the parents' evening an email will be sent to parents detailing how to access the Zoom meetings, including for parents who are not in the same location as their child. Please wait outside the Zoom room: the teacher will then invite you in, though they might be delayed by the previous appointment.

Career Guidance, Non-UK University Applications, Alternatives to University (vocational education/training and work-learning programmes, and Gap Year: appointments can be made by emailing michael.triff@abingdon.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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