



ABINGDON

From: Upper Master, Nick O'Doherty

6 May

2022

For parents of Lower Sixth students

Advice on absence for (in person) university open days

Most universities have now returned to in-person open days. However, they have generally retained their online resources which they had to entirely rely on for the last two cycles (which is a helpful bonus this year). Currently the most popular Scottish universities are keeping their 'open days' virtual. Whilst the School recognises the benefit of visiting universities in which a student 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 close to full attendance in classes during June. An additional consideration is our commitment to sports fixtures against other schools on Saturdays.

University visits can often take place in holidays or at weekends free from school commitments. For example, the UCL open day is after the end of term and Durham & Newcastle can be visited on Saturdays, which may involve an easier journey. There are reasons to visit outside of open days when thousands of sixth formers are subjected to the full marketing machinery of universities. We encourage students to get in touch with universities' academic departments to ask about a tour, which might enable more information about the course to be gained. Should there be no alternative, a term time university visit may be arranged as follows:

- Complete (student) a Google Form at least one week in advance of the proposed visit(s).
- Aim for a maximum of two weekday visits in total.
- Think carefully about which universities to visit. It may be more useful to experience institutions that a student is not yet certain they'll apply to as opposed to those that are definite.
- **Use 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 teacher i/c as soon as possible, 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).**

Please find a calendar of selected (traditionally popular) university open days at the end of this letter. **Saturdays are in red.**

With warmest regards,

Nick O'Doherty
Upper Master

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Saturday 11 June Exeter

Friday 17 June Bath, Bristol, Durham, Liverpool, Queen Mary, Reading

Saturday 18 June Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Durham, Liverpool, Manchester, Queen Mary, Reading

Friday 24 June Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham

Saturday 25 June Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham

Wednesday 29 June Imperial, Oxford

Thursday 30 June Imperial, Oxford

Friday 1 July Cardiff, Loughborough

Saturday 2 July Cardiff, Lancaster, Loughborough, Manchester, Southampton

Thursday 7 July Cambridge, LSE

Friday 8 July Cambridge, LSE