



From Upper Master: Simon James

4 May 2023

Dear parents and carers of Lower Sixth students

### **Advice on absence for (in person) university open days**

#### **Rationale**

Most universities have in-person open days. However, they have generally retained their online resources which they had to rely on entirely during the pandemic.

We recognise the benefit of visiting universities in which you have a genuine and realistic interest. However, it is essential that disruption caused by these visits is kept to a minimum. You need to be in lessons and no one wants a planned lesson to have to be aborted because half the class is away unexpectedly. An additional consideration is our commitment to sports fixtures against other schools on Saturdays.

University visits can often take place in the holidays or at weekends free from school commitments. For example, Sheffield have open days after the end of term and Durham & Newcastle can be visited on Saturdays, which may involve an easier journey. You should consider visiting universities outside of the main open days. **You can also contact universities to request a tour on a different day.** This can be a good opportunity to see what a university is like on a typical day and avoid the 'sales pitch' delivered at Open Days.

#### **Process**

Should there be no alternative a term time university visit may be arranged as follows post exams:

- Complete (student) [the Google Form](#) at least one week in advance of the proposed visit(s). The form will open on Monday 15 May.
- The quota for weekday absences is 2 (and the Google Form will reflect that). You will need to make a good case to me if you want me to grant additional absence requests.
- **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, you 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).**

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You will be able to see if permission has been granted in the [permissions google sheet](#) (visible to pupils).

**Check university webpages to confirm dates** but below is a schedule of some of the upcoming popular open days (Saturdays are in red)

Friday 2 June Exeter

**Saturday 3 June Exeter**

**\*\*NB L6th Exams Monday 5 - Friday 9 June\*\***

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Friday 16 June Durham, Edinburgh, Bath, Bristol, Leeds, Queen Mary

**Saturday 17 June Manchester, Southampton, Durham, Bath, Bristol, Leeds, Queen Mary**

Friday 23 June Newcastle, Birmingham, Liverpool

**Saturday 24 June Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Southampton, Liverpool**

Wednesday 28 June Imperial, Oxford

Thursday 29 June Imperial, Oxford

Friday 30 June UCL, Nottingham, Cardiff, Loughborough, Lancaster

**Saturday 1 July UCL, Nottingham, Cardiff, Loughborough, Lancaster**

Thursday 6 July Cambridge

Friday 7 July Cambridge

BEYOND TERM

Saturday 8 July Sheffield

Kind regards

Simon James

Upper Master

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