

HSP/RMT: Headmaster's letter
8th February 2017

**HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO
PARENT(S)/ GUARDIAN(S) No.4**

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

I am very pleased to inform you Charity Week last term was another resounding success. The pupils with your help, raised over £15,000 to be divided amongst the charities voted by all pupils: Great Ormond Street Hospital, British Heart Foundation and World Food Programme.

1. YEAR 11 MOCK GCSE EXAMINATIONS

All parents should have received the mock GCSE results for their son/daughter. The parent meeting with subject teachers last Thursday was very well attended. I hope the advice from teachers emphasised there is time for all Year 11 pupils to improve over the next 3 months. We have planned a second set of mock GCSE examinations at the start of next term (19th -25th April). This second practice has proved very beneficial for pupils in previous years.

2. YEAR 12 EXAMINATIONS

Year 12 'A' Level students will be sitting starting on 24th March through to the 31st March. To progress to Year 13 students must pass all of their examinations and be up to date with their coursework if they are studying for a BTEC course.

3. YEAR 13 EXAMINATIONS

These are scheduled for the week after half term (20th – 27th February). Students will be on study leave unless they are sitting an examination. Students return to lessons on Tuesday 28th February 2017.

4. YEAR 7 ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

There have been some recent key changes to the National Curriculum and these changes have had a major impact on the way schools are teaching and assessing students.

Some of the key changes include:

- National Curriculum programmes of study
- The introduction of KS2 SATs and Scaled Scores
- The removal of levels at KS3
- New 1-9 assessment at GCSE

Why have there been so many changes? The changes have been put in place in order to build on learning from KS2 as students move to secondary school, to create more focus on knowledge and skills, to enable further engagement with literacy and numeracy and to prepare students in KS3 for challenging KS4 examinations.

In light of all the above changes we have adapted our reporting and assessment system for 7 in order to support pupils in achieving their potential.

In order to measure and track pupils' progress each Year 7 student has received a starting point based on their KS2 Scaled Score. This provides an assessment of the pupil as they start school. The aim of this assessment system is to provide useful information for parents and carers which is clear to understand.

Three times a year we ask subject teachers to input pupil progress data, this is called a Pupil Information Point (PIP). For Year 7, teachers will be measuring progress from the pupil's starting point and assessing whether they are:

- **Approaching (A)**
- **Meeting (M)**
- **Exceeding (E)**

Students will also be assessed on their Attitude to Learning and their Homework and this will be measured with the following:

- **Excellent**
- **Good**
- **Indifferent**
- **Unacceptable**

Your child's next report is due to be issued in March 2017 and will include their starting point and progress so far. We hope that you find the information useful, but please do feel free to contact Ms Constandi should you require any further information or guidance.

Yours faithfully,

HEADMASTER