



A2 Information Morning - August 2022



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- Academic Indiscipline
- Attendance
- Transport
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- Dropping from Four to Three A levels
- Leavers Formal



Welcome

- Appreciation of attendance at meeting
- Information rather than usual Parent Teacher Meeting
- Having this meeting in order to try and highlight with you as parents and students the issues that could have a serious impact on your A level Grades



Headmaster

Mr S Sloan



Purpose of Morning

- Set Context for A Level Studies
- Identify Issues which can hinder students from achieving their potential
- Experience has shown us that these issues do impact very negatively on student performance and in many cases prevent students achieving their chosen course of studies



Head of School

Ms C O'Hare



Areas

- Welcome back and well done !
- Academic Indiscipline
- Attendance
- Transport
- Moving from four to three subjects
- EMA
- Formal



Academic Indiscipline – What is It?

- Homework/Class Tests/Exams
- Module Results (15% 1 Subject fail/6% More than 1 subject fail)
- Coursework
- Attendance
- Management of time in senior study and at home



Effects

- The single most important factor in students not achieving their target grades and being able to move on to university to the course of their choice
- For this reason academic indiscipline can have a profound effect on your life
- Number one issue raised by teachers of A level



Be Aware

- Your son is being **economical** with the truth if he says:
- ‘I have no work to do’
- ‘I did all the work I need to do in the Study Hall’
- Module Fails -----→> Repeats !!! Student’s responsibility
- October Target to pass →> Subjects removed
- Guideline is three hours study a night and a significant element of this needs to be REVISION



How can it be tackled

- The only cure for academic indiscipline is the **student**
- The only person that can make an A level student work **is the student**
- Parents and Teachers can **support** and **challenge** but they **cannot change the behaviour**
- Parents often experience a terrible **powerlessness** in this area



School Response

- We will **challenge students** in this area and **support them where needed**
- We will **contact** home (phone and **parents app**) and **discuss** the issue with parents (class teacher, year tutor, Head of School)
- It is the **Student Response that is CRITICAL.**
- Parents app – weekly notifications – new for 2022-2023



This does not Affect All

- It is important to recognise that **many of you will go through 7th year without any difficulty** and leave here with the results you need
- Some of you are very self motivated and disciplined



Attendance

- This can be a problem area:
- Vital that students attend all their classes whether this be subject classes, careers, or PE
- Things that you are likely to hear are:
 - ‘I only have two classes today’ - ALL Students must be in school for 9am sharp.
 - ‘I have no class until 12.00 – **ALL Students must just be in school for 9am.**
 - ‘I need to take time to do coursework’
 - ‘Everyone else is taking time off’
 - Period 9/10. (Year 14 Post October Achievement of targets)



Attendance

- We are asking you as parents **not to support your son in taking time off school**
- ‘Getting the Notes’ is not the same as being in the class
- There is a very definite correlation between attendance and performance
- Registers will be taken at all A level classes on Sims and absences notified by the parents app. Notes for absence for EMA is essential !



Absence

- If your son is absent for a genuine reason then he needs to have a **note signed by you**
- If your son has medical or dental appointments **please do not arrange these for during the school day** – medical practitioners do work after 3.20!!!!
- **Driving Lessons-** can only be arranged within non-contact class time.



Failure to Attend Class

- o Failure to attend class will result in a Friday Detention and the Year Tutor will phone parents
- o Second offence will result in detention and meeting with Parents/Student and Head of School
- o Third offence can result in a suspension



In School but Not Registered

- All students must register with form teacher (year tutor) if they are late
- In the past some students have not registered when they come in late so that they can leave school early!
- This is full time education – not part-time or student directing their own time.



Examinations/ Progress monitoring

- **Focus: Student's will be challenged and stretched;**
- A more rigorous and robust **examination testing system – to build a culture of regular preparation for examinations**
- **Data Points – 4** in each academic year
- Data points – will offer key data/information to predict grades for Post-18 progression
- Each student will have a **target grade** for each of their subjects set by in consultation with subject teacher and Careers teacher (early Sept)
- This is then used as a **bench mark** for reviewing progress – e.g. a student whose target is 3 A's could have a review meeting even though he has achieved 3 B's
- A predicted grade is set by your teacher based on your actual performance.
- Reviews take place in October, December and March – all information home via the parents app
- Underperforming students will be supported by subject teacher, form teacher, Year Head and Head of School



Christmas Exam

- This is the most important opportunity for your son (full past papers) and PTM will happen in early January so that you can discuss and understand his performance
- Formal written Report received before the January PTM.
- Under no circumstance should a student miss a Christmas Exam. These are full Mock exams.



Reduction from Four to Three A levels

- Students can if they wish drop one of their four subjects
- Normally we would expect students to drop the subject with lowest mark. Important to get career advice before making this decision – you must speak with Ms Reynolds.
- People looking to do high demand courses should consider keeping four A level subjects
- **When decision is made bring letter from home (signed by careers department) to me and then inform relevant teacher that you are leaving that class, you will then be assigned study periods in place of dropped subject classes**



Formal

- There will be an official School Formal this year organised by the students and ourselves
- This will take place on
Thursday September 29th September in the Canal Court Hotel (details to follow)
- The school **will only have responsibility for the Event in the Canal Court.**



Year Tutor

Mrs K Doherty



Part Time Work

- Need to maintain BALANCE
- Recommend that students should not work

Monday – Thursday evenings

- If doing part time work on weekends time must also be made for study
- Recommended study time is 20 hours a week outside of school



Study Hall – Now in Assembly Hall

- Bring your own Device
- Wifi Access/Chrome books available
- Wireless Printing
- Engine room of A level studies
- All students have study hall periods in the week
- Many students waste this time
- Do not use Study Hall to ‘catch up’ on homework
- ‘No Phone’ Policy - distraction



After School Study

- After school study available

Monday /Wednesday/ Friday 3.30-4.30

- **This is not utilised well – important to cultivate good technique early in the term.**



Coursework Deadlines

- Exam Boards set these - non negotiable
- Teachers set internal deadlines so that they can advise students regarding how the work can be improved
- Failure by students to meet internal deadlines will have a significant impact on their grades
- Coursework should not be left to the last minute and time should not be taken off school to complete work because of failure by the student to manage his time throughout the year
- BTEC deadlines are imperative – contact home



Practical Subjects

- Art, Music, Drama, Technology, ICT and Construction
- Offer additional periods for portfolio work
- Do not let part time work interfere with these extra classes
- Failure to utilise these classes does have a negative impact on grade



Transport

- Respect speed limit in school grounds
- Park only in designated areas
- Give Year Head registration of Car - important
- Parents should be aware of the potential dangers of students travelling together in cars
- Students going to Sacred Heart for class must walk



EMA

- If you are in receipt of EMA please remember to register online before the start of term. Packs available at general office.
- If you miss a day or any part of a day **you must bring in a free standing note indicating reason for absence on day of return.** You MUST ensure your note covers date/reason. You will be given one days grace - If this is not done you cannot be marked present with EMA and you will loose the payment – this is the Education Department's rule and one which we must comply with



GOOGLE CLASSROOM – YEAR 14 2022-2023

- 6ehpwdk



Head of Careers

Ms A Reynolds



University applications - UCAS

- **Responsibility** of the student – **supported** by the school
- Attendance at careers classes is mandatory
- Completion of personal statement particularly important. First drafts were due in MAY – final editing occurs now.
- Reference information due by **13th September**
- Deadlines for completed applications – information available in Careers classes and via form classes (**Batch 1 = Friday 4th October => competitive entry courses** such as Medicine/Dentistry/Vet.Med./Oxford/Cambridge)



Additional Admissions Tests

- Students who **MUST** complete **pre-entrance exams for university** e.g. **UKCAT, LNAT, HPAT – MUST register** for these exams **themselves**.
- SOME are completed in school; SOME in local test centres. There are deadlines for registration which can all be found on all the relevant websites, e.g. www.ucat.ac.uk



University Open Days

- September **QUEEN's University**
- September **ULSTER University**
- **St. Mary's Uni. College Open Morning** –
- - only for small number of interested students in Initial Teacher Training & Education



University applications – St. Mary's University College and CAO

- University applications for **St. Mary's teacher training college** take place AFTER applications via UCAS, but BEFORE the Christmas exams
- University applications for **Irish universities via CAO** also take place AFTER the UCAS applications are sent.
- CAO = week beginning.....



“I’m not going to university.”

- Higher level apprenticeships / degree apprenticeships => employer PAYS course fees and “student” is actually an EMPLOYEE
- Training schemes
- Employment
- Gap year



Please keep up to date!

- CHECK your school email regularly
- Register for all Careers Dept. information/ events/university updates on Twitter: [@AbbeyCareers](https://twitter.com/AbbeyCareers)
- Use the facilities in the study hall & careers room to complete your **research** over the next few weeks – be INFORMED
- University prospectuses are available in F12