



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Re: Spring Term: Important Update

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Firstly, on behalf of all the staff at the school we wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

As ever, we have an exceptionally busy few months ahead of us in the 6th Form community and we felt it was important to keep you fully involved at this crucial time. This letter provides the detailed information you need to support your son/daughter over the coming months. Please note that the information which follows is chronological in nature:

This week: Academic Update/Mock Examination Results

Your son/daughter should already be aware of their current academic performance as in lessons they will have received the formal A Level grade from the recent internal examinations (which took place in late November/early December). Although I am sure you have had a conversation with them about these grades, they will be formally released to you via the Go 4 Schools system in the next 48 hours. They will appear as a PDF document or 'report' towards the bottom of your son/daughter's individual page.

The last 2 years have of course, been some of the most challenging in your son/daughter's education and the results in these mocks help us to gauge how your son/daughter is coping with A Level study at this critical point. However, I must point out that we have a substantive period of time of the A level course remaining and there will be a second set of internal examinations later this term.

Please note that the mocks that were sat have covered as much content of the A Level course as possible. However due to the fact that the mocks were completed 7 months before the A levels begin a substantial amount of the course will not have been assessed. Furthermore, in some subjects there is a practical or coursework element and this is not reported as part of the 'Mock Grade'. We have indicated on the report, the % of the overall A Level that the department was able to assess confidently in the mock examination. Please take some time to digest the information contained on the report; it provides you with important information to discuss with your son/daughter's teachers at the upcoming Parents' Evening which we wrote home about last week.

Please note that there may be disparity between your son/daughter's performance in their internal mock examinations and the 'Predicted Grade' that the school is providing to potential universities/employers.

It is important that we are clear:

- Mock Examination results and 'Predicted Grades' are not an accurate indicator of what final A level performance will be in the summer of 2022



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

- Nationally, the predicted grade system is highly inaccurate, with around 85% of 'predicted grades' proving to be incorrect when compared against the final A Level outcome.
- 'Predicted Grades' are intended for a very specific purpose; they are there to support students with their aspirational 'Beyond 18' applications – they are not intended to provide exam boards/parents/students with an indication of final A level outcomes
- Mock examination results and 'Predicted Grades' are formulated with many months to go on the A level course; in many courses, the most difficult concepts/papers are yet to be taught, hence why predicted grades/mock examination results are sometimes higher than final outcomes

Mr Bell and I will now be taking some time to analyse all of the results in these examinations and where we have a particular concern we will be in contact with you. Over the next week, your son/daughter will be reflecting on their results and will be meeting individually with their Form Tutor to discuss targets for the coming weeks.

Subject Consultation Evening: Thursday 20th January: 4:30pm to 7:30pm

A reminder that this evening provides parents/carers with an all-important opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's academic progress at this crucial time. Please refer to the letter sent home last Friday.

UCAS deadline: 26th January

Any students who are still wishing to apply to university, are required to send off their application by this date.

'Advanced information' from the A Level examination boards: Monday 7th February

As you are aware, the government has already announced that they will be assisting preparations for this summer's A Level examinations by providing schools with 'advanced information' relating to each A Level specification. At this point in time, we have no detailed information on what this will mean but will obviously convey key information as we get it.

Dr Dominique Thompson: Tuesday 8th February

In order to support students after such a difficult 2-year period, the school has been fortunate in securing a session for your son/daughter with Dr Dominique Thompson. Dr Thompson is an award-winning GP, young people's mental health expert, TEDx speaker, author and educator, with over 20 years of clinical experience caring for students, including as a police and expedition doctor, and as Director of Service at the University of Bristol Students' Health Service. On 8th February she will be leading, what I am sure will be an outstanding session for students in Year 13. Her TED talk: ['What I learnt from 78,000 GP consultations with university students'](#) is a good indicator of what she will cover in her session. For more information on Dr Thompson please [click here](#). Dr Thompson will also be offering a bespoke parent/carer session in the evening too. Whilst the school has been able to subsidise the cost of these events, securing such a superb speaker does come at considerable cost, as such we will be asking parents for a small contribution towards the cost of the two sessions. Further information will follow shortly.



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Internal Examinations: Monday 28th February – Friday 11th March

Your son/daughter will be sitting a 2nd set of important internal examinations at the start of the next half term. These will be the final substantive assessments that will take place prior to the A level examinations beginning in May. These exams are important for four key reasons:

- They will provide your son/daughter with crucial, final examination practice before the A Levels
- The results will help to inform decisions they make with regards to university/employment choices
- Should the A Level examinations not take place then these exams could be hugely important in assisting colleagues in generating grades for the exam boards
- They will provide your son/daughter with crucial diagnostic feedback with 2 months to go

Student Finance: Early March

If your son/daughter has applied to university then they will need to apply for 'Student Finance' in order to receive a tuition fee/maintenance loan. They will be notified directly via UCAS when the Student Finance system opens but please note this is usually the first week in March.

Revision Session with 'Maximise Your Potential': Thursday 31st March

The school is also putting in place a session with nationally recognised company ['Maximise Your Potential'](#). On this day, your son/daughter will work with this company to embed crucial revision techniques and increase motivation ahead of the all-important Easter holiday and 'final push' before the A Level examinations begin. Once again, this session, will be heavily subsidised by the school, but we will be asking for a small contribution from parents/carers. Further information will follow shortly.

Hoodies/Yearbook

The school has now submitted the order for Leavers' Hoodies and Yearbooks. If your son/daughter has purchased one then our 6th Form Captains will be in touch with them. We anticipate that both items will be available for collection in late May before students depart the school

Year 13 Prom: Wednesday 13th July

Over 200 of the cohort have signed up for the Year 13 Prom; this is fantastic news, especially as the students were unable to formally celebrate at the end of Year 11. We are aware that there may be a few more students who would like to come. As such we have extended the payment deadline until Thursday 3rd February. If your son/daughter would still like to come, please ensure you have paid on ParentPay by this date as there will be no further extensions.

Thursday 18th August 2022 – A Level Results' Day.

Once again, please make a note of this date in your diary – we strongly recommended that you/your son/daughter are in the UK and that the family do not book a holiday at this time. Full support will be available to students on this date and on Friday 19th August in terms of making important decisions. All



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

too often, families book holidays on this date and are unable to access the specialised support. There will be no Sixth Form staff in school after this date, until the start of term.

And finally...

Uniform:

Year 13 are a wonderful year group and it is important that they continue to set a high standard for the rest of the school. We are an 11-18 school community and your son/daughter plays a critical role in acting as a role-model to our younger students. Could I therefore ask:

- Please do not allow your son/daughter to wear anything other than one, small single stud in each ear
- Please ask your son/daughter to follow our school uniform code with regards to nail varnish
- Trousers should be appropriately tailored, regular fit, formal, black trousers in a traditional school style. Jeans and trousers made of denim-type or lycra-based material are prohibited. Trousers and skirts must be appropriate in length and worn in a manner appropriate for school.
- Students are not permitted to dye or bleach their hair in a way which significantly alters their appearance. If your son/daughter is considering bleaching their hair, then they should speak to a member of the 6th Form Pastoral Team before doing so.

Paid employment:

Over the past few months we have been having increasing conversations with students/parents regarding the impact that paid employment is having on study. As a guide your son/daughter should not be working in paid employment for more than 10 hours per week (at the very most!). We know that any more than this almost always has a detrimental impact on A Level outcomes.

Absence:

If your son/daughter is not going to be in school, then could we please impress upon you the importance of calling the school absence line before 8:30am on that day, and any subsequent day of absence. We are unable to accept a voicemail left by your son/daughter!

Use of Google Classroom/Remote Learning

The school is currently at 'Tier 1' of its [remote learning policy](#). As such, if your son/daughter was unable to attend school due to a confirmed COVID case then work would be provided through the Google Classroom platform. It is important that I point out this is the only time staff are required to use Google Classroom to set work for your son/daughter. If your son/daughter is unable to attend school for any other reason, then they should liaise with their teachers upon their return, or speak to classmates to catch up on work missed. There is no expectation that staff are duplicating taught lessons online, for anything other than COVID absence. At post-16 level, it is important that your son/daughter takes responsibility for catching up on any work missed.

Replying to emails:



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Please remember that the school has a 72-hour email reply policy. We politely request that you do not send multiple emails within the 72-hour period. If the issue is urgent and requires immediate attention, please call the school directly.

I hope this letter reassures you that school life is as busy and 'normal' as possible despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

All of the information in this letter will be conveyed with your son/daughter via an assembly this week.

Thank you for all your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Teece
Head of Year 13

Mr Bell
Deputy Head