

4th April 2019

Dear Parent,

YEAR 11 PROGRESSION ON TO SIXTH FORM AND BEYOND

Following on from recent Year 11 interviews for our Sixth Form and meetings with students, I think it might be timely to remind pupils and parents of the expectations that we have outlined with regards to progression.

With the forthcoming exams soon to be upon us, it is imperative that students make the most of all the additional support and guidance that staff are able to offer in addition to the hard work expected in lessons. Please note that the Easter revision timetable and the actual GCSE timetable is available on the school website under the Parent's Tab – Exams. There is also guidance on how to support your son/daughters in the preparation for the exams themselves with revision tips and ways to best support their approach to managing the tests. All of this guidance has been shared with pupils in tutor time and assemblies over the last few weeks.

We have also been reminding pupils about entry requirements for those hoping to return in the Sixth Form. Conditional offers will have been made to those who have applied that are clear and specify that:

- For a student wanting to enrol onto "A" Levels (level 3 pathway) they must have a minimum of 5 Grade 5's at GCSE including English and Maths and we would want to see at least a good "6" in the subject that they are hoping to take at "A" Level.
- This would be a similar offer made by other providers and we would urge parents to talk to pupils about their entry requirements and discuss them in light of their most recent report, target grades and current performance.
- We have recommended some pupils secure a fall back plan in case they do not achieve their target grades.
- Students who we feel will struggle to meet these entry requirements will have had additional one to one careers meetings with Ms Boyle, our Careers Adviser and would have been given alternative suggestions of other providers who are in a position to offer courses suited to students who are not necessarily aspiring to "A" Level courses.
- For those of you who have been to our Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Events and Parents' Evenings, you will know that we are pleased to be able to offer a Level 2 Pathway in September. We are introducing a BTEC in Public Services that will run alongside additional GCSE English and Maths lessons and work experience on our "Teens and Toddlers" programme. Entry requirements for this pathway have been outlined to parents and pupils and are a minimum of 4 Grade 4's at GCSE that ideally should include English and Maths.

Thank you for the support you are continuing to offer your sons/daughters at this very important time – it is absolutely imperative that they appreciate the importance of hard work, dedication and focus now so that they can do their best in the Summer and then have the choices as to where they want to move onto in September.

Please do email myself or Mr Cox, Head of Sixth Form, or Ms Boyle our Careers Advisor (boyle.a@thenorwoodschool.org) if you have any questions at all about our Sixth Form or progression.

Wishing you and your family a busy but peaceful Happy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ms J Nicholas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Ms J Nicholas

Senior Deputy Headteacher