

9 September 2011

To Parents of Girls in Year 11

I would like to welcome both you and your daughter to Year 11. As I am sure you are aware, Year 11 carries with it a number of new pressures. Girls are working towards the public examinations in the summer, completing coursework and making choices about A Levels. Academic and pastoral staff are here to help them face these challenges with confidence and throughout the year we have a structured programme of events to give them advice both on study skills and choosing A Levels.

To help your daughters make informed choices about A Levels they have a number of opportunities to talk to staff about subjects at AS/A2. An important date for your diaries is the **Sixth Form Presentation Evening on Tuesday 27 September**. The evening begins at 6.00 p.m. for external applicants and we invite you and your daughters to join us at 6.15 p.m. ready for the talks given by Heads of Department at 6.30 p.m. This will give them the opportunity to start thinking about their choices which you and she can discuss with her subject staff at the **Year 11 Parents' Evening in January** after she has taken her mock examinations in the first week after the Christmas holidays. They also have the option to take the **Morrisby Vocational Guidance tests on Monday 3 October**, the results of which are used as a focus when discussing her choices. You will receive a letter from Mrs Ogidan, our Head of Careers, about this in due course. I would also like to invite you to an evening giving information on the **UCAS procedure** when applying for university on **Wednesday 30 November** at 6.30 p.m. in Founders' Hall. This may sound early but considering what she might study at university and the process involved is an important part of choosing A Levels. The final decision does not have to be in until February giving your daughter plenty of time to think about what would suit her best. If you would like to attend, please complete and return the attached form. It is worth being aware that GCSEs are early this year before half term and the main body of examinations will begin in the week of 14 May.

Please find attached also the homework timetable for Year 11. I hope this will be helpful to you in supporting the work of your daughters as they proceed towards their GCSE exams. Homework is an integral part of the learning process and helps girls revise and consolidate work done in the classroom. At this stage, however, coursework and research for controlled assessments may also be set as homework and girls will need to adopt an organised approach to manage work which may be staggered over a number of nights.

We hope that your daughter will find this year successful and fulfilling. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Victoria Atkinson
Head of Upper School