

Dear Year 12 Parents and Guardians

Your daughter is now embarking on the most exciting two years of her school career, which will culminate in 2013 with A2 levels and university offers.

In the Sixth Form we want girls to be independent learners and engage in creative thinking. Girls need to manage their own time and use their study periods effectively. If timetables allow, and if they are not needed in the school, Sixth Formers are allowed to leave the school premises during the school day, but they must sign out (at the School Office) before they go. We also think it is very important that girls should take responsibility for getting themselves around London. We also expect them to get to and from conference centres or theatres in central London on their own. On returning from school outings, girls may make their own way home or go home with other girls. Please sign the attached statement if you are happy with these arrangements.

In addition, we aim to encourage girls to be self-reflective and evaluate their academic progress. To support this initiative all the girls will be working with their personal tutors and subject teachers to set personal targets for AS subjects and review their progress. Girls will complete a detailed self assessment for each AS subject immediately after the first half term holiday and this should provide a focus for study patterns and future revision programmes. Parents and girls will be invited to attend the Parents Consultation evening on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** to receive full, structured and specific advice from her subject teachers for the AS modules. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

There have been many changes in the A' level curriculum, including the introduction of A\*s and the UCAS process can seem at first a little daunting, particularly for parents who haven't yet experienced the ups and downs of a child taking AS and A2 levels.

Perhaps the most significant change to the A' levels has been the introduction of a new A\* grade (awarded from August 2010) to students who have achieved both of the following:

- i) Grade A overall (that is 80 per cent of maximum uniform marks for the whole A level qualification)
- ii) 90 percent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of A2 unit scores.

The A\* grade is awarded for A level qualification only and not the AS qualification or individual units.

The table illustrates three possible outcomes (based on two AS modules and two A2 modules and a total score of 400):

	Candidate 1	Candidate 2	Candidate 3
AS paper 1	90 /100 (A)	95/100 (A)	79 / 100 (B)
AS paper 2	85 / 100 (A)	95/100 (A)	75 / 100 (B)
AS grade	A	A	B
A2 paper 1	95 / 100 (A)	90 / 100 (A)	95 /100 (A)
A2 paper 2	95 / 100 (A)	85 /100 (A)	95 / 100 (A)
<b>Aggregate AS / A2 score</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Aggregate A2 score</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>95%</b>
A2 grade	A* Met both criteria	A A2 scores below the 90% threshold	A* Met both criteria (despite grade B at AS level).

Hence, it is possible for two candidates with the same aggregate scores to achieve different grades because one candidate has done better on the final A2 modules. Increasingly we are seeing more and more universities making A\*s part of their typical grade offers, although with increased competition for places this is likely to continue.

I will be writing again throughout academic year but wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you and your daughter to the Sixth Form and keep you informed of recent initiatives.

If you have any queries or questions about the Sixth Form please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Newman  
Head of Sixth Form

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<b>Sixth Formers In and Around London</b>			
<b>Name of Girl</b>		<b>Form</b>	
I give my permission for my daughter to be off school premises at certain times during the school day and to travel within London on school visits without supervision.			
<b>Signature of Parent / Guardian</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
Please return this to your daughter's Form Tutor as soon as possible			