

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

Ref: CCL/raf/EndofTerm4LettertoYear13Parents2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

## END OF TERM LETTER TO YEAR 13 PARENTS: TERM 4 2025

The weather is warming up, the Easter holidays are on the way, and before we know it our Year 13s will be starting their exams! It always comes around very quickly, and the students have been working very hard again this term completing coursework, taking vocational assessments and preparing for exams in the summer- we are very proud of them!

I just wanted to write to you all with a few reminders of key things happening next term, and then provide some information about results and processes looking ahead to the summer.

### Study Leave Dates and End of Year Celebration Assembly

The final teaching day for Year 13 will be **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. Students are required to attend normal lessons for periods 1 and 2. There will then be a final celebration assembly during period 3, with an early finish at approximately 12pm, when students who have bought a copy of the Yearbook can collect these and have them signed by friends. Students will then be required to leave the school site and Study Leave will officially begin. Parents should ensure that students are able to get home after the early finish on this day.

Students are then only required to come into school for their timetabled exams. They must wear their lanyards as ID for their exams. They are welcome to come into school to meet with teachers for revision sessions and support when they would normally have had a timetabled lesson for that subject. We would just ask that this is discussed with teachers in advance, and that students tap in and out with their ID cards so we know who is on site. Students are of course still welcome to use the school libraries and study spaces for revision and are welcome to pop into the Sixth Form office if they have any worries or concerns.

Thank you to those parents who sent in photos of happy school memories for us to share during the celebration assembly. Although the deadline was Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, it is not too late if you still have photos you would like to have included for the celebration assembly photo montage. Any photos of school-related activities such as trips and clubs, sports events or fun times with school friends would be appreciated. These will only be used for the assembly and not be stored afterwards. Please email contributions directly to: [Year13Photos@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:Year13Photos@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk).

### Year 13 Prom

Don't forget that the Year 13 Leavers Dinner will take place on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025** at Bowood Hotel. The evening will run from 6:30pm to 11pm, with arrivals from 6pm, and departures from 11pm. Students have organised a coach, which will pick up and drop off in Marlborough High Street, but parents of students who have not booked on to the coach will need to make arrangements for students to be dropped off at the turning circle of the Kerry Suite at Bowood Hotel between 6 and 6:30pm. Parents are welcome to stay and watch arrivals if they wish, but must park in the Woodland carpark. Parents should also ideally park there when collecting students at the end of the evening as this will avoid long queues in the turning circle. It has not happened at previous proms, but if there are any plans to arrive in large vehicles, these must be the last to arrive at Bowood as they will block the one-way system if they arrive with the smaller vehicles. These vehicles are to enter via the exit/service entrance off the main Chippenham to Devizes Road (The A342 NOT The Golden Gates entrance).

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There is a paid bar serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at the hotel and students will be supplied with wrist bands indicating whether or not they are over 18. Students will still need to bring photo ID with them if they are intending to purchase alcohol and we remind them to drink responsibly. Further details regarding arrangements for Prom can be found in the letter sent home in Term 2, available here: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/uploads/letters/sixth-form/Year-13-Leavers-Prom-Letter-2025.pdf>.

### Returning Library Books

Tickets for Prom need to be collected by students from Mrs Stokes in the school library once Study Leave begins. **Students can only collect their Prom tickets once all their library books have been returned to the library.** Students can of course keep core textbooks on loan for revision until exams are finished, but all books must be returned to the library before students can be issued their Prom ticket. The last A Level exam is scheduled for the morning of **20<sup>th</sup> June** so we would ask that all students return all outstanding library books by this date, whether they are attending Prom or not. **We would please ask parents for support in making sure this happens as we lose hundreds of pounds each year through unreturned library books.**

### UCAS and student finance

Most students have already received offers from their university choices and we have explained to students the process for replying to these in Social Studies this term. If they are still unsure, lots of information can also be found on the UCAS website here: <https://wwwucas.com/applying/after-you-apply/types-undergraduate-offers/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>, especially regarding making any changes to their original choices.

Applications for student finance are now open for September 2025 courses. Again, there is lots of useful information about the process and deadlines on the UCAS website. A good starting point is here: <https://wwwucas.com/money-and-student-life/money/student-finance/student-finance-england/tuition-fee-loans-full-time-students>. The link to apply can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>. Students need to complete applications by the end of May to ensure any maintenance loans are processed in time for courses starting in September.

**UCAS Extra** is open until 4th July. This is for students who have not received any offers or wish to reapply this year for a different course or university but do not want to wait for Clearing. More details of this can also be found on the UCAS website: <https://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices>.

**Gap year students-** if your child is planning to apply for university next academic year, they need to apply through UCAS in the usual way. However, they need to apply as an independent student- this means they do **not** use the St John's 'Buzzword' to link their application to school, but are required to add Mrs Haig-Williams as their referee with the following email: [Rhaig-williams@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:Rhaig-williams@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk). We will then supply the school reference for the application before it is sent to UCAS. They should do this by the end of October so we have time to process their application. They are also welcome to contact Mrs Haig-Williams to discuss and update their reference with her.

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## Results and Clearing

A-Level results will be available from 9am from school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August. We do not issue results by email or phone. We will post results on 14<sup>th</sup> August if we are provided with a stamped addressed envelope, otherwise results will be posted second class on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August. We can only issue exam results to students: please use the *authorisation to collect results* form on the exam section of the school website if you would like someone to collect results on behalf of your child. We will not issue exam results to parents without this authorisation

On 14<sup>th</sup> August, students will find out whether they have successfully secured a place at their chosen university via UCAS. It is important to be aware of the Clearing process to best prepare you and your child for results day.

### What is clearing?

Clearing is an opportunity to find a course after results have been issued. It opens from 5<sup>th</sup> July and highlights any university course places that are still available.

### Who is clearing for?

Clearing is available for:

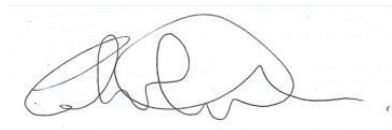
- Students without offers
- Students who don't achieve predicted grades
- Students who achieve higher results than expected
- Students who change their mind
- Students who haven't applied yet.

Clearing might feel a bit daunting at first as students will obviously be disappointed not to have gained a place at their chosen university. However, there are lots of very good courses available through clearing- universities are very keen to fill these – and lots of students find university places they are very happy with. More details of how the process works can be found on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/applying/after-you-apply/clearing-and-results-day/what-clearing>. Portsmouth University is also hosting a webinar to help support parents and students through the process. This webinar will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> August from 4-5pm and can be booked here: [https://www.port.ac.uk/clearing-webinars24?utm\\_medium=organic-email&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_source=&utm\\_content=&utm\\_term=](https://www.port.ac.uk/clearing-webinars24?utm_medium=organic-email&utm_campaign=&utm_source=&utm_content=&utm_term=).

I realise that is an awful lot of information, and it might feel a little early to be thinking about Results Day, but it does come around surprisingly quickly so is worth being aware of now. If you have any questions about any of these processes, do ask students to pop into the Sixth Form office to discuss them with us, or email me directly and I will try to help.

For the time-being however, let's focus on preparation for exams, as well as having a well-earned break. I do wish both you and all our Year 13 students a very happy and restful Spring Break, and look forward to welcoming them back for our final, very short, term on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Yours with very kind regards



**Mr Colin Luker**  
**Head of Year 13**