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24<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to keep you informed of events which are happening at school in the coming weeks and to clarify our expectations of Year 13 students.

You have hopefully received a copy of your child's recent Progress Tracker. In the vast majority of cases these are positive and pleasing, and many of you will have received a separate letter commenting on this.

Clearly this is a critical time for all students as there is only a little over a term remaining before study leave and their very important A Level exams. As you know these exams can have a significant impact on students' futures and it is vital that they are devoting sufficient time to revision and other independent study as well as taking full advantage of revision sessions and other support on offer.

- The **Post-16 Pathways Evening** on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January** will have representatives from a number of employers, training providers, and other Post-16 and Post-18 options, and would be especially useful for students who have not yet finalised their plans. You should have received a separate letter via your child about this event.
- The annual **Review Day** is on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** and all Year 13 students are expected to attend at their allocated time, whether or not their parent/carers are able to accompany them. We hope that you will be able to join your child in the discussion regarding their progress at school and targets for the future.
- On **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** there will be a whole school **Theme Day**. All Year 13 students are expected to attend for the whole day, regardless of their normal timetable commitments. We have arranged a series of five activities designed to promote healthier lifestyles. Similar activities in the past have proved both popular and very worthwhile for students and there is every reason to expect the same this year.



As you will be aware, we feel that we are very reasonable in normally allowing students to take their study periods at home rather than requiring them to remain in school. In return for this privilege, we hope that they will respond by turning up to all compulsory activities. Consequently, we have warned all students that if they choose not to turn up to these events without giving prior warning with good reason to their tutor, Miss Wilkinson or myself they will lose entitlement to leave school during study periods. With the positive approach of most students I know that it is unlikely that this sanction will have to be used but I think it only fair that I make our expectations clear before the events take place.

In addition, high levels of attendance inevitably contribute to students' success in exams, with research suggesting that a difference of 10% in attendance leads to a difference of half a grade per A Level subject in the final result. Consequently, and as you may be aware, we have been closely monitoring attendance. Please support us in doing so by confirming either by letter, phone or email ([sbriggs@saltashcloud.net](mailto:sbriggs@saltashcloud.net)) when your child is genuinely absent. Until we receive this confirmation, absences remain unauthorised. (Unauthorised absence is something we may be requested to report upon in job references).

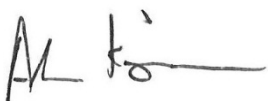
We would also like to ask that students do not make any plans to take a holiday on or immediately after the **A level Results Day on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August**. Unfortunately, some students may need to be in contact with universities at that time and it is important that they are able to easily access their UCAS and other university information. Even in these days of improved communication technology this can prove difficult if they are hundreds (or thousands) of miles away!

Finally, in appreciation of the fact that several Year 13 students will now have passed their driving tests, please could we remind you that although students are permitted to drive to school they must register their vehicles with Mrs Briggs in the Sixth Form Office, and are not permitted to park on the school site in any circumstances. There have been some recent unfortunate instances of students blocking in other cars or school buses, or preventing visitors from parking, and we would not want to ban any student from bringing their car to school.

I am conscious that this letter may seem to contain a series of 'orders' but previous feedback from parents suggests that they have appreciated knowing the full details. I also know that early warning means that there is less room for confusion at a later stage.

I trust that you will appreciate my reasons for writing and thank you for your support in helping the school, in turn, to support your child.

Yours sincerely



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Head of Sixth Form

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