



LORD GREY Sixth Form



SUMMER
2018

LORD GREY SIXTH FORM
YEAR 12 PARENT INFORMATION



"Students' achievement in the sixth form is good. Over time, it is clear that students make rapid gains in their learning and are successful in both academic and work-related examinations."

Ofsted Report, Lord Grey School, July 2014.

INTRODUCTION

This is to inform you of the activities and key dates for Year 12 students through the last part of the year and information about the start of the new academic year in September.

We are currently fast approaching the examination season. Students should know exactly when their exams are and how they need to be equipped for them. Their personal exam entries, dates and times are available via 'Insight'.

Students need to keep going to lessons for examination subjects until all the exams in that subject have finished. They need to continue to go to CTEC and BTEC lessons **throughout the exam period** until they have reached the target grade as agreed with their teachers. There may be some days over the exam period when they are not expected in school. They return after the exams on **Monday 11 June** – more information about all summer dates is below.

Lord Grey is now an Academy. This should not make a big difference to the education your child is getting, although there will be increased emphasis on attendance, punctuality, dress code and Sixth Form students being good role models for the younger students.

We have always been proud of our Sixth Form results and have often done very well on measures which compare our 'Value Added' scores to other local Sixth Form schools. Last year's **Health and Social** results were so good that Lord Grey was judged '**Seventh in the whole country**', not just against Sixth Form schools but also against all the top performing Sixth Form Colleges. Congratulations to the Year 13 Health and Social students (now all successfully moved on) and to the teaching staff of Miss May, Miss Webb and Miss Hussey.

It is not automatic that students move into Year 13. Some decide to move on and for some, if their exam results are low, or their coursework is not of a certain standard, it is not sensible to embark on the harder second year. We will have discussions with all students in this situation and, I'm sure, with you as appropriate. We do want all students to return after the exam period – as explained below – and we will use the last few weeks to start these discussions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Most Year 12 students will have their last AS Exams in the week beginning 21 May. For those on two year courses (e.g. Art, Art Textiles, English Literature and Business) there will be internal exams if they have not taken AS papers. These happen towards the end of the public exam sessions.

We give them a little time off before they start as Year 13 on the A2 sections of their courses on **Monday 11 June**. Students are required to continue going to **ALL lessons** on their timetable until we break up for the summer holidays. Even if they have set their heart on dropping a subject, they **CANNOT** miss those lessons. It is a condition of their place in Year 13 that they attend them. We will have individual discussions with students who may not be coming back to Year 13 or who want to change one subject.

The morning of **Monday 11 June** (their first day on returning fully as Year 13) and the afternoon of **Wednesday 13 June** we have 'Destination Workshops'. These will be devoted to helping students plan their future pathway with input on the UCAS university application process, the application process for apprenticeships and for employment. We hope to target the sessions for individuals by asking if they already know which route they may take, but also cater for those who are still unsure. We will have guests from universities for both sessions.

In the evening of **Thursday 14 June**, to follow the student activities, we have arranged for **David Seaton** from the **University of Bedfordshire** to come in and speak to **parents and students** regarding the process of applying to university and the finances of student life. This will take place at **6pm** in the Lecture Theatre. Parents have been full of praise for this event in previous years and so we hope you will be able to attend.

We have an important visit on **Friday 29 June** when we would like to take the whole year group to the University and Careers Convention at Bedford University. This has proved very valuable to students in previous years in terms of deciding what future path to take. We will probably be leaving at the normal school starting time but are just waiting for confirmation from coach companies. The academy covers the cost of the travel for this.

Following these we will help the students with 'Personal Statements' and logging on to the UCAS website for university applications on **Wednesday 11 July**.

There is a whole school Staff Training Day on **Wednesday 4 July**. We will expect students to use this day to reflect on their exams and the input they have had to help them plan their next move. They are welcome to come in and use the Sixth Form area and resources in it, to help them with their planning.

The academy has a 'Creative Learning Day' on **Friday 6 July**. The younger students will have a variety of learning activities, not based on the curriculum. We are giving Sixth Formers a choice, they can either:

- (i) Show their leadership skills in helping staff run those events for younger students, **or**
- (ii) Come to Oxford on our '**Big Day Out**'. Previous students have had a fabulous time in this historic and beautiful city. Many visited galleries, museums and colleges, the more adventurous went punting and some just wandered, absorbing the atmosphere. This has a voluntary contribution of **£10**. We won't be able to go unless we receive enough in voluntary contributions. The students last year thought it was well worth this for the day. They would also need to bring money for lunch etc.

We will then have our own 'Enrichment Afternoon' on **Wednesday 18 July** just for Sixth Form students with some team-building activities based around learning, which is not on the curriculum. We hope to offer, for example, some simple car maintenance, cooking and other life-skills.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Public Examination results are released in the Sixth Form area on **Thursday 16 August**.

- A2 (Year 13) at **9am**
- AS (Year 12) at **10am**.

Entry into Year 13 is **CONDITIONAL** not automatic. It is dependent upon:

- Grades - Generally students need to achieve a “D” grade or higher in their AS in order to continue to A2.
- Good Coursework – where applicable
- Attitude to learning
- Attendance
- Feedback from subject teachers
- A meeting with Mrs White, Mr Darvall, Mr Smith or Mr Hoggard in the summer.

Re-sitting Year 12 is only used in **exceptional** circumstances, for example where a student has a statement of special educational needs or EHC plan.

If students are moving into Year 13, the first day of their new year will be **Monday 10 September** and we would like them to arrive for 8.45am.

One change you will see in the autumn is a switch to ‘**Go4Schools**’. This will take the place of **Insight**, which has served us well, but does not give the range of features which the new system promises. More details later.

Thank you for all the support you are giving at home over this rather stressful time. There are some ideas on support for teenagers at exam time from the NHS Choices website at the end of this Newsletter.

Please do contact one of the team if you have any questions or suggestions.

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SIXTH FORM DRESS AND APPEARANCE CODE

Appearance is important. We want our Sixth Form students to be treated as individuals and act independently but we also want a collective presence around the school site which younger students, staff and visitors can respect. The many visitors to the Sixth Form judge the students and institution partly on appearances. Looking more professional also translates into taking oneself seriously as a student. We expect students to dress as they would if going to work in an office.

For male students:

collar and tie,
smart jacket or jumper,
smart shoes and trousers.

For female students:

smart shirt, top or blouse,
tailored trousers or skirt of a suitable length
smart shoes,
smart jacket, jumper or cardigan.

Many students have jobs outside school and often wear clothes which would fit this code.

It is the overall look which the Sixth Form Team will judge. We want students to look like they have come to work and not as if they are going to the park, and the team's decision on what is smart will be final.

RAMADAN 2018

Exams During Ramadan – How to Prepare

This Ramadan brings new challenges for students as it coincides with the exam season. Some sage words here from Sarah Nurgat writing for the student.com website.

“If you're not Muslim, you might be wondering why we don't just stop fasting during exams. The thing is, observing Ramadan is a really important part of being a Muslim, but we still have to study, work and do all the things we normally do, just with a few exceptions (like if you're ill). The key to getting through exams during Ramadan is to be prepared.

You might feel like you're missing out on the spiritual benefits of Ramadan because you don't have time for extra prayers, Quran recitation or charity work. Don't forget that revising is spiritual too! Educating yourself is also an important part of religion.”

Please see her full article on the student.com website for more complete advice (the link is below).

<https://www.student.com/articles/exams-during-ramadan-how-to-prepare/>



IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS

Day	Date	Event	Notes
Monday	14 May	First AS Exam	
Monday	4 June	Last AS Exam	
Monday	11 June	Year 12 return as Year 13	This morning will be devoted to Destination activities to allow students to further investigate university, UCAS, HE, apprenticeships and careers etc. organised by Michelle White and Stuart Hoggard.
Wednesday	13 June	Destinations Afternoon	Follow-up to the above morning with the above staff and university guests.
Thursday	14 June	University Information Evening	6pm in the Lecture Theatre with David Seaton from the University of Bedfordshire. Please be there if your son or daughter has any inclination to go to university.
Wednesday & Thursday	27 and 28 June	Induction and Selection for New Year 12 students	Current students will be expected in their lessons and will be demonstrating the skills, aptitude and knowledge needed to the new year group.
Friday	29 June	UCAS Convention	All new Year 13 come to the University of Bedford for a convention which has all the universities other higher education providers and employers. This is a really important day to get students seriously starting to plan their next move. All students need to pre-register and we will let them know as soon as we can about how to do this.
Wednesday	4 July	Staff CPD Day	Sixth Form students can come in or stay at home to work or research their future career path.
Friday	6 July	Creative Learning Day Big Day Out	Sixth Form students can help run events on the academy site or come to Oxford. For the last several years we have taken all the new Year 13s to Oxford and they have said just how much they've enjoyed it. We would like to do the same again this year. The cost will be £10.
Wednesday	11 July	Destinations Afternoon	Personal Statement writing and help with registering on UCAS and other websites.
Wednesday	18 July	Sixth Form Enrichment Afternoon	An afternoon of fun activities linked to life-skills (e.g. car maintenance and cooking!)
Friday	20 July	Last Day of the Academic Year	

Beat school exam stress - Advice from the *NHS Choices* Website for parents of students with exams this summer.



1. Watch out for exam stress

Look out for signs of exam stress. Stressed children may be irritable, not sleep well, lose interest in food, worry a lot and appear depressed or negative. Headaches and stomach pains can also be stress-related.

Having someone to talk to about their work can help. Support from a parent, mentor or study buddy can help students air their worries and keep things in perspective. If you feel your son or daughter isn't coping, talk to teachers at their school.

2. Ensure they eat well at exam time

A **balanced diet** is vital for health and can help them feel well during exam periods.

Some parents find that too many high-fat, high-sugar and high-caffeine foods and drinks (such as cola, sweets, chocolate, burgers and chips) make their children hyperactive, irritable and moody.

3. Sleep helps exam performance

Good sleep will improve the student's thinking and concentration. Most teenagers need between 8 and 10 hours' sleep a night. Allow half an hour or so for kids to wind down between studying, watching TV or using a computer and going to bed to help them get a good night's sleep.

Please encourage them to leave their phone in a different room to where they sleep.

Cramming all night before an exam is usually a bad idea. Sleep will benefit your child far more than hours of panicky last-minute study.

4. Be flexible at exam time

When a student is revising all day, don't worry about household jobs that are left undone or untidy bedrooms. Staying calm yourself can help. Remember, exams don't last forever.

5. Help your child revise

Help the student to revise by making sure they have somewhere comfortable to study. Help them draw up a revision schedule or ask the school for one.

6. Discuss any exam nerves

Remind your child that feeling nervous is normal. Nervousness is a natural reaction to exams.

The key is to put these nerves to positive use. Being reminded of what they do know and the time they have put into study can help them feel confident.

7. Encourage exercise at exam time

Make sure your kids are active. Exercise can help boost energy levels, clear the mind and relieve stress. Walking, cycling, swimming, football and dancing are all effective.

8. Don't add to exam pressure

Support group [ChildLine](#) says that many of the young people who contact them feel that the greatest pressure at exam time comes from their family.

"Keep things in perspective," says Rosanne Pearce, a senior supervisor. "Listen to them, give support and avoid criticism."

Before they go in for a test or exam, be reassuring and positive. Make sure they know that failing isn't the end of the world and they may be able to take the exam again if things don't go well.

After each exam, encourage your child to talk it through with you. Then move on and focus on the next test, rather than dwelling on things that can't be changed.

9. Have treats after exams

When the exams are over, help celebrate with a treat. These can be a real encouragement for the next time they have a test, even with the oldest and most secure of students.

Don't use rewards as bribes. Instead, encourage them to work for their own satisfaction, offering small, frequent treats.



RETURN SLIP PAGE STUDENT'S NAME: _____

Please complete and return to:
Sixth Form Office, Lord Grey Academy, Rickley Lane, Bletchley MK3 6EW

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION EVENING THURSDAY 14 JUNE *(PLEASE TICK THE RELEVANT BOX)*

I will be able to attend the Information Evening at 6pm YES
NO

UCAS CONVENTION FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018 *(PLEASE TICK THE RELEVANT BOX)*

My son/daughter has registered and will be coming YES
The costs of this are borne by the Sixth Form. NO

FRIDAY 6 JULY 2018 *(PLEASE TICK THE RELEVANT BOX)*

EITHER
My son/daughter will be supporting one of the activities during the
Creative Learning Day

OR

I wish my son/daughter to participate in the Big Day Out visit

If the second.....
I am willing to contribute £10 towards the Big Day Out visit YES
and enclose it with this form. NO

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:



Lord Grey Sixth Form

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