

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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8th July 2021

Dear parents / guardians of Lower Sixth Students,

We hope your son / daughter has enjoyed his / her first year in the Sixth Form. In spite of the very challenging circumstances that this year has brought, the vast majority of the students have really seized hold of the opportunities that Sixth Form affords them, within and outside of the real and virtual classroom, and are well on their way to achieving their post-18 aspirations. We're very proud of their resilience and determination and are really looking forward to welcoming the whole year group back in September.

This week, the Lower Sixth will be working on their End of Year Review; an opportunity to pause and reflect on the achievements and obstacles of this year as well as to plan for next steps. Students should be bringing these home to discuss with their parents / guardians, and we hope that you are able to engage in meaningful conversations about these.

We will be emailing the year group to remind them about making the most of the summer holidays and want to share with you the tips they'll be given to ensure that they make productive use of their time. We are also distributing a recommended reading list and hope that you can encourage your son / daughter to dip into this list as well as to read widely for his / her current subjects and his / her chosen university course (if applicable.) Tutors will be expecting every student to be able to present on a book they've read when they return in September.

Throughout this year, we have been encouraging the Lower Sixth to engage with the Praesis ut Prosis award, (affectionately known as the PuP award,) which seeks to embody the school motto (Lead In Order To Serve), encouraging the students to lead and serve within the school and wider community. In preparation for Post-18 options, it recognises, develops and enhances experience and achievement in a work-related environment. We would like the year group to submit their PuP booklet once we return in September, so that their level can be assessed, and bronze / silver / gold certificates can be awarded. We have modified the requirements in light of this year's unusual circumstances, for example, they can use virtual work experience and online webinars attended during lock-down as evidence. Please remind your son / daughter to update their booklet and to submit it to Mrs Marshall in September. Engaging in the award is a very effective way of preparing for the skills and knowledge needed for life beyond school.

Throughout the year, we have advertised webinars and opportunities from universities, apprenticeship providers and employers, and have put on a series of lunchtime and after school talks and workshops, all with a view to supporting the students to make informed decisions about their future beyond LRGS. There has been plenty for them to get involved with and learn from. Following on from the UCAS workshop we have run over Teams, each student should be well on their way to completing a draft personal statement to support their

university application and / or a copy of an up-to-date CV if they are opting for an apprenticeship or applying for a job. Please remind your son / daughter to spend time on this task over summer and have it ready to hand in to their tutor when we return in September if they haven't already done so. We have uploaded onto the UCAS channel of their year group Team lots of useful documentation and support materials to aid this process.

Finally, we're asking the year group to get their notes and folders organised, to consolidate their work where needed, to be physically active and to spend quality time with their friends and family. The Upper Sixth will be a busy and compact year, so we encourage them to do all they can to get physically and mentally prepared for the new academic year.

As we know that family circumstances can change, and especially so in the current climate, we'd also like to remind you of the 16-19 bursary. This is a government funded scheme offering financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation in education. If you think you may now be eligible for the bursary, please contact Mrs Haywood (chaywood@lrqs.org.uk).

Thank you for your support over the year and particularly during lockdown. We appreciate how challenging the last year has been and we recognise that our students wouldn't have been able to continue so positively without the wonderful support from home.

Wishing you and your family a very happy and healthy summer,

The Sixth Form Team