



Heathfield School Ascot

February 2016

Dear Parents

I write to update you about our advice for your daughter concerning her AS examinations. We are at the moment in a period of A Level reform, where girls are studying a mixture of 'reformed' and 'unreformed' subjects. 'Unreformed' subjects have not changed: girls sit AS examinations this summer and then move on to A2 in September. 'Reformed' subjects are linear, with all assessment happening at the end of the Upper Sixth year. A separate AS Level qualification is available in reformed subjects, but does not count towards the final A Level grade.

Girls are currently studying the following reformed subjects: History, Psychology, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art and Photography.

Bearing in mind that girls are studying a mixture of reformed and unreformed subjects, our advice should take account of the individual needs of each girl and the pathway that she is thinking of following. Therefore, a number of key questions need to be considered:

- **Does your daughter intend to continue with an unreformed subject to A2 Level?** If she does, she needs to sit the AS examination this summer as the result contributes to the overall A Level grade.
- **Does your daughter intend to cap an unreformed subject and not continue with it next year?** If she does, she needs to sit the AS examination this summer in order to receive an AS grade.
- **Does your daughter definitely intend to continue with a reformed subject next year?** If she does, our advice is that she does not take the AS examination, as it will not contribute to the overall A Level grade and the result of the examination would have to be declared on a UCAS application.
- **Does your daughter not know which subject to drop at the end of this year?** If this is the case, then she may wish to take AS examinations in all subjects, but she needs to be aware that the reformed subject grades have to go on her UCAS application, a change to previous years.

Advice to help your daughters with their decision is available from their academic staff, their tutors, the Director of Studies and myself as to which pathway will best allow them to achieve their academic potential. A final decision needs to be made by 11 March to allow examination entries to be finalised.

Please feel free to contact your daughter's tutor, Mrs Gardiner-Legge or myself if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Jeremy Hart
Director of Sixth Form

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