December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of your son/daughter’s first term at Adams College, I would like to inform you of some important information and dates for 2019.

**Target Grades**

Year 12 students have now been issued with their target grades, the grades to which we hope they will aspire. At Adams College, we use a national company, called FFT (with links to the Fischer Family Trust) to help us in determining target grades. This company analyse the exam results of students from the previous year’s Year 13 cohort nationally and compares them with the student’s levels of ability from KS4 upon entry to college, as well as looking at their gender and month of birth. Thus, we can see what the most common A Level grades was for a pupil who entered college with particular KS4 results and these key characteristics.

Next, we narrow this down and consider the colleges which achieve slightly better results than Adams College, which allow us to set suitable target grades for our students with a built-in element of aspiration (as a college, we always want to do better than we did the previous year!)

In summary, the target grades set for your son/daughter should be considered challenging but achievable. These target grades can be found on Go4Schools.

**22nd January 2019 - Consultation Evening**

I do hope you are able to attend and I look forward to seeing you. The evening will be held in the Stanier Hall from 4.30pm. We will send a letter home, after Christmas, with more details.

**28th January – Road Safety Presentation**

On 28th January, all Year 12 students will have an hour-long presentation from Malcolm Farrar, a Road Safety Education Consultant. Malcolm comes to speak to our students every year; his message is hard hitting, yet essential to ensure the safety of our students.

Now that students are reaching the age where driving lessons can start, can I ask you to ensure that the timing of tuition does not coincide with subject lessons (or Study Hub sessions) at college. Once students have passed their test, should they wish to drive to college, they are reminded that they must park on the car park by Music, or in neighbouring streets, giving due consideration to residents.

**March – Mentoring**

All Year 12 students will be mentored by their form tutors, focusing on academic progress. The tutors will also start sowing seeds for students to consider life after A Levels, be that university, apprenticeship, employment or a gap year.

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**Written Reports - April**

At the end of next term, in April, you will receive a written report from subject teachers. These reports will be available on GO4Schools.

**6th March 2019 - UCAS Conference in Manchester**

In March, we will be running our annual trip to the UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) exhibition in Manchester, helping students explore a wide range of academic and career opportunities, and discover a future that's right for them. Letters will be sent home in the new year.

**15th July - Work Experience Week**

In this ever-competitive world, work experience is much sought after by potential employers and universities. If you are having difficulty in finding a suitable placement, we do have a directory of businesses who have taken Adams’ students in the past, which students are welcome to browse through.

I look forward to welcoming students back to college on 7th January 2019 at 8.45am.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best wishes,

Julie Squire

**Key Stage 5 Manager**