



Key Changes between Lower and Upper School

Commendations

Students in the Upper School no longer receive commendations, but instead will receive Recognition Cards. These are postcards on which a teacher can write a message of congratulations and post home to your son. While these are harder to receive than commendations in the Lower School, they are awarded for similar reasons, such as outstanding academic work or extra-curricular commitment.

Sanctions

	Fourth and Fifth Year Sanction
No Homework	Detention on Friday from 4 to 5pm. A letter is sent home to parents informing them about the detention.
Repeated failure to submit homework.	Saturday supervised study session from 9.30 to 11.30am (see further details below*)
Behaviour which falls below our expectations.	Detention on Friday from 4 to 5pm or Saturday from 9.30 to 11.30am (depending on severity).
Repeated failure to submit coursework	Saturday Detention, during which time the work should be completed.

As you will see, the most significant change to the sanctions is with respect to academic work. This reflects the increasing importance of homework in the Upper School. Should students fall behind in their homework, it can become increasingly difficult for them to access what is being covered in lessons.

*Should students receive three academic Friday detentions, they will have a meeting with their Head of Year to discuss strategies for ensuring that they are more organised about completing and handing in work on time in future. If this support is not effective, and a student continues to miss deadlines, additional support and sanctions may be considered such as Saturday supervised study sessions and, in more serious cases, a Head of Year contract and the loss of privileges such as playing sport. Should students continue to not produce work after such an intervention the matter will be referred the Headmaster or one of his Deputies.

While we always hope that these sanctions are unnecessary, they are there to ensure that boys make the most of the next two years. As in the Lower School, detentions take priority over all other school commitments.

Punctuality

As before, punctuality is of the utmost importance, both in terms of form time, but also in moving between lessons. Form time will become increasingly focused on supporting and challenging your son to reach the best of his ability, as well as handing out notices to do with public examinations, study visits, extra-curricular activities and so on. Repeated lateness to tutor time, even by a few minutes, may result in either sanctions being or an earlier registration time being imposed.

Homework:

Students in the Fourth and Fifth Year receive more Homework than they will have had in the Lower School. Each subject will have two homework slots a week, with each homework taking up to 45mins. Given that students will be taught in sets rather than form groups, it may be the case that students will have 4 or 5 assignments on any one night, equating to over 3 hours' worth of work. While this will be balanced out by nights where students will have only one or two homeworks a night, it does mean that it is essential that they remain organised, and are encouraged to make use of the library and Middle School area at Lunchtime and after school to ensure that they are keeping up to date with their work. If your son is struggling to complete an assignment, or is finding himself overwhelmed by work, please do contact us to make sure we are aware so that we can offer support.

Examinations

Over the course of the Fourth and Fifth Year students will sit three sets of examinations, which we now refer to as Mocks, before their GCSEs. Each set of Mock examinations will inform not only teachers' target grades, but also the different types of support that we put in place for your son, and as such are vitally important. We would therefore recommend that holidays are not arranged immediately before any set of examinations, as students will need to use much of the time in the preceding holidays for revision. The dates of these exams, as well as parents evenings and reporting dates, are included in the list of key dates below.

Key Dates:

Autumn Term

- Tuesday 20th September – 'Meet the Tutors' Evening
- Friday 14th October - Half-term grades.
- Wednesday 14th December - End of Term.

Spring Term

- **Thursday 19th January - Mock Examinations begin until Wednesday 25th**
- Thursday 9th February - Parents Evening
- Friday 31st March - End of Term Grades

Summer Term

- Friday 26th May - Half Term grades
- **Week beginning Monday 12th June - Mock Examinations**
- Week beginning 26th June/3rd July – Parents Evening (date will be confirmed in early 2017)

With each term there will be other dates to note in the diaries that come home, so this list is in no way exhaustive, but I hope this will help with some of your longer term planning.