



20 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we complete the first half-term of the academic year, I am writing with some updates.

Year 12 students have settled well into Sixth Form life and the expectations of A Level study. They have been supported in this by a session from Elevate on Time Management, which has enabled them to strengthen their capacity for independent learning and revision.

### **November tests**

During the period 1-3 November, Year 12 students will be completing tests in their A Level and AS subjects. Tests will be no more than 45 minutes long and will be completed during lesson times. During lessons on those days students will either be completing a test or will be studying in a designated room. The test schedule is attached for information and details of test and study rooms have been shared with students.

Students have been told that these November tests are designed as a first check on the progress they are making and will help us to identify anyone who needs some sort of early intervention. They are not formal exams and students should not put pressure on themselves about them - they are simply a check-in. We would appreciate it if you would help us to reinforce this message.

### **Next steps**

We know that many of the Year 12 students have been watching with interest as Year 13 have been working on university applications this term. Later this term, we will start to introduce Year 12 students gradually to our Next Steps programme of activities and support. The destinations platform Unifrog is an important part of this support. Students previously at AHS registered on Unifrog during Year 11 and after half-term we will register those who have joined us this year. Form tutors will introduce students to various Unifrog tools on a regular basis and this will give them access to a fantastic array of resources to help in researching future plans and finding the pathway that is right for them.

On the evening of Tuesday 28 November we will hold two introductory meetings for Year 12 students who would like to find out more about applying to Oxford and Cambridge and for degrees in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend too. Further information will follow shortly but please keep the date free if you are interested.

### **Support**

We recognise that there are likely to be bumps in the road on a student's Sixth Form journey and we regularly remind students how important it is to ask for help as soon as they feel it is needed. Within school, that might be from their form tutor, subject teacher, Head of Year, one of the SEND team or one of the Wellbeing team. Information about sources of support outside school is available on the Student Support

page of the school website. We encourage parents/carers to contact us to discuss any concerns so that we can all work together to support students as needed.

I hope that students have a well-deserved break over half-term and look forward to seeing them back in school on Tuesday 31 October.

Kind regards

Mrs Michelle Sutton  
Deputy Head of Sixth Form / Head of Year 12

