

REF: AWH/AT/AB

June 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am taking this opportunity to write to you to make clear the expectations regarding both student commitment and attainment expected throughout their Yr 12 History course. Most importantly I would like to stress the paramount need for students to be consistently hard working over the course of the year and strive to attain their targets in order to continue the course, should they wish, into Yr13 and the full A Level.

There can no longer be an assumption that a good GCSE History grade will guarantee a full two year A Level course and a respectable grade at the end. Each student will be judged by progress and merit, not by a potential that is predicted but not shown.

This year, in order for students to reach their potential in this subject, we will be operating a policy of assessing various aspects of their work. We will be tracking their attainment grades, performance in relation to targets, punctuality (both themselves and their work), knowledge and their positive contributions to lessons. All of this will routinely be communicated to you to give you the fullest picture of your son / daughters progress

As you are aware the A Level course being studied is broken down into two parts. At present your son /daughter is initially studying the AS, Year 12, element of the A Level. This consists of the following taught units:

Paper 1: Consensus & Change: Britain 1918 - 1997 – taught by Mr Willcocks

Recommended Reading: Edexcel GCE History A2 Unit 3 C2 the United States 1917-54: Boom Bust & Recovery: Student Book Unit 3 - ISBN-10: 1846905087

Paper 2: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery – taught by Mr Withey

Recommended Reading: Edexcel GCE History AS Unit 2 E1 British Political History 1945-90 Consensus and Conflict - ISBN-10: 1846905052

For both these units of study I will expect the recommended textbooks to have been read prior to starting the course in September with appropriate notes having been made. The Department keeps a limited number of these books and will issue on a first come first served basis. Extended and alternate reading can be found at: www.historynetwork.co.uk

The results from these units at the end of Year 12, following the June 2017 exam series can either be:

Certificated – that is, turned into an AS Level Certificate should the student not wish to pursue their studies into Year 13 and the full A Level

Or

Carried Forward – that is, students will complete the two additional elements of the full A Level and re-sit their Yr12 units examined at the full A Level in 2018

Failure of students to reach their targets has the following consequences I feel bound to stress:

- UCAS University applications require predicted grades to be provided which must reflect the results from Year 12.
- Most Year 13 A Level students will not achieve a better overall grade than that which they gain in Year 12. The level of difficulty and challenge of Year 13 makes this outcome likely
- Failure to achieve an AS pass i.e. Grade U, would lead me to recommend that the course is not pursued into Year 13, despite a willingness to retake papers

Disappointing results, more often than not, are a result of the attitude, attendance and intrinsic self-motivation of the students and therefore, my colleagues and I prevail to inform you at every opportunity of their progress, successes and areas for development.

To assist in their studies and exam preparation, we have developed a wide range of teaching and learning resources which are made readily available to our students. This year, these resources can be accessed through both the school Shared Area and www.historynetwork.co.uk.

The A Level experience is new, challenging and exciting to all Yr 12 students. Most thrive, whilst some stumble and others require assistance. The nature of A Levels, with their increased volume of knowledge and need for independence, makes every lesson count, every mistake require attention and every success require praise so that it is celebrated and continued.

I trust you understand the need for me to communicate this information so early into the start of the AS Level course, but time is short and tonight provides an ideal opportunity. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions arise.

Yours sincerely

MR A WITHEY

HEAD OF HISTORY