



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

from

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Dear Parents,

The decision over which route to take at Sixth Form at first glance can appear overwhelming. Do you have a career aspiration? Does your preferred university degree require certain subjects? Do you enjoy lots of subjects and don't know which ones to drop? Would you make better progress taking a BTEC alongside A-levels?

At Ampleforth College we want, expect, and enable our students to be independent thinkers and learners. While the path through Sixth Form can be challenging, it is an exciting time where our fifteen and sixteen-year olds are encouraged to find their voice and follow their passions.

The primary focus for our Year 11s in the latter half of the Autumn Term and over the Christmas Holidays, is to prepare themselves for their Mock Exams (which begin on 22nd January). It is also important that they start to think about their Sixth-Form choices. We would expect most of our students to choose three subjects in the Sixth Form, although some may opt to study more.

Our students' ultimate decisions need not be made until after they have their Mock Exam results. This allows them to understand exactly where their academic strengths lie and make an informed decision. Beginning after half-term, the Sixth Form Options process is designed to help students and their parents navigate the multitude of pathways at Ampleforth and here are some important dates for your diary:

Autumn Term

10 November: **Sixth Form Scholarship Assessments**

11 November: **Sixth Form Subjects Fair at 11.40am**. An opportunity to speak individually to teachers and learn more about each subject. Parents are also warmly invited to this event.

17 November: **Welcome to Sixth Form event for Year 11** in the Windmill (our designated Sixth Form social venue) - a taste of the broader life in Sixth Form, beyond the classroom.

Late November: **Year 11 Assembly on the Sixth Form Options** process followed by discussion in tutorials. Option blocks and subject information will be sent out to parents.

Christmas holiday: please discuss options with your children.

Spring Term

22 January: **Mock exams begin**, followed by Year 11 Retreat

24 February: **Year 11 Parents' Day**. This will be an opportunity to discuss Mock Exam results and GCSE progress as well as Sixth Form options with subject teachers and Heads of Departments.

February: Each Year 11 student will have a **one-to-one conversation about their option choices** with a senior member of staff

2 March: **Sixth Form Taster Lessons** - three 30 minutes taster lessons to clarify choices
8 March: **Students submit their final choices.** These are communicated to parents and there will be opportunities to ask questions. Whilst this is the deadline for option choices, sometimes these can change once GCSE grades have been received.

Your child's tutor is the key point of contact throughout this process, for both you and your children. However, Mr Richard Hudson (Head of Year 12) and I are also available to answer questions about subject choices or the options process.

The students are encouraged to speak to their classroom teachers or Heads of Department to ask questions about Sixth Form study, whilst they will also get good advice from older students already in the Sixth Form.

Mr Stevaan Hall (Head of Higher Education and Careers) has already spoken to the year group about how he can support them in the months ahead, whilst he is always happy to talk parents through the different options after the age of 18, in the UK, and abroad.

Finally, for students who aspire to Oxbridge, the Ivy League, or other highly competitive degrees such as medicine or veterinary science, we offer close support and guidance.

I am looking forward to helping your children move through these exciting choices. Please do not hesitate to be in touch should you require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Beveridge
Head of Year 11