



**John Dowler B.Sc. Hons, NPQH**  
**Headteacher**

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25 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer Year 12

Re: AS exam entries

I am writing to you to clarify the school's position on AS examinations in summer 2017.

For legacy modular A-level subjects (Maths, Further Maths, Health and Social Care, Media Studies, ICT and Politics), as well as for all BTEC subjects, all students are entered for the AS exam as it forms part of the overall A2 qualification. For these subjects, the AS exam contributes 50% of the final A-level grade.

In all other subject areas, the new A-level specifications are linear, meaning that the AS level qualification no longer counts towards the final A-level qualification at the end of Year 13 and it is therefore not compulsory to sit the AS exam.

Our position is as follows: where students are following a linear course, then it will be up individual subject areas to advise students whether it is sensible and appropriate to sit an AS exam. Due to the way that A-level specifications have been designed by the exam boards, this will vary between subjects. Students must then decide if they wish to be entered for the AS examination. This should be confirmed by completing the form attached to this letter. Where students do not sit an AS exam, they will sit an internal assessment instead, which will allow us to track their progress at this stage of the A-level course.

The 'Qualification Reform' section at the bottom of the following page of the UCAS website outlines the position of universities on the reformed AS qualification. Their individual statements are available at the bottom of the page by clicking on the red bar titled 'Qualification statements'.

<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/qualification-reform>

In summary, no student will be disadvantaged by not sitting the AS qualification. Where a student does take an AS exam, this is expected to be declared on their UCAS application, however the universities will use a student's predicted grade (given by the school), not the AS grade, when deciding what offer to make. Our experience with the current Year 13 students applying to university this year is that this is indeed the case. The UCAS predicted grade will not necessarily be the same as a student's ALIS predicted grade based on prior GCSE performance, but the professional judgment of subject teachers based on a student's ongoing work throughout the A-level course.



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Any student who does sit an external AS exam, and then does not continue with that course to A-level (where a student is taking 4 AS levels for example), will be awarded UCAS points for their AS qualification. The AS UCAS points are worth 40% of the points awarded to an A-level of the same grade.

We are asking subject staff, students and parents to sign the attached form, so that there is absolute clarity over which external entries are and are not being made at AS level this summer.

Thank you for your on-going support of the 6th Form, and please do not hesitate to contact me at school to discuss any queries you may have regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely

I Duffell (Mr)  
Director of 6th Form



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**AS exam entries summer 2017**

Name:

Form:

Subject	AS Entry Y/N	Department Leader signature

Signed ..... (Student)

Date: .....

Signed ..... (Parent/Carer)

Date: .....

**PLEASE RETURN TO MRS A COOK IN E5 BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY**