

Sixth Form Academic Intervention & Support Evening

Wednesday 1st February 2023



Mr Darren Leatherbarrow
Mrs Elen Derrick
Mr Mark Constance



Head of Sixth Form
Head of Year 13
Head of Year 12

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Where are we now?

On the whole, the majority of students in Year 13 are in a very promising position.

In headline terms, the picture looks consistent and promising, but with work to do...

	Y13 Trial Results 2019	Y13 Results 2019	Current Y13 Trial Exam 2023
A#-A	22%	37%	27%
A*-B	46%	71%	54%
A*-C	70%	91%	76%
A*-E	96%	99%	97%

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Where are we now?

From an individual perspective, a lot of students have received Progress Grades which are also very promising, and in many cases, in line with offers that have been made to them by universities.

	Current Y13 Trial Exam 2023	Current Progress Grades 2023
A#-A	27%	33%
A*-B	55%	65%
A*-C	76%	86%
A*-E	97%	99%

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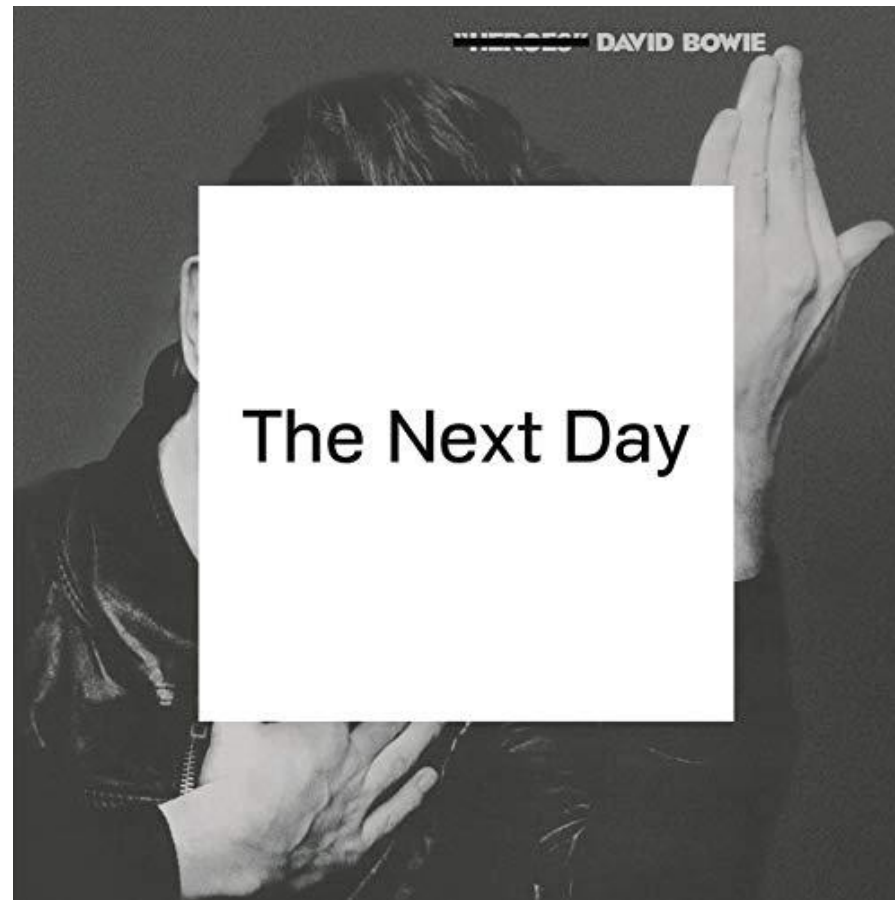
Where are we now?

Furthermore, the vast majority of students have received Effort Grades which are also very pleasing, and a real endorsement of their commitment to their studies.

	Y13 January Effort 2019	Y13 January Effort 2023
1*	18%	33%
1	44%	55%
2	30%	11%
3	7%	3%
4	1%	0%

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Where are we now?



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Where are we now?

So, the current picture is positive on the whole, but there are also lots of individual, personal challenges that still need to be overcome:

Underperformance

An increasingly finite time-scale

Insufficient, inefficient, ineffective effort

Maximising time-management

Managing and minimising stress and / or complacency

Soothing bruised confidence and tackling demoralisation

Unlocking incentives and securing a future direction and destination

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Where are we now?

So, the current picture is positive on the whole, but there are also lots of individual, personal challenges that still need to be overcome:

Unlocking incentives and securing a future direction and destination

Recent analysis published by the Office for Students (OfS), the universities regulator, found that the dropout rate was 10% higher for students who accepted unconditional offers.

In 2012 one in every 100 18-year-olds in England received an offer with an unconditional element. By 2018 the proportion had gone up to more than one in every 3.

There is now pressure on universities NOT to offer unconditional offers – so we are now seeing more ‘contextual’ conditional offers. These are not necessarily bad, but we **MUST** make them work for us.

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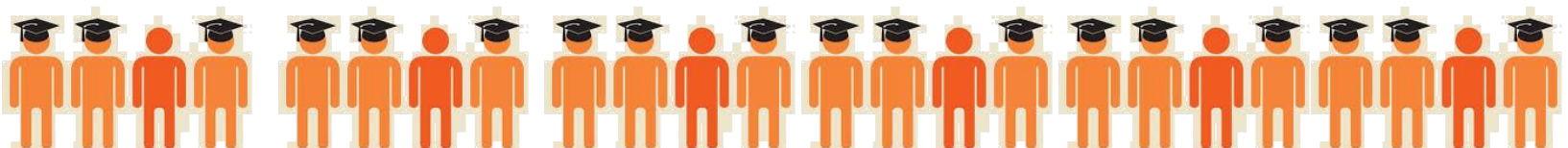
Where are we now?

Unlocking incentives and securing a future direction and destination

Currently, we have very few destination concerns – though a small minority are still to settle on a fixed post-18 plan.

We have 148 UCAS applications – 89% of the cohort.

We also have a number of students who have been accepted on advanced or degree apprenticeship courses.



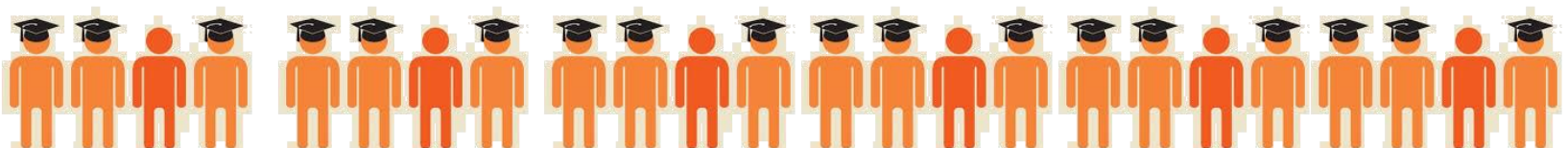
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Where are we now?

Unlocking incentives and securing a future direction and destination

Non-UCAS applicants have full support and access to the Careers leads at Balcarras
– Mrs Bull and Mrs Lewis

UCAS applicants will continue to receive advice and guidance regarding their applications from tutors, Futures staff and the Sixth Form team.



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Where are we now?

So, the current picture is positive on the whole, but there are also lots of individual, personal challenges that still need to be overcome:

Unlocking incentives and securing a future direction and destination

For those in the cohort who have elected not to apply for a Higher Education course at university, in addition to ongoing tutor and Futures advice, we will be scheduling 1:1 meetings in Careers to focus on:

- Apprenticeship opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Making the most of gap year travel

Please remember, Unifrog covers all these areas too



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Where are we now? Underperformance and U grades

At A-level all grades other than a U is a pass.

Top universities are interested in B+ grades, but many will accept grades lower than a C. A U grade means “ungraded” i.e. not worthy of a pass grade

In the 2023 trial exams, 15 U grades were returned, and 4 U grades indicated on the most recent Progress Grade reports.

In August 2019 1 U grade was returned from 534 exam certifications in Year 13. In the 2019 trial exams, 17 U grades were returned, and 7 U grades indicated on the final Progress Grade reports.

We are determined to address this. We know our interventions are effective.

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Where are we now?

The increasingly finite time-scale

It is quite sobering, but from tomorrow morning students in Year 13 have remaining:

- 11 school weeks!
- @ 55 school days!
- @ 50 hours in each subject of lesson time!
- 3 additional weeks of time during February half-term and Easter, and two Bank Holidays.
- 14 weekends until exam season begins on 24th May.

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**Why have we done what we've done?
What are we preparing for?**



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Where are we going?

- Technique –** Assessment Objectives and the demands of our examination papers.
Strengths? Weaknesses? Priorities? Marginal gains to be made?
- Integrity -** You know you.
Are you being frank and honest with yourself, especially regarding effort?
- Knowledge -** Strengths? Weaknesses? Gaps? Priorities? Incremental gains to be made?
- Effort -** Are you applying yourself effectively? Are you applying yourself efficiently?
Do you have an appropriate work / life balance now, and prepared for the crucial weeks ahead? Do you need to ‘de-clutter’ your schedule?
- Timing -** Trial Exams = first opportunity complete full, unseen A-level papers in timed conditions – now practice adapt, learn, improve.
What amount of gain time are you going to be able to factor in from completion of NEAs / coursework submissions.
Re-appraise your extra-curricular / non-academic commitments (part-time jobs, clubs, hobbies, bad habits) – now is the time to start adjusting and tapering your approach.

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Where are we going?

What STUDENTS should be doing:

- Speak to all teachers about trial exams – go through papers & mark schemes.
- You do have the opportunity to sit them again, in whole or in part. Complete as many past papers as possible – either planning / drafting or in full.
- Attend all extra sessions that departments are providing.
- Organise ‘study buddy’ peer revision groups.
- Come school to work early / stay late to complete work – Study facilities open 8:00 – 18:30. Approach study professionally.
- Prioritise relative weaknesses NOW – practicing relative strengths is a false economy.
- Eradicate the ‘blockers’.

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**Where are we going?
What are your ‘blockers’?**



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Where are we going? What STAFF will be doing:

- Address issues (knowledge or skill-based) that have been identified by the recent trial exams.
- Facilitate and lead all additional revision and study sessions needed.
- Be available for 1:1 advice.
- Keep track of attendance.
- Extended Supervised Study each Wednesday, 3:35 - 5:30
- Reporting any concerns to tutors, Mrs Derrick, Mr Constance, me and you.
- Push, encourage and support them!

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Where are we going?

What STAFF will be doing:

Department	Support	When?
Art	Department open to Sixth Form students at lunch and after school	Daily
Biology	Year 13 Focus Group - after school revision sessions	Every Tuesday
Business Studies	Additional lunch & after-School Revision Sessions	TBC March, April & May
Chemistry	Additional lunch time revision sessions	Every Thursday
Drama	Additional lunch and afterschool rehearsal support	As arranged
Economics	Additional lunch & after-School Revision Sessions	TBC March, April & May
English	Additional lunch & after-School Revision Sessions	TBC March, April & May
Environmental Science	Lunchtime revision sessions	Every Wednesday
Food		
French	1:1 IRP clinic (by appointment)	As arranged
Further Maths	1:1 Drop in support	As arranged
Geography	After-School Revision Sessions	Every Tuesday
H&SC		
History	Additional lunch time revision sessions	Every Monday & Wednesday
Maths	Year 13 Focus Group - lunch revision sessions	Every Monday & Wednesday
Music	After school composition club	Every Wednesday
PE	Additional after-school revision sessions	TBC March, April & May
Philosophy & Ethics	Additional lunch & after-School Revision Sessions	TBC March, April & May
Photography	Department open to Sixth Form students at lunch and after school	Daily
Physics	Additional lunch time revision sessions	Every Tuesday
Politics	Additional lunch time revision sessions	Every Tuesday
Product Design	Department open to Sixth Form students at lunch and after school	Daily
Psychology	Additional lunch time revision sessions	Every Wednesday & Thursday
Russian	1:1 IRP clinic (by appointment)	As arranged
Spanish	1:1 IRP clinic (by appointment)	As arranged
Textiles	Department open to Sixth Form students at lunch and after school	Daily

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Where are we going?

What STAFF will be doing:

Balcarras staff will also continue to offer additional revision activities to their subject cohorts.

Examples of this include:

- Advertising the Residential Easter Revision programme offered by Dean Close to schools, including Balcarras, in the Cheltenham Educational Partnership
- Revision Masterclasses, such as AQA's Psychology Masterclass in April.



Giving **YOU**
confidence for your
summer exams



**RESIDENTIAL & DAY EASTER REVISION
COURSES FOR A LEVEL AND GCSE**

Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th April 2023

For full details on the course, or to register and book your place, please visit
www.deanclosefoundation.org.uk/about-us/dean-close-services-ltd
If you would like to discuss the course in greater detail with one of our team,
please contact: enquiries@deanclosevenues.co.uk | Tel: 01242 267431



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Where are we going? What PARENTS can do:

- Talk to you son / daughter – confront problems and hit any issues head on.
- Ask the questions at home – what can we do to help?
- Support an effective and efficient routine.
- Stay in touch! Email us / telephone us / meet with us.
- No more time off (only @55 days now).
- Encourage, push and support them!
- Monitor the amount of time you son / daughter is committing to paid employment – minimise this as much as possible.

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Where are we going?

Together, we need to use our remaining time **smartly**:

Specific – Have a specific aim or focus: “This study period I’m going to...”

Measurable – Make sure that you know when you have completed the task and that it has a clear outcome

Action based – Have a clear activity/past paper question/topic/test to complete

Realistic – Make sure it’s an achievable goal

Time-bound – Give yourself a set time period to achieve the goal you’ve set yourself.
For those with NEAs and coursework deadlines, this will include sensible prioritisation

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Where are we going?

A-level Exams begin Wednesday 17th May

A-level Exams conclude on Monday 26th June

Exam Contingency Day is Wednesday 28th June

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Where are we going?



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Questions?

