Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. I hope you have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the new year. Notices for all year groups below.

3rd Form

As Mr Lucas mentioned in his assembly on Friday 2nd December, you will be looking at your GCSE option choices during the Lent term. There will be lots more information about this in the new year, but it is perhaps timely to remind you of your recent subscription to Unifrog, and the various features on there can help you with your decision making. Have a go at the 'Interests profile' quiz, which once completed will produce some results that may well be helpful.

4th Form

You will be seeing much more of us next term now you have settled into your GCSEs, but like the 3rd Form, I hope you are finding Unifrog a helpful resource to utilise. Next term we will be looking at a couple of topics in detail, entrepreneurship and key skills. You will find under the skills section of Unifrog twelve skills detailed, ranging from Teamwork to Problem Solving. Have a chat to your family over the holidays about what three skills they feel are most important the workplace and consider how you are personally developing these. Further discussion to come!

5th Form

By the time you have read this every 5th former will have had a meeting with one of the Futures Team to talk through A Level ideas, career plans and work experience ideas. With regards to the latter, once your mocks are completed, we will be popping into Boarding Houses to see where you are with your plans. Many of you have advised you have contacts at home who will be able to offer some help – see if you can get these details firmed up over the festive period, ready for the summer of 2023. Mr Boyes's top three placements this week are national marine biology programme, an opportunity to shadow a district judge in Liverpool, and a great STEM themed virtual opportunity via this <u>site</u>. Please contact the Department to find out more.

Lower 6th

The Lent Term is going to be a busy one! Details and registration for the three rounds of PSD Futures talks can be found here, Mr Percival and I will be visiting the Boarding Houses to talk through 'life after Sixth Form' and there will be offers of individual guidance interviews for all of our new L6th Formers and any other students who want to discuss their ideas in more depth. There is also the HE & Gap Year Fair on Friday 17th February to look forward to, which storms permitting, will be our biggest one yet!

Between now and the new year it would be great if more of you could start to research some of the support that is available via our Alumni network. You have access to some incredible former pupils, who as detailed on their OS Connect profiles are willing to offer mentoring support, work experience and general career advice. If you are interested in arranging meetings with any of these, please make contact.

Upper 6th

Thank you to all of those who have completed your UCAS applications in good time. For those of you who are still contemplating / finishing off your application, can I encourage a little urgency to get this over the line please! Once it is completed from your side, your reference needs to be added and tailored to your course choice, and often there are amendments spotted that require further work from you.

For those who are not applying and are interested in more work-based options, please let me know. There are some incredible opportunities available which I would be happy to guide you through. For those having gap years, look out for information next term about some amazing opportunities for you to consider.

Have a great break and I wish you and your family the best for the year ahead.

Mr Wain