

Parents of students in the Lower Sixth

September 2011

Dear Parent

Centigrade 2011

I know that your son has only just begun his career in the Sixth Form, but all too soon it will be time to start thinking about what his next step will be. Proper planning is essential for appropriate progression and this is certainly true in the field of Higher Education.

If he is thinking of pursuing his studies at University, his application form should be submitted by mid-October next year to have the greatest chance of securing a place on popular courses at the best institutions, and if he is to be able to make a well-informed decision, he really needs to begin thinking about his options very soon. These decisions must be well prepared.

One scheme that can help focus his attention on the possibilities and alternatives available is the Centigrade programme, which is supported by UCAS, the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service. It is a computer-assisted programme, which seeks to match the prospective candidate's abilities and interests with the courses on offer at Higher Education institutions on the mainland.

The participant is required to fill in a questionnaire and thereafter receives a profile listing the areas which seem to interest him the most, together with a list of the courses which could be appropriate, an action plan for individual decision-making and a number of sheets to help in the research of the courses suggested. These suggestions do not necessarily provide all the answers, but they are an excellent starting point in what can otherwise seem an overwhelming mass of material.

You will receive with this letter some information about the scheme. We believe very strongly in the worth of the programme and hope that all boys in the Lower Sixth will take advantage of it.

If you would like your son to be entered for Centigrade this year, do please complete the Student Reply Card and return it to Mr Hamel, Assistant Head Post 16, together with a cheque for **£20.95** (payable to Victoria College School Fund) by **Friday 4th November** at the latest. This will allow for the forms to be ordered for completion later in the term. I do hope that you will discuss the scheme with your son and in particular the final report, when it arrives. I believe it to be a useful means of focusing attention on the important choices to be made in the very near future.

There will be a meeting for parents of boys in the Lower Sixth on Thursday 19th April next year, which will address all the issues concerning application to University. Notice of this will reach you closer to the time. In the meantime, please do contact Mr Hamel if you wish to discuss any matter arising in further detail at this stage.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

Mr Alun Watkins
Headmaster