Canterbury Principals letter
Feb-17

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Dear Parents/Agents/Students

I am delighted to enclose the latest report on work this term.

Please note the ‘target grade’ for each subject area – this shows where students should be heading. As the year progresses you will see from their grades each half term how well they have been doing over the year!

Students are expected to have a folder for each subject with notes organised ready for revision. Tutors and teaching staff will give regular feedback about how students can reach the next grade up – students should keep looking regularly at these Targets in their folders and make sure they are hitting them!

Can I also remind all students who have not graduated from High School in their home country and completed their Maths studies; their chosen UK University may require them to have GCSE Maths even if they are studying Maths at a higher level. If in doubt please check with the university you have or are applying to or email Dawn Merriman our UCAS Officer for assistance.
Leadership Awards

These are all fully operational with large numbers of students taking the Language Leadership Award, and more taking Sports Leadership Awards, Boarding School and Excelsis Awards, Maths Leadership Award and the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. We also have students taking the special CATS Leadership Award which carries 70 UCAS (University) points. These awards are open to all our students, but we expect students going to top universities to take at least two of these awards or other strong activity which boosts their Personal Statement for universities and helps them grow in these vital skill areas.

Science Olympiads and Maths Challenges have also been well under way with students hitting top Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards
Congratulations to Precious Nwaeze for winning the Young Enterprise Public Speaking Competition.

Held here at CATS Canterbury

It is the third time in recent years our students have won public speaking competitions, beating British students in British schools all over the area.
Students Take Part in Mock Trial Competition

A group of students took part in **Mock Trials** in London under the watchful eyes of members of the Bar. The students were given the opportunity to **dress in wig and grown** for the event and also role played those within the court room.
Archbishops and several other houses tried their hands at Sushi Making during one evening! It’s been exciting to see so many student involved! Cooking and sampling national dishes remains a popular activity at CATS Canterbury and all our under 18 houses have kitchen spaces for students to use.
Easter and Summer Arrangements

Easter Holiday is 1st April to 17th April.

Can we please ask that students complete their Exeats by the 12th March, in order to allow time for staff to authorise the requests.

If any students wish to stay in the college over the Easter period, they should let Student Services know by the 12th March and the cost for this is available from Reception or on the website. Over Easter students may need to move change rooms as not all residences will be open so we cannot guarantee you can stay in your own room over the Easter holiday.

Under 18 students can stay at Easter but may need to register in the study centre and work in college from 9-4pm.
Residences will be closed to encourage students staying to focus on their exam revision. There are a few quiet classrooms available to work in as well if you talk to Nicci Parsons our Operations Manager.

Lessons will continue for all students until the end of the summer term – if they have finished exams, Teachers will run enrichment sessions until the end of the term. For first year A level and IB1 students there are important university registration and preparation activities and key exams which can be referred to for university acceptance. For those A2 students with exams after the end of the summer term, they will be able to stay at College until their last exam is over. IB2 students often spend time after exams visiting the UK and can return to college ready for Graduation at the end of term.
Many of you may have been thinking about these already and for some of you it is still very early days. I just need to remind students wanting to do Law that there are ten UK universities who will require you to take the LNAT Test.

We will help and support you with this, as we do for Medics taking UKCAT or BMAT.

There are a small number of universities who require extra tests, so if you are intending to apply to Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial or UCL please let Dawn Merriman, our Higher Education Director know and we will need to give you some extra help to support you over the year with this. If you wish to apply for an American or Canadian University you should also let Dawn know so we can support you here as well.
If you are thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge or for medicine you must talk to us as there are early deadlines here. Students from CATS Canterbury are right now holding offers from universities all over the UK.

All UCAS applications and applications from UFP have to go through the college and our Director of Higher Education, Dawn Merriman. If you are an IB1 or first year A level student, you need to see Lisa Clements who is also very happy to help you.
Attendance

I am delighted to say that our overall attendance at lessons across the college stands at 98%.

Students remain committed to their lessons and are gaining a great deal from them. You will see in this report if attendance in any of your lessons is below this figure. You need to be very aware that if attendance is below 95% in any subject or 80% actual attendance and work has clearly not been completed to a satisfactory standard as a result, then we will not guarantee to enter students for this exam. Students have been well aware of this and regularly reminded over the course of the year. It is also important that students are punctual for all lessons.

Remember if you are 10 minutes late for every lesson over the year, you will have missed out on months of vital teaching!

Please be prompt and on time for every lesson! Please also be aware that your attendance is also affected if you leave before the end of a term and return late at the start of a term. Every lesson missed will affect your attendance even if your Exeat has been approved – the lessons have still been missed!
Summer Programmes 2017

During the summer the College is now running a series of summer programmes. There is a two or three week Medics Programme for any who may be interested in an aspect of a medical career. There is also a three week Law, Business and Finance Course and also a preparing to come to study in the UK which is also run for six weeks. We also have re-sit classes for students wishing to raise their grades in the University Foundation programme. Students taking the Pre course in summer term 2 will have a special programme which includes trips and visits as well as lessons and preparation for September.

You may have friends who are interested in the summer courses which you can book on line or at the college. For students who are unable to get home easily in holidays, we can offer limited accommodation options with English tuition.
We will be offering this in between the end of summer term two and the start of the winter term but you may need to move to CATS in Cambridge for this period.

Students wishing to stay over any of the summer periods must also let us know by 1st April. We cannot guarantee accommodation after this date. There is no charge for half term accommodation in October or February if students book by the deadlines. If they book later than this there may be a charge for the accommodation. Students who are under 18 may be required to attend trips organised by the college at half terms for which there is a charge for the cost of the activity.

Students staying with us next year and who are over 18 and wish to live in independent accommodation must see Student Services team by March 12th. We cannot guarantee students will be allowed to do so after this date.
If you have any concerns...

Or would like to talk further about the reports, please do not hesitate to contact the College and we will be pleased to discuss any educational or other issues with you.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Ullmer MBE
Principal of CATS College Canterbury
Preparing you for university success