

October 2011

I expect you will be aware that S5 have one-to-one interviews with me during the course of the year, in order that we can talk about their plans and hopes for the future, including whether or not a place in S6 at QVS is the next best step.

Previously these interviews have been held after the Higher Prelim Exams, the results of which give us a clearer idea of the student's likely exam results in the coming summer.

Responding to suggestions from members of the Parents' Liaison Group and after discussion amongst the Senior Management Team, however, I decided in 2009 and 2010 to hold the interviews in the second half of this term in order to give students and their parents longer to consider options at S6 level and its equivalents elsewhere.

Obviously, the interview is less useful because we do not have prelim results at that point, but it is hoped that the benefits of being able to discuss options at this earlier date outweigh the disadvantages. I shall not be writing to students with a definite offer of a place in S6 immediately after the interviews, but each one should at that point have a much clearer idea of what will be necessary should he/she wish to return for S6, and – I hope – an informed view of what his or her alternatives might be.

As in previous years, Housemasters/mistresses and Tutors are welcome to attend the interviews, and I am pleased to say that increasing numbers have done so over the past few years. I believe that tutees find their presence helpful, and I know that I do. Bringing the perspective of different people to the discussion is very useful, especially when these other people very often know the student extremely well.

I hope that you might have time to talk with your son or daughter about their possible options for the years ahead, over this autumn break. As always, Housemasters/mistress, Tutor, Year Head and academic members of the Senior Management Team are happy to discuss these matters during term time should you wish to do so.