JRW/py

June 2015

Dear Parents and Students

**UCAS HIGHER EDUCATION CONVENTION**

**ASTON UNIVERSITY**

**Friday 26th June 2015**

**ALL STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND**

This annual UCAS Convention provides students with the opportunity to meet and question Admissions Tutors from more than 170 Universities, Colleges and other Higher Education providers, as well as collecting prospectuses and other information. There will also be a programme of seminars offering advice on topics such as the UCAS admissions process, student finance, choosing appropriate courses etc.

We have booked places for **all** **Year 12** students at the convention and all lessons will be cancelled on that day. Students make their own way to and from Aston University, but we will meet at 11.15am at Stafford Tower, just after crossing James Watt Queensway.

**This year, students MUST register themselves to receive an electronic ticket for entrance to the convention. If a student does not do so, they will not be allowed entry into the convention. I have attached to this letter clear instructions of how each student should register for the convention.**

As students do not need to reach the meeting point until 11.15am we recommend students use the time in the morning for their own study. They may do so at home or use the facilities available in school.

Staff attending will be travelling on the 10:15 a.m. train from Lichfield City to Birmingham New Street. Students are welcome to also catch this train and walk from Birmingham New Street station to Aston University with staff.

Directions to walk are as follows. We remind students that as Birmingham New Street is undergoing renovations, the new exit is on Stephenson Street:

* Exit New Street at the new Stephenson Street exit and travel against the one way traffic up Stephenson Street and then Stephenson Place
* Cross New Street on to Corporation Street, then follow Corporation Street (a main shopping street) for half a mile to the Aston University campus. You will pass a Mothercare store on your right, and later a large House of Fraser department store on your left. Keep walking along Corporation Street towards the rocket-shaped tower of the Central Methodist Hall straight ahead. Please note that work is taking place on Corporation Street to install a new Tram system so pedestrian diversions may be in place.
* You will then pass the Victorian red brick Law Courts on your left and the Central Methodist Hall on your right, until you reach the pelican crossings of James Watt Queensway (a main road) on the right-hand side. Cross the road.

Students who choose to travel by car should note that there is no parking available at the University. If students do decide to travel by car PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS AND CHECK THAT THEY ARE HAPPY WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS. However car parking will be available at the Millennium Point Multi-Storey Car Park which is less than 5 minutes away. Charges for cars are £2.00 for up to 2 hours, £2.90 for up to 3 hours and £3.60 for up to 4 hours. If using sat nav please use the following postcode: **B4 7AS**

At the end of the day students can make their own way home. The Fair closes at 3.00pm and I would expect students to be home by 5.00pm unless they have made specific arrangements with parents.

**WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT DAY**

**Tuesday 14th July 2015**

**ALL STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND**

In the morning Year 12 will have a range of activities related to Post-18 options. Students will be able to opt for a range of sessions on University related higher education, apprenticeships and work based training routes.

A number of visiting speakers will offer advice on a variety of subjects including applying to University, completing letters of application, apprenticeships and employment.

In addition, a number of former Sixth Form Students, who have attended University, taken up an apprenticeship, entered employment or taken a gap year, will be returning to discuss their experiences of applying for and studying at university.

The day will end with a whole year charity event to raise money for the Year Group Charity.

**TUTOR PERIODS UNTIL THE END OF TERM**

Over the tutor periods until the end of term, students will be concentrating on their post school options. Tutors will be delivering an extensive and detailed programme that supports students in researching and deciding on their future options.

Yours faithfully



**Miss J Williamson**

**Achievement Leader Years 12 & 13**

**See over for details of Convention Enrolment…….**

