



From Head of Sixth Form: Simon James

25 April 2024

Dear parents and carers of Lower Sixth students

Advice on absence for (in person) university open days

Rationale

Most universities have in-person open days however, they have generally retained their online resources which they had to entirely rely on during the pandemic.

We recognise the benefit of visiting universities in which you have a genuine and realistic interest. However, it is essential that disruption caused by these visits is kept to a minimum. You need to be in lessons and no one wants a planned lesson to have to be aborted because half the class is away unexpectedly. An additional consideration is our commitment to sports fixtures against other schools on Saturdays.

University visits can often take place in the holidays or at weekends free from school commitments. For example, a number of universities have open days after the end of term and Durham & Newcastle can be visited on Saturdays, which may involve an easier journey. You should consider visiting universities outside of the main open days. **You can also contact universities to request a tour on a different day.** This can be a good opportunity to see what a university is like on a typical day and avoid the 'sales pitch' delivered at Open Days.

Process

Should there be no alternative a term time university visit may be arranged as follows post exams:

- Complete (student) [the Google Form](#) at least **one week** in advance of the proposed visit(s).
- The quota for weekday absences is 2 (and the Google Form will reflect that). You will need to make a good case to me if you want me to grant additional absence requests.
- Use Saturday, if not selected for a school sports fixture, or school holiday options instead of weekdays.
- If there is a clash with a fixture, you should plan ahead and talk to the teacher i/c as soon as possible, and follow the normal procedure for requesting absence on a Saturday (to write to the Head's office at least one week in advance, sending a copy to the Director of Sport & PE).

You (student) will be able to see if permission has been granted in the [permissions document](#).

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Check university webpages to confirm dates but below is a schedule of some of the upcoming popular open days (Saturdays are in red)

Friday 31 May Exeter

Saturday 1 June Exeter

****NB L6th Exams Monday 3 - Friday 7 June****

Saturday 8 June Royal Holloway

Friday 14 June Durham, Bath, Oxford Brookes, Bristol, Leeds,

Saturday 15 June Durham, Bath, Oxford Brookes, Bristol, Leeds, SOAS, Queen Mary, Southampton, Sussex, Warwick

Monday 17 June Edinburgh

Friday 21 June Birmingham, Liverpool

Saturday 22 June Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, York, Warwick

Sunday 23 June York

Wednesday 26 June Imperial, Oxford, Royal Holloway

Thursday 27 June Imperial

Friday 28 June Loughborough, Newcastle, Nottingham

Saturday 29 June Lancaster, Loughborough, Newcastle, Nottingham, Manchester

Thursday 4 July LSE, Cambridge

Friday 5 July Cardiff, Cambridge

****Beyond Term****

Saturday 6 July Cardiff, Southampton, Sheffield

Sunday 7 July Southampton

Monday 15 July Manchester

Sunday 28 July Royal Veterinary College

Kind regards

Simon James
Head of Sixth Form