

February 2010

Dear Year 11 Parents,

### **Sixth Form Preparation Day, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

The time between GCSE examinations and the beginning of study for sixth form courses always seems a very welcome break for students who are tired after a hard period of finishing off coursework, persevering with the revision and finally tackling the written papers themselves. After months away from academic work, though, the sudden demands of studying four subjects at AS-level and keeping up with other school-based activities can be something of a shock, and often boys in the lower sixth form can make an uncertain start to their courses.

For this reason QEH is going to be asking all year 11 boys to return to school for a day after the examinations. We have designated Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June as a day of preparation for the challenges ahead. Apart from a final opportunity to hand in text books after the GCSE examinations, we will be providing an introductory session for every AS-level course. These sessions will include a look at the kind of skills that will be tested in the year to come and advice about useful reading material that may be accessed before the start of the courses. Many departments will be setting introductory tasks to be completed before the new term commences. A general introduction to sixth form life will also be given so that everyone will know exactly what to expect in September.

We appreciate that a minority of boys change their minds about course options after they receive their GCSE results, but for those who may still be undecided at this stage there will be the opportunity of attending more than four academic sessions.

We feel and hope you agree, that such a day is an important addition to our academic provision at QEH, and that is why we are making it a compulsory day for all boys in year 11, except for any who are definitely leaving. The academic and general sessions will take place in the morning. Some boys will be required for afternoon games and others are welcome to attend, though there will be the option to go home after lunch.

Yours sincerely

**J.G. Sykes**  
**Director of Studies**