



11 December 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

After a long and challenging term, our Year 13 students have certainly earned their Christmas holiday.

The recent mock exams provided an excellent snapshot of where they stand at this point in time, on the way to their target grades next summer. These exams were marked to IB standards, and this tracker report pack includes a sheet which indicates the percentage score and IB level for each subject. Of course, there are still a few more months until the final examinations, which means there is still an opportunity to improve upon those grades. These marks are purely based on exam performance, and do not include any allowance for Internal Assessments (coursework).

Having worked with the students since the end of the mocks to analyse their papers, we are building on this by asking students to do past papers in each subject over the holiday. Continued past paper practice is an essential part of the process of preparing for the final exams in May and we are therefore making it mandatory for students to complete these. If any students need access to extra copies of the papers over the holiday, they can be found on Moodle.

University applications are almost complete, and we have been very pleased by some of the offers students have received already from some very high quality universities. As the University admission teams process these applications, we expect to get more positive news throughout the coming months.

Students have also worked hard to complete the final draft of their Extended Essay, and at the start of November we again held a special Extended Essay submission day in which Year 13 students made mini-presentations about their essays to an audience of Year 12 students and teachers. Some students still have work to do in finally completing and polishing their submissions over the holiday, but as a group they deserve congratulation for dealing confidently and skilfully with this most challenging task.

Next term, the main focus will be on completing coursework, writing the Theory of Knowledge essay and starting the process of revising for the final IB exams. The students know that they have much to do in the holiday, but it will also be important to take time to rest, prepare and plan for the busy months ahead.

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas.

Jane White  
Head of the IB Academy