

29th April 2020

Sixth Form Newsletter

Welcome to the second of our regular updates for sixth form students.

Five weeks have gone by since we entered 'lockdown' and hopefully this news update finds you, your families and friends safe and well. Although we have reached the peak of the spread of the virus, it is still 'early days' and the priority is keeping safe, staying at home and protecting the NHS so it can cope with the numbers of patients requiring treatment and therefore, it is still extremely important for you to stick to the government guidance: wash hands regularly, one outside period of exercise and 2-metres distance between you and the next person outside (who isn't in your household). This news update will focus on 'Next Steps' for both Y12 and Y13.

Y13

We know that many of you will have already started doing many positive activities in advance of moving on to the next phase of your life. I have put together the following list of potential activities as a useful checklist of things that you might like to do.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSITY

For those of you hoping to go to university in Autumn 2020 the following would be useful things to be considering so that you can make the best possible start:

1. Develop and build on your skills in the relevant A Levels and BTECs - this is particularly important if you are looking to study a course that directly builds on current subject knowledge.
2. Get the course reading list - hopefully the university will have already made this available to you, otherwise you may need to look online or email the department at your chosen/preferred university.
3. Look at the HE+ website which has resources for each subject

www.myheplus.com

4. Do a MOOC - consider doing either something subject specific
www.futurelearn.com
or the following general course from UEA - Preparation for University MOOC
www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-uni
5. Brush up on your independent study skills using the UCAS Study Skills Guides
www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/study-skills-guides

BROADER PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSITY

Mentally preparing yourself:

Student Minds have produced two excellent guides that help you to navigate the transition to university life:

Know before you go www.studentminds.org.uk/knowbeforeyougo.html

Transitions www.studentminds.org.uk/transitionintouniversity.html

Student Finance

2020 entry applicants can start applying for student finance now, at Student finance: how to apply. www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance

Find out everything you need to know at the UCAS student finance hub www.ucas.com/money?utm_source=advisersnewsletter&utm_medium=email

Student Finance Zone www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/

Ed Flack's Wise Up guide to Student Finance. <https://wizeup.me/student-finance>

University Accommodation

Ensure that you have applied for accommodation for your Firm choice university.
Advice from UCAS www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/undergraduate-accommodation

For some further thoughts on the accommodation options available to you - read the guide from Prospects: What you need to know about student accommodation www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life/what-you-need-to-know-about-student-accommodation

Personal Finances

Set up a Student Bank Account - <https://wizeup.me/bank-accounts>
Budgeting is a key aspect to successfully managing the money that you will have available to you. There is some excellent advice on this here.
<https://wizeup.me/budgeting>

Get to know the Clearing process

If you feel that your grades are likely to be below those required by your university offers it might be a good use of your time to make sure you understand the process around Clearing. Make a list of potential courses and universities that you'd like to consider etc.

UCAS: What is Clearing?

www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing

Advice from the UniGuide:

UCAS Clearing: Your survival guide www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/the-survivors-guide-to-clearing

Staff will be available on Results Day to offer advice on options

PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT

Your Character: The resource below has been produced by the University of Birmingham's Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.

www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/userfiles/jubileecentre/pdf/character-education/activities_for_older_pupils.pdf

Y12

I know that many of you are concerned about the process of applying to university or apprenticeships. I have put together the following list of potential activities as a useful checklist of things that you might like to do to help you prepare for the application process.

PREPARATION FOR UCAS/APPRENTICESHIPS

UCAS will open this year on 19th May - a little nearer the time, I will send out step by step guidance on how you register for an account. However, in preparation you can do the following things:

1. Visit the UCAS website at www.ucas.com and begin to read the advice on selecting the right university, selecting the right courses and writing personal statements. There is also an entire section dedicated to apprenticeships for those of you who would prefer this route.
2. For apprenticeships, this is a good place to start <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>
3. Register with OSCAR - You have all received an email giving instructions about how to register for this service. OSCAR is an on-line platform, which allows Y12 to access information and guidance about university and apprenticeships through video tutorials and modules and quizzes. There is great advice and examples of how to write a personal statement. Get registered! Access to OSCAR is through the email link or through the tab marked 'OSCAR' on the school's VLE.

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Useful links to support your Health & Well-being

Mental Health support :
Young Minds
Kooth

Meditation and sleep :
<https://www.headspace.com/>

Relax - mindfulness and meditation app : <https://www.calm.com/signup-flow>

And finally...

Keep in mind the following: When you're in a job interview in the future and they ask: "Ah, so you were in the sixth form in 2020 when the schools were closed, what did you do in the time that you had?" What will you be able to say?!



Stay safe and keep connected!
Dr Allen and the sixth form tutor team.