

**Dom Mochan**

Dear Upper Sixth Former

I am writing to you on the subject of deferring/bringing forward places at university.

A number of you have contacted me to ask whether they would be allowed to defer for a year or go in 2020 instead of 2021. UCAS has issued some advice on making this decision.

Firstly, it is up to each university whether or not they will allow you to defer/start early. They are not obligated to allow you to do this but they will try and be as accommodating as possible. Some universities are not actioning these decisions until July 2020 at the earliest.

Secondly, before you make the decision to defer a year, be sure that you have something worthwhile to do in that year. It is not possible to tell what the future holds in terms of world travel and employment so you might be better off looking to take a GAP year after university.

Lastly, if you are worried about having a 'proper' university experience and you think that this will be disrupted in 2020 by COVID19, universities want you to be aware that the repercussions of this pandemic will be felt for sometime and there is no guarantee that everything will be back to normal for the 2021 start date.

Please think carefully about your plans before you change them. Talk through all your options with your parents first and remember that your houseparents, tutors and the careers team are all here to help you should you need it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M

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