

Head of Careers: Mr Zach Suckle
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To: **Pupils and Parents/Guardians of LOWER SIXTH**

Re: **HIGHER EDUCATION & FUTURES PREPARATION
(TRINITY 2020)**

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Dear Parents/Guardians

The following message has been sent to your young people. It provides information on the lead up to the UCAS and application process and the support provided, which we hope you will find helpful. If you have any queries regarding the below, please feel free to get in contact with either Mr Mochan or myself; you can find our contact details below.

In regard to the 1-1 meetings with members of the careers department mentioned below, to be conducted through secure voice chat on Teams, please let us know if you are not comfortable with this, so we can make additional arrangements (for example, by yourselves participating in the meeting as well).

As is now a common feature of the landscape today, queries regarding how the pandemic will effect things in the future will be of key concern, though an area that remains frustratingly uncertain. We thus may not be able to give definitive answers to questions regarding this beyond the statement underneath at this time. The school will keep looking to inform you of any ramifications as things become clearer.

Best regards,

Zach Suckle
Head of Careers & Library



Dear Lower Sixth

We hope you have settled into the new term, despite the circumstances, and are still focused on the rewards ahead. Though you may feel like the start of Sixth Form seems just like yesterday, this is an important term for you deciding your next steps, with the application season just around the corner. After half-term, you will take part in our Futures Programme (whether in person or remotely) to help you prepare and, by the end of this year, we want all pupils to have **a solid shortlist of choices** (either courses & institutions through UCAS; or other opportunities, such as apprenticeships) and **a suitable draft of their relevant personal statement**.

COVID-19 STATEMENT

While there is still uncertainty about how the virus will impact school, university and employment going forward, currently the application timelines for 2021 school leavers is unchanged. However, even if this remains the case, there is evidence to suspect that the 2021 application cycle could be more competitive. Making the most of the process below will thus be of key benefit and we encourage you to maximise these opportunities and the time to develop your candidacy.

BEING READY

To be ready for what comes next, you should be aware of the UCAS & Futures timeline and be spending time exploring and narrowing down your options. Though we missed the parents' and pupils' information evening scheduled for the end of last term, we shared a series of online presentation that you should have watched. These regard [the UCAS & Futures process](#), [considering apprenticeships](#), and [using Unifrog](#). If you haven't watched the videos, please do so now. All are hosted on <https://dcslibrary.com/post18>, as well as much more.

BEFORE & DURING HALF-TERM

What you do over this half-term depends on where you are in your decisions.

If you are early in your decision making, you need to do a lot of exploring on <https://unifrog.org>, supported by additional sites such as <https://ucas.com> and <https://morrisby.com> (if subscribed).

On Unifrog, you should be...

- favouriting careers and subjects of interests
- make your first shortlists of courses / opportunities. Most of you will want to do this for UK universities or Oxbridge, though you should consider ones for universities abroad and apprenticeships.

When you are midway in your decisions, you need to narrow down your options and research key details. For UCAS, you will apply to up to five courses and you may be considering apprenticeship applications as well. You should examine key details, and be exploring virtual open days. You need to be aware of requirements and be responding to these accordingly in terms of your studies and extra-curricular development.

On Unifrog, you should...

- turn previous shortlists into final shortlists.

If you are largely confident in your decisions, you can start your UCAS personal statement and readying applications. You should be working on your super-curriculum and/or employability (what extends you beyond your exam learning and sets you apart from other candidates).

On Unifrog, you should be...

- developing what makes you a great candidate in your subject / career field (see the 'Getting In' and 'Geek Out' sections of the relevant articles in the Subjects Library; and the relevant useful articles in the Know-How library).

At all stages, you should be in regular discussion with your personal tutor on your ideas and your progress, but feel free to **also connect with relevant teachers, houseparents, and, of course, your parents/guardians**, who might provide additional perspectives.

1-TO-1 CAREERS MEETINGS

Alongside this, we want **all pupils to each have a personal individual meeting with a member of the careers team** to help you decide and prepare. You will receive a sign-up document to pick a slot; **please ensure you complete this and return it in good time**. This meeting will be conducted over a one-to-one voice-only chat on Teams.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Mr Mochan.

Best success!

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