



Our Ref: MRELET/Careers

7th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 13 Careers Information and Guidance - February 2024

As we are now nearly half way through the academic year, I thought this would be an appropriate time to provide an update of key events and developments that are important at this time. Year 13 students have only a matter of weeks before their external exams start, and many Applied subject students are on the home straight where coursework is concerned. They continue to work exceptionally hard and I am sure will receive all the benefits and rewards for their hard work in the summer.

UCAS Applications

A good proportion of students have now received one or more offers from their chosen universities, many have now received all decisions. Once all decisions are received, they will need to make one firm choice, where they would definitely like to study, and then one insurance choice, slightly lower in requirement, as a fall-back position. We continue to advise students to take their time over this incredibly important decision by revisiting their original research, talking to parents, staff and friends, so their final decision is one that is best for them.

All advice given so far has been designed to give students the widest possible range of options and we are happy to talk through the implications of any choice to ensure they consider the full picture.

For those students who have not made a university application, it is important to emphasise this is still possible should they wish to do so. Up until the end of June, applications can be submitted to UCAS for consideration by chosen universities. There are still numerous open courses available.

Student Finance

Student finance applications open at the end of March. While the deadline for making applications to ensure payment in time for the start of their course is not until May, it is in the student's interest to make an early application to avoid uncertainty. They will be able to make an application based on their preferred university, even if they have not received an offer or accepted a decision, as this can be changed at any time.

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Student Finance applications can be made through [Student Finance England](#). In order to make an application, they will need to provide details of household income (parents/carers only, this does not include siblings who work).

Once they have made their firm and insurance decision, students will then be able to focus on the logistics of going to university such as booking accommodation. We would also recommend they investigate any financial support that may be available from their chosen institution and also sign up to [The Scholarship Hub](#).

Scholarships, bursaries and grants are all money which will not need to be paid back, but may help with the financial challenges of studying at university. Amounts differ greatly, from just a few pounds to thousands. Eligibility will vary, where some are based on academic ability, some on subject, others on personal demographic or circumstances. The one certainty, however, is you cannot benefit from something that you haven't applied for.

Apprenticeships/Employment/Alternative options

A number of students have decided not to apply to university, choosing to seek employment or apprenticeship opportunities. This is an ongoing process and we are happy to support any student submitting applications. Any opportunities that we are specifically made aware of are posted on the students' Google Classroom and also on the school website [Careers Hub](#).

The [UCAS](#) website also provides information on apprenticeships, but there are a range of other useful websites available where students can research opportunities and gain information, such as <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/> and <https://theaimgroup.co.uk/>

Extra/Super Curricular Activities

While we would be the first to say that our students are amazing and outstanding individuals, we continue to encourage them to pursue activities and experiences which will enhance any future application and help them to grow as a person. Not only this, but taking part in extra or super curricular activities can provide a welcome break from the demands of their studies, while developing essential transferable skills for the future.

Many students already take part in a wide range of hobbies and interests, but it is worth considering now whether arranging something special for the summer would be both of benefit to them and their future brand.

Summer schools can be expensive, but volunteering and work experience does not have to cost anything. Our work experience coordinator, Mrs Settle, has contact with many great employers and organisations in the local area, online and virtual work experience and volunteering opportunities.

Future support

Even after our students have left the college as their formal exams end, we will continue to be available to them to provide support and guidance. If there are any questions or concerns, or they are simply wanting to talk through options, we would encourage them to contact us at Sigma Sixth. If, as a parent/carer, you would like to discuss any aspect of applications or options, please contact us on 01255 424266 or sixthform@cchs.school.

Yours faithfully

Mandi Read

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Careers Adviser & Year Manager 6th Form: Careers & Destinations