

Dear Parents/Carers

As we are now into the new school year, I thought it would be a good time to remind you of some of the key points that will be important to your child when considering their next steps after sixth form. It may seem a long while yet, but year 13 is a challenging and busy time for students, and forward planning can make all the difference to what can be quite a stressful and intense final year of study.

UCAS Hub - Many students have already begun applications for university through the UCAS Hub, and we recommend that **all** students register on this site, regardless of whether they are considering university at this point or not. There is a wealth of information available, including apprenticeships, that students can trust and will find useful when making their decisions. If your son/daughter is not sure if they would like to go to university, we always recommend that they follow the application process anyway, alongside other students, to keep the option open for the coming year. The process is quite involved, and it will take some weeks to complete a well put-together and successful application. Having a completed application ready to go, even as late as results day, will prevent a rushed and stressful process later on.

Apprenticeships and Employment - While many students will either be certain that they want to go to university, or perhaps undecided, there are also many students who will prefer to seek an apprenticeship or full-time employment for when they leave sixth form. For both these options, this is an ongoing process as application deadlines are spread throughout the year. It is important that students tell us of their plans at the earliest opportunity so that we can support them in their applications and highlight any positions or schemes that we become aware of.

Vocational Study options - Many students will be looking to apply for vocational routes of study, such as nursing and NHS roles, veterinary nursing, animal management and teaching. All of these professions put substantial weight on the value of work experience and understanding of the role. We would recommend that students who are considering these routes gain as much practical experience as they can to enhance their personal statement or application. Our work experience coordinator, Mrs Settle, is always available to help with sourcing and arranging appropriate placements.

Enrichment and Experience - Regardless of the pathway that your child would like to follow once they leave sixth form, gaining a variety of experiences and super/extracurricular activities can and will greatly enhance their employment or university applications. We can support finding work experience opportunities in the local area, but would also recommend that students seek out experiences to broaden their horizons and build their confidence; join clubs, volunteer, participate.

Key dates

15th October - UCAS deadline for most applications for Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry.

24th October - College Deadline - First draft of personal statements to be shared for feedback to guarantee readiness for **January 14th** UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline (6pm).

It is worth stressing at this point that the January 14th deadline for Equal Consideration is not the final deadline for all university applications. Every year, we have a small number of students who feel that by missing this date, their chance has gone for this year. I would like to reassure you that this is not the case. While there is an advantage to meeting the deadline, it is still possible to gain a good university place with a late application after this date, so long as spaces remain available on the chosen course. The deadline simply means that all applications received before this date will be given the same consideration, regardless of date of submission.

N.B. - There are a great many checks made to all student submissions so that their application can be sent without errors that may cause them issues in the future. We will also add a personal academic reference and predicted grades. All these things take time, so to avoid a bottleneck situation around the Christmas and early January period, it is better to complete the application at the earliest opportunity.

As a college, we take great pride in ensuring that students present the highest standard of application and gain the future placement that they want. We therefore respectfully ask that you encourage your child to work to these deadlines so that we have the time to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of their submissions.

Nationality and Visa Status - There are a number of residency criteria to be met for students hoping to access student finance or apprenticeship opportunities within the UK. If this applies to your family situation, please ensure that your child fully understands their visa/residency status so that we can provide the correct information and guidance.

Drop-in Sessions - I will be hosting UCAS and application drop-in sessions throughout the coming term; times and days will be advertised within the college. Students are encouraged to use these times, if they can, to complete their applications, where they will be able to discuss any course choices or other questions that they may have. It will also be an opportunity to work on their personal statement with support readily available.

Students are always welcome, and positively encouraged, to discuss their future goals with any of their teachers or the sixth form team. If you, as a parent or carer, would also like to discuss either the application process or any other aspect of future pathways, please contact me via sixthform@cchs.school, and I will be happy to call or arrange a meeting.

Mrs Read

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