

May 2020

Dear Student

I just wanted to take the opportunity to touch base and make sure all is well. I hope you are managing to find a new routine and that you and your family are managing to stay safe. You may have been checking your school email and if so will have already received much of this information from me, but if you haven't thought to check the school email, this letter contains some of the content I have been sending out.

Exam boards will release final A Level results on 13 August. On this day universities will confirm offers in the same way and clearing will be available as usual. I will be available on 13 August and the following day to assist all students in securing their next steps. The following UCAS [link](#) takes you to the most recent information provided by the Government's Universities Minister.

The government had asked universities to stop amending offers and to not make any further unconditional offers, but this moratorium ended on 4th May, so it may be that your university may choose to change your offer. They would inform you of this through email and UCAS Track. Please notify me through email if your offer changes. A further amendment to the system is that will now be able to change your choice of destination more easily on results day, even if you have accepted a conditional or unconditional offer. This is designed to make this year as flexible as possible. You should also have previously received an email from UCAS, confirming changes regarding their deadlines. Students now have until 6.00 pm on 18 June to make their final decisions about firm and insurance offers (if you haven't already done this). UCAS Extra is currently open and is an early form of clearing, allowing students without offers, or students who wish to withdraw existing offers to apply for an alternative course. Clearing will open on 6 July.

Students intending to study at University next year must remember to complete their student finance application. The deadline to apply for Student Finance is 22 May. My advice is to complete this even if you are unsure if you will attend university this year. You can always cancel the application if you choose not to go. If you apply after the deadline it will delay you receiving your money for the start of the first term. In regards to accommodation, if you haven't already sorted it, contact your first choice of university (they may have already contacted you) to organise this. It is often worth doing this once you have decided on your likely destination as certain halls can fill up quite quickly.

In terms of apprenticeships there are still some available on the apprenticeship websites and through organisations, but there is a bit less certainty about the application for these in the current climate. Apprenticeships will be available, but possibly at a later date for application than usual. Do continue to search for them using the government matching service at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> and through contacting business directly with an up to date CV and letter of application. In the meantime for those students who indicated that they were interested in apprenticeships, we have registered you with something called "Educare" (you should have had an email from them), which offers the chance to complete some online courses that you can add to your CV to hopefully help up skill you, ready for when you can apply for things. In addition there is a careers support document included with this letter. I will notify you as and when I become aware of any apprenticeship opportunities.

If you are finding the increased time spent indoors frustrating and want some mental stimulation I would suggest contacting the university you hope to study at to enquire about their undergraduate first year reading list. They should be able to direct you to some work/research that you could do to help prepare for your first year. Alternatively you could see if any universities offer a (MOOC) in a subject area you are interested in. (For example Edinburgh University have courses available at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/online-learning/free-short-courses>). MOOCs are free online units of work that are at university level and will serve to broaden and deepen your understanding of a subject area. Often you complete a section of work and then print off a certificate at completion. A generic MOOC website can be found at: <https://www.my-mooc.com/en/>

Please continue to stay safe, particularly as circumstances change in the coming weeks. Do not hesitate to email me with any questions, queries, or concerns you may have and I will do all I can to help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Andrews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Andrews  
Head of Sixth Form