

5 May 2020

Dear Parent

RE: Year 12 UCAS

I hope that you are keeping well during this difficult time that we find ourselves in. Over the last week the Sixth Form tutors have been endeavouring to have a telephone conversation with their students in order to “touch base” and see if they require anything to help with their studies at home. I have received lots of positive feedback from teaching staff about how well Year 12 students have been managing the situation and how committed they have been to completing work set by staff.

Usually at this point of the year we would be completing courses and preparing the students for the mock examinations, but we also use these weeks to begin researching future destinations, whether that is University, employment, or apprenticeships. We also begin the university and apprenticeship application process during these weeks, which forms a vital part of the Sixth Form experience. In addition we would run open day visits designed to help students plan their route, if they are considering University. Obviously it is not possible to carry out these activities in the same way this year, but the Sixth Form team has created a set of resources to help to guide students through the process, until we can help them in person at some point in the future. I have written to all students and have also provided them with some initial resources, but also wanted to make you aware of this, as well as offering an overview of the process. For some parents it may be the first time that you have tried to negotiate the University, or apprenticeship process, or for others it may be a while since you last did so. If this is the case, I hope that you find the overview of use. I usually run an information evening where I explain the processes in more detail and the potential options available to students and I will run this event at some point in the future when we are able to do so. An abbreviated version of the presentation is attached.

This term we also offer students the opportunity to sign up for a package called “My Uni Choices”. This is an online questionnaire that helps the students to investigate the different university courses and destinations that are available. There is a cost to this service however, as students are issued with a personalised report at the end of the process to help guide their choices. Students receive log in details to the service and would be able to complete the questionnaire online from home. The cost of the service this year is £21 if students sign up through the school. It can be done independently for a higher fee. If students are interested in this opportunity they can email Miss Bateman at jbateman@driffieldschool.org.uk and she will contact them to

explain about how payment and completion can take place. You can have a look at what it entails at <https://www.myunichoices.com/>

The focus on possible future destinations makes it a very exciting, but potentially confusing time. Increasingly we are seeing our students being successful in gaining internationally competitive apprenticeships with organisations such as Rolls Royce, Airbus and Nestle, but these do require much more bespoke support and students should ask me for individual support when we return, if they are interested in these pathways. In the meantime they should use the booklet they have received to look at the "Route 2" activities. Included in this letter is some further information regarding the university application procedure and the role of UCAS in managing applications. In the approximately two weeks, once the application process goes live, the students will receive an additional booklet of information regarding how to complete their application and draft a personal statement.

I hope you find this information helpful and look forward to working with you and your child as we plot a path to success for them.

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