



Parents' Newsletter

18th January 2019

Dear parents and guardians of Sixth Form students,

Happy New(ish) Year to you all! As we come to the end of Sixth Form PPE Week, with students having tested themselves against the rigours of exam papers to gain a sense of how their academic work is progressing, now seems a good time for a newsletter focused on **Next Steps** – the big ‘what next?’ of Sixth Form.

The **UCAS** university application deadline passed this week, with a very large proportion of Year 13 submitting applications. Meanwhile, those who made earlier applications are hearing back from universities every day. We are delighted to be able to share with you that five KCC students have received offers from Oxford or Cambridge University this year; a superb outcome, and a testament to the hard work and commitment they have consistently brought to their studies, and to the academic support and challenge provided by their subject teachers. They, and the many other students who hold demanding conditional offers from a wide range of universities, now know the grades they need to achieve in their summer exams to be able to attend their first-choice institutions: the game is on!

For Year 13s who do not wish to attend university but would rather earn and further their learning simultaneously, now is a great time for making **apprenticeship applications**. For example, PriceWaterhouseCoopers are inviting applications for their summer ‘insight weeks’, a paid work experience opportunity linked directly to their degree apprenticeship recruitment process (deadline 31st Jan); J.P. Morgan are offering degree apprenticeships in both Technology and Financial Services, based in London and Bournemouth; and McDonald’s are advertising a nationwide Business degree apprenticeship (deadlines early Feb). More opportunities are being advertised every week. For further information about these and any other work-based opportunities students should speak with Fiona Bennett, who will be happy to support them with the application process.

Last Friday, Year 12 Tutorial was focused on launching the **Work Experience Programme**. We were joined by John Clamp, our local Enterprise Adviser, who shared precious insights from the business world with students. John discussed the importance of developing employability skills and shared his advice and wisdom about the value of well-chosen Work Experience placements, and excellent engagement with them, to enable young people to truly stand out when they apply for further study or employment. Our compulsory Work Experience for Year 12 takes place in the week commencing 15th July, and students are now expected to make contact with potential placements and set up an opportunity for themselves. We are very happy to help them with writing professional letters and emails, to support them with phone call etiquette, and to suggest possible placements for them if they are not sure where to start. Please do discuss this at home and encourage them to speak with Fiona if there are any difficulties.

And, finally, a reminder that now PPEs are over, all students are expected to be on the school site during all lesson times between 8.50am and 3.20pm, except those in Year 13 who have earned Home Study. Thank you for reinforcing these expectations.