

Careers Newsletter

At QE we are always looking for ways to keep you informed of the ways in which we support students throughout their time with us. This summer is a crucial period for students as they begin to plan their next steps and whether that be university, apprenticeships, employment or a gap year, we want to make sure that you, as parents and guardians, are also aware of the opportunities available to students. This newsletter will provide you with the resources that should help as you support your child with their progression plans.

UCAS

UCAS is the means by which students apply to university. Every year at QE we send off over 700 successful university applications because we foster an environment of support and provide information, advice and guidance to our students so that they make informed, sensible decisions. We know that making these decisions can be daunting which is why we emphasise the importance of detailed and thorough research.

The UCAS Parent Guide is full of useful information and key dates and can be found [here](#)

Other online resources to research courses, universities, entry requirements, accommodation include:

- [UCAS](#) for a comprehensive list of degree courses and universities
- [Unifrog](#) is a web-based tool that encourages students to make sensible and appropriate choices based on their predicted A Level grades
- [Which University](#) is an excellent resource that compiles key information about degree programmes and universities such as accommodation costs and graduate employability
- [Unistats](#) is a useful independent website that allows you to compare courses at different universities using 'Key Information Sets' such as assessment methods and student satisfaction

University Open Days

All universities have Open Days and this can really help when making a decision about where to study and live:

- [Open Days](#) is a useful site that lists details of open days at universities around the country. Individual university websites will also have plenty of information about upcoming open events and opportunities to visit.

DEADLINES

UCAS deadlines might vary depending on the course or university (please note that other important deadlines such as replying to offers can be found in the aforementioned UCAS Parent Guide):

- **15th October** - If applying to Oxford Cambridge or for Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science courses at any institution
- **24th November** - Internal deadline for remaining university applications
- **15th January** - Closing date for all other courses. Universities might accept applications after this deadline up until 30th June but it is entirely at their discretion.

QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Student finance

- Click [here](#) for more information on student finance, tuition fees and maintenance loans
- Students going to university can apply for their students loans 9 months before the start of their academic course [here](#)

Alternatives to University

- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are an excellent alternative to university, particularly if a student is looking for a more vocational or practical aspect to their continued learning. Students are able to earn a wage whilst learning and developing their skills in a particular sector, gaining qualifications up to a Level 6 (equivalent to a bachelor's degree). Though this is a very appealing progression route, competition is fierce and students need to do all they can to stand out in this competitive area, including achieving good A Levels and gaining some relevant work experience.
- For more information on apprenticeships in general, see the government [website](#)
- For information on Degree Apprenticeships and some of the universities and sectors on offer, click [here](#)

Work Experience

Students who have applied for work experience will be going out on placement week commencing 26th June.

If students have applied for work experience, they need to actively check their college emails over the next few weeks. They will receive their job confirmation, job description and code of conduct and will be asked to collect the work experience handbook from Amanda in room L2 in the Library. These booklets must be completed during the placement, as they will support the work planned for next term. The handbooks also have an evaluation for the employer to complete.

Students are also encouraged to take selfies and photographs of their experiences so that the college can continue to promote the advantages and positive impact of work experience.

It is also essential that students who are applying for teaching, medicine, and other vocational or health-related degrees get some relevant voluntary experience. For some courses, this will be an entry requirement whereas for others it is important that a potential student is able to reflect on their experience in their personal statement.