

HE/CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest Parent / Carers Newsletter. We hope you find the following information useful.

QE results success



This year we are celebrating record A Level results.

Against the backdrop of a small fall in the national, pass rate at A Level, this year students have achieved an astonishing 99.7%, the highest in the college's history, with a high grade rate (A*, A, B) of 54%. 26 students attained 4 A*/A grades with a further 48 students being awarded 3 A*/As; an incredible achievement.

This summer around 700 of our students progressed to nearly 100 different universities including 194 to the Russell Group. 8 students were successful in gaining places to study Medicine, and a further one student will study Veterinary Medicine.

We also consistently enable students to secure places at Cambridge and Oxford universities with more than 100 progressing to these highly prestigious establishments in the past 10 years.

UCAS

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and is the system used by students to apply for higher education courses in the UK. The application consists of information about the student, including previous and pending qualifications. The majority of the application is straightforward but the difficult sections can be the Personal Statement and Choices.

The Personal Statement

This is an important part of the application that will be used holistically alongside predicted grades and contextual information. The statement is supposed to demonstrate to admissions tutors the motivation that a student has to study the course and show that they have the ability to succeed. The same statement is sent to all of the universities that they apply for.

Choices

In terms of choices, students can select up to 5 choices. You can apply for different courses at the same university but uncertainty about courses can show a lack of commitment so consider this carefully and contact the university for advice if necessary. For Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry students can only choose 4 universities but can use another course as a 5th choice.

Payment

Payment for UCAS can be made at Tower reception. The fee is £24 for applications with more than one choice and £18 for only one course at one university. Payment can be made in cash or cheque (made out to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College).



UCAS important dates

28th September 2018

Early applicant internal deadline (for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science & Dentistry)

15th October 2018

UCAS Early applicant deadline

31st October 2018

Admissions tests including BMAT and Pre-interview assessments for Oxford or Cambridge (tests will take place during half term, please consider travel arrangements)

23rd November 2018

UCAS Internal deadline for all applications

15th January 2019

UCAS Deadline

The college can take up to 2 weeks to process a UCAS application during busy periods so we ask that students respect the internal deadline so that we can ensure the highest quality support and references.

Not going to uni? What next?



Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, School Leaver Programmes, Gap Year, Deferred entry, Employment, Work experience or internships...

There are many options available when leaving college and making a decision can be difficult. However, there are a range of useful resources available to help you to find out more about the options.

Moodle includes information about all options and is a great place to start researching. Events and support sessions will be held throughout the year for students who would like to look at alternatives to Higher Education. Our best advice would be to get involved and attend events and talks from some of the providers of these alternatives. Alternatives to higher education are often highly competitive.

Students can book an appointment with either of our qualified Careers Advisors to discuss their plans and support their progress. Our Advisors are Alice Atkinson and Liz Bryan, both of whom are based in the Library.

Useful websites:

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/>

<https://www.studentladder.co.uk/>

<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/>

Upcoming Events

Imperial College London

9th October

Imperial College London is the only UK university to focus entirely on science, engineering, medicine and business. The university will be talking about their courses and what they are looking for from applicants.

ATOS Apprenticeships

10th October

Atos, a global IT services organisation, have a number of opportunities for school leavers at their local office in Stockton. Their Apprenticeship programme combines employment and training, leading to industry recognised qualifications.

Newcastle University PARTNERS scheme

16th October

The PARTNERS Programme offers a range of support including a lowered conditional offer. The scheme is aimed at students in Y13 who are planning on applying to Newcastle. This session will cover the programme and eligibility criteria.

GlaxoSmithKline Apprenticeships Open day trip

17th October

Durham Supported Progression

17th October

Y12 students considering applying to Durham University may be eligible to sign up to Durham Supported Progression. Successful students will be invited to residential programmes, with support including a lower offer from Durham and bursaries when at university.

Y12 Introduction to Medicine

23rd October

Medicine is a very competitive course and with this in mind we will be running an introductory session providing students with a plan for finding work experience, developing skills, and information about the application process.

Social Mobility Foundation

6th November

This national charity works with Y12 students to help them to gain experience and strengthen their application to competitive, professional courses. This is an ideal programme for students who need work experience.

STEM careers fair

14th November

Employers and Universities will be attending this marketplace event to discuss career opportunities relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.