



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter. We hope that you are all keeping well during these difficult times. We are continuing to provide your son/daughter with information and activities to support them with their career planning. Please encourage them to take advantage of what is on offer from both universities and employers. It is worth reminding your son/daughter that information is provided twice weekly through the college bulletin.

Higher Education & UCAS



You will be aware that the UCAS deadline has been extended to Friday 25th January 2021 so it is not too late for your son/daughter to get their application in. We have to date processed over 600 applications. Due to the current situation, universities are keen to recruit students, so this should be a good year to apply. It is also a way of keeping options open at the end of the academic year.

Although the UCAS deadline is 29th January, students can still put in a late application. As long as universities still have places on their courses, late applications will be considered until the end of June. If your son/daughter is unsure as to what to study, then please ask them to book a careers appointment by contacting [Liz Bryan ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:LizBryan@qeliz.ac.uk) or [Rachael Duff rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:RachaelDuff@qeliz.ac.uk). They can offer appointments by telephone or through google meet. Liz and Rachael are also happy to answer any queries you might have about the UCAS process or other career related questions.

If your son/daughter has already sent off a UCAS application, they will be notified by the universities of the opportunity to attend a virtual applicant day. This is a chance to find out a more about how each university is supporting students. The virtual applicant days will cover accommodation, course information and general advice, guidance and support. If your son/daughter has not yet engaged with a virtual open day, then they should visit the universities of their choice at the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair which is taking place on Wednesday 27th January from 12 - 6pm. Students and parents can sign up to register here. The event will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and virtual webinars.

If your son/daughter is thinking of applying to Russell Group University they should sign up for the following:

Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February

Their joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on the 10th February from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university.

You can find out more and [sign up here](#).

Courses which require interview:

Students who are being called for interview for courses such as medicine, the allied health professions and primary education can book a mock interview with Liz/Rachael via google meet.

Plenty of practice helps to ease nerves and many students have already taken advantage of a mock practice.

Scholarships and bursaries for higher education

Don't let your son/daughter miss out on any financial support they may be entitled to – all universities offer a range of scholarships and bursaries and students need to be aware of these as some of these can be very generous.

Please see the following link for further information.
<https://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk/>

Student Finance

Applications for student finance open in March 2021 – you can find information here on what your son/daughter might be entitled to here

<https://studentfinancecampaign.gov.uk>

Students will be notified when student finance for 2021 opens.





If your son/daughter is considering an apprenticeship at the end of the year, then please encourage them to keep in touch with Liz and Rachael. They should be enrolled on the Apprenticeship and Job Vacancy Classroom which is where vacancies are posted using the code: x6ogsk3. Students should also regularly check the college bulletin for updates on vacancies. Our Careers website also has lots of information about applying for apprenticeships with links to relevant jobsearch sites.

<https://sites.google.com/g.qeliz.ac.uk/qe-careers/home>

Students can book appointments with Liz/Rachael and Sarah, our Work Experience Co-ordinator who can signpost them to virtual work experience. Students should have created themselves an account on www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.

Please encourage your son/daughter to sign up for the Virtual National Apprenticeship show advertised below:

Virtual National Apprenticeship Show which takes place during National Apprenticeship Week on 10 February.

There are over 40 organisations exhibiting offering thousands of Apprenticeships and the event offers students the chance to speak via voice/text chat with employers/providers as well as view online video and written content that can be downloaded for future reference.

They also have a series of employer led workshops that will take place throughout the event (these are pre-recorded sessions with live Q&A following each session). The event is open from 11am-6pm and individuals can register to take part at www.nas.vfairs.com, to participate in the event, each student

For parent/carers we recommend the National Apprenticeship Service [Parent Pack Parent-Pack-Jan-2021.pdf](#) (amazingapprenticeships.com)



Work Experience

Students are regularly updated via the QE Bulletin about opportunities for gaining valuable insights and experiences of the world of work. These have increasingly become available online, opening up a wealth of wider experiences to our students. To enable students and parents to browse the opportunities available, we have created a document which will be kept updated. Parents can access it here: [Virtual Work Experience Opportunities](#)

A particularly excellent virtual work experience partner is Speakers For Schools. They offer highly rated virtual placements with national and international companies. Students are strongly advised to sign up to the platform, using their college emails, to access a broad range of opportunities. Links to the organisation are provided in the Virtual Work Experience Opportunities document

Work experience is very important for developing skills, raising awareness of the workplace and exploring career options. Work experience is essential for some courses, including medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and the allied health professions and we encourage your son/daughter to take full advantage of what is offered. The NHS are offering virtual work experience for all aspiring healthcare students – please see below:-

NHS Virtual Work Experience for Students

The NHS Live Virtual Work Experience Programme is now available to support all aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities during the pandemic. Students now have access to their own specific work experience programme that will be highly relevant to the following healthcare careers:

Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Radiographers, Art, drama and music therapists, Dietitians, Operating Department Practitioners, Radiographers, Podiatrists, Osteopaths, Orthoptists, Prosthetists and orthotics, and Speech and language therapists.

You can learn more and register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Students will receive certificates upon completion, but places are limited and therefore will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to keep this fair. If you are interested you can register through the website link above. Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs. If you are from low-income backgrounds, you can attend for free.

You can also download the flyer at this link:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NHSHealthcareCareersLiveVirtualWorkExperience.pdf>

Year 12 opportunities

We encourage first year students to take advantage of enrichment opportunities to support applications to university, particularly those universities which are competitive, including Oxford and Cambridge and the Russell Group. Your son /daughter is welcome to join our Aiming High classroom which signposts students to opportunities to support them in applying for these universities. Some of these opportunities include university summer schools and other university taster events and schemes. Students are encouraged to join the classroom using the code: uqf4bnm

If you have any queries about the above information, then please feel free to contact the Careers team, Rachael rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk, Liz ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk and Sarah sgriffiths@qeliz.ac.uk