



9 June 2020

Dear Year 13

Update

I wanted to write to you and make contact at the beginning of Term 6 to update you on things from my perspective as your Head of Sixth form.

The Current Situation

At school we are providing online teaching for all the year groups apart from Year 11 and Year 13. That doesn't mean that you are not in our thoughts and we are still here for you should you have any queries or questions. Something that you should be doing is adding to your portfolio and below are some examples of things that I would like to share with you. If you do have any questions the best way of getting in contact is through the following email address post16@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk

UCAS

Many of you have accepted offers for University and will be keen to learn whether or not you have gained a place for September 2020. Your results will be made public on Thursday 13 August 2020 and the Universities will contact you directly if you have met their entry requirements. You will then need to accept, defer or decline those offers, or go through 'clearing'. Depending on the social distancing measures in place in August we will write to you about how we can support you with these decisions later on this term.

What if I want to go to University in September 2021?

Although the opportunity to apply for University courses in September 2020 has passed you could start your journey into discovering what will be available to you if you want to go in September 2021. At this time of year there are many opportunities to find out more about a University future. Click here for links to University virtual open days (<https://www.opendays.com/>) and also a University virtual fair on 17 June 2020 <https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com/>. It is really important that you use these links and the UCAS website (<https://www.ucas.com/>) to become familiar with what is available.

Apprenticeships

For those of you in Year 13 who are considering an apprenticeship then there are lots of things that you could be doing now to find out what will be available to you. Last week you will have noticed on SMHK that I shared a different apprenticeship experience everyday including Amazon and Unilever. For those of you who missed those opportunities please do keep an eye out for when I share online resources with you. A great place to start looking at apprenticeship vs degree decisions is <https://www.apprenticefutures.com/>. This includes links to videos that help to explain apprenticeships and examples of opportunities that are available. Now is also the time of year that students apply for apprenticeships so have a look and see what is out there currently as they will be very popular given the number of students vs places available may come under additional pressure due to Covid 19.

Work Experience

Last year you completed your work experience week and you should look to build on this where possible between now and your results day. It is vital that you build your portfolios to include work experience and not just that of your normal weekend jobs. One way around that hurdle is to complete some virtual work experience. Barclays Bank have

some fantastic resources available to support schools careers programmes and this link from their website shares a virtual work experience opportunity <https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience>.

Summer Internships

Some students benefit from completing a summer internship between Year 12 and Year 13 but also look to set one up before going to University/apprenticeship. An internship can also be completed online and you can find out more about them from websites such as this. <https://www.theinterngroup.com/destination/virtual-internships/>.

Futurelearn

Futurelearn is a great resource that includes many free short courses. These can be anything from learning a language to something linked directly or indirectly to the courses that you study. All students in Year 13 should be engaging with this resource as you look to build your portfolio. This will be particularly useful for those of you looking to go into a certain field of work in the future or practice interview skills <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Finally, this whole situation will feel a bit strange and you will undoubtedly have questions or queries about the impact of Covid 19 on your education and naturally some questions about the future. I want you to know that we will continue to do our best to support you. If you need to get in contact with me then please use the post16@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk email account and I will reply as soon as I possibly can.

Yours sincerely



Steven Reader
Assistant Principal