



Higher Education Evening for Parents 12th July 2018

The students have been given information on the UCAS (University and Colleges Admission Service) application process and have been given advice to help them achieve the best application possible. They have been emailed two documents 'UCAS Apply 2019 – Application Timeline' and 'UCAS Apply 2019 Application process - Notes on how to register and logon'. Both documents are available to download from our website. The timeline gives important dates and deadlines which students / teachers and 6th Form staff will follow. Please encourage your Son / Daughter to meet the deadlines.

As a Parent / Carer what can you do to support your Son / Daughter?

- Did you know there is a section dedicated to parents on the UCAS website? We have setup a link on the schools website www.woodbridgehigh.co.uk. Click on quick links / UCAS. Under Information & Advice there is a UCAS Menu. Take the time to have a look and see what is on offer for Parents. You will find the parent information tool and videos to guide you through the different stages of the application process. You can also sign up for a free monthly e-newsletter www.ucas.com/parentform or discover the Parent Guide PDF. The more knowledgeable you are about the process the more confident your Son / Daughter will be to include you and ask for your advice
- Start talking to your Son / Daughter about their options. Is University really an option? What about the cost? Is it realistic financially? Reassure them by doing some research and refer to the 'funding and finance' section / money advice for parents, on ucas.com
- The Quality Assurance Agency for HE (www.qaa.ac.uk) reports on the quality and standards of UK HE
- Encourage your Son / Daughter to look at the 'Complete University guide' online which is an interactive site and users can highlight their own requirements and create their own unique table
- Is a GAP year an option? If so, will he / she go travelling or apply for a work placement? Should they apply through UCAS now and defer entry or should they apply when they return from travelling?
- If they are considering deferred entry they should contact the individual Universities and check that they will consider deferred applications; check the course will be available in 2020
- What degree course would they like to study? Go to 'search for courses' on the UCAS website
- Where would they like to study? If you have travelled around the British Isles perhaps you could remind them of 'that place/ town' you visited which seemed like a great place to 'live'/stay in Halls. Take into account the journey from home.
- What type of University would they prefer? Some universities have a main campus with Halls on site and others have separate buildings around Town and separate

accommodation - encourage your Son / Daughter to go and visit to help make informed decisions (and maybe go with them)

- Are there any 'activities' in preparation for HE such as taster courses / summer schools that they should consider (it may not be too late – check out the websites ie Sutton Trust or www.london.ac.uk/tasters). Taster courses are offered by Universities to give students experience of academic and social life in an HE environment. Some are free and last from one day to a week. We will be happy to authorise the absence from school
- Has your Son/Daughter attained at least a grade 4/5 in GCSE English and Maths? If not, what are they doing about it? Please encourage them to speak to the Maths / English Department to find out when they can re-sit the exam/s. **Your son / daughter must have at least a grade 4 to be offered a place on a university degree course.** Some courses require a minimum GCSE grade 4 in Science as well.
- Did you know that the Application is confidential to your Son / Daughter which means you cannot phone UCAS or Universities on their behalf. However, they can nominate a Parent / Carer. The parent/carer will then have permission to act on the students behalf. This is useful especially if they are going travelling!

May I suggest

- Have that conversation now and let them know you care about their future and that you want to help and support them
- Start your research into student finance the costs may not be as bad as they may seem. Search student finance to find out about any entitlements / bursaries etc
- Find out about the National scholarship programme. **There is a great website go to www.thescholarshipuk.org**
- Encourage your Son / Daughter to think now about where they might like to study and look on the ucas.com website for information about the University
- They may have concerns about leaving home - so talk to them about visits and holidays. Encourage them to log on to ucas.com/connect where they can speak to under graduate students or they can use Twitter. **Follow students blogs or watch videos on UCAS tv**
- If your Son/Daughter knows what they want to study they should start browsing 'course search' on ucas.com to find out about the **entry requirements** for the type of course ie qualifications required to obtain an 'offer' of a place; tariff points required / work experience required etc
- Suggest going to some 'open days' with them. Some Universities have timetabled sessions just for Parents on key topics like student finance, staff/student contact hours and accommodation but you need to book
- Encourage them to volunteer (looks great on their UCAS personal statement) – we have a connection with the Wanstead and Woodford Catholic fellowship which supports people with disabilities and their carers. They are looking for volunteers to help with their summer play scheme. The volunteers can get involved for one day or more.

Good Luck!

July 2018