

Sixth Form Bulletin

September

Upper Sixth

Key dates this term:

Oct 15	EPQ Presentation Evening
Oct 15	National deadline for UCAS early applications
Nov 30	Deadline for all other UCAS applications

Finding local apprenticeships:

Students looking for alternative routes to university after Sixth Form are encouraged to explore Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal at www.hopinto.co.uk

At this site, they can find live vacancies for jobs and apprenticeships within Hertfordshire. These are updated constantly, so students should make a habit of checking regularly and filtering the search to their needs.

UCAS Personal Statements:

Most students will be writing their Personal Statement this half-term, which is the largest part of their application to universities. In 4000 characters they must showcase what they have done both in and out of lessons to prepare themselves for success on the course they are applying to. Most students choose to write this using the Unifrog platform before transferring it into their application, as Unifrog provides helpful examples to provide inspiration. Support is provided within college, and students or parents can also visit the [UCAS page here](#) for further advice.

Attendance procedures:

When not in a lesson or a timetabled study period, students in Year 13 are welcome to study at home. This arrangement is reviewed throughout the year based on each student's progress. We continue to ask parents to contact us in the mornings if a student is ill.

Careers advisor:

Even if they previous did so in Year 12, students are welcome to make use of our independent careers advisor this year, from Services for Young People. At any time students can request a meeting by emailing Mr Abell.

Major apprenticeship providers opening their applications this term:

Whilst smaller, local companies will tend to advertise their apprenticeships later in the year, many of the big national-scale providers begin their applications process this term. Here are a few to look out for:

- ✓ Sky <https://earlycareers.sky.com/>
- ✓ Unilever <https://careers.unilever.com/uk-apprenticeships>
- ✓ GSK <https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/locations/united-kingdom/apprenticeships/>
- ✓ KPMG <https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprenticeships>
- ✓ Amazon <https://www.amazonapprenticeships.co.uk/>

Students can explore a wide range of apprenticeship providers at

www.amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/

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Lower Sixth

Key dates this half-term:

Oct 9 Year 12 "Get Work Ready" Day

Super-curricular activities:

This half-term, students will be introduced to the concept of "super-curricular activities" – things that extend their interest in their subjects beyond what they are learning in lessons. They'll be encouraged to listen to relevant podcasts, watch documentaries and follow expert academics. They might like to complete a short, free online university course through www.futurelearn.com to explore a subject they could study at university.

Post-18 plans:

As students' post-18 plans develop over the year we ask them to keep us informed so that the Sixth Form Team can email about relevant work experience or taster events.

Get Work Ready day:

The first of our PSHCRE Days in the year is dedicated to helping prepare students for the world of work. Over twenty professionals from a wide range of career areas will work with students on interview and assessment centre techniques to build their confidence and experience. If any parents are free on October 9th and keen to help with mock-interview style activities, please do contact Mr Abell.

Early Applicant Group:

Students who might wish to apply to Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine courses, or to courses at Oxford or Cambridge Universities should let Mr Abell know. These courses require higher GCSE grades and a slightly different application style to other university courses, and work will be done throughout Year 12 to help prepare students for this.

Careers advisor:

Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to make use of our independent careers advisor, from Services for Young People. At any time in the year, students can request a meeting by emailing Mr Abell.

Independent study time:

To be successful on their Sixth Form courses, students will need to commit significant time outside of lessons. We estimate that **an hour of independent study time** is needed for every one hour lesson taught. Students have time built into their timetable when much of this study can be done, but are likely to still need to spend around an hour each evening. Between lessons, students should be regularly:

- Reviewing notes they have taken and transforming them in some way to help lock the content into their long-term memory (eg mind-mapping, review cards)
- Looking at previous exam questions on the college network to try to apply their knowledge

If students are ever unsure how to use their study time, or need a bit of help with time management to make sure they stay on top of their workload, they should speak to a member of Sixth Form staff.