

Sixth Form Bulletin

April

Lower Sixth

Key dates coming up:

May 5	Generation Stevenage careers event
June 10	UCAS Exhibition (details to follow)
June 15-19	Lower Sixth trial exams
July 7	Freman College Careers Fair

Attending university open days:

The Summer term is a time when many Year 12 students will be wanting to get out and explore what options there are for them at universities around the country. University applications open in September and are generally all submitted by the end of November, so it is important to plan visits to university open days in advance. This can be done either by searching individual universities' web pages or using the site www.opendays.com.

Most universities offer open days at weekends, but if it is necessary to miss any school days for visits we ask parents to inform us of this in advance. If students are eligible for the Sixth Form Bursary, financial support can be provided to help with the cost of travel to open day events.

Lower Sixth Trial Exams

The next set of trial exams for Lower Sixth A Level students will take place in the week of June 15-19. Students will typically sit two papers per subject, so these will be a more substantial assessment than the trial exams sat in January.

Students will be reminded of the wide range of useful [techniques for effective revision](#) and it is important that they prepare themselves fully for these exams. There will be no lessons taught in the week of the exams, but study space will be available in college if students would like to work there between exams.

Generation Stevenage:

On Tuesday, May 5 a large careers fair will be held at Knebworth Barns, Stevenage, featuring over fifty of the region's major employers. Students considering apprenticeships after Sixth Form are encouraged to go along between 3:30 and 5:00pm to meet with employers. This event is free to attend, but students or parents should register in advance using [this link](#).

Guest Speakers this half-term:

In Lower Sixth Workshops in the coming weeks, we will be welcoming speakers from:
University of Hertfordshire
The Anthony Nolan Trust
Herts Young Homeless

UCAS Subject Spotlights:

UCAS has made available a large set of online "taster experiences" to help students see what it might be like to study different subjects at university. These may help students to decide which subjects to study after sixth form.

The online presentations generally last about 40 minutes. Students and parents can access them through this link:

[Search | Subject Spotlights | UCAS](#)

UCAS Exhibition:

In June, we will take any students who are interested to an event in Colchester, where all of the UK universities will be present. Students can visit each university's stall and attend talks about specific subjects. More details to follow.

Independent careers advice:

Just a reminder of our independent careers advice service. Students just need to let us know when they would like a one-to-one meeting with the independent advisor.

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Upper Sixth

Key dates coming up:

May 8	Upper Sixth Leavers' Day
May 11 - June 24	Period of A Level exams
Aug 13	A Level Results day

What will happen on Results Day?

Students will receive an email from the Exams Office at **8:00** on August 13th with a statement of their results for A Level and Cambridge Technical qualifications. Sixth Form staff will be in college on the 13th and 14th in case any students need support with their results or their post-18 plans.

At **8:00** students who have applied to university will also be able to check the status of their application on **UCAS Track**. This will tell them one of three things:

- they are accepted by their Firm choice university
- they are accepted by their Insurance choice university
- they have not met the entry requirements for their universities and are now eligible to use the UCAS Clearing service to find alternative courses

Some universities may be able to accept students on to courses even if they have narrowly missed the entry requirements for courses. For this reason, to avoid unnecessary worry, it is strongly recommended that students check UCAS Track at the same time as (or before) opening their results email.

If students want to use the **UCAS Clearing** service, either because they have not met the grades for their current courses, or their plans have changed and they want to change the degree course they will study, please get in touch as early as possible on Results Day. Sixth Form staff will be able to advise on how to use the Clearing system (easier than most people think), and students can come into college for support if this would be helpful.

Arrangements during the exam period:

After May 8, students will only need to attend college when they have exams to sit. However, the college library will still be available for them as a study space if they would find it more effective to be in college to revise.

Immediately before each A Level exam, teachers will run a short **"warm up"** session for students. These will help students to get ready by reminding them of the layout of the exam paper they are about to sit, and any key advice regarding exam technique. Students are strongly encouraged to attend these warm-ups, and will shortly be sent a timetable showing where and when they take place.

If students are likely to arrive slightly late for the start of an exam due to transport issues, please contact the college as early as possible.

Qualification certificates:

Qualification certificates are not produced by exam boards until around November, and will be distributed to students at a reunion event in December unless they would like them earlier. If students are asked by employers or apprenticeship providers for official evidence of their grades this summer, please contact us so that we can produce a document on headed paper to be forwarded to them.

It has been a great pleasure working with our current Upper Sixth students who have contributed so much to the college over five years. We look forward to celebrating their well-deserved success this summer.