



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

Telephone: 020 8202 0026

Email: office@smsj.london

Website: www.smsj.london

Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

Post 18 options

Following the closure of the school, we have postponed the Higher Education evening. Whilst we intend to reschedule it, in the interim, please see below the detailed guidance to support you and your child in making an informed decision about their options after A Levels.

Over the next few months your child will receive regular bulletins. These will contain information on a series of sessions your child needs to complete. These will include; UCAS Apprenticeships and the world of work.

To start the UCAS process your child attended a HE presentation delivered by myself at the beginning of March. During that session they were given information about UCAS and what they need to do in terms of their application research. Each student was given a HE handbook, which they need to be working through. Please remind them to do so.

UCAS key dates

As a school it has been agreed the following:

- All students will register for UCAS week beginning 21st May. This is an online application and the school will send out instructions nearer the time.
- Oxbridge and Medicine applications to be completed and returned to the school w/b 18th September (this will allow the school to quality check and if necessary return to the students to amend)
- 15th October Oxbridge/ medicine applications sent to UCAS.
- All other applications to be completed by w/b 19th October (internal quality check)
- All applications to be sent to UCAS w/b 23rd October.

Parental support

In order to support you in supporting your child, I have added the UCAS parental guide link, which will help you through the process. You will find lots of resources and information dedicated to helping parents and carers support students applying for university.

To register please use this link:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

Preparing for HE

It is important that your child prepares for Higher Education. Consistent and rigorous engagement with super-curricular resources are critical as they will improve your child's academic performance, and support their university, apprenticeship or work applications.

To support with this work, your child has been given the following link to help with this activity:
<https://www.myheplus.com/>

In addition Google classroom, which has been set up for all year 12 students to access, has additional support material. The code (which they have been given) is **s7zhzms**.

UCAS

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. It's role is to manage applications for universities.

In order to support you I have added the UCAS application guide. This guide will go through the UCAS application

<https://www.ucas.com/file/131431/download?token=LLf-qD0Mhttps://>

[/www.ucas.com/connect/videos/apply-2020](https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/apply-2020)

Students pay a fee to UCAS. For a single application the cost is £20 and for 5 applications £25. You can apply for a maximum of 5 universities.

Students will receive offers via the UCAS website.

Students can use UCAS to confirm firm and insurance choices to their chosen university pending their results.

After students receive their results, they can enter clearing which will enable them to select another university if they have not got the grades or if they get better grades than expected (this is known as adjustment)

Whatever happens we will be on hand to support your child on results day.

Finances

Currently the tuition costs for a university degree is **£9,250**, all applicants will get this. It is not means tested. All students can apply for a maintenance allowance which is means tested, you could get up to **£8,944** if you are studying outside London. If you plan to study in London then you could receive up to **£7,529**

It is important to remember that many universities will have bursaries which you can apply for once you have started university.

For your information the links below will give you further information about scholarships

<https://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk/finance-for-students-explained>

This site will give you information about student loans, tuition fees and living costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Neale House Campus, Prothero Gardens, Hendon, NW4 3SL
Bennett House Campus, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, NW4 4QR
Stamford Raffles Campus, Downage, Hendon, NW4 1AB



You will need to apply for student finance in **February 2021**. This is a confidential document as it will require your financial information. We will be on hand to register your child onto the site.

Finally, the UCAS top tips will help you and your child to be better prepared for their UCAS application

1. Start research early – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
2. Know the deadlines – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
3. Browse through courses – so they can work out what they would enjoy or be interested in.
4. Go to UCAS events and course provider open days – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
5. Check entry requirements – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
6. Redraft their personal statement – get plenty of feedback and refine it until they're happy.
7. Understand student finance – so they can make the best arrangements to fund their studies.
8. Be prepared for results day – make sure they're prepared for all the possible outcomes.
9. Understand how Extra and Clearing work – different ways to apply for more courses.

Degree Apprenticeships

A degree apprenticeship is a job where you'll spend 80% of the working week at your place of employment, and 20% at your place of study. Degree Apprenticeships are open to all students who have achieved the right qualifications.

If your child is thinking about doing a Degree apprenticeship, here are some answers to frequently asked questions you may have.

- Your child will earn a salary, and your course fees will be covered by your employer and the government. They just need to be willing to manage your time between work and study.
- There are many different apprenticeships you can apply for depending on your existing qualifications across a broad range of different industries.
- Your child will need to apply to the companies directly around December 2020 when most will advertise their vacancies.
- For further information please see:
- <https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>
- <https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships/the-benefits-of-higher-and-degree-apprenticeships>

Gap year:

A gap year offers you the opportunity to gain skills and experiences, while giving you time to reflect and focus on what you want to do next.

A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV – many employers value the experiences students have gained if they've actively managed their time, set themselves goals, and stretched themselves.

A gap year can also enhance your higher education studies – if you decide to apply for University, you could tailor your gap year to relate it to the subject area you plan to study.

Admissions tutors know that some students may take a little time to adjust to studying again, but many former gap year students are generally more focused and responsible.

For further information on gap years, please see the link below:

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about>

Employment

If your child is considering going into work it is important that you discuss the following questions with them

- Are you ready for work?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of going into work now for you?
- Is it because you want to start earning some money?
- You need to have a clear idea of the sort of work you want to do.
- Do your research – explore job profiles, industries, and employers offering the kind of work and job roles you're interested in.
- Where do you want to start? Would you like to get a part-time or full-time job, take on voluntary work, become self-employed, or set up your own business?

The following links will help your child if they are considering employment as an option after A levels.

<https://www.ucas.com/careers/getting-job/how-get-work>
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs>

We would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure your child's successful progression to start thinking about Post A level options.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at mphillips@smsj.london

Best wishes



Mrs Phillips
Careers and Aspirations Manager.