



8th September 2022

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

## **RE: Early Entry**

As part of the school's HPA programme there will be a series of meetings held over year 12 and 13 for those students who will apply to UCAS by the Early Entry deadline of 15th October. The students which need to apply for this are those who wish to read: medicine, dentistry or veterinary science at any UK university; as well as those who wish to read any subject at the University of Oxford or Cambridge. The first meeting will be in the coming weeks, and then regularly after October half term. These meetings will focus on the application process as well as how to best support your application with wider reading, debating current affairs and work experience. In addition, after applications have been made, they will support students in preparing for interviews and any additional assessments they may have to sit.

With this in mind the school recommends the following steps are taken in Year 12:

### **1. Start to read about the subject your wish to pursue at university.**

This may be through magazines such as National Geographic or The Economist or through subject specific websites e.g. British Medical Journal, British Veterinary Association. In addition, reading lists can be found listed on some university websites so students could get ahead of what they would be required to read on the course. With access to work experience more limited in the current climate, reading about your subject is especially important.

## **2. Keep up to date with current affairs, especially those related to your subject of study.**

It is recommended to watch/ read the news daily. It is important that you form your own opinion on each issue. This will form part of our in-school meetings, but it is recommendable to practise debating/ discussing topics at home or with friends.

## **3. Organise some relevant work experience.**

This is usually vitally important for potential veterinary science students and important for all potential medical and dentistry applicants. It is recommended for all other applicants too. If you have any queries please speak to me, Post 16 team or Mrs Dymond our careers advisor.

## **4. Look into super –curricular opportunities and summer schools.**

- The Sutton Trust Pathways programmes are open now for applications. These are two-year courses that are mostly virtual but with some face-to-face sessions, our nearest being Nottingham. They offer programmes for those interested in Banking and Finance, Law, Engineering, Consulting and Medicine.
- Realising Opportunities applications are also now open. This programme supports students in gaining the skills needed for university. It runs throughout sixth form and students who complete the programme typically get an offer two grades lower from universities.
- For potential medical students, the University of Leicester runs the Access Leicester programme throughout Y12 and 13. Completing this course has significant benefits for those wishing to apply to medicine at any university, however for those considering applying to Leicester itself completing this course will mean a lower offer of ABB is offered.
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools (applications open in January) run a variety of summer schools and the Nuffield Foundation offers science-based work

placements. They have strict eligibility criteria; please see relevant websites for details.

- Several universities run their own subject specific summer schools (please check individual websites).
- UNIQ Easter and Summer schools run by The University of Oxford.
- Medic Mentor – they run “Get into medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses” as well as competitions and virtual work experience placements.  
[www.medicmentor.co.uk](http://www.medicmentor.co.uk)

## **5. Start to look into university courses and entrance requirements, take advantage of open days.**

There are several UCAS guides in the library and there is also the UCAS website. Please note, some universities require you to sit additional assessments. Take these into account when choosing your universities. If you plan to attend an open day, please advise the Post -16 team so your attendance can be marked.

## **6. Start to prepare for additional assessments.**

UCAT – you will need to organise the date you wish to sit this through the Pearson test centres. Most chose to do this before the end of the Year 12 summer holidays.

Cambridge Assessments (N.B. Not just for applicants to The University of Cambridge, check your chosen universities for their entrance requirements) – register with the Exams Officer at the start of Y13. These exams are sat at school in October. Make the most of support programmes outside of school, as well as preparatory books on UCAT and BMAT books in the library and the Cambridge website for guidance on their exams.

STEP – This is sat in the summer of Y13 and is used by many universities as part of the application process to read maths. Register at school with the Exams Officer in Year 13. Start your preparation in Y12 using the online resources provided by The University of Cambridge.

## **7. Check the Early Entry Google Classroom regularly for updates.**

In the coming weeks a Google Classroom will be created for EE students. Updates will be posted about super-curricular and work experience opportunities.

## **8. CUSU shadowing scheme – applications open**

The University of Cambridge runs a shadowing scheme with placements in January and February of Y12. Applications are now open and close on 9 th October. During the programme you will receive mentoring from a current undergraduate studying the same subject. This is an ideal opportunity to find out more about life at Cambridge as well as the course you intend to study. They particularly welcome applicants for whom they will be the first in their family to attend university.

Apply directly through <https://www.applytocambridge.com/shadowing/apply/>

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me by email:  
[cpurdon@brookvalegroby.com](mailto:cpurdon@brookvalegroby.com)

Yours faithfully

Catriona Purdon  
HPA Co-ordinator