



Further Information about Your Year 11 Journey

The key to success in your GCSE year is good preparation and what we want to do is to give you the information of what needs to be done and when, as well as a note of events and activities designed to help and support you.

October

- Personal Statements: You should have started these in your Ethics and Values lessons at the end of Summer Term. Do push on to complete these as soon as possible as they will greatly assist you in applying to colleges and 6th forms, as well as being valuable during the Mock Interview Event, and your actual interviews in the new year.
- Unifrog: Ensure you are fully logged in to Unifrog which will give you access to so much to help in your future career planning. If not already done so, do complete your personality and interests' profiles. This exercise will open up many ideas you may wish to research on the platform. Take the time to explore all the additional features which will ensure you are well prepared in planning your future.
- Open Evenings: You are strongly advised to attend the Open Evenings at colleges and 6th forms as these will assist you in deciding which you would prefer. A full calendar of dates is attached.
- Assemblies and Tutorials: Information and updates will be given to you regularly during assemblies and tutorials. You will also receive presentations by various colleges, 6th forms, apprenticeship providers, and employers.
- One to One Career Guidance: You will be offered a careers guidance interview with a Careers Adviser, which can be very useful if you are struggling with your choices, or you need some specific information or guidance. If this is the case with you, do contact us direct or through your tutor so that a referral can be made. We can't make the decision



for you, but it can help to discuss an issue with someone who is experienced and understands the options open to you. Due to the numbers of students in the year, the interview procedure will be ongoing throughout the year.

November/December

- Application submissions: Some 6th forms set their deadlines by the end of November, but most will be during December. You will be given posters of these deadline dates as soon as they are available, and they will also be displayed in your tutor rooms. Do ensure that you start these in good time so that you do not miss the deadlines as many 6th forms will be oversubscribed.

It is acceptable and strongly recommended, that you apply to multiple 6th forms to give you the best chance of acceptance to a suitable school or college.

It is also recommended that you apply for a suitable college vocational course as well as your 6th form in case things do not go according to plan. For example, you may apply to 6th form to support an ambition in Accountancy, but your back up at college could be for a Business Studies course. Colleges can be more flexible with their application process and so can generally be submitted later. However, some courses will be oversubscribed so it is strongly recommended that you submit yours before the Christmas break.

Mock Interviews: In early December we hope to offer you the opportunity to be interviewed by a representative from a local company as if you were applying to them for a job or for a place at a college or 6th form. Your Personal Statement will be used as a basis for the interview. In most cases, this will be the first interview you will have undertaken, and it can be a daunting thought. However, our employers will be aware of this and are there to help you gain from the experience by giving you valuable feedback so that you will be well prepared for when the real one comes along. Smart business wear is encouraged, to make the event realistic and professional.



January/February:

- **Apprenticeships:** If your preference is to obtain an apprenticeship, this should probably be the time to maximise your efforts to find one that is right for you, whether it be with a local company or a national provider. Searches can be made through the government website and help and support will be available in school. You may already have contacts with friends or family who may be able to offer you a suitable placement. It is strongly recommended that you will have already applied for a college course in a similar vocational position as a back-up in case plans do not work out. Colleges can also help with apprenticeship search while you attend your course so you should discuss your plans at your interview so that they are aware.
- **Late applications:** If, for any reason, you have still not applied for your course, you should let us know so that enquiries may be made on your behalf.

March/April:

- **Interviews:** Most of the college and 6th form interviews will now take place and the experience you gained from the Mock Interviews should give you the confidence to do yourself proud. We are usually able to host Harlow College coming into school to carry out most of the interviews for the students who have successfully applied to college, either as a first choice or as a back-up. This is of great benefit as without the opportunity, those who have not applied would have to attend their interview at college in their own time.

May/June: GCSEs commence

August: Thursday 25th August is results day!