



January 2019

Dear Parents

Life after RGS!

Throughout Year 12 we encourage your son to think carefully about, research and plan for the next stage in his career, whether that is to be a degree, a Higher Level or Degree Apprenticeship, Art Foundation, training or employment. Students interested in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Oxbridge have/will have specific support sessions through Medsoc and Oxbridge meetings. Full attendance is vital as all support for students applying for these subjects/universities is channelled through these meetings.

Below are the key general events which we organise for you and your son at RGS. Please do get him to put them into his personal calendar.

Friday 1 March – Year 12 University/Careers Fair

At the University/Careers Fair to be held at the Emirates Stadium, students will have the opportunity to talk to admissions personnel from a wide range of universities, apprenticeships and some employers and be able to collect information about those in which they are interested.

Wednesday 27 March – Oxbridge Convention

Students interested in Oxbridge will attend the Oxbridge Convention where they receive a vast amount of information specifically tailored to these two universities.

Wednesday 24 April, 7.30pm, Queen's Hall – Higher Education Evening for Y12 parents/students

This presentation outlines the process of university application and gives advice on how to make an impact on the UCAS form. It is given by staff from the Admissions Office at Birmingham University, a popular choice over many years for RGS students. We would strongly encourage you and your son to attend the meeting which has always proved of great interest and value in helping boys with their university plans.

Friday 28 June - Higher Education Application Day at RGS

All Year 12 will take part in a programme of activities designed to move forward their application to Higher Education. The programme will include time to begin filling in the UCAS form online and talks from outside speakers about Higher Education and Careers.

June and July - University Open Days

Year 12 students will resume their studies immediately upon their return from study leave. They are permitted to attend **a maximum of two Open Days in the period 17 June-19 July in school time. Students must see Mr Noyes in advance to request this. Please could you complete the usual Leave of Absence Request <https://www.rgshw.com/page/?title=Report+an+Absence%2FRequest+Leave&pid=63>.** They are free to organise further visits in their own time at weekends (many Open Days are now on Saturdays) or during study leave if they have completed their exams (see www.opendays.com for further information).

July - Oxbridge Open Day Visits

Oxford (**Wednesday 3 July**) and Cambridge (**Thursday 4 July**) – details of these visits will be given by Ms Sowah at an Oxbridge meeting to be arranged. These visits are in addition to the maximum 2 referred to above.

Autumn Term 2019

During the Autumn Term of Year 13 prior to final submission of their UCAS application **the School will not give permission for university visits**. It is vital that this remains an uninterrupted teaching period for all students. When students have submitted their UCAS application, universities may ask them to go up for interviews or invite them to attend Open Days in the late Autumn / Spring Term. We will authorise Leave of Absence for these visits provided a student takes a responsible attitude towards the number of days absent and work missed.

Important note

Oxbridge/MDVs - It is essential that all applicants for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Law have completed the greater part of their application form **AND** a draft personal statement by **Friday 12 July**. They should then discuss the personal statement with their form tutor before the end of the summer term. Their final application must be submitted to the School by **Thursday 19 September 2019**. This is compulsory in the case of Oxbridge / MDVs and advisable in Law in order to get the best consideration. Please note this is just **two** weeks after the return to school in Year 13. It is therefore vital that Oxbridge and MDVs are working on the application/personal statement during the holidays and return to school with it ready for final checking.

All other applicants should aim to complete their applications as soon as possible after October 15th and ideally by **Tuesday 5th November**. **The absolute final deadline for submission of all UCAS applications is Monday 18 November**. Any application submitted after that date will not be considered until all other applications have been processed and we are unable to guarantee that we will meet the external UCAS deadline for any late submissions.

*Please could you, as parents, join us in encouraging your son to begin his research from now onwards. Could you also help us to ensure he meets all the deadlines above. It is important to realise that once he has submitted his form the School requires approximately **4 weeks** to process it and longer when there is a mass submission of applications.*

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/parents-and-guardians>

This is the main website for Higher Education and contains an excellent information section for parents.

Gap Year

If your son is taking a gap year before university, this also requires careful planning and there is much information available from the Careers Department and on the internet (eg: www.yearoutgroup.org / www.gap-year.com).

Alternative Post 18 Options

If your son is considering other options such as Degree or Higher Level apprenticeships, employment or training for the next stage in his career, please encourage him to discuss these with his form tutor, Head of Year or Ms Sowah, Director of Higher Education and Careers. Apprenticeships are an increasingly popular option and there are regular talks arranged by the Careers Department about these. If your son is interested in this option, please do discuss the talks with him and ensure he has spoken to Ms Sowah to take advantage of her extensive knowledge.

Yours sincerely,



Hilary Munday
Assistant Head