



January 2020

Dear Year 12 Students and Parents

Life after RGS!

Throughout Year 12 we encourage you to think carefully about then research and plan for the next stage in your 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 students and parents at RGS. Students: Please put these into your personal calendar immediately!

Wednesday 12 February, 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 strongly encourage parents and students to attend the meeting which has always proved of great interest and value in helping boys with their university plans.

Tuesday 25 February – UCAS Higher Education Exhibition

At the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition, to be held at the University of Surrey, students will have the opportunity to talk to admissions personnel from a wide range of universities as well as apprenticeships, volunteer organisations and some employers <https://wwwucas.com/node/353116/view/exhibitors> and be able to collect information about those in which they are interested.

Wednesday 25 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.

Thursday 25 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.

Friday 26 June – UCAT Preparation Day

An external provider will be running a course to prepare Medics for the UCAT exam.

Friday 26 June – University Visits

All students not involved in the UCAT Preparation Day will be expected to use this day to attend a university open day. Those currently available on this date are: Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen Mary (London), Cumbria, Birmingham, Nottingham, Surrey

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 (in addition to Friday 26 June) **a maximum of three Open Days (including Oxbridge) in the period 15 June-17 July in school time.** Please complete, well in advance, the usual Leave of Absence Request Form. 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 1 July**) and Cambridge (**Thursday 2 July**) – details of these visits will be given by Ms Sowah at an Oxbridge meeting to be arranged.

Autumn Term 2020

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 10 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 **Monday 21 September 2020**. 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 3 November**. **The absolute final deadline for submission of all UCAS applications is Monday 16 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.

*Parents: Please could you join us in encouraging your son to begin his research from now onwards. Please 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/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians> UCAS is the main website for applications to Higher Education and contains an excellent information section for parents.

Gap Year

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

Alternative Post 18 Options

If you are considering other options such as Degree/Higher Level apprenticeships, training or employment for the next stage in his career, we encourage you to discuss these with your 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.

Parents: 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