

29th February 2024

Dear Year 12 Students (and Parents for information)

### **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 Degree or Higher Level Apprenticeship, Art Foundation, training or employment. Students interested in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science (MDVs) 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 have taken place already or are organised for you (and your parents) at RGS. Please ensure that future dates are put into your personal calendar.

#### **October 2023 – Assembly: Enhance your Application**

All university and apprenticeship applications require evidence of commitment beyond the classroom. Ideas for how you could enhance your application were given at this assembly.

#### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Apprenticeship Evening**

This evening outlined the opportunities available in Degree Apprenticeships and was presented by a representative of the Department for Education and apprenticeship providers.

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm – Higher Education Evening for Y12 parents/students**

This presentation outlined the process of university application and gave advice on how to make an impact on the UCAS form.

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – UCAS Higher Education Exhibition**

At the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition, to be held at Farnborough International, you will have the opportunity to talk to admissions personnel from a wide range of universities as well as apprenticeships and some employers <http://www.ucas.com/node/438566/view/exhibitors> and be able to collect information about those in which you are interested. **This trip is now full.**

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> or Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June (date TBC) - Higher Education Application Day at RGS**

You will take part in a programme of activities designed to move forward your 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 14<sup>th</sup> June - UCAT Preparation Day**

An external provider will be running a course to prepare Medics for the UCAT exam. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Rowe-Elliott, [lmr@rgshw.com](mailto:lmr@rgshw.com)

## June and July - University Open Days

You will resume your studies immediately upon your return from the UCAS Exams study leave on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. **We recommend you attend a maximum of three Open Days (including Oxbridge) in the period 13<sup>th</sup> June-19<sup>th</sup> July in school time** as Year 13 teaching will begin immediately after exams. Please submit, well in advance, the usual Leave of Absence Request Form to [Attendance@rgshw.com](mailto:Attendance@rgshw.com). You are free to organise further visits in your own time at weekends (many Open Days are now on Saturdays) or during study leave if you have completed your exams (see [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com) for further information).

## July - Oxbridge Open Day Visits

Details of these visits and much other Oxbridge information, including an Oxbridge webinar, will be given by Mrs Tan at an Oxbridge meeting to be arranged.

## Autumn Term 2024

During the Autumn Term of Year 13, prior to final submission of your 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 you have submitted your UCAS application, universities may ask you to go up for interviews or invite you to attend Open Days in the late Autumn / Spring Term. We will authorise Leave of Absence, sought well in advance, for these visits provided you take a responsible attitude towards the number of days absent and work missed.

## Important note

**Oxbridge/MDVs** - It is essential that if you are applying to Oxford/Cambridge or for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science you have completed the greater part of your application form **AND** a draft personal statement by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. You should then discuss the personal statement with your form tutor before the end of the summer term. If you are entitled to a predicted grade upgrade you must ensure all paperwork is completed and submitted by **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Your final application must be submitted to the School by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**. Please note this is just **7 school days** weeks after the return to school in Year 13. It is therefore vital that Oxbridge and MDV students are working on their application/personal statement in the summer term and during the summer holidays and that they return to school with it ready for final checking.

**All other applicants** should aim to complete their applications as soon as possible after October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are entitled to a predicted grade upgrade you must ensure all paperwork is completed and submitted by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. **The absolute final deadline for submission of all UCAS applications is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 and also help us by ensuring he meets all the deadlines above. It is important to realise that once he has submitted his form the School requires at least **4 weeks** to process it and much longer when there is a mass submission of applications.*

*Students apply to Higher Education through UCAS which has an excellent information section for parents: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>*

## 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 at sites such as:

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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/advice-on-a-gap-year>

## Alternative Post 18 Options

If you are considering other options such as Degree/Higher Level apprenticeships, training or employment for the next stage in your career, we encourage you to discuss these with your Head of Year or Mrs Thakrar, our Careers Lead. Apprenticeships are an increasingly popular option and there are regular talks arranged by the Careers Department about these. If you are interested in this option, please join the Apprenticeships Team for all the latest information that we receive by emailing Mrs Thakrar, [swt@rgshw.com](mailto:swt@rgshw.com).

### **The Careers Bulletin**

This monthly bulletin contains information about Careers, Higher Education and Work Experience opportunities, several of which have deadlines for application – don't forget to read it!

As ever, there is a wide range of people waiting to support you through the next step into your life post RGS. It is up to you to take advantage of the help on offer and ensure that the next step is thoroughly researched and carefully planned.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Noyes  
Director of Sixth Form