

12 January 2023

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 we organise for you (and your parents) at RGS. Please ensure they are put into your personal calendar.

### **February – Assembly: Enhance your Application**

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

### **Monday 6 February, 7.00pm, 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 parents to attend the meeting which has always proved of great interest and value in helping students with their university plans.

### **Thursday 20 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 <https://www.ucas.com/events/ucas-discovery-farnborough-2023-419661> and be able to collect information about those in which you are interested.

### **Thursday 29 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.

### **UCAT Preparation Day – date TBC**

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

## June and July - University Open Days

You will resume your studies immediately upon your return from the UCAS Exams study leave on Thursday 15 June TBC. **We recommend you attend a maximum of three Open Days (including Oxbridge) in the period 15 June-19 July in school time** as Year 13 teaching will begin after exams. Please complete, well in advance, the usual Leave of Absence Request Form. 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 will be given by Mrs Tan at an Oxbridge meeting to be arranged.

## Autumn Term 2023

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 7 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 prediction grade upgrade you must ensure all paperwork is completed and submitted by **Monday 18 September**. Your final application must be submitted to the School by **Wednesday 20 September**. 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 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are entitled to a prediction grade upgrade you must ensure all paperwork is completed and submitted by **Monday 13 November**. **The absolute final deadline for submission of all UCAS applications is Monday 20 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 approximately **4 weeks** to process it and 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://wwwucas.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://wwwucas.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 form tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Thakrar, 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.

### **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's up to you to take advantage of the help on offer and ensure that that next step is thoroughly researched and carefully planned.

Yours sincerely,

S Noyes  
Director of Sixth Form