



Tring School

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24 April 2020

Dear Year 13 Students, Parents and Carers

We hope you are keeping safe and well and finding a new routine as we continue to be in lockdown as a nation.

We know that for students (and families) the last few weeks have been a huge change for all of you; you have moved from heading into the busiest period of your revision, to no longer having the opportunity to sit your exams. You should be commended for the maturity and positivity with which you have approached this time.

The government has announced that your A Level/BTEC results day will stay the same as previously advertised: Thursday 13 August 2020. We look forward to seeing you all then and hope to see you all before this for a celebration of your time at Tring School. We eagerly await any government announcements and in the meantime will keep in touch with you all.

We wanted to take the opportunity to write to students at this point in the year to offer our advice for how you can approach the plans for your next steps.

For those of you who have applied to university, we would like to remind students of the following advice, which has not changed from the advice given earlier in the year:

- Wait until just before the deadline of 6 May to make your Firm and Insurance choices. UCAS have actually extended this deadline by two weeks given the current situation.
- Your Firm choice should be a realistic choice based on the predictions you were given in your last tracker. You may make an aspirational choice but you need to consider carefully the likely grade you will be awarded.
- Your Insurance choice should be a university you are also interested and excited to attend. You should ensure you have conducted thorough research and attended a virtual open day if you haven't already. See details below. Again, this Insurance choice should be in line with the grades predicted by your teachers.
- We advise that you do not allow yourself to be swayed or pressurised by unconditional offers. If you have received one of these, think carefully about whether this is from the university you really wish to study at.
- Student Finance is now open and you should have registered for this. If you haven't done this already, you may wish to refer to the COOL presentation slides, which have recently been re-sent to you. Student Finance is your responsibility, not your parents, and any Finance arrangements are in your own name, not that of your parents.
- Once Firm and Insurance choices are made, you need to follow the guidance provided regarding accommodation and other arrangements.

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- You should start to complete reading and research based around the course you wish to study. We have signposted via the Wellbeing classroom a huge amount of resources you can access. You should also look at Reading Lists on university websites and don't be afraid to contact Course Leaders for recommendations. No learning is wasted learning and so if you don't end up going to that university, you will still have gained valuable knowledge.
- We will share with you a folder of resources from PIXL; these resources will also signpost you to some interesting learning related to courses you hope to study. There is also a folder called Futures based around Careers and we would encourage you to also look at these resources.

UCAS have a valuable page of advice:

<https://www.ucas.com/coronavirus>

Details of virtual open days:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/virtual-and-digital?keywords=>

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx?LID=true>

On A Level results day, the Sixth Form team, including Mrs Hubble, as well as Mrs Beck the new UCAS Coordinator, will be available to support you. We will email you later in the term reminding you about the Clearing process. Rest assured that should you be in the position of being in Clearing, we will be available for the whole day to support students and parents through the process.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Beck to her role as UCAS Coordinator. She is available to support and provide advice; should you require any specific guidance please do contact her as well as Mr Morgan and/or Mrs Kay. Her email is: cbeck@tringschool.org

For those students who have not applied to university we would like to offer the following advice:

- Use this time to ensure your CV, competency based application wording and cover letter template wording are all in order. There are lots of resources on the Careers/Apprenticeships Google classroom which you may wish to review. Miss Moore is happy to look at any CVs; please just email them to her.
- Now is an excellent time to search for vacancies, and approach any organisations you are interested in working for. Approach companies positively, considering what you want from your future career. Personalise any communication to show your knowledge of the business.
- Ensure your LinkedIn profile is set up appropriately; begin to network and develop contacts within your desired field. There are lots of career development courses available on LinkedIn and you can get a free month's trial to access them.
- Develop your volunteering portfolio. We have sent out many opportunities you may wish to be involved in; during challenging times we know that Tring School students always rise to the occasion to support our community. Please do, of course, ensure that social distancing measures are followed.
- Use the PIXL Futures resources emailed to you to complete preparation for your future career.
- If you plan to take a gap year next year, start to formulate plans for how you will use your time wisely. A common interview question is: 'What did you do during your gap year that helped you to develop relevant skills?' Likewise, expect the question: 'During the Coronavirus lockdown, how did you effectively use your time to develop yourself as a person?'

- If you do intend to apply to university for entrance in September 2021, please email Mrs Beck (cbeck@tringschool.org) as you will be added to the Year 12 UCAS google classroom and the relevant support and guidance sent to you.

We would like to remind all students that after 31 August 2020 your Google Drive and email will no longer be available. You will therefore wish to use this time to download any relevant files to your personal email address.

Students and parents/carers have been asked not to contact subject teachers about your likely grades. The government has made it very clear that schools are unable to discuss grades with candidates, and it would place teachers in a difficult position to face undue pressure from students. All teachers want the best for their students, and have worked tirelessly over the last two years to ensure you get the grades you are capable of. We ask you to have trust in the process the government has put in place; which will be fair and equal for all.

Finally, we wish to say thank you to students for all of the fun, energy and positivity with which you have approached the last two years; it has been a pleasure supporting all of you. Thank you to our parents for your support.

As always, should you have any questions, or require any guidance, as parents/carers or students, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Kay
Head of Sixth Form

Mr J Morgan
Head of Year 13

Mrs C Beck
UCAS Coordinator

Miss A Moore
Student Support Manager