



NORLINGTON SCHOOL and 6TH FORM

A SPECIALIST MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING SCHOOL

Wisdom is Strength

13th May 2021

Preparing for Year 13 and Beyond

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and that you and your wider family are safe. It has been great to see all of our Year 12 students back in the routine of school this half term, and well done for all of your current hard work. We believe we have made good progress in very challenging circumstances, and I am grateful for your ongoing support. Our thoughts now turn to finishing off Year 12 and moving to Year 13, and I want to take this opportunity to outline our plans for the rest of the summer term.

End of Year 12 Exams

In the week beginning Monday 21st June, all Year 12 students will be sitting end of Year 12 mock exams. These will mimic the AS exam structure for each subject and will assess your son/daughter on all work completed in Year 12. These exams are important because they will identify strengths and any gaps in skills/knowledge that your son/daughter may have in each subject, but also give them valuable experience in exam preparation. As they did not sit real GCSE exams at the end of Year 11, this experience will be extremely valuable and will support their success in their final exams at the end of Year 13.

A timetable for the end of Year 12 exams will be sent home before May half term.

Year 13 Mock Exams

Formal mock exams will take place 1st – 5th November 2021 which is when the rest of the school have their 2nd week of October half term. **A polite reminder that holidays should not be booked during this time.** This is the final opportunity for students to improve their UCAS grade* if they haven't already submitted their UCAS application (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science students would have already submitted).

*Teachers will make their initial UCAS predicted grades at the end of September, so students should remember this and continue to revise Year 12 content over the summer holidays, particularly if they intend to apply to Oxbridge, Medicine Dentistry or Veterinary Science as they have an earlier UCAS deadline (see UCAS information later in this letter).

CTEC IT

At the end of Year 12, it is sometimes the case that a student may be struggling with one A Level, but fine with the other two. To save the student having to repeat Year 12, we offer the Cambridge Technical Award in IT course to a small number of students to replace one A Level. This is a Level 3 course (equivalent to one A Level) and is covered in one year, instead of two. Students who take this option will have to be prepared to work hard over the year in order to complete all assignments, but we have an excellent track record in getting good grades from this course meaning that the student does not have to repeat Year 12. I will be in contact with parents and carers if we believe this is the best option for your son/daughter. More information about this Level 3 course can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/260857-cambridge-technicals-it-summary-brochure.pdf>

UCAS Apply 2022

For parents and students, the university and UCAS process may seem a little daunting. Both UCAS and Norlington 6th Form can provide full support for both!

Support for Parents:

The guide below contains everything you need to support your child with their higher education choices:

<https://www.ucas.com/file/325546/download?token=E7i9d-wu>

The UCAS website also has a dedicated Parents' page with lots of useful information. You can sign up for their monthly UCAS newsletter and access a handy 'parent information tool' to guide you through the application process, so you can stay up to date with what your child needs to do and when.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

In school support:

All Year 12 students have a one-hour, weekly tutorial, and the focus of these for the summer term is 'Preparing for the Future'. Sessions include how to research Universities/Courses (each student has a Unifrog account which is a careers/University platform, <https://www.unifrog.org>), how to write a personal statement (workshop delivered by a leading Russell Group University) and how to complete a competitive UCAS application for your top choice University.

University visits:

More and more universities are offering virtual open/applicant events. Of course, it is always preferable to visit a university in person. However, in the current climate, the next best thing is a virtual open day, which still offers the chance to speak to students/staff and do tours of the institution and city. There are also a variety of virtual taster sessions, webinars and summer schools on offer to help students in their decision-making process and get a feel for what is best for them.

We recommend that students attend as many of these online events as possible prior to and over



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the summer holiday as, once they return in September, the university process will speed up considerably alongside their A Level study.

If you are searching for university events the following websites are a good starting point:

UCAS tool: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find?keywords=events>

Uni Taster Days: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx>

Unibuddy:

Unibuddy is a new online tool that gives students access to students at your preferred university, so you can chat about their first-hand experiences: <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/adviser-news/news/get-your-students-chatting-unibuddy>

During the summer holidays:

There is plenty that students can be doing over the summer break in order to ensure they are fully prepared for their UCAS applications being sent off.

Firstly, they should be completing their online application with a view to having 90% completed on their return to school in September. Students will start their application form in school this term, and they can continue to complete and update their applications throughout the summer.

Secondly, students should continue to work on their Personal Statement, which includes completing super curricular activities that they can refer to in their personal statement. We will give plenty of guidance on this essential task during UCAS tutorials and tutor time.

We have recommended that students should aim to produce a first draft of their statement before the end of the summer term, which will allow them access to prompt feedback from their teachers, form tutors and myself.

Students can use the next few months to continue researching universities and courses offered using Unifrog, UCAS Course search and University websites. Students may also want to research career and apprenticeship opportunities.

The UCAS Career Finder tool allows students to think ahead and research work and training opportunities, including:

- Work experience
- Apprenticeships
- Placement schemes
- Insight and taster days
- Employer-sponsored degrees

Sign up to UCAS Career Finder at <https://careerfinder.ucas.com>

We will continue to keep students up to date with relevant information and timelines. Parents and students can also sign up for regular updates on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/get-updates-ucas>

Should you have any questions about the university process please do not hesitate to contact: Mr Wilson – UCAS Coordinator, jwilson@norlington.school

Key UCAS Application Dates

Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary and other early applications to be submitted to Mr Wilson, via UCAS, by **27th September 2021**. All other applications to be submitted to Mr. Wilson, via UCAS, by **15th November 2021** as a final deadline.

It is worth noting that we check all UCAS applications and references thoroughly; this process can take up to two weeks. Therefore, when a student pays and presses the 'send' button, they are sending it to the 6th Form Team and need to factor in that it could take up to two weeks for their application to reach UCAS.

We do process all applications as quickly as possible. It is also worth being aware that if any errors are picked up on applications, we cannot change them— we have to send the application back to the student for them to make any amendments and then send it back to us. It is essential that students regularly check both their UCAS account and their email accounts.

Apprenticeships

For students who would like to apply apprenticeship after their A Levels, there are several things you can also be doing over the summer holidays.

Things to do now:

Start putting together a cracking CV and thinking about your employability skills. You should complete the EtonX CV Writing Skills online course which you have exclusive free access to until the end of July- if students do not have an access code for this course then they can get one from Mr. Wadey.

Research opportunities:

Use these websites to kickstart your apprenticeship research.

Amazing Apprenticeships: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

Find an Apprenticeship: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Information on Apprenticeships: <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/Choices/Apprenticeships.aspx>

Apprenticeship Search: <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk>

Non-University Options: <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities>



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Uniform Policy

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind all students, parents and carers of our uniform policy. We are proud of the high-quality appearance of our students and keen for these high standards to continue. For any uniform queries please speak to Mr. Wilson or myself.

Male	Female
REQUIRED TO WEAR	
Plain business shirt with collar Tie Business suit trousers Blazer (optional) Plain jumper (V neck so tie can be seen) Smart leather shoes (lace-up or slip on)	Plain, sleeved shirts and tops Full length trousers or knee-length skirt Business suit jacket (optional) Footwear must be comfortable and business-like with small heel
NOT ALLOWED	
Combat trousers/Cargo pants Shorts (even suit shorts) Denim wear or jeans (including black jeans) T-Shirts Collarless tops Sleeveless tops Large printed logos or slogans Sportswear/tracksuits Plimsolls or canvas shoes (including Vans) Headphones around neck Sportswear when not in PE lesson Facial piercings or extreme hairstyles and shaved eyebrows Trainers (no, not even black)	Combat trousers/Cargo pants Shorts (even suit shorts) Leggings Denim wear or jeans (including black jeans) Sleeveless tops Short skirts (more than four inches above knee) Lycra Large printed logos or slogans Plunging necklines Tummies on display Sportswear/tracksuits Headphones around neck Facial piercings or extreme hairstyles or shaved eyebrows Trainers (no, not even black) Flip flops or backless shoes Stilettoes/very high heels

If you have any questions or require any further information, please feel free to contact me on the email below.

Best wishes,

Mr. Wadey

Vice Principal

cwadey@norlington.school