



Mr P A Wood
Head of Sixth Form
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6th March 2018

Dear Parents,

During the Easter break students will be preparing for the exams in the Summer Term. It is also time for Lower Sixth formers to be focusing on future career options and university courses. Most Ellesmerians submit an application to UCAS in the first half of the Michaelmas Term in the Upper Sixth. Obviously, it is important for them to select the right course and the right university. Many will already be thinking about attending Open Days (which we recommend are arranged for the end of the Summer Term or over the holidays) and all students will have the opportunity to attend the UCAS Exhibition in Liverpool in June. It is important to check the UCAS website for up-to-date course information and Sixth Formers have also been given advice on how best to use Unifrog (a web search engine to which Ellesmere College subscribes).

Reform to the A level system has led to a degree of change. Not all subjects have been affected by the transition to new, linear courses so some students will still be taking traditional AS exams in the Summer. At Ellesmere we have attempted to take a pragmatic view bearing in mind, where possible, the stated preferences of university admission tutors. We want our students to be in the best possible position if applying for university entry which is one of the reasons why we encourage individuals to enter the ESB assessment and complete an Extended Project Qualification. Results in the internal school exams in the Summer Term will be used to assist in determining predicted grades for UCAS applications.

If your son or daughter is following the IB course, then nothing in the previous paragraph applies (and internal College exams will be after half term in the Summer).

You may like to know that there is a designated Parents' section on the main UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents. There is useful information here to assist in the decision-making process. The site also contains clear guidelines about the UCAS application process and advice on how parents can help their son or daughter through what can be a stressful time. Latest information on tuition fees (and on maintenance loans to help with living costs) can be found on www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Beside final grades, universities may also seek evidence of commitment and experience for a course. (This is essential if applying for degrees in competitive subjects such as Medicine or Law.) Various opportunities have been advertised at Sixth Form assemblies or on the noticeboards of the Sixth Form Centre.

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Ellesmere

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Students have also been able to listen to a presentation on universities in Europe and beyond and to attend a Roadshow at College with representatives from international universities including the USA and The Netherlands.

I hope the above information is helpful and provides some outline guidance. Recent headlines in the press indicate that there is likely to be continuing pressure for university places in the future. It is even more important, therefore, for candidates to research their options carefully.

With best wishes for the Easter holidays.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. A. Wood." with a horizontal line underneath.

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