



Dr M T Gareh
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Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well in these difficult times. As we have now completed the first week back after the Easter Holidays and settled into our working routine, I thought it would be useful for me to give you a little more information about the plans for both the Upper and Lower Sixth form this term.

Information for Upper Sixth

In the absence of formal examinations for the Upper Sixth form, given that by far the vast majority of our pupils will be moving on to University after the summer life should really continue as normally as possible, with tutors and subject teachers supporting them in their academic studies. They also now have an opportunity to look ahead at the courses that they wish to pursue at University and share with their tutors and relevant subject teachers any preparation from the Universities that may have been suggested, or to simply do and share their own research to make sure that they know what to expect from their course and are as well prepared as possible.

All students have been asked to look at registering for MOOCS, (through the UNIFROG software we have purchased), or the OpenLearn Open University courses that are available online, for free in many cases, as they may be relevant or may contribute to their wider appreciation of life after Ellesmere. Tutors and teachers will also be able to monitor and discuss these with them in their online meetings and lessons.

For students that are still undecided about their course of action, the extension to the deadline for accepting offers for University applications to the 18th June 2020 should prove valuable. I am sure for the majority this will not make any difference to their choice of course or University.

Student finance is now available to be claimed and I hope that you have seen the detailed reference document that I have produced, (available to pupils on the Sixth Form Frog page), along with all the other support material that will hopefully help guide everyone through this process.

Information for Lower Sixth

All pupils received an email from me last week and have made a good start to this term. Below is an extract from my email outlining the plan for them.

Welcome back. I hope that you and your families are and will remain safe and well. Hopefully you are now all settling down to life online and are continuing your academic work without any problems. I know that departments and your tutors are working hard to make these next few weeks



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even more productive than they might have been as you do not have the opportunity to do much else! I hope you have noticed that you have been emailed a task through UNIFROG which is a prompt for those of you that have not yet started to look at what you want to do in the future and you also have had notification about the new MOOC search tool.

Your tutors will be using UNIFROG to assign you tasks, (interactions), this term, as now the main focus of your time outside the classroom is to think about preparing your personal statement for your University application which will need to be completed before half term in September. This may seem a long way off but in order to be in a position to write a good personal statement, a great deal of research needs to be carried out.

The same applies if you are looking to apply for degree apprenticeships or the world of work where a good C.V. will be needed. We will be using UNIFROG for teachers to upload subject references after half term and your tutor will use these to produce your reference. Anything you can do to help your subject teachers target their reference to your chosen pathway will clearly make the tutor reference easier to produce, but you need to have a clear picture of what you are thinking about doing in order for you to pass that information on.

There is a great deal of information available to you and Mr Coupe has very kindly produced a PowerPoint which summarises how to go about producing a good personal statement. It also contains links to information provided by UCAS. As you know, I have suggested that you all look at the UCAS Hub site which clearly guides you through the whole process and I have brought all these things together on the Sixth Form page in Frog. Search for 'Sixth Form' and then click on the UCAS tab. There is a guidance booklet at the top that has very detailed reference to pretty much anything that I could think of and it is designed for you to look at with your parents at various times throughout the application process between now and when you leave the College next year. The rest of the items are self-explanatory and I hope you make good use of it all. Good luck with everything and I hope to see you all soon.

The final thing I would like to say to everyone is that I have been impressed with the way the Sixth Form have reacted to these circumstances and that they have shown a great deal of maturity in dealing with all of these changes.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in the near future.

Kind regards,

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