

Kick Start YOUR Future

Parent/Carer Help Sheet

During the Summer Term in Yr12 is when we really start to explore what options are possible for the students as they move on to in their next steps. Historically the majority of students go off to university (60-70%) but this varies based on our cohort. Other options that students can move on to are – apprenticeships, further education (college), the forces, world of work, or around 1% each year go on to take a 'gap year', where they would either travel or seek charity work at home or abroad.

The main thing and this is something that is so important to us at Birchwood, is whatever choice your child should decide on, we will be here to support and guide them and make sure they have the best chance of reaching their dreams and aspirations.

It is also equally as important that the students have a plan 'B' just in case things do not go to plan!

Whilst we remain out of school, our main way of supporting students through this process is by using Unifrog. All the resources to get them started for 'Kick Starting Their Future', will be held in their 'Locker' (don't worry, they will show you what this is!). Over the next few weeks, your child needs to complete the following activities regardless of what they are planning to do in the future.

1. **Register to UCAS** (this is the portal of how you apply to university) - even if they are thinking; I'm definitely not going to University, I'm going to do an apprenticeship or get a job in the City. In the past that might have been completely acceptable but in the current uncertain climate, going to university is a good choice.
2. **How to write a 'personal statement'** – All students will need to complete this process for, university applications, applying for jobs, or accessing higher degree apprenticeships etc.
3. **Exploring Pathways** – In this activity, they will be able to find out what opportunities are available to them and how they would go about pursuing and accessing these career directions.

When they return in September (dates and times to be confirmed), they will spend time with their Form Tutor, going through and showing them what their intentions are. This will be the starting point and the Form Tutor will guide them throughout the whole process.

In this session, they will also need to show evidence that they have; registered to UCAS, have a version / most up to date draft of their personal statement so that they can get valuable feedback from their tutor. The Form Tutor will also be responsible for collating all of their subject teacher's references so they need to know what their thoughts are. By doing so this will allow them to draw together, a clear and accurate description of your child and how suitable they will be for their next steps.

Post 18 Information, Advice and Guidance

We offer a planned programme of Career and Work Related Education (CWRE) built around the Unifrog online platform, which encourages students to explore all of their post 18 options.

The following resources have been collated so that you can support your child through this decision making process.

The University of Hertfordshire have produced the following talk to help address many of the FAQs that parents have about university

[Parents: University Unpacked online talk by University of Hertfordshire](#)



Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.

Unifrog will help students to explore their key interests and what career paths they can take to reach their goals!

Parents can sign in to Unifrog and use it like a student at www.unifrog.org using the formcode – **parentsbirchwood**. In the Unifrog 'Know How Library' you will find a wealth of information about UK Universities, Apprenticeships, Gap Years, applying for jobs etc etc.



The University Central Admission System (UCAS) is the portal for all university applications. All students wishing to make a university application will be guided through the application processes with timely information on how the system works.

The UCAS website has a wealth of information about Post 18 choices, including non-university pathways.

There is also a section on the UCAS website dedicated to parents and carers

[UCAS: Undergraduate advice for parents and guardians](#)



The Amazing Apprenticeship website is a useful source of information for everything to do with apprenticeships.

If students are not sure of their Post 18 choices or are looking for individual 1:1 guidance they can book an appointment with Mrs Crimes who is a qualified Careers Advisor.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

If over the next few weeks, they need some support around this, please make sure they get in touch with firstly, their Form Tutor and if they cannot help then ask either – Mrs Crimes, Mr Cliff or myself.

I cannot emphasise how important it is that they start today with this process, when we return to school there will be a big drive on getting them back on track and they will be under pressure with their subjects and the less distractions around this the smoother their transition back in to school will be.

Can I ask you please to make sure that you have added your most up to date information on the contacts slip provided. Over the next few weeks and months, we will be sending out links and information that will help during this process.

Kind regards

Mr Torrance