

Dear Parent/Carer,

May 2023

Post 18 Option Evening and Sixth Form Conference - June 2023

We are delighted to welcome you to an information evening to provide advice and guidance on supporting your student with their Post 18 options. The presentation will be on **Thursday 8th June at 6pm** in the main school hall at St.Aidan's. The Careers Department will give an overview on Post 18 options, including application details and key dates. The evening will also include a talk on Higher Education and Degree Apprenticeships from Fred Bingley, Head of Student Recruitment and Widening Participation at Lancaster University. The evening is for parents and carers, the students have already received the information. We look forward to seeing you there.

On **Tuesday 20th June**, all Year 12 students will be taking part in the Sixth Form Conference and will participate in a range of structured activities to help them prepare for their future after the Sixth Form. The activities in the morning will include the following sessions:

- An introduction to decision making and an overview of Post-18 options
- Research activities for making decisions Post 18
- Preparing to make post-18 applications

In the afternoon the focus is on Career and Course Opportunities. Representatives from local, national and international companies such as The British Library, Winston Solicitors, Virgin Bank, Leeds Conservatoire, Nestle and BBC Radio York will talk about their industry and career journeys along with their insights into the future of work and employability skills. Students will spend time in their tutorials preparing for the conference and will select which three talks they would like to attend. The aim is to inspire students and to encourage them to broaden their horizons.

We would like to take this opportunity to outline changes UCAS have made to the writing of the reference that the school will write for 2024 applicants to Higher Education.

There are now three distinct sections within the reference:

- A general statement about the school
- If applicable, any extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement. This will only apply to a small minority of students.
- Any other supportive information **specific to the application and relevant to the course(s) applied for.**

It is imperative that all students are able to provide examples of activities they have done to support their Post 18 applications. This could include relevant work experience, super-curricular activities (wider reading, visits, talks, lectures, podcasts, summer schools, massive open online course- MOOCs), subject-specific recognition (awards, academic performance, supporting a department with younger pupils or activities).

As their mock exams are now complete, the final few weeks of year 12 provide an ideal opportunity to undertake these tasks. A reminder that students are allowed to take up to five days for approved work

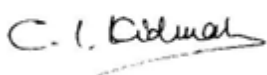
experience either in person or virtual during the course of year 12. This does not need to be taken in one block.

The Careers Department offers advice and guidance on all aspects relating to Post 18 options and can support students in considering suitable activities. The following links provide examples of activities students could look to explore: [Wider Reading and Super Curricular Engagement](#) and [Virtual Work Experience Opportunities](#). These documents are regularly updated and the latest versions can be found on the work experience page of the [school website](#).

Students are encouraged to book a careers appointment and parents and carers are very welcome to attend.

We look forward to working with students and helping them make a successful transition to Year 13. Should you require any further information about any of the above please contact us on 01423 818534 or email careersstaff@staidans.co.uk

Yours Sincerely,



Chris Kidman
Director of Sixth Form St Aidan's



Jon Sharpe
Director of Sixth Form St John Fisher



Joanne Dukes
Head of Careers



Year 12 Conference 2023 – Tuesday 20th June
Career and Study Opportunities Presentations

Nb. Students have signed up to attend 3 different subject talks to encourage them to broaden their career horizons

1.30	2.10	2.50

Nb. Please note that the above list may be subject to change

