

4 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 12 University Applications Via UCAS, a Parent/Carer Information Evening Wednesday 13 March, 6.00pm- 6.45pm

As a follow up to our visit to the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair which we are taking Year 12 students to on Tuesday 5 March, we would like to invite you to attend a UCAS and Unifrog Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 13 March from 6.00pm - 6.45pm in the Sixth Form Centre. The evening will be led by a representative from The University of Surrey who will provide you with information on the UCAS process and selecting institutions, as well as answering any queries you may have. I will also talk about the support your child will receive from The Weald throughout the UCAS application process, including utilising the Unifrog platform. If you are able to come to the information evening, please RSVP to sixthformoffice@theweald.org.uk in order to give us an accurate idea of numbers. The process of applying to university is both detailed and complex and students will need the support of their parents in this as well as the guidance of the school. We strongly recommend that parents attend if there is any possibility of their child going to university.

We would encourage you to explore the UCAS website, which students will use to apply to universities. This site is very applicant friendly and they do have guidance pages specifically for parents, and I would certainly recommend that you take a look at these at www.ucas.com.

In order that our students receive the most effective support and guidance through the university application process we do ask that they adhere to the deadlines relating to their applications, which will be shared with you and your child(ren) following the information evening.

Students who fall into the Early Entry category for Oxbridge, Medical and Veterinary courses should make particular note of the earlier deadlines relating to applications for these courses. Most Early Entry students and a number applying to other courses will have to complete online assessments around the time that they submit their applications. Mrs Bellas will prepare an additional session as part of the UCAS evening on Wednesday 13 March for parents and students who may wish to go through the Early Entry process. This session will take place at 6.45pm after the session above. Unfortunately, Mrs Bellas can't be with us in person on the evening, but she will record a presentation to be shown to you, and you will have the chance to contact her by email with any questions you may have.

Deadlines for some Art and Design courses are slightly different and students should confirm these with individual Institutions.

Please note that UCAS do charge a fee for this application service which is payable directly to them online. Students get the option to complete this payment once they have completed all sections of the application form. It is only when this payment has been completed that we will

be in a position to add the tutor reference, complete our final checks and send the application to UCAS. The cost of making an application through UCAS is £27.50.

Although the final deadline set by UCAS is Wednesday 29 January 2025, at The Weald we insist that applications are ready to send well before the Christmas break of Year 13 in order that we can complete final checks before processing the application. It is quite normal for students to receive offers from universities at any time once we have forwarded the application, and we have seen over the last couple of years that universities are making offers very quickly after receiving applications. This meant that this year many students had received all their offers before Christmas. Early completion of applications also alleviates any last-minute problems such as the UCAS website “crashing” on the final day or snow and bad weather disrupting the process.

On Wednesday 13 March, immediately following the information evening for Year 12 parents, we will be running a Student Finance Presentation for our current Year 13 students and parents from 7.00pm - 7.30pm. This will be run by the same representative from the University of Surrey, and you are very welcome to stay if you feel it would be useful.

In order to ensure that you are directed to Sixth Form Centre, we ask that you enter the site via the Sixth Form entrance on Stane Street. If you are arriving by car, you are welcome to park either in the bus lanes or in the Sixth Form Car Park just off Luxford Way, close to the school in a nearby housing area. If you are on foot, please arrive at the Sixth Form entrance on Stane Street.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s university application, please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming UCAS Information evening.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Day'.

Ms T Day
Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Headteacher