

## **To Parents/Carers of students in Year 12**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Preparing for University**

Now we are halfway through Year 12, it is time for students to start thinking about their futures and their options for life after Saint Cecilia's.

We launched UCAS to the Year 12 students in their assembly on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. During this assembly we discussed the importance of Year 12 examinations in providing the basis of UCAS predicted grades, university open days, work experience for the summer and the UCAS website. Students who are considering university should be researching potential courses and institutions.

PSHE lessons are now dedicated to post-18 choices, including university and apprenticeships.

To support students and families through this process, we have arranged a range of visits and events.

#### **Dates for your diaries:**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	UCAS/Discovery London Fair
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Parent Information Evening, 6pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Visit to the University of Surrey
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	National Apprenticeship Fair

#### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, all Year 12 students will attend the UCAS Higher Education Conference held at London Excel. The convention brings together universities and colleges within the UCAS scheme to inform and guide students about the choices and options that are available to them. The event plays an important part in helping students decide about what and where to study within higher education. The convention also has an extensive seminar programme. Recent topics included 'Grants and loans', 'Taking a year out', 'How to fill in your UCAS form' and 'Entry into Medicine, Law and Psychology.'

Students will be travelling independently to the convention and do not need to attend school. They are expected to arrive at London Excel by 12.30pm. The cost of travel needs to be met by the students.

Further information can be found here:

[UCAS Discovery London 2024 | Exhibition | UCAS](#)

**12.30pm** Arrive independently at London Excel, Royal Victoria Dock  
1 Western Gateway, London, E16 1XL

**To bring:** Money for food or packed lunch, printed ticket (they have had an assembly on this and the instruction are on SMHW), Oyster card.

#### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

I am sure you are keen to take an active part in this process, offering support, guidance and advice to your child. To facilitate this, you are warmly invited to attend a UCAS Information Evening on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

May at 6pm. This event is for parents and carers of students who are thinking about applying for university; students do not need to attend. There will be a speaker from the University of Surrey, who will deliver a presentation covering the application process, personal statements and student finance from a parent's perspective. The talk will last for one hour and there will be a chance to ask questions afterwards.

Applying to university can be a daunting process, however we will be doing all we can to support this process for Year 12, including:

- Running sessions in school for students on UCAS Personal Statements - an important aspect of the application form
- Authorising students to attend up to five university open day visits: <http://www.opendays.com/>
- Encouraging students to attend university taster sessions, which are run throughout the Summer Term

It is hoped that these preparations and the extensive guidance that is given by the school will make the process of applying for university exciting and inspiring.

Yours sincerely,

**Joanne Osborn**  
**Year Leader for Years 12 and 13**