

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Get Ready – Year 11**  
**Next Steps \* Study \* Stamp Out Stress**

Welcome back to a new academic year and your son/daughter's last year of education at Kings College. The year ahead will be a busy year for students as they prepare for their final GCSE examinations in May 2021. As part of our aspiration work in school our Year 11 programme 'Get Ready' is here to support your son/daughter and yourselves through the year and focuses on students' next steps, study support and stamping out stress through a mix of wellbeing activities.

With Autumn term upon us, students are being encouraged in school to begin to think about their Next Steps including whether they will apply to sixth forms, colleges or apprenticeships, the subjects they might take, and the process involved in applying for their option. As part of this, Miss Trott has spoken with students individually to discuss their next steps in order for us to support students further where needed.

It is important for students to research their options and to be aware of what is available. To help with this we have included some links in the two sections below.

**Next Steps: The Options**

Primarily there are three options available for students after secondary school. A brief summary of the three is provided below, including the qualifications students would obtain.

1. **Sixth-Forms:** Sixth-Forms are usually attached to a secondary school and will mainly provide A-levels in a range of academic subjects. Some may also have a few BTEC options.
2. **Colleges:** Colleges can have one of two focuses, the first is to be an independent college with a focus on A-levels and BTEC options. The other option is to be a more vocational focused institution offering BTECs or NVQs in practical subjects. Some will also offer apprenticeship opportunities within this.
3. **Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships offer the option to work and train at the same time with an employer and a training provider. There are varying levels of apprenticeships and from 16-18, apprenticeships can be found from Level 1 – Level 3.

If your son/daughter is considering an apprenticeship for their 'next step' then it is important to be aware that most apprenticeships are advertised like jobs and therefore might not be applied for until after school. There are some cases where they can be applied for in advance or through a college provider. If they would like to complete an apprenticeship, we would also advise them to apply for a college course as a second option.

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications>

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/what-are-the-choices-for-my-child-at-16>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/apprenticeships>

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/apprenticeships-traineeships>

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>

**Next Steps: From 18**

Whilst it can seem daunting students will be asked quite early on in their Post-16 option to consider whether or not they will be applying to university, applying for higher-level apprenticeships or employment. **Most of these options will have some specific entry requirements, so it is vital for students to have an awareness of what**



FINDING OUR FUTURES  
AT KINGS



GET READY  
YEAR 11

*these might be for a subject or industry they are interested in.* The links below are good starting points for researching university courses and degree apprenticeships.

[www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.heon.org.uk/parent-carer-resources/>

### Next Steps: Visiting and Applying

The Autumn term is the time when colleges and sixth-forms open their doors for students and parents/carers to go and see what they offer and talk with staff members and students. Due to Covid-19 some providers will be running virtual open events and those with physical opportunities to visit will expect you to book. Below is a comprehensive list of Open Evenings across providers in Surrey and the Sixth Form Application deadlines. It is worth checking the websites or contacting the provider as circumstances change and evolve. **We would encourage all students to attend open evenings and aim to have applied for their 'Next Step' by Christmas.**

### Open Evenings and Application Deadlines (correct as of writing)

#### Sept:

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – St. Peter's Sixth Form **Virtual** Open Evening

#### Oct:

Oct TBC - Woking College **Virtual** Open Evening

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Guildford College Open Evening

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – Merrist Wood Open Morning

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Farnham College Open Evening

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Godalming College **Virtual** Open Evening

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Merrist Wood Open Evening

#### Nov:

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Guildford County Sixth Form Open Evening

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Guildford College Open Morning

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Merrist Wood Open Evening

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – Farnham College Open Morning

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Guildford County Application Due

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – George Abbot Application Due

#### Dec:

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – St Peter's Application Deadline

TBC – George Abbot Sixth Form Open Events (**Please look on website and register your interest.**)

### Choosing a Destination

This year, more than ever, it is highly beneficial to have a detailed look at the providers' websites and the virtual tours or information they have there. Courses for the most part will be similar at each provider, so it is crucial to look at what is available such as the facilities, the extra-curricular opportunities, the pastoral and wellbeing support available and opportunities to visit Post 18-options.

### Support and Information

Within school, students can speak with either Mr Stewart (Year 11 Lead), Miss Trott (Aspirations Lead) or their Year 11 Tutor about their future options. There will also be opportunities for them to get support with their applications including the personal statement element. Miss Trott is running a weekly drop-in for students to ask any questions on Tuesday lunchtimes in the canteen.

If you want to discuss this information further or have questions or concerns then please do contact either Mr Stewart ([s.stewart@kingscollegguildford.com](mailto:s.stewart@kingscollegguildford.com)) or Miss Trott ([h.trott@kingscollegguildford.com](mailto:h.trott@kingscollegguildford.com)) at any time.

Yours sincerely,

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