



Monday 25 September 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We hope Year 11 has started well for your son/daughter.

We would like to share some important and helpful information/advice relating to students taking action in preparation for their next steps after Year 11 **now/very soon**. This is based on our experience.

We recommend students in Year 11 do the following:

- **Attend** a variety of sixth form and F.E. college open events – we recommend attending at least 3 events, if possible.
Dates for open events at a wide variety of sixth forms and colleges, along with school/college website links, will be attached with this letter (students have already received this spreadsheet via google classroom).
- **Apply for at least 3 places** – e.g. 3 sixth forms, 3 colleges or a mixture of sixth forms and colleges.
- **Apply for a variety of places** (that encompass different entry requirements -e.g. some F.E. college or sixth form grade boundaries are slightly higher and others lower. By applying for a variety of places – you can ensure you cover all bases – just in case things don't quite go to plan on exam day).
We have learned back-up places are important. Please do not rely on applying to just one place.
- **A variety of places** may include different types of courses at sixth forms and colleges – e.g. A-Levels and vocational – e.g. BTEC/CTEC/UAL or T-Levels.
- **Make a note** of application deadlines.
- Ensure you **apply by the application deadline** to avoid disappointment – it is a good idea to apply this term for sixth forms and colleges (applications usually open from 1 October).
- **Apply for popular courses with fewer places - this term**. These courses may include:
 - Animal Care/Management at BCA in Maidenhead
 - Construction courses (e.g. Carpentry, Electrical Installation, Plumbing, etc.) at Activate Learning colleges such as Reading College and Bracknell & Wokingham College.
 - Hair and Beauty courses – at Activate Learning colleges such as Reading College and Bracknell & Wokingham College.
 - Sport, Media Production, and other courses may also be popular – it is best to apply as soon as possible – ideally BEFORE Christmas this year.
- **If applying** for apprenticeships – start searching now. Search and apply from now/January 2024 onwards on a weekly basis using www.unifrog.org – until an apprenticeship is secured / contract signed. **Apply** for F.E. colleges and/or sixth forms as back-up – **this is very important**.
- **Keep up with correspondence** from schools and colleges applied to, regularly. Encourage your son or daughter to check their email, phone, and for correspondence via letter until they have enrolled at a school / college / signed a contract for an apprenticeship. Ensure a reply is sent / information requested is supplied / relevant action is taken, etc.

We hope this information is of help to you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Anna Finlason
Trust Careers Adviser