



King Henry VIII School
Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII

KS5 Information Evening

“King Henry VIII School Community will work together to create an inclusive, safe and happy learning environment in which all are challenged and supported to achieve their potential. Everyone is committed to learning today for a fulfilling life tomorrow.”

Outline for the evening

- Introduction Mrs Lewis, Executive Headteacher
- Making the most of Post-16, AHT Mrs K Corken (Leader of Post-16)
- Destination planning, Mr R Gilson (Post-16 MAT and destination leader)
- Questions?

What do you need to know...

Key Staff

- Mrs K Corken – Leader of Post-16 in charge of overall academic, pastoral, attendance, etc
- Mr R Gilson – Post 16 Destinations leader in charge of advice and guidance towards your chosen destination path
- Mrs H Williams – pastoral support, attendance, EMA
- Mrs A Davies – PALS co-ordinator
- Academic mentor – First point of contact for all of the above



What do you need to know... Responsible

When students don't have a lesson, they have **independent study time**. This means students:

- Can complete independent study in the Resource Area
- Can work in the sixth form cafe
- Can leave site when their lessons for the day are complete, and work independently at home

They should appreciate that

- Non-contact time is designed for students to gain independence and to learn the skills of research and reading around topics they are covering.
- Independent study time enables pupils to have a broader understanding of their subject and therefore enables them to achieve better final outcomes.

What do I need to know...Ready

In Post 16 we have a system of academic mentors. Students will have a fortnightly appointment to help them:

- ✓ Settle in to Year 12
- ✓ With revision and learning techniques, using the VESPA model:
 - Vision
 - Effort
 - Systems
 - Practice
 - Attitude
- ✓ Begin destination planning

What do I need to know...Ready

Students will still have an assembly in Upper School Hall every Friday at 8:40am

Assemblies are designed to:

- Encourage students think about wider social and ethical issues
- Provide opportunities for visiting speakers to talk about possible post-school destinations
- General information will also be emailed to students

What do I need to know...Ready

For students following A-level courses:

- Currently examinations will take place in the summer, but there will be some adaptations to the course content. We will keep you updated as and when we have further information
- Students should **not** plan holidays in the second half of the summer term. All this time will be required to help you understand the content of the A2 course by Easter 2023

For BTEC Students

- Certificate courses finish at the end of June
- Subsidiary Diploma work then begins



Post-school destinations

The UCAS process

Apprenticeships

Mantra

- This is going to be my year
- A goal without a plan is just a wish
- Students not pupils
- Metacognition – building resourceful and resilient students who take ownership of their learning
- Download specifications, make a note of exam dates, etc
- Undertake super-curricular activities

What would be useful for you

- To be well informed of the range of post-school options available
- To understand the UCAS process
- To demystify Student Finance arrangements

The Welsh Baccalaureate

- Core plus the Skills Challenge Certificate
- It is graded as an A-Level (A*-U) and is an equivalent to an A-Level
- A large proportion of our students have used WBQ as one of their grades to gain entry into Russell Group/Sutton Trust 30 universities
- Universities (and even departments within universities) vary in terms of whether it is given grade equivalence or a reduced offer
- Hugely beneficial for the interview process for job and university interviews such as Medicine, Nursing, etc.

The post-school market

- University (undergraduate)
- Selective (Applications > No. of places)
- Recruiting (Applications < No. of places)
- Private
- All have minimum entry requirements
- Degree types
- Foundation (adds an extra year)
- With a placement
- With a year abroad
- Integrated masters
- Integrated masters with a placement year (5 year degree)
- Degree apprenticeship

Selective universities

- The Russell Group (24 most research intensive universities)
- The Sutton Trust 30
- Research undertaken by the ST found that graduates of these 30 universities:
- Earn on average £4300 (17%) more than other graduates
- 12% more likely to be in professional occupations 5 years after graduation

The Sutton Trust 30

- Bath
- Cambridge
- Edinburgh
- Imperial
- Leeds
- LSE
- Nottingham
- Royal Holloway
- St Andrews
- UCL
- Birmingham
- Cardiff
- Exeter
- KCL
- Leicester
- Manchester
- Oxford
- Sheffield
- Strathclyde
- Warwick
- Bristol
- Durham
- Glasgow
- Lancaster
- Liverpool
- Newcastle
- Reading
- Southampton
- Surrey
- York

The post-school market

- Apprenticeships
- Intermediate (equivalent to GCSE level)
- Advanced (equivalent to A-Level)
- Higher (equivalent to foundation degree)
- School Leaver Programmes (run by large employers eg KPMG)
- Degree – earn whilst studying and the employer pays the tuition (eg Network 75)

Choosing a university

- Have an idea of how far from home you want to travel/live
- Disregard all of the universities outside of this range and research the rest :-
- The Guardian University Guide is a free online tool which ranks university by institution and subject
- Unistats.com offers additional information e.g number of applicants to places, number of lectures per week, cost of accommodation, etc
- Try to visit the university on an open day

Unifrog

- All KHS students will be/have been given a Unifrog account
- www.unifrog.org



Further
education



Apprenticeships



University



Lots more

Making choices

- Use the 3 C model to make your choice (course, campus, city). Make sure you are reasonably happy with all 3 factors.
- When you apply to UCAS you can make a maximum of 5 choices (4 for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine) and can only apply for Cambridge or Oxford.
- All of these have an earlier deadline and require additional application procedures eg aptitude tests, interviews.
- These can be 5 separate universities but you can choose more than one course from the same university

The UCAS form

- The UCAS application form is completed online and is made up of several sections
- Personal details, education and qualifications and a personal statement
- The statement is 4000 characters including spaces and should be about 60% academic (why do you want to study that subject and why you have the academic skills/aptitude for that subject) and 40% personal qualities

UCAS Track

- Once sent, your application moves from the UCAS Apply system to the UCAS Track system
- When you click Pay and Send, you are sending it to me not to UCAS
- All of your judgements will come via UCAS Track
- Read the offer letter/email that you receive from the university carefully

Types of offer

- Conditional offers (most likely) which are subject to your performance at A-Level or equivalent (grades or points offer)
- Unconditional offers (unlikely) but if you get one you're already in
- Unconditional offer schemes
- Rejections
- These offers are made via UCAS Track. Make sure you check it regularly. You will receive texts/emails when there has been a change

UCAS Points System

A-Level/BTEC Grade	UCAS Points	AS Level/AS BTEC Grade	UCAS Points
A*/Dist*	56		
A/Dist	48	A/Dist	20
B	40	B	16
C/Merit	32	C/Merit	12
D	24	D	10
E/Pass	16	E/Pass	6

Five becomes two

- In most scenarios you will receive 5 conditional offers. From these, you can choose two. The deadline for this decision is May 2020.
- You choose one as your firm choice (effectively this is your first choice/favourite)
- You choose another as your insurance (this is your second choice and should offer you some security)
- You decline the other three offers

Before you decide

- Do not choose your firm/insurance without attending the offer holders open day. This is more intimate than the general open day and will give you a better idea of the course/uni
- Make sure that your insurance is a lower conditional offer than your firm. Otherwise you risk being rejected by both.
- Find out whether your chosen universities offer any sort of bursaries/financial assistance

What next

- There are different deadlines for making your Firm/Insurance based on the date that you received your final offer
- Check when your two universities open their applications for accommodation and apply as soon as possible. Some universities give preference to those who have selected them as their Firm choice
- Apply for your student loan via Student Finance Wales. They are visiting KHS on in Spring term to hold an information session.

A-Level Results Day

- You will receive a message on this day to confirm your place. It might be your firm, it might be your insurance
- Within one week, you will receive the formal offer in writing including any details about accommodation. “Sign” these agreements and return them as soon as possible.
- If you have failed to satisfy the conditions of both offers, you will be eligible for UCAS Clearing.

What if I change my mind?

- If you have an offer of a place confirmed, it is legally binding..
- If your offer is from your firm choice, your insurance choice will have expired and has probably gone into clearing.
- You can put yourself into UCAS Clearing but doing so you forfeit the place you are holding
- You can put yourself into UCAS Adjustment and keep the place you are holding

Student Finance

- We will hold another information session in the Spring term on this matter but think of it as a graduate tax rather than a loan
- The student borrows a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan
- Repayments only begin when earnings are greater than £25k and you repay 9% p.a of your earnings above that threshold
- So someone earning £26k would repay £90 pa (less than £8 per month)
- The debt is written off after 30 years

New student finance arrangements

- Full amount of tuition varies (capped at £9000 in Wales and £9250 in the rest of UK)
- Grants for maintenance will still be available to all Welsh students (£1000 non-means tested) so every student will receive at least £1000 as a non-repayable grant
- There is a sliding scale to calculate the size of the grant based on household income with a maximum grant of £9000
- All students will have £9000 for maintenance (part grant and part loan). There is no parental contribution in Student Finance Wales (unlike in England).