



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL, ABERGAVENNY

Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII



Key Stage 5 Information Evening

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What are the super-curricular activities?

Super-curricular activities are additional academic activities undertaken by the student in preparation for university. They are subject-related and are designed to signify to universities that the student's interest in that subject transcends the A-Level syllabus. This is of particular importance if the student is applying to a selective university as there is often very little difference in the A-Level grade predictions between students who apply to such institutions. These activities are both beneficial when writing the personal statement and if the student has to sit a specific admissions test.

These activities tend to fall into two categories. Firstly, there are online courses that the student can find themselves. In Unifrog, there is a MOOC (Massively Open Online Course) tool which students can use to search for courses specific to the subject they intend to study at university. The student will then work through a series of activities including wider reading, TED talks, etc. as part of this course. More information about MOOCs and Unifrog can be found [here](#). Secondly, there are externally organised programmes arranged by universities. Our proximity to Bristol means that our students can apply for a place on the Access to Bristol programme which is an 8 week course on consecutive Wednesday afternoons in specific subject streams. Finally, later in the year, there is the Sutton Trust Summer School programme which gives students an opportunity to spend a week in a selective university undertaking a specific course. The external programmes are subject to an applications procedure and so the student is not guaranteed a place.

How / where do we start to look for apprenticeships?

Unifrog has an Apprenticeships tool which has live updates from Careers Wales and England of current apprenticeships that are recruiting. The student can search by industry and/or by distance from home postcode to see what is available. Specific companies also advertise School Leavers Programmes but these are not integrated into Careers Wales or England so might require some random searching at different points throughout the year. We are in the process of creating a mailing list for students who are interested in this route so if we receive emails about apprenticeships we have a system for passing these on.

In terms of degree apprenticeships, more and more universities are starting to offer these but you might find that accommodation costs in certain cities will exceed the salary of the apprenticeship which inevitably leads to a local bias on these courses. The University of South Wales has a well-developed degree apprenticeship programme called Network 75. There are no tuition fees and the student is paid a salary that rises incrementally. They also find the student somewhere within an easy commute as an employer. It is a part-time degree with the student spending two days per week in university and three days per week with an employer and takes five years to complete the degree. At the end of the five years, the vast majority of apprentices are taken on by the companies as they have invested five years in their development.

More information on Unifrog and applying for apprenticeships can be found [here](#).

Is there a parent's evening to monitor progress?

Yes, there will be parent's evening for both Year 12 and Year 13. Key dates and timings for KS5 can be found in the [KS5 Information Booklet](#).

The dates for the parent's evening are:

- Year 13: 21st October
- Year 12: 2nd December

This year we will be using 'School Cloud' which is an online platform that will enable you to talk to staff from your home, in a safe and private virtual room. This removes the worry that due to COVID-19 it could be postponed. All information regarding School Cloud will be shared in advance of any parents' evening.

Will there be any external visits to support curriculum?

There will be a range of external visitors on site to speak to post-16 students. This will range from Student Finance to Universities visiting to talk to students.

We will also be supporting day trips from the school site with planning underway for school fieldwork, sporting trips and UCAS conferences. At the moment residential trips are not able to go ahead.

Will adaptations affect 2023 as well as 2022?

We are currently aware of adaptations in place for the exam series in 2022. There may be further adaptations after this point and we will keep you informed if this is the case. More information about the adaptation in 2022 can be found [here](#).

How will predictions be affected by the fact that year 13 didn't actually sit their GCSEs?

Predictions will continue to be based on in class assessments, with teachers reaching an informed judgement on students using a range of evidence. This has been the case previously with teachers using AS grades to inform predicted grades, but not being completely reliant on them.

Is it correct that the Year 12 AS levels from last year do not count towards university grades?

It is correct that the AS grade given last summer will not count towards A2 grades in 2022. A Level results will rest completely on the work done in A2 unless a student also sits AS modules this summer.

Is there any support for those who would like a job rather than apprenticeship or going to university?

Support for students looking for a job will come through their Welsh Baccalaureate course. They will complete tasks such as creating a CV and research where and how to look for jobs. We are also able to set up Careers Wales appointments for any students who would like to investigate jobs which are on offer and how to find them.

What is VESPA?

VESPA is a mentoring programme aimed at allowing students to unlock their potential and achieve academic success. It is aimed around developing five behaviours and characteristics that all students need to be successful.

- **Vision** – they know what they want to achieve
- **Effort** – they put in many hours of proactive independent study
- **Systems** – they organise their learning resources and their time
- **Practice** – they practice and develop their skills
- **Attitude** – they respond constructively to setbacks

We are using time with academic mentors to develop these skills through a series of tasks design to challenge students to develop in each of these areas.

Will the KS5 Information Evening Presentation be shared?

Yes, the presentation is located [here](#)