



Sixth Form Message

UCAS Trip

Just before the Easter holidays, the year 12s spent the day at the UCAS discovery day in London. Students could meet universities from across the UK, discuss the courses they have on offer and hopefully grab lots of freebies! Students could attend talks on the application process, including how to write a fantastic personal statement and students said they found the visit a very valuable experience.

UCAS deadline 6th May- Year 13

A reminder that for most students, the deadline for submitting their firm and insurance university choices is Wednesday 6th May. Their firm choice should be their preferred university, where they realistically are able to achieve the entrance grades required. Their insurance choice should be a university that requires lower entrance grades but where they would still be happy studying if they don't quite achieve the grades they are hoping for in the summer. If students are unsure about which universities to choose, I am more than happy to meet with them to help them decide.

Connolly Foundation Funding - Year 13- **Deadline April 24th**

As previously communicated, students who are planning to attend university may be entitled to funding from the Connolly Foundation. More information about this excellent initiative can be found on the [Connolly Foundation website](#). The charity aims to support local students by providing a bursary to help with the costs incurred as they move on to their post-18 destinations. Last year, the charity awarded Etonbury students over £7,000, for which we are extremely grateful. They will continue to support our students for each year they are at university.

Eligible students have been contacted directly and must complete the application form provided by Mrs Schumann and return it as soon as possible. If you have not received communication but believe you may be eligible, please speak with Mrs Schumann straight away.

Work Experience - Year 12- Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July

Students in Year 12 take part in a week of work experience. This is important as it provides a valuable opportunity for them to develop both soft skills - such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management - and technical skills related to the workplace. These experiences will support them in their future pathways.

The process also helps students build confidence and self-esteem, not only from the experience itself but from securing a placement independently. This is not too dissimilar to applying for a job, as it requires students to contact employers, communicate professionally and take responsibility for organising their placement.

The skills and experiences gained can then be referred to in future applications and give students something tangible to talk about in interview situations. Please do support your child with this process. Form tutors are very much on board and available to help. Please find attached a copy of the [useful information sheet](#) we shared with students this week, which may also be a helpful reference for you.

Careers Meetings- Year 12

All year 12 students are offered a careers meeting with Sharma from 4YP to help them consider their post 18 options. Please can you talk to your child and make sure they have booked an appointment.

Chloe Dowden

KEY INFO

- [Degree Apprenticeship presentation](#)
- [Sixth Form Dress Code](#)
- [School photo code: C40-3DB-26B1](#)
- [Martin Lewis: Five things EVERYONE needs to know about student finance 2025/26](#)
- [UCAS - Search / Open Days and Events](#)
- [Explore Forage](#)
- [This is what makes us special ...](#)
- [Student finance](#)
- [Preparing for Your Future: UCAS, CVs, and Degree Apprenticeships.](#)
- [Year 13 UCAS applications parents' guide](#)

KEY DATES

Yr 12 Careers meetings March onwards
Yr13 art and photography exams Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th May
Yr13 exams begin Monday 11th May
Yr 12 & 13 early finish at 1:30pm on Monday 15th June
Yr 12 mocks 22nd June
Yr 12 work experience Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July

SUPPORT

Emotional and Physical Support:

Bedfordshire Counselling Service: [Open Door](#)
Hitchin Counselling Service: [HCS](#)
Mental Health Charity: [Young Minds](#)
Mental Health Support: [Kooth](#)
HelpLines: [Samaritans](#)
Sexual Health: [iCaSH](#)
Vaping: [Childline](#)
Delete social media: [BBC](#)
Remove nude images: [NSPCC](#)
ETA Safeguarding: [Etonbury Safeguarding](#)
[Drugs and alcohol: FRANK](#)
[Drug and alcohol: BLMK NHS](#)
[Addiction: Aquarius](#)
[Young Carers](#)
NHS Mental Health Crisis Line: 111 and select option 2

Academic Support:

Funding: [Harper Trust](#)
Funding: [Sutton Trust](#)
Funding: [Connolly Foundation](#)
Bursary: [16 - 19 Bursary](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Head of Sixth Form: cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk
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Form Tutors:

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Mrs Wright: swright@bestacademies.org.uk
Ms Young: wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk
Mr Scott: cscott@bestacademies.org.uk
Mrs Harbour - Cooper: hharbour-cooper@bestacademies.org.uk

Driving Lesson / Test - Permission Form: [Driving Permission Form](#)
Gym Permission Form: [Gym Permission Form](#)

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

- [Presentation 2024/25](#)
- [Occupation Maps](#)
- [STAR](#)
- [Unifrog](#)
- [Bedfordshire Raising Aspiration - LinkedIn](#)

Bereavement Support

[Child Bereavement UK](#) – call 0800 028 8840
[Cruse Bereavement Care](#) – call 0808 808 1677
[Grief Encounter](#) – call 0808 802 0111
[Hope Again](#) – call 0808 808 1677
[Winston's Wish](#) – call 0808 802 0021

EXAM INFORMATION

[Please use this link to find information on when your exams are taking place](#)

[YEAR 12 & 13 BTEC EXAM DATES 2026](#)

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