



Lord God,
when difficulties surround us,
help us to keep a sense of balance,
and stay peaceful within.
Amen

Key Stage 5 Weekly Bulletin: Week beginning: Monday 25th January 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

- **Ofqual Student Survey:** Thank you for looking at the Ofqual student consultation document which was sent out this week. If you have not had the chance to read through it yet and take part, please click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021> Hopefully, we will receive the final guidance sometime in Feb/March.
- **Year 13:** In the meantime and as previously explained, we will continue to assess your knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways. The evidence from this will help us plan our teaching to help you to make progress. It does not determine your final grade but will be useful for you and us and show where you are now, and will be part of the evidence we are gathering. Assessments will take place the week beginning Monday 1st February. Mrs Khabiri will be in touch shortly to give you details on how to submit your work, along with your timetable and access codes. Lessons will resume on Thursday 4th February. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.
- **Sixth Form Canteen:** The Sixth Form Canteen is OPEN for business! Please don't forget that every Tuesday and Thursday between 12-1pm you can drop in to the Sixth Form drop in room on MLTV to catch up with us and each other over a bite to eat. You can chat, type, listen or book a slot to perform. Nothing formal, just a space to hang out and break down the barriers of lock down. Looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.
- **Tutor time:** starting on Monday, tutor times will be live on the MLTV once a week at 9am as usual. Tutors will be in touch via the MLTV to let you know when your tutor time is. Assemblies will be recorded and sent out once a week on the message function of the VLE and Miss Smith will send out a prayer by e mail each morning. We will also be in regular touch by e mail as usual.

WEEKLY WELLNESS TIPS AND IDEAS

Listening to BBC radio 2 the other morning they were discussing anxiety. Dr Rangan Chatterjee was being interviewed and talked about his "5 step release". Some days if you are feeling anxious about what lays ahead try asking yourself these five questions whilst you are having breakfast or making a cuppa:

1. What is the thing that I am anxious about today?
2. What is ONE practical thing I can do to prepare for it?
3. What is ONE reason it probably won't be as bad as I fear?
4. What is ONE reason I think that I can probably handle it?
5. What is ONE "upside" of the situation?

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

- **YOUR MONEY MATTERS:**
This week we are looking at BORROWING MONEY. For many of you this will happen as soon as September when you get your Student Loan for university. Others will get a credit card, and eventually a mortgage.

Highlights

- Types of borrowing p.54-55
- Repayment activity p.58
- Credit cards p.66
- Case study p.69
- Making borrowing choices p.73
- **FutureLearn:** Free online courses from FutureLearn about transforming your understanding of the world by discovering **the planet's invisible life support systems**, to unearthing potential **climate change solutions** straight from the experts at the University of Exeter, you really can help change the world on FutureLearn. Click here for more information [Reduce your carbon footprint](#)

YEAR 12

- **Cambridge University:** Competitions, webinars and lectures from Cambridge University - these will be good to include in your personal statement in the Autumn. Please read the attachment.
- **Cambridge Peterhouse Applicant Support Scheme:** called PASS21 is a **long-term, multi-intervention online programme**, designed to offer support as would have been provided through our Year 12 Taster Days, Schools Tours and Residential. It will include email newsletters with super-curricular resources and information and guidance about the application; scaffolded 'independent study challenges' which will help pupils apply academic skills and knowledge to their application; and access to webinars and online workshops. We will be giving extra, tailored support to participants who meet our Wider Participation criteria. It is open to **ANY Year 12 pupil studying at Link Area state school**. Some information will often focus on Cambridge, but the scheme would still be generally relevant for applicants to Oxford or other highly-selective universities. It would be most relevant to any of our pupils who fit any of the following:
 - Are on track for AAA or better at A Level
 - Are expected to make an application to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford, or another highly-selective university (e.g. they have already expressed a desire to do so)
 - Could make an application to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford, or to another highly-selective university, but would require more encouragement/ guidance to do so.
- **FutureLearn (MOOCs)** - One of the joys of being a FutureLearner is that you can access education from the best universities in the UK (and the world) online, on demand. From an **Introduction to Business Management** to the **History of Royal Fashion**, explore more below and enrol now. This will become very useful when you show engagement with your interests in your personal statement in the Autumn. Click on this link to see courses available - [Browse courses](#)
- **Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021:** Bookings are now open for the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences. This year, we are asking students to book themselves on to the conference. Please click on this link for further information.
<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/student-conferences>
- **UniTaster On Demand:** This has many subject specific taster recorded webinars that will help you decide on a career path after you finish you're a levels. The range of taster subjects includes Midwifery, Psychology and Games, Animation & VFX. Please register on:
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx>
- **Medicine in Action:** This returns with a special half-day online programme for aspiring medics on January 26th. From brain surgery to life in A&E and more, uncover the science and technology driving medicine, discuss the societal implications and find out what life is really like as a medic at Medicine in Action. As usual, there will be plenty of opportunities to interact, with questions, polls, quizzes and more - join us in 2021! It costs £8 and you can book on:
https://thetrainingpartnership.org.uk/book/?study_day_id=8655
- **Oxbridge virtual conferences:** BOOK NOW to secure a place. Bookings for the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021 will be different to previous years. This year, we are asking students to book themselves on to the conference. Teachers will still need to book themselves on in order to access our teacher content, but we hope that this new system will make your lives easier during a busy time. Bookings will **open in January 2021** and can be made via our **website**.

YEAR 13

- **Original UCAS Deadline is over - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? (New deadline is 6pm on Fri 29th Jan)**
 - At the moment, prepare for any interviews that you may be offered - interviews are not always updated on the school's UCAS portal, so please ask if you need guidance.
 - Otherwise, please wait until all your 5 replies come back from the universities. You can then choose just 2 final places - a Firm and an Insurance choice **by 5th May - absolutely no rush** so you can find out more about the unis, cost of accommodation, the campus or city they are in, transport and so on. Go back to Unifrog as it has tons of information. Your Firm choice is usually more aspirational, but make sure you have done virtual tours so you are happy to go to either your Firm or Insurance choice in the Autumn.
 - Student Finance opens in late February, and then you apply for the Tuitions loan and Maintenance loan, based on family income.
 - Accommodation - you apply for accommodation for your Firm and Insurance choices only - and in some cases *only for the Firm choice* - it varies from one uni to another. Make sure that you can cover the cost of accommodation plus living costs from your maintenance loan - look at the budgeting update in the bulletin and plan out an idea of how much money you will need - so be careful on the choice of accommodation as costs vary a lot.
 - Of course, working consistently on your A levels and EP is key so that you are academically ready for your next step.
- **IMPORTANT UPDATE:** Following UK COVID restriction announcements, the deadline for undergraduate applications is now 6pm on 29 January 2021. This gives students time to prepare their application if they have made up their mind more recently to apply to university. Please pay UCAS for your application before this date as it may take some time for checking by Mrs Ellul before she formally sent it off to UCAS.

VIRTUAL TASTER DAYS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- **The Oxford Online Maths Club:** This club, is for 16-18 year old students who would like to take part in fun problem-solving activities and is running on Thursdays each week this term. Students can find out more and join the livestream directly at [Oxford online Maths Club](#)
- **COLLEGE Virtual Open day:** On Wednesday 27th January, we will be running a virtual open event promoting our **Level 4 Creative Media course**. The Level 4 Foundation in Creative Media Production is free for 18-year-olds and may be of interest to students finishing sixth form who are interested in this course area and want to develop further skills before progressing onto university. Students can register for the event via this web page: <https://www.stratford.ac.uk/demographic/university-level-learner/category/media/>
- **University of Bristol:** Our summer schools are free experiences which offer places across different subject streams, designed to provide an insight into undergraduate courses at the University. Participants will be eligible for a guaranteed contextual offer (up to 2 grades below the typical offer) or interview should they then apply to University of Bristol. Applications are open now and close 2nd March
Sutton Trust Summer School
2 - 6 August 2021. Sutton Trust Summer School offers students the opportunity to experience student life in one of the UK's most exciting cities.
[For further information follow this link.](#) [To apply follow this link.](#)
Insight into Bristol
26 - 30 July 2021. Insight into Bristol summer school is aimed at Black and Asian students who are from widening participation backgrounds and who have the academic ability to study at the University of Bristol.
[Click here to download the Insight into Bristol poster or brochure.](#) [Visit our website to apply.](#)
- **Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February:** Our joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on the 10th February from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university. You can find out more and **sign up here**, and please see the email below for the warm-up webinars which will accompany the event on Weds 3rd February and Mon 8th February

- **Virtual tours to UK universities are available at the press of a button:**
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>
- **UniTasterDays:** There are lots of events listed in many different subject areas. Please visit this link <https://www.unitasterdays.com/Search.aspx?MILES=99999&PC=OX169HY>

UCAS AND FINANCE INFORMATION

- **UCAS application:** The deadline is 29th January at 6pm – please finalise your application for the Sep 2021 entry.
- **Student finance calculator:** The calculator will tell you the maximum amount you can get for a maintenance loan. Find out more on: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **Undergraduate Webinar:** Student Finance Information and Advice University of Roehampton Tuesday 26th January 2021 Online, 4.15pm BST 16:15 – 17
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/63345/undergraduate-webinar-student-finance-information-and-advice>
- **UCAS applications:** Keep working on your UCAS applications - please ensure you check your subject exam boards on your application.
- **Finance** -Information on eligibility and Loan payments/repayments can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **Examples of personal statements:** These may be a great inspiration, but please be aware to remain original as plagiarism will be picked up: <https://universitycompare.com/personal-statement-examples/>
- **Portfolio for interview:** Get advice and information about putting together a portfolio ready for interview visit <https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/62341/portfolio-advice>

APPRENTICESHIPS

- **Bicester Construction Skills Centre Update:** Our Bicester webpage has been updated to include a virtual 360 tour of the site and a link to a live webinar on 29th January where you can join Mark French (Head of Bicester Construction Skills Centre) and Edward Collett (Head of Business Development) for a live presentation and Q&A session. <https://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/construction-skills-centre-bicester>
- **Norbar Torque Tools Ltd**
National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from 8-14 February and this year and they are going to run three virtual apprentice evenings. Please see the attached poster containing further details. If you have any questions, please contact recruit@norbar.com
- **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 27 January** : The first of these events will be the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair which will take place between 12 and 6pm on the 27th January. This free virtual event for students in years 11, 12 and 13, will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and vital webinars. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and **sign up here.**
- **Year 13:** Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are offered by many universities in a number of areas. They have individual closing dates and some of these are very soon. Please have a look if you want to follow this career path. Please see the attached document for further details.
- **Amazing Apprenticeships:** We've created an [Activity Pack](#), full of fun and engaging activities for students. This year the pack is an interactive word doc. so that it can be completed digitally or printed off. A separate answer booklet for teachers is also available, so you've got everything you need to get your students engaged about apprenticeships!
- **The Engineering Trust:** have a fantastic opportunity in Woodford Halse for an Engineering Apprenticeship. 3PA Limited is an established machinery company selling equipment into mostly the plastic processing industry and are starting to manufacture some of their own products. They are looking to recruit an apprentice who can graduate into a fully trained service engineer. To apply: <https://www.theengineeringtrust.org/apprenticeships/current-vacancies/>

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Many online opportunities are opening up for virtual work experience. Please note that enrolment in this virtual work experience may involve a cost.

https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-career?mc_cid=be43c5ac23&mc_eid=9d55d9feb0

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions relating to anything Sixth Form, please contact:

Mrs O'Donnell – SODonnell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mr Thornton – wtho0370@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Ellul – mell8376@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Peel – bpee4080@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

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