

May 2010 Careers Department Newsletter for Lower 6th Parents

As the Trinity term progresses I would like to take the opportunity to inform parents of Careers, Sixth Form events and lectures that have taken place recently or are planned for the near future.

Following on from the Careers and Higher Education Fair held last year we are hosting a Gap Year Fair on Friday October 22nd, in the Gannochy Hall. Another Careers and Higher Education event is planned for early 2011. In addition to our regular visits from the careers adviser from ISCO (The Independent Schools Careers Organisation) and Armed Forces liaison officers the following talks and seminars have taken place or are scheduled:

- A presentation on “Applying to Higher Education” was given to all Lower 6th at the end of the Lent term.
- All Lower 6th pupils will also complete the Morrisby UK Coursefinder questionnaire which will generate an individual report recommending suitable courses and institutions.

We will continue preparation for the UCAS application process with a further series of talks for the Lower 6th Form:

- A presentation on “Hints on Writing the UCAS Personal Statement”, a vital part of any UCAS application.
- Every pupil will be given a copy of the UCAS “Little Guide” which outlines the UCAS process.
- A presentation on the mechanics of the UCAS on-line process.
- All pupils in the Lower Sixth will be applying for a “yougofurther” card (the rebranded UCAS card) – see p.23 of the UCAS Parent Guide or visit www.yougofurther.co.uk for details.
- The whole year group will visit Edinburgh for their Open Day on Friday June 18th and are being encouraged to organise visits to other universities that they might be interested in attending. Most university prospectuses for 2011 will be available in the Resources Room adjacent to the Moncrieff Centre by the end of term. Many are already in place.

Copies of the booklets which will be issued to pupils during the two UCAS talks and the Power Point presentations can be accessed through the College website. I enclose a copy of the UCAS Parent Guide and additional quarterly bulletins can be received by registering at wwwucas.com/parents. The dates of university Open Days and ISCO Career Experience Days are also posted on the Glenalmond website.

After the AS exams are finished most of the Lower 6th year group will undertake leadership training. Also time will be spent working on their UCAS Personal Statements and, once the site is active, all pupils will have filled in sections 1,2 and 4 of their UCAS applications by the end of the Trinity Term. Our intention is to submit all UCAS applications for 2011 entry (or 2012 deferred entry) by the 22nd October 2010. A significant minority of pupils will decide to apply through UCAS after they have received their results. These pupils will continue to have the support of the College, and indeed we strongly recommend that they apply through Glenalmond as this greatly facilitates the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries concerning careers, university applications or general 6th Form matters.

AN May 2010