



5 May 2020

Dear students and parents

I hope you are all staying healthy and keeping well. In addition to the letter sent out last week, we felt it was important to ensure that all students were aware that the school careers service is still here, whether staying at the school, progressing onto FE College or starting an apprenticeship. Both myself and Mrs Smith can be emailed on the contact details below if students have any queries. The information below may already be familiar to you, but we wanted to ensure all students felt supported in their progression choices for next year.

Sixth Form

Students applying to St John's sixth form have received a letter from Mrs Haig-Williams regarding the summer work linking to their subjects for next year. Students moving to other sixth forms would be advised to contact their new school about any preparation they are expecting ahead of starting in September. There are lots of career ideas and information on our careers resources relating to your different school subjects e.g. <https://successatschool.org/advicedetails/1221/coronavirus-gatsby-subject-guides-free-to-access-from-home> and <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects>

FE College

Although colleges don't set summer work, it would be beneficial to utilise some of your time to understand about your subject or job sector ahead of starting the course. Useful websites for this include <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> and <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/sectors> Applications are still being accepted for September college places. Students should still be applying for a college place if they were planning to do so, and their applications can be sent by post or online – but they would much prefer students to apply online. Interviews may still go ahead via telephone or online.

- **New College**, Swindon, are launching “Kick Start to College” programme week commencing 1st May. It's a dedicated website containing transition and preparation to study materials for all of applicants and any Year 11's. It covers A Levels/Level 3 Vocational courses as well as GCSEs and Level 2 Vocational courses. Year 11 applicants and contacts will be contacted by email. Students interested in full-time courses or apprenticeships are advised to attend their **online virtual event** on Thursday 21st May, 10.00am to 6.00pm, with live chat between 4-6pm and a second event on Thursday 2nd July (times to be confirmed). Year 11s can register to attend via www.newcollege.ac.uk.



- **Swindon College** have a Virtual Open Event planned for 18th May, this will include the opportunity for students to explore college based and apprenticeship routes. Phone lines have been made available on Mondays and Fridays where advice from the Careers Team or Student Services team can be made available by contacting Student Services on 01793 498106 or by emailing studentservices@swindon.ac.uk

Check individual websites for course and contact information. You may be aware that New College and Swindon College are merging at some point in the future. This process will not affect the location of your chosen course for next year. Instructions for registering for college courses on receipt of GCSE results will be confirmed by individual colleges closer to results day.

Apprenticeships

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response> has been published for employers already employing apprentices. It may be a difficult time for future apprenticeships in the short term and for this reason it is advised that students either with an apprenticeship offer, or still looking for one, have a backup plan in place. Normally this would be an equivalent vocational course or sixth form place. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> is still advertising apprenticeship vacancies, albeit that current recruitment may be frozen, and many employers have a dedicated apprenticeship careers page. The following information might be useful as includes tips on writing a speculative cover letter and <https://careermap.co.uk/will-exam-cancellations-impact-my-future-options/>. New College may also run some specific online Apprenticeships activity from June onwards so please keep an eye on their website at www.newcollege.ac.uk

Armed Forces

For any students in the process of applying or wanting to find out more about progression opportunities, please contact the relevant careers office directly. Although the army career offices are closed until further notice, there will still be a presence to answer phone enquiries and to pass on relevant information to the career advisers working from home. This includes Army Briefs and Individual Candidate Discussion Interviews via SKYPE rather than face to face.

CV Writing

It would be a good opportunity to complete a CV during some of your free time and the following links would be helpful for this: <https://careercompanion.cv-creator.com/> or using careerscomp@nion and <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/get-a-job/cv-sections#>

NCS

'As you may have already heard, NCS have chosen to repurpose the programme to keep young people safe and well at this truly testing time'. This doesn't mean NCS has been cancelled completely and are looking ahead to have a free and accessible programme. More details and updates can be found here: <https://wearencs.com/coronavirus-update> NCS are contacting all students that applied for the summer programme directly but we can also pass on any queries.

Get Ahead Project

Want to carry on with an education programme you can work on at home, at your own pace? Gain a small qualification, interact with others and earn yourself a £100 incentive payment! New College have an alternative programme with online lessons - they can set up video calls/text/email/phone calls, during normal office hours to help and guide you through the workbooks. Students can develop soft skills like increasing confidence, developing resilience and progression. We want to reduce the anxiety about returning to education when the time comes. The Get Ahead Project can also support CV writing and applying for jobs and/or Apprenticeships. Students will be put into a virtual class and given a timetable to access their online session. All sessions will be held during the afternoon. Times will be confirmed when classes are created. Email: getahead@newcollege.ac.uk

Parent Information

There are lots of useful **parent resources** available including <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/what-are-the-choices-for-my-child-at-16?parent/info/what-are-the-choices-for-my-child/&topic=5976> and an online careers magazine <https://careermap.co.uk/subscribe-to-careermag/> Amazing apprenticeships are due to publish a new **Parents' Activity Pack** soon which focuses on activities, interviews with employers and ideas on how to engage in discussions about apprenticeships at home, and previous editions can be found on <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parents/>

And finally if you're wanting to be inspired try <https://learn.springpod.co.uk/topics/career-stories/> with 30 minute career talks by Inspirational speakers, either live or on catchup.

We are continuing to add information and resources to student bulletins and hopefully these are of interest, however students can contact either Mrs Smith or myself through the email contacts below if there are any queries or we can support in any way.

Many thanks and wishing you all good health.



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