

Ref: BME/KDE

27 April 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your respective families well.

New – Parents' Guide to University 2022

I am writing to inform you that the **UniTasterDays Parents' Guide to University** has been released and the editorial has been provided by over forty colleagues at universities and schools and colleges throughout the UK. For our Year 10 and Year 11 students, it is never too early to starting reviewing university related publications and I am sure you will find it an insightful guide with an array of useful topics.

This guide has been produced by UniTasterDays.com to help you, as a parent or guardian, to support your child with their higher education decisions. It covers many aspects of university - including information on the application process, the types of courses available, student finance and key financial information, student life, how students can access additional support whilst at university and much more. But ultimately it is about preparing you as a parent or guardian to provide helpful support when you are having university discussions in the future.

To access the guide link click on [UniTasterDays Parents Guide to University 2022](#)

Complete University Guide – Your Future, Your Choice

The Complete University Guide is an excellent resource to help students to find course information and expert advice including independent UK university rankings. We always recommend that students explore the university league tables, which rank the best universities in the UK, in 74 subject areas. It can be different to know how best to choose a university however the league tables can help by showing students the top universities in the UK and allow students to sort them by what is important them. Students can view the university rankings for their chosen subject and then filter by region, entry standards, student satisfaction, graduate prospects, and more. By comparing universities using these filters and preferred metrics, students can start to get a clear picture of which university is right for them, their requirements and aspirations.

To access the Complete University Guide link click on <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) – 'Choose Your Future'

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is a UK-based organisation whose main role is to operate the application process for British universities. UCAS helps students to explore a range of different career pathways including apprenticeships, university, internships and studying at a conservatoire. It is important that students who are considering university are familiar with the website as it enables them to research potential courses and review the entry requirements. For our KS4 students, we recommend referring to UCAS prior to making an informed decision regarding post-16 options, as certain courses and universities will stipulate 'essential' A levels as part of their entry requirements and therefore important this is known before selecting their KS5 options.

Please see <https://wwwucas.com/> for more details.

Meet the Russell Group Universities – Wednesday 27 April 2022

We would like to highlight an opportunities for students and their families to meet all 24 Russell Group universities free of charge in one virtual space. On Wednesday 27 April from 4.30 pm to 8.00 pm, students and their families can login and

ask individual questions, watch live webinars about each university and explore the virtual booths. For more information about this event please click on the following link:

[Meet the Russell Group](#)

Better Choices about Future Career Pathways

Please be aware that the Department of Education via the minister of state for universities has launched two apps which empower students to make better choices about their future career pathways, and where and what to study at university.

- **ThinkUni**, offers students a 'personalised digital assistant' bringing together data on universities, courses and financial outcomes that are easy to explore and compare. The ThinkUni digital assistant will help students to find the university that most suits them and also identifies what their future earnings could potentially be. Please see www.thinkuni.org for more details.
- **TheWayUp!**, is a game for students to simulate different graduate career paths to help them make better choices about their future. It also aims to help students form set aspirational educational and career goals to increase their chances of achieving them. There are over 10 million possible routes through the games and students are able to choose from 20 career paths and over 900 unique jobs and promotions. There are also 1,200 combinations of university courses and subjects to choose from and students are able to explore apprenticeships, university or employment options. Up-to-date salary and occupation information has been derived from 10 different datasets with students able to identify what is important to them: earnings, happiness, work-life balance or education. Please see www.thewayup.co.uk for more details.

Booking a Careers Appointment

All students have access to independent and impartial careers advice and guidance from a fully qualified Careers Adviser from Directions IAG Ltd. This is an opportunity for students to talk about their ideas and plans for the future. As part of this, a Career Action Plan will be produced and shared with the student.

To book a careers appointment please send an email to Louise Brazier at deslb@plume.essex.sch.uk Students will be required to include their name and tutor group in the email followed by their preferred day and lesson time. When you selected your preferred day, please be aware that our Careers Adviser is only in the academy on Tuesday or Thursday.

If you would like access to more career advice and guidance, please refer to the Plume Academy Career Hub homepage via <https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/careers> and if you have any questions following my correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me via b.meltzer@plume.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Miss B Meltzer
Leader of Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

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