

"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."
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Thursday 9th April 2020

Dear Student

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. I know that many of you are trying hard to maintain a learning routine at home, and whilst this is challenging, I would also encourage you to also consider your health and wellbeing and try to get regular exercise. Learning at distance is new to all of us and whilst home learning cannot replace school, please be reassured that all of your teachers are setting work regularly which you can access on the website under '**Work for all Year Groups/Yr 12 – Student work during school closure**'. In terms of completing work and returning to you teacher, this can be done by email. If you are struggling to meet a deadline then please contact your class teacher or myself and Ms Brooks. If we know that you are struggling to meet deadlines due to challenging circumstances, then it is important that you let us know so that we can support you.

Whilst you are at home, I would like to offer the following advice as you prepare to embark on your journey into Year 13. The UCAS website (www.ucas.com) has a wealth of information relating to the process of applying for University courses and Apprenticeships. In addition, individual Universities also have 'virtual tours' which can provide you with a useful insight into the courses and facilities available at your chosen destinations. In addition, you all have access to **UNIFROG** (www.unifrog.org) which has a wide variety of information and planning tools which can help you to decide on your future pathway. This would be an ideal time for planning and drafting your personal statement which will be used in your UCAS application. This is what Universities look at, in addition to your reference and predicted grades when deciding on offers to study at their institution. Guidance for completing this can be found at:

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement>
- www.which.co.uk/money/university-and-student-finance/getting-into-uni/how-to-write-a-personal-statement
- <https://www.optimisingfutures.co.uk/blog-1>

You can complete your draft statement on UNIFROG for your tutor to check. If your circumstances allow, it would be useful if you could try to make a first attempt at a draft by Friday 22nd May.

I would also like to introduce the '**Post 16 Challenge**' which will hopefully brighten up the coming weeks. You are challenged to choose a weekly or fortnightly activity which will be either physical, mental or creative. The Easter challenges can be found at the end of this letter and Ms Brooks and I look forward to you letting us know how you get on. You can keep a journal, video diary or photos of your efforts and send them to us. Prizes and certificates will be awarded to those of you who rise to the challenges during this unprecedented time.



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Please feel reassured that we are aware of the learning time that you have lost and that as a school we are looking at the best ways to ensure that you are fully supported whilst school is closed and also upon your return.

Take care of yourselves

Mrs Wilkinson

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