



I hope that this Newsletter finds you all well in these very strange times. First of all, thank you so much for helping to make the last day so special, despite being pulled together at short notice. I would also like to thank Michelle Shipman for donating a leavers arch of balloons (done with 1 day's notice). It was lovely and I am sure you all got a picture beneath it - please do send them over to us to include on our leavers board!



We are sorry that the current situation means we have had to cancel the Year 13 Leaver's party. You should have all received refunds by now. Hopefully you will be able to arrange something when we return to something like normal. Let us know if you do: the staff would love to see you all!

The BL6 Team have put together some information which you might find useful as you move on to the next phases of your life/education. Enjoy!

UCAS

The following information has been taken from the UCAS website. It includes information about when students should have received decisions from universities/colleges with respect to the applications they have made and when students need to reply to any offers they have received from universities. Please be aware that there are changes to deadline dates when compared with previous years.

- If a student submitted a UCAS application by 15th January (the overwhelming majority of BL6 students did) and they are still awaiting a decision from one of their choices, universities/colleges have until **20th May** to decide whether they're making an offer. If a university has not replied by 20th May then an application will automatically become unsuccessful. Students are therefore advised to contact universities/colleges if they are still to receive an offer from them as the 20th May approaches.
- If students receive all their university/college decisions by 4 June, students must reply to any offers by **18th June** (except if they are using UCAS Extra to find a place), otherwise they will be declined.

- Students are reminded that UCAS Extra is available to them should they wish to submit further applications to universities/colleges. UCAS Extra is only available, however, when a student's five original choices have been rejected by universities/colleges or a student has declined the offers that they have received. UCAS Extra also only operates on the basis of applying to one university/college at a time. Before submitting an application via UCAS Extra, it is always worth contacting a university/college in order to gain an insight as to how an application will be considered by them.
- If a student decides to make use of UCAS Extra, they should receive a decision from universities/colleges by 13th July. They must reply by 20th July. The same dates apply if a student decides to submit a UCAS application even at this late stage.
- Students are reminded to use UCAS Track in order to follow the progress of their university/college applications. By doing this, they will be reminded of the dates that they need to reply by.
- Should students have any queries or questions about the UCAS process, they should not hesitate to contact UCAS or universities/colleges.

Student Finance

Students who intend on commencing an undergraduate course at university in September may want to consider applying for Student Finance as soon as possible.

By submitting an application for Student Finance, financial assistance can be provided to students, helping them to pay tuition fees and living costs.

Whilst tuition fees are automatically paid for following an application for Student Finance being made, maintenance loans (used for living costs) are means tested based on household income.

The key date to submit an application for Student Finance is **22nd May**. Please be aware that it can take some time to complete a Student Finance application due to family circumstances and the need for parents/guardians to provide proof of income. Applications can still be submitted after 22nd May but there is a risk that financial support won't be in place for students at the start of the new academic year after this date.

Students, together with the assistance of parents/guardians, are therefore advised to start their application sooner rather than later. Students don't need a confirmed place on a course to apply, they can use their first choice of course and update their application later if this changes.

Applications can be made via <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login>

Of course, attending university represents a significant financial investment, and students are therefore reminded to appropriately research the principles upon which the student loans system is based.

Destinations

Despite the very difficult circumstances of having to say goodbye to our wonderful year 13 students prematurely, it is encouraging to know that of 130 students who submitted university applications, 98% have received at least one offer from their list of chosen institutions / courses, with 84% of students receiving at least 3 offers with a small number still awaiting replies. The small number without offers have been supported already in making alternative plans, but if any student is unsure or requires help and guidance, they should contact us via their Progress Manager and we will of course do everything we can to assist. The high number of offers is testament to the hard work of our students, along with the fantastic support by their tutors and subject staff in preparing high-quality applications.

Below is a brief summary of this years' most popular universities to which our students applied and subsequently received offers from.

| Most applications | | | Most offers | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------|------------|
| Provider | Applications | % of total | Provider | Offers | % of total |
| University of Liverpool | 48 | 8% | University of Liverpool | 45 | 9% |
| University of Leeds | 38 | 6% | Nottingham Trent University | 32 | 6% |
| Nottingham Trent University | 36 | 6% | University of Leeds | 31 | 6% |

In terms of those students who are applying for apprenticeships, we will continue to provide regular support and guidance while the current circumstances render many programs indefinitely on-hold. This will continue into the new academic year where necessary. Students can contact Ms Morrison with any specific questions.

Apprenticeships and Employment

Things are understandably very quiet on the apprenticeship front at the moment.

For more information please have a look at www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

As well as <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> who also have a series of short live broadcasts to watch at home.

We have sent out details to any Year 13 students looking to get into an Accountancy career regarding company based in Northwich and Nantwich. They offer an established training programme and great career prospects.

<https://www.howardworth.co.uk/work-for-us/trainee-programme/>

Careers Learning on line

We would like to highlight a new initiative from the [Cheshire and Warrington Pledge, hosted by the Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\)](#) which has launched a series of interactive online live broadcasts aimed at students up to 18 years to help young people to access career support and guidance whilst in the lockdown period.

The sessions bring a host of Cheshire and Warrington based employers, universities, colleges and training providers who talk about careers, employability skills and training pathways and young people have the chance to ask questions in real time through the live chat functionality to interact with the speakers safely.

The series will run **every Tuesday and Thursday at 11am** for 30 – 60 minutes throughout the summer term. We would encourage you to schedule these sessions into your week and where possible watch these sessions live. The sessions will also remain on the site for 12 months and questions can be submitted after broadcast. For more information and to see the initial schedule of sessions visit: <https://learnliveuk.com/partner/cheshire-and-warrington-lep/>

Eton College

Finally, we hope that you have gained access to the Eton College course we are offering. The access instructions are in the home learning section of the website for Year 13.

Take care, stay safe and keep in touch!

BL6 Team