

November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Post-16 Applications for Year 11 Students

Over the course of this first term, your son or daughter will be making important decisions about their future. There is no doubt that these decisions are not easy, especially bearing in mind the ever-changing educational landscape and the current economic climate related to Covid-19. By working together with our Year 11 students and with your continued support, we can certainly help them to make appropriate, well-informed choices in these challenging times.

Essentially, the three main options that are available to all students leaving Year 11 are:

- A Level courses at school sixth form centres or Further Education colleges;
- Vocational courses at a Further Education college;
- Apprenticeships (employment with training).

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is a legal requirement for all students to remain in education, or employment with training, up until the age of 18. Students can apply to more than one sixth form, college or training provider and we would always recommend that students make at least two applications. This would be their first choice followed by a good 'plan B' or back up option, just in case they are not successful in securing their first choice. Given the competitive nature, coupled with the current economic uncertainties, all students aiming to secure a place on an apprenticeship programme for September 2021 as their first choice, should also submit a full time college application as a reserve option.

This term, students will need to:

- Visit college websites for information on virtual open events that are taking place at local Further Education colleges and sixth form centres that are of interest to them;
- View online prospectuses, which are accessible from all college websites, research courses of interest and find out more about the course entry requirements;
- Complete their applications for entry to a sixth form centre or college **by the end of this term in December 2020**, via the various college websites using their online application systems;
- If relevant, research apprenticeship opportunities and register their interest online via the government apprenticeship website www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/

During the autumn term, your son or daughter will be introduced to the Post-16 applications process by their form tutor, pastoral team and the careers team; a number of supportive resources will also be shared with students via Google classroom. We recommend that all students, if they have not already done so, actively now commence researching the Post-16 courses and online open events that are available and of interest to them, across Leeds and further afield. A

summary document detailing the local Post-16 providers, together with their contact details and details regarding their open events, accompanies this letter. Please also find enclosed a detailed Post-16 Options booklet to further support our students and yourselves, with this important process.

The time scales for the application process that you need to be aware of are as follows:

- **From mid October 2020**, most Post-16 providers will have made their new 2021 courses visible on their websites, together with their online prospectuses. They will also post additional information about their own application process on line.
- **From late October**, but only when they are ready, students can begin making applications at home using the online application sites for each college. **Application sites remain open until early January 2021**
- **From Wednesday, 4 November 2020** drop in application support sessions with the Careers team will be taking place in the academy for anyone who needs extra help or advice. Initially, these will be in the in the Mezzanine after school throughout November.
- **Throughout the autumn term**, all Year 11 students will continue to be offered a one to one, or small group careers session with Miss Jones, our impartial Careers Adviser, to discuss their Post-16 options. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss their options during form time and the weekly Positive Discipline lesson; they will also be able to request a follow up support session where they feel that extra guidance is needed
- **By Friday, 18 December 2020** all Year 11 students should have made at least one Post-16 online application, ahead of the final January deadline. A second application as a backup plan is also strongly advised.

When making online applications, students will be asked to enter their 'predicted grades' for each subject they are currently studying. For this, they should use their GCSE ATGs, which are their 'Target Grades.' It is particularly important that students carefully consider the entry requirements specified for each course and that they compare these to their GCSE target grades and their current Assessment Point data. These data sets will be shared with all students after Assessment Point 1 and a summary report which captures this information, will be sent home for parents and carers.

For some colleges, students may be asked to enter their UPN (Unique Pupil Number) or their ULN (Unique Learner Number) when making online applications and therefore, in order to support our students with their applications, we have summarised this personalised information on the enclosed document. A small number of colleges may also ask a student to submit a 'personal statement' and guidance on how to do this will be shared with all students on Google Classroom.

The GORSE Academies Trust Further Education college, Elliott Hudson, is now very well established and students currently studying within The GORSE Academies Trust are prioritised within the college's admission structure. We would, however, like to reinforce that students will only secure a place if they fulfil all of the admissions criteria and they secure the GCSE grades required to meet, or exceed, the entry requirements for their selected courses. Elliott Hudson College is a very successful Post-16 provision and was rated Outstanding in its recent Ofsted

inspection. Recent examination results place the college as one of the highest performing Post-16 colleges nationally; as a result, the demand for places is incredibly high. Please refer to the college's website in order to obtain further information about their provision and the application process www.elliottthudsoncollege.co.uk

The careers team at The Farnley Academy are here to support students, parents and carers who may require further guidance. Students can request a further interview with our Careers Adviser, Miss Jones, by speaking to their form tutor or a member of the pastoral team. Parents / carers are also welcome to contact us directly by telephone or email should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

Miss R Jones
CIAG Leader

Mr S Cosgrove
Senior Vice Principal

