

28 June 2021

Dear Parent,

### The Next Steps After Completing Y11

We hope you're well, and looking forward to the summer. As we approach the end of the school year, it's time for Y10 students to begin thinking about what they will do after their GCSEs.

As you may or may not be aware, all children must now stay in some form of education until they are 18 years old. However, this includes a few options, so students have the choice of where and what they do.

There are four main pathways...

- **Grammar School** - to complete A Levels (Level 3 courses) - *typically suited to students achieving Grade 7 or above at GCSE, exam only route*
- **Sixth Form** - to complete a mix of Academic and Vocational courses
  - i) Level 3 courses, equivalent to 3 A Levels minimum (International Baccalaureate and Career Related Study routes) - *typically suited to students achieving Grade 4 or above at GCSE, mix of coursework and exams*
  - ii) Level 2 courses, equivalent to GCSE (including English/Maths resits) - *typically suited to students achieving Grade 3 or below at GCSE, mix of coursework and exams*
  - iii) Basketball/Football Academy, taken alongside Level 2 and 3 courses. Includes daily training sessions and weekly games (Wednesday) in the 'Kent Academies League for Football' the 'National Academies Basketball League' and 'National League' at a weekend for basketball
- **College** - to complete a more specialised Vocational path such as Construction, Mechanics...(Level 1-3 courses) - *students typically take 1 subject, as well as English/Maths resits if applicable*
- **Apprenticeship** - completed with an employer, involving days in college alongside employment - *please be aware, these are difficult to secure before the age of 18*

During Y11, your son will have a team of staff, working to support him in making the right choices for him, based on his career aspirations, plan for post-18, and ability.

Over the summer, can we please ask that you start having conversations with your son about where and what he might like to study after Y11, and what is most suitable for him. If you would like to look in more detail at the options available, you will find most colleges and sixth forms have information on their websites, showing courses being offered from September 2021, and

the entry requirements. While these may differ slightly for students starting courses in 2022, it will give some indication on what is available.

Applications typically begin opening late September/early October; Open evenings (COVID-19 dependant) typically take place from October, and finally the deadline for applications is normally around Easter.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact your son's Progress Manager, or contact the Sixth Form Team ([sixthform@ntc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@ntc.kent.sch.uk)).

We hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to working with you and your son in the new school year.

Kind Regards



Ms Emma Campbell  
Sixth form Progress Manager/IB Coordinator