

20 October 2021

Dear Parent

### Post-18 Destinations

As we reach the end of Term 1, it is time for Year 13 students to make decisions about what they will do at the end of this year when they finish school. This is something they be aware of as we have been talking about it throughout this term.

All children must now stay in some form of education until they are 18 years old. However, after the age of 18, they can choose to continue their education/training, or go into employment.

There are four main pathways:

- **University** - to complete an Undergraduate or Foundation degree course, *this route would include exams and assessments determined by the university* (for information on Student Finance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>)
- **Apprenticeship** - to complete a work-based qualification, *this route would suit those who would like to earn money and gain qualifications simultaneously. Apprenticeships don't usually involve exams, but you should expect to be assessed while you're working.*
- **College** - Colleges offer a wide range of courses which can act as a 'stepping stone' for students, *this route would suit those who prefer being assessed through coursework and practical assessments.*
- **Employment** - although the job market can be competitive, the range of opportunities available is improving, *this route would suit someone no longer wishing to continue their education, or students taking a gap year.*

During Year 13, your son/daughter has a team of staff working to support them in making the right choices for them, based on their career aspirations, and ability.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have had a number of external visitors in to talk through University and Apprenticeships. We have also designated time to research suitable courses/apprenticeships and begin completing UCAS applications.

Over the half term, please encourage your son/daughter to have conversations about where and what they want to do after Year 13, and what is most suitable for them. If you would like to look in more detail at the options available, you will find [www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com) has a wealth of information on their website for both University and alternative Post-18 routes.

For those interested in Universities, you will see on University websites Open Days are taking place over the next few months - many are moving to in-person Open Days, with some still offering virtual ones.

Over the next term, University applications will need to be completed and many Apprenticeship and College applications will be open. Students will need to be organised and focused. For those struggling to make a choice, we will continue to support them in making a decision on what route to take.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact your son/daughter's Learning Coach, or contact the sixth form team ([sixthform@ntc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@ntc.kent.sch.uk)).

We look forward to working with you, and hope you have a relaxing half term.

Yours faithfully



Ms Emma Campbell

Sixth form Progress Manager/IB Coordinator