

LCH/JMY

January 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Post 18 Guidance**

This term we begin our Post-18 guidance with Year 12. This guidance starts in January with the launching of Post-18 designed to get students thinking and continues until your son gets his examination results in August 2018.

This guidance is tailored to fit the needs of all students. Form Tutors offer guidance to students and also deliver sessions regarding Post-18 choices in Enrichment. Miss Shaeffer our careers adviser is available to help with specific questions regarding jobs, universities and next steps. We hope that your son will feel well supported in the process of deciding his next steps after Sixth Form.

Below is an outline of the guidance and support that your son will be given in helping him decide his next steps after Sixth Form.

**January – May:** Introduction to get students thinking, focusing on the positives and negatives of University, alternative options to University and course choices. The focus is on students beginning to research and think about their next steps. No formal decisions need to be made at this stage.

**May:** Students revise for any AS examinations they may have and End of Year Exams.

**June – July:** Application focus. Tutors will help students with CVs, covering letters and personal statements. Specific guidance will be given on each of these to ensure all students know what is needed to be successful.

**September - November:** Personal statement and application focus. All those applying to university will complete their UCAS forms and those applying for jobs, volunteering or taking gap years will begin this process.

**December - August:** All Sixth Form staff will be available to help students with queries, but the main focus should now be A Level examinations and revision.

As part of our provision if you son is not applying to University there will be designated sessions tailored to help him with his application and choices when other students are receiving guidance on UCAS completion or course choices.

## **Work Experience:**

Current research states that a lack of work experience is the main weakness in 71% of all applicants regardless of whether the individual has been to university or not. Many people study academic subjects at A Level and/or degree level but do not gain practical experience when doing so.

Therefore in order to help your son gain relevant work experience we will be asking that he completes a work experience placement between now and the end of October 2017. The ideal time for this placement is Enterprise week which begins on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

In order to support your son in locating a placement and ensuring that he has a beneficial experience we have a team of dedicated advisers to help him. We will be having targeted assemblies introducing work experience and the benefit of this and students will also be introduced to both Miss Shaeffer and Mrs Tilley who are on hand to offer help and guidance to students when organising their placements. The aim of work experience is for students to gain hands on experience within a field they would like to work in when they leave Sixth Form or University. It may be at this stage that your son is unsure about which path he would like to follow. In this case work experience can be a vital tool in this decision process.

It is our expectation that all students in the Sixth Form at Northampton School *for Boys* will have completed a work experience placement by the time they leave.

In March we will be having our annual UCAS Evening and the Employment and Opportunities Evening, further information regarding these will follow in due course.

If you have any queries regarding Post-18 choices, preparation or support for your son please do not hesitate to contact your sons Form Tutor.

Mrs Checkley  
UCAS Co-ordinator