



October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Post-16 Options

This is a very important year for our Year 11 students. Not only are they preparing for their GCSE exams and BTEC assessments next summer, but they are also making decisions about their choice of post-16 pathway. At Ark Helenswood we realise that making good informed decisions at this stage is critical for future success and fulfilment. Consequently, we are writing to inform you of the guidance we will be giving to your daughter to support them with this transition.

We have introduced the process and the support available to students during assemblies and are ensuring that all our Year 11 students complete a UCAS Progress post-16 application (<http://www.ucas.com/progress>). This is an on-line process, which is now being used nationally and by all local post-16 providers.

All Year 11 students will need to use it to select their college and courses, even if their only intention is to apply for Ark Sixth form. We believe that such a process helps to prepare students for future applications and ensures that they take some time to consider their post-16 options. The deadline for completing all applications is the 31st December 2016. During term 1 and 2 tutors will be supporting students with this process.

Students are required to complete a personal statement and justify the reasons for their post-16 choices. They will all be given a prompt sheet to assist them with producing their statement, as it is traditionally an area that many students find challenging. The Academy will add predicted grades and attendance figures, together with a reference from your daughter's tutor. For those students who are seeking an alternative pathway we will be arranging assemblies for apprenticeship information.

Your daughter will also be receiving a 30 minute individual careers appointment with a specialist careers advisor in school to help their decision-making process. Following this appointment they will be given an action plan summary to assist in their knowledge of options available and decision-making process.

If you have any further questions regarding post-16 transition please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's form tutor.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Walker
Head of Year 11

Attached: College Open evenings 2016



PRINCIPAL: Tracy Dohel