



Weekly Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students, Parents and Carers Thursday 7 May 2020

A slightly earlier bulletin this week as we head into the Bank Holiday weekend. At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear on Sunday from the Prime Minister about any steps that might be taken to ease the current situation and perhaps some direction as to how schools might begin to reopen. We will plan for any new development but, at the moment, are planning that lessons for students in Year 12 will have a few more interactive elements from half term onwards, if we are still studying and learning remotely. We hope that this will help with more structure and that you enjoy hearing the sound of our voices again! More detail will follow in due course, but you may find your teachers are experimenting with some recorded elements and chats on Teams over the next couple of weeks as we begin to find our way around the technology.

Grading Arrangements for Vocational Courses – Year 12 and Year 13

A national consultation has been carried out about grading arrangements for vocational courses, which finishes at the end of this week. The process for both Year 12 and Year 13 students' grades is likely to be similar to that taken with A Level, with the exam boards asking for calculated grades from schools for any incomplete elements and cancelled exams, but using the marks and grades for any completed elements to assist them in awarding a grade. We will confirm the details of this process once they are announced after the consultation has closed.

Tutor Emails

Please do make sure you are replying to your fortnightly tutor emails; these are part of our duty of care to students and we must follow up if we do not hear from you.

Unifrog – Planning for the Future

It has been great to see so many students sign up to Unifrog this week and begin to make use of the resources. This is optional (although recommended) for Year 13 students who haven't finalised their plans yet, but all Year 12 students **must** ensure they activate their accounts this week. Reminders will be sent on Monday. Despite the name, Unifrog is not limited to university applications only, but provides a great deal of careers information and support and live information about apprenticeships.

We will now be setting tasks for Year 12 students to complete each week on Unifrog via Edulink. These will also be seen on the Unifrog platform as well.

Preparing for Independent Living

What is the price of a pint of milk? How often will you wash your sheets once you move out of home?

This term's Personal Development programme focuses on planning ahead and next steps, and we would have been using some of the Leapskills resources to help Year 12 students think about some of the practicalities and challenges of living independently for the first time. Leapskills have adapted these resources now to encourage parents and carers to cover the same discussions with students and we recommend that Year 12 use these to help them think about living independently and its challenges. Year 13 students may well also find these discussions helpful and the resources to support this are attached to this email.

Employer Encounters

Many students would normally have been planning and seeking work experience to develop their understanding in their chosen fields, or to help them decide on their future plans, at this time. Unifrog offers employer encounters through videos on their platform, and Mrs Cure our independent careers adviser has let us know about the following weekly opportunities to hear about different careers:

Careers and Coffee offers weekly insights into a range of careers. They will be interviewing a judge, chief executive, and many more professionals about their jobs and career path.

These will take place every Tuesday and Thursday at 12.30pm and are well worth watching.

They will all be posted on the New Anglia Local Enterprise YouTube channel. For a brief introduction, follow the link:

[https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6662008998415478785/?commentUrn=urn%3Ali%3Acomment%3A\(uqcPost%3A6662008997664698369%2C6662030498719764480\)](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6662008998415478785/?commentUrn=urn%3Ali%3Acomment%3A(uqcPost%3A6662008997664698369%2C6662030498719764480))

Student Finance – Year 13

In a number of the previous bulletins, we have included reminders to Year 13 students about registering for student finance this year. We have received the message below from ARU and hope that it is a generic one not particularly related to our students, but just in case, here is another reminder about student finance:

We are currently contacting applicants to ARU and, during this activity, several students have been unaware of the need to apply for Student Finance. With the Student Finance deadline of the 22nd May fast approaching, we wanted to send an email reminder and we would be happy for you to share this email and student finance video with your Year 13 students.

Our video can be found using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tI8Qb8qSoQ>

This advice is relevant to all students, regardless of which university they have applied to. We are not able to track which students have applied for finance, so please do ensure you make the application if this applies to you.

UCAS and offers – Year 13

A reminder about replying to offers: the deadline has been extended so students who have received all their offers by 4 June must now reply by 18 June – don't miss this deadline!

This weekend, with the Bank Holiday on a Friday, was due to mark the national celebration of VE Day and the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Those celebrations will be very different now than planned, and inevitably much quieter. Nonetheless, we do hope that you and your families have the chance for a restful break over the weekend and we look forward to seeing you all as soon as we can.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Townsend
Assistant Headteacher – KS5