



15 March 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian, and Student,

Keeping up with post Year 11 applications and securing back-up options

We have put together some highly recommended actions. Please read our top tips **BELOW** to help you / your young person prepare for life after Year 11 and avoid disappointment/potential challenges on GCSE Results Day:

1) **If not already done, apply to more than one place / for more than one option. From our experience having back-up options is important -**

- Opportunities/options can fall through.
- Preferences can change.
- Unexpected events can happen on exam days that may mean you do not achieve the grades you expected (they may be higher or lower).
- If you have not applied - finding/securing alternative options on GCSE Results Day is more challenging. You may not be able to choose your first choice of course - applying NOW means you can choose!

2) **Apply for back-up options that have different entry requirements – for example:**

- If you've applied to sixth form/s to study A-Levels - apply to a college for another course (e.g. a BTEC at Level 2 or 3).
- If you've applied for an apprenticeship that requires certain grades – apply to college for courses with lower grade boundaries (e.g. Level 1 or 2).
- ***If students have applied for one level of course (e.g. Foundation, Level 1, 2 or 3) at college - most colleges will move students to the correct level of course on GCSE Results Day – as per their GCSE grades.***

Please note –

- BTEC / some T-Level courses may require lower grades than A-Levels – please do not infer this means the qualification is less valuable / is viewed less highly – this is a common misconception. Students can go on to have highly successful careers having gained qualifications over than A-Levels. We can provide some wonderful examples of this! The key is for students to study the best style of course for *them*.



3) Keep up with correspondence from sixth forms / colleges / employers (apprenticeships) until GCSE Results Day and beyond - ENSURE YOU COMPLETE actions required - for example:

- **Keep up** with emails, phone calls, and letters – for example:
- **Send** a copy of your latest school report/grades, if requested.
- **Arrange** interviews - by phone / in-person, as required.
- **Book and attend** 'Meet the Teacher' events (Activate Learning - e.g. Reading, Bracknell & Wokingham, City of Oxford, etc. - these take the place of interviews)
- **Send** other information / details - as required.
- **Complete required actions** until GCSE RESULTS DAY - you can then confirm the option you would like/need to take!
- **Confirm and decline places** on GCSE Results Day.
- **Avoid missing out on a place because you didn't follow through with your applications.**

Remember - you can gain some great information and advice via **UNIFROG** – www.unifrog.org - see the 'Know how Library' – e.g. type 'Revision' in the search bar for top tips or explore other tools on your homepage.

Going forward, please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it – I can be reached by email at a.finlason@maidenerleghtrust.org , alternatively, approach Heads of Year, and places you have applied directly.

Students - we wish you every best wish in your upcoming exams, with your next steps after Year 11, and for a very bright future!

With many thanks.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Finlason
Trust Careers Adviser



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