

24th April 2020

Dear Year 13 Students

I hope you are well and managing despite the challenging circumstances.

As you are all aware, your grades this year will be awarded by your school based on data that has already been collected in combination with prediction grades. They will look exactly the same, and have equal status, as those awarded in previous years. Earlier this week the Government confirmed that A-level results day will be on Thursday 13th August.

No matter your chosen pathway beyond Sixth Form, try to use this time effectively and create a routine for yourself. Ensure you are exercising, eating well and are getting a good night's sleep (although try not to oversleep as it can make you feel lethargic). Create a list of things you hope to achieve each day and tick off each item as you meet it. If you are unhappy with the amount of progress you are making, commit to doing more the next day. Stay in regular contact with your friends, arrange times when you can go over subject material together and create small quizzes for each other.

It is vital for you to stay cognitively engaged over the next few weeks. This is an opportunity to read widely, developing your knowledge of those 'must reads' that are so often referred to (Reading List attached). Many Universities and online learning platforms are currently offering free courses, giving you access to higher level materials and lectures across a range of subjects. We have collated these in the attached document. We hope that you will find these an exciting opportunity for independent learning, enhancing your knowledge of your chosen subject or developing your breadth of knowledge and understanding in other areas.

Please see below some advice and guidance tailored to your chosen pathway:

University applicants

Many of you have already made your firm and conditional choices and are now waiting to see what grade you will be awarded. Others are still to make their choices - the deadline for you to do this would have been communicated to you in 'Track'. Universities and colleges are still running virtual open days on www.ucas.com and you also have the chance to speak to current undergraduates through 'Unibuddy', a portal from ucas.com which puts you in touch with those who have already experienced student life and the courses you are applying for.

It is important that you keep studying. The transition from A-Level courses to University learning is a significant one and the breadth and depth of material you will be expected to be familiar with will be challenging. University lecturers will expect you to be prepared and ready to learn at pace.

Non-University applicants

Please continue to search for apprenticeship opportunities and apply for all positions as they become available. Use the resources given to you by Mrs Brake in your earlier sessions with her and use ucas.com, which has very good advice under the 'alternatives' tab and also under the 'careers' tab. I also recommend that you keep an eye out for temporary positions in a broad range of fields of employment.

It is not too late for apprenticeship students to apply to universities, however please think long and hard before doing so. Attending university is a significant financial undertaking and you should not consider going unless you have found a course you are enthusiastic about and are completely committed to. You have until 30th June to apply and whilst some courses may be full already, there may be some spaces available on others. Please give this very careful consideration before deciding upon this and contact me if you choose to pursue this option.

In the meantime, all students should ensure all coursework is up-to-date and submitted to teachers as soon as possible.

If you need further advice, please contact me on: pfitcher@raynespark.merton.sch.uk or Mrs Brake b.brake@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Stay safe and keep well.

Best Wishes

P Fitcher

Mr P Fitcher
Head of Sixth Form