

## Sixth Form Careers and University Entrance

Careers work begins in the Autumn Term of the Lower Sixth. With AS work well under way, pupils are encouraged to take the Centigrade test operated by Cambridge Occupational Analysts. This builds on the tests taken in Year 11 and helps pupils to focus on specific degree or HND courses that will prepare them for the career interests they have begun to identify. Each pupil is given a follow-up interview either with his or her tutor or with a member of staff whose professional training matches the pupil's aspirations as closely as possible.

In February all Lower Sixth have the opportunity to visit Exeter University for the day. This is followed in March by a visit to a UCAS convention day at the University of Bath. Here they are able to talk to admissions tutors from many universities and find out more about the course they are becoming interested in. Pupils who are aiming for Oxford and Cambridge are encouraged to go on a preliminary visit and other pupils may visit a maximum of two universities as the numerous Open Days become publicised.

At the start of the Summer Term, parents are invited to an evening presentation on aspects of Higher Education with an outside speaker from a local university. In the Autumn Term of the Upper Sixth all pupils will take part in an Interview Skills day where they will be captured on video for their benefit. This always proves to be a very useful exercise.

### Information on UCAS "Apply" (Online Application System)

The Lower Sixth will be introduced to the University application process in the summer term. In September and October the Upper Sixth complete their applications. All applications from the school are made online, it is simpler to complete for the pupils, makes it easier to correct errors and can be processed by the school and UCAS much more quickly. Pupils should discuss their choices with their parents, with their tutor, with Mrs Denning (i/c Careers) and with Mr Chew (i/c UCAS Applications).

Pupils interested in joining the Armed Forces will have ample opportunity to further their knowledge. Army, Navy and Air Force representatives come to school regularly and there are many open days and visits that pupils can benefit from.



# CAREERS

A small minority of pupils choose not to go on to Higher Education and for those pupils our links with the Dorset Connexions organisation are invaluable. They offer individual interviews and appropriate advice for alternative qualifications.

A Gap year between school and university has become increasingly popular with many Sixth Formers over the last few years and is widely endorsed by university departments. There are many exciting opportunities to take advantage of and applications should be made during the second half of the Lower Sixth year, as competition for places on the more popular schemes is fierce. In the last few years Clayesmore pupils have gone to places such as Borneo, California and Mongolia to work on conservation projects, to the Rockies to train to become ski instructors or to Nepal to teach English.

Our aim is to enable every Clayesmore pupil to find an enjoyable and fulfilling career in whichever area his or her interest lies.

For more information contact the careers department by e~mail at [mdenning@clayesmore.com](mailto:mdenning@clayesmore.com)



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