



Year 13 Sixth Form Bulletin

1st May 2020

Welcome to the first Plymstock Sixth Form bulletin. We hope you are all keeping well at home and not missing school too much. However much it may pain me to say this, I am missing you all and am looking forward to seeing you all again whenever that may be!

Below is a summary of some of the information that you may have already seen. Please make sure you are checking your emails regularly as you are being sent important information!

Results

As you may have seen, the results day for you has been set at Thursday 13th August – the original date planned, and not sooner as they had hoped and mentioned earlier!

When we know how your results will be issued we will let you know. We are hopeful that we will be able to have a relatively 'normal' results morning on this day, all be it at a safe distance!

Both myself and Beckie will be available that day, either in person or via telephone to help support you on that day if needed.

From Ofqual: We recognise that some students may feel disappointed that they haven't been able to complete their assessments. If you do not feel your calculated grades reflect your expected performance, you will have the opportunity to appeal or you may choose to sit your assessments at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If you do this, you should be aware that taking your assessments later may impact you progressing to university in September as planned.

Therefore, some of you may still wish to complete work and revision to prepare for exams when they are available. Many Universities are allowing offers to be carried forward to September 2021 if students chose to retake their exams.



RESULTS
DAY

Next Steps

For those of you that have applied for University, please see highlights of a statement from them to schools.

'The Government has asked universities and colleges to temporarily stop making unconditional offers to students who are yet to receive their results.

UCAS has made the decision to make further changes to upcoming deadlines, giving students more time to make decisions on their offers.

*There is now only one undergraduate decision deadline for applicants who have received all of their decisions from universities and colleges by 4 June. They will need to reply to any offers by **6.00pm on 18 June**.*

Applicants who have been affected by this change have been emailed them to let them know and UCAS will be updating their deadline in Track.

It's important that students understand the different types of offers, and make the right decision for their future. Given the current circumstances, we know for some that this decision may be harder than expected. The following resources available are online to help:

University and college virtual open days on ucas.com.

The chance to speak to current undergraduates through Unibuddy on ucas.com – those who have already experienced student life and the courses your students are applying for.

For those who need it, please be reassured that Clearing will be available as planned on 6 July.'

Beckie has emphasised the importance of checking UCAS track as it will have the date you need to reply by stated on there. If you need any help or guidance Beckie is happy to answer any questions by email or telephone.

There is some useful information on the UCAS Website that may answer some of your questions: <https://www.ucas.com/coronavirus>

Student Finance

Beckie delivered a Student Finance assembly before lockdown. This powerpoint is in the Learning and Teaching area in the Post 16 folder under Student Finance and on the school website <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/sixth-form/>. The deadline for Student Finance is still **31st May 2020**. You don't need to have made your firm and insurance choices before making your application you can just put in what you are currently considering your first choice to be. Do not miss the deadline – you run the risk of starting university without your funding in place if you do.

Careers

You still have access to Unifrog so if you are looking at future careers or some different ideas you can continue to use this.

Well Being

During these unsettled times, our own mental health can be something that is difficult to manage and something we all need to be aware of. Under the Distance Learning section of the school website there is a Mental Health and Safeguarding section where there are lots of resources and information about support available that you may find useful. <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/distance-learning/> This is being updated weekly by Beckie so keep checking for new resources and information.



Express EPQ

In light of the current situation Pearson have launched an Express EPQ. You have all been sent information from Beckie about the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Well done to those of you that have responded and already started work on this. If any of you didn't take up this opportunity and now think you would like to undertake it or want more information you can still get involved just email Beckie and she will give you more information.

Other Activities

I know many of you have been volunteering to help during the COVID-19 period, and many of you have been working during this time too (a recent visit to Morrisons showed me this)! If you are struggling to fill your time at the moment, make the most of it by trying to learn new skills – cooking and cleaning are always useful skills to develop, and may be appreciated at home too. I myself have baked some bread and scones in between doing my work!

Further ideas of things you could do have been put together by Ms Evans:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/distance-learning-enrichment-activities/>. I particularly like the BSL course, and am hoping to complete this myself soon. Some of these activities and free online courses available can look good on your CV too.

There are some websites below that offer free courses and webinars that will either enhance your learning or enable you to learn something new.

<https://www.channeltalent.co.uk/>

<https://amazon.firetechcamp.com/python/>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

<https://www.edx.org/course>

Please let us know if you are learning a new skill or continuing with an existing hobby to pass the time– it is lovely to hear from you!

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