



Our Ref: ARE/Y12CIAG

5th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 12 - Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) Update

We are now nearly two terms into the academic year and year 12 students will shortly embark on internal assessments that will help them to gauge where they are placed in their learning journey. It is worth remembering that all this hard work is for a very particular reason, to gain the best possible outcome from sixth form and move on to the beginning of their chosen career path.

Whether they choose to apply to university, take up an apprenticeship or move directly into employment, we would like to feel that they select the pathway that is right for them. With that in mind, the summer term of year 12 will include many opportunities for them to gain information and guidance about future options and how to build experiences and skills to enhance their applications.

University of Essex Taster Week

25th - 28th March

The last week before the Easter break we will be taking advantage of events organised by the University of Essex to give students insight and experience of what it is like to study subjects at a higher level. We have secured places and transport to a number of these events across the week, covering a variety of subject areas such as philosophy, social sciences, business and life sciences, and have given students the opportunity to sign-up for one event that interests them. Please encourage them to explore the choices, there is no cost for attending any of these days.

UCAS Hub

Through the college mentoring programme, we will be introducing students to the UCAS system and supporting them with signing up to this resource. [UCAS](#) is a huge source of information, not just about universities, but also about careers in general, making informed choices and learning about options. During the summer term we will be expanding on this with a programme of activities during mentoring time to help students explore choices and research opportunities.

Pathways Week

Tuesday June 13th - Friday June 16th

The culmination of careers exploration in year 12 is our annual Pathways Week held in June. Timed to coincide with the [UCAS Discovery Exhibition](#) at The University of Essex (you do not need to book this as we have done this on behalf of our students) and building on information provided through mentoring, the week will include workshop sessions on university, apprenticeship, communication

Sigma Sixth Tendring, Tendring Education Centre, Jaywick Lane,
Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 8BE
Tel: 01255 424266 Email: sixthform@cchs.school

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Registered Office: Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6DZ

skills and interview skills. Students will have the opportunity to meet and chat with some of Sigma Sixth and CCHS alumni to hear their stories and career advice. There will also be follow up sessions on researching options, writing personal statements and cover letters and financial literacy.

The biggest challenge of the week comes when all students will take part in a mock interview. We invite visitors from a variety of employment sectors and higher education providers to interview the students from a 'strangers' point of view and make it as real as possible. Students are encouraged to treat the experience in the same way as a real interview, dressing and behaving appropriately, and may even find themselves the winner of the 'You're Hired' competition.

The week is compulsory for all year 12 students, however, I would ask you to place these dates in the diary and to discuss the benefits with your child beforehand. The amount of information and the experiences within the week will be invaluable to them over the coming year and beyond and it promises to be a very rewarding week.

Extra/Super Curricular Activities

While we would be the first to say that our students are amazing and outstanding individuals, we continue to encourage them to pursue activities and experiences that will enhance any future application and help them to grow as a person. Not only this, but taking part in extra or super curricular activities can provide a welcome break from the demands of their studies, while developing essential transferable skills for the future.

Another way to prepare for the year ahead is to be thinking about visiting universities and attending [open days](#). Getting a feel for university life and touring a campus can help considerably with the decision as to whether this is the right choice for them.

Many students already take part in a wide range of hobbies and interests, but it is worth considering now whether arranging something special for the summer would be both of benefit to them and their future brand.

Sadly, many summer schools are wildly expensive, but volunteering and work experience does not have to cost anything. Our work experience coordinator, Mrs Settle, has contact with a great many employers and organisations in the local area, online and virtual work experience and [volunteering opportunities](#).

Ongoing support

Outside of the activities planned, we continue to be available to students and parents to support in making the right choices. If, as a parent/carer, you would like to discuss any aspect of applications or options, please contact us on 01255 424266 or sixthform@cchs.school

Mandi Read

Careers Adviser &

KS5 Pastoral Manager: [Careers & Destinations](#)

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