

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the end of the strangest school year we have all ever known, I feel tremendous pride and admiration for our Year 13s. As a year group, they have managed the many extreme challenges that the Coronavirus Pandemic has presented, with maturity and resilience. Following school closure, I know many students have worked in warehouses and supermarkets as keyworkers. Some students have had to shield during the past few months and many have volunteered during this unprecedented time, showing compassion and care for others.

In Sixth Form, we have evolved very quickly, teaching via Microsoft Teams and relying on technology rather than face-to-face interaction. We did have Year 12 students in College for our 'Post-Sixth Form' and UCAS sessions and it was wonderful to see them, even with very small classes, antiseptic handwash stations and social distancing! We have made two new staff appointments: Miss Cheshire is now 'Deputy Director of Sixth Form' and Mr Brownley is now 'Sixth Form Student Development Lead.' We have also appointed new Head Students and are very grateful to former Head Students: Katy, Tara, Rosie and Tom who met with them (virtually) this week, to share valuable tips and advice. We are very excited about our new team, with many plans for the years ahead.

You will have received the email recently from Mr Martin regarding Results Day and we look forward to seeing our Year 13 students then, albeit in rather different circumstances. Although College and university life will be different in the new academic year, we have all undoubtedly learned to become adaptable and react to an ever-evolving 'new normal.' I hope you have a safe and restful summer and we will see many of our students in College on **Thursday, August 13th**.

Mrs McMillan

RESULTS DAY

We believe that this is still an important day and hope that many students will want to collect their results from school. To make sure that the results are given out and teachers are able to support and advise students whilst maintaining social distancing, the day will run as follows:

- A minority of students will need support with the Clearing process and can attend school from 8:00am.
- For the majority of students, results will be released in Tutor Groups with a 15-minute slot allocated to each group

JS	HN	JM	JB	BV	BC	MP	VB	EG
9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30

- Students will collect their results from the Hall, in order to maintain social distancing, we politely request that parents wait in the car park and not enter the school building.
- A small team of staff will be available to support and advise students, unfortunately face to face contact with parents will not be possible although we will be available to answer phone calls in the afternoon.
- Students will be asked to complete an Exit Card so that we know the next steps for each member of the year group and can follow up where support is needed.
- If you cannot, or do not want to attend results day, please contact the Exams Officer by phone or email (contact@tarporleyhigh.co.uk) so that you can provide an email address for results to be sent to.

CLEARING

Clearing is the process where students who are unplaced or unhappy with their university place, can search for alternatives. Clearing is now open and over 30,000 courses currently have vacancies. It is worth checking Clearing regularly – from now and on results day – as new courses will appear and disappear as students' choices change. There are very useful videos here which inform you about the Clearing process and they are well worth watching:

- **UCAS hub** - <https://www.ucas.com/events/2020-entry-clearing-opens-348886>
- **FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/ucasonline/videos/587204108890914/>

To be eligible for Clearing you cannot be holding any offers so you need to be released from your university in order to study elsewhere. If any students find themselves in Clearing, or choose to search for alternative universities, they will receive a 6 digit clearing number and need to use this alongside their 10 digit UCAS personal ID number - 20,000 students 'self-released' last year after changing their minds. It is very important that students do not 'self-release' until they are certain they have a place. You cannot undo clearing, so if you lose a university place you will have to re-apply. For more information about the exam results process and Clearing, visit the dedicated Confirmation and Clearing section on [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com):

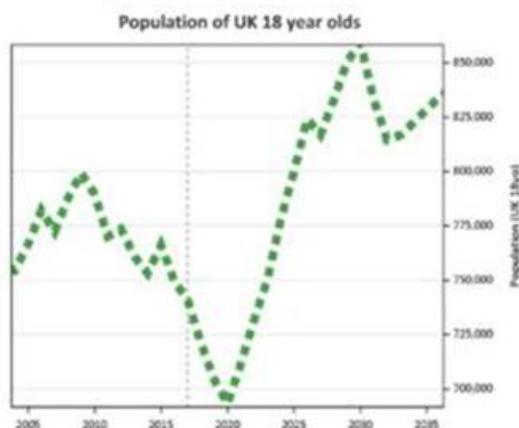
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

For the first time, students can also use Clearing Plus, a new system for 2020. This enables students to view a personalised list of courses they've been matched to in Track – alongside the UCAS search tool. They can easily send an expression of interest to a university or college who may then contact them to discuss offers. This sounds a very helpful way to avoid laborious manual searches, however students should still ring universities on the day. Universities will be ready to talk to students and verbal offers will be made over the phone. Of course, help will be available in College on the day.

The best advice is: do your research. Ring universities and be pro-active. Make fully informed decisions.

On a positive note, it is likely that International students will be smaller in number this year, there could be an increased number of deferred entries and universities are being urged to be 'as flexible as possible.' According to this slide from a UCAS webinar, the population of 18 year olds is very low in 2020 and it shoots up after this date, so 'there was never a better time to apply for Higher Education.' Hopefully, our students will be happy with their results and placements in summer.

2020: "There was never be a better time to apply to HE"



2020

Around **1/3** of UK 18 year olds enter HE each year.

UK 18 year olds make up around **45%** of HE entrants each year.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID 19

This is a difficult time for apprentices, employers and providers of apprenticeship training, assessment and external assurance. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responding by taking steps to ensure that, wherever possible, apprentices can continue and complete their apprenticeship, despite any break they need to take as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), and to support providers during this challenging time.

This document sets out guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19). It outlines the changes that the Education and Skills Funding Agency is making to the apprenticeship programme during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: [full article](#)

YOUTH FED PROGRAMME

Due to the difficulties and uncertainties of the current situation, the Duke of Westminster has put some money into a project to ensure that **Yr13 students who are leaving without a positive destination** have the support, information, advice, and guidance they need to make the right next step. Youthfed will be delivering the programme, which will be supported by two mentors (to which the young people will be case loaded) and a mental health officer to help to overcome any mild mental health issues that may be present.

There is a bit of funding available to pay for support (the specifics of which are still being finalised) and the Pledge will be involved in recruiting businesses to get involved and offer placements and other opportunities. This offer is only available to schools and colleges in Ellesmere Port and the Chester area.

If any students are interested, please fill in the attached form and email it to Natalie Garstang, whose email is on the form. None of this is mandatory, and the form is only the first step. The programme will run for 12 months, during which the young people will be progressed by their mentor.

To all parents and students at the end of a stressful year and at the end of our Tarporley Sixth Form journey: we hope you have a wonderful summer. Please stay safe and I hope you manage to travel somewhere in these strange times.

Our journey together was cut short, but we hope to have some kind of gathering and celebration with the year group in September. We would like to wish you all best wishes and good luck.

