

25th September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

POST-16 CHOICES

During the next few months Year 11 students will start to consider their future career options and will be making choices about their education after Year 11. We would like to assure you that we will support your child throughout this process by providing relevant information, advice and guidance. This will include a Post-16 careers talk explaining the different options available after GCSEs as well as a Post-16 Options Evening for parents and students.

POST-16 OPTIONS EVENING: WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2017 AT 6.00PM

Our annual Post-16 Options Evening is a very important part of the post-16 decision process and allows you and your child to consider the wide range of subject options on offer in the Sixth Form, as well as providing an opportunity for you to discuss suitability for these courses.

Many students choose to continue their education at Mascalls Academy and may already feel confident about their decisions, but it is important that Year 11 students attend even if they seem sure about their direction post-16, as there may be routes they are yet to consider.

In addition to the subjects that have been offered at GCSE, there are many additional courses available in Sixth Form which students might like to find out about, such as Psychology, Sociology, Performing Arts, Business, Media and Film Studies. There are also a number of vocational options available. Departments will hand out leaflets giving more information about the subject, the syllabus and how it is assessed, in order to help students make informed choices.

The evening will commence promptly at 6.00pm in A-Hall with short presentations from both Mr Barnett and Miss Shaw-Kew, giving details of the application process and other aspects of Sixth Form life. We would expect the evening to end no later than 8.00pm.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2018/19

Kent students are required to use the online application process via www.ucasprogress.com for many Post-16 course providers, including schools and colleges. You and your child will be sent a letter from Kent County Council explaining the process but it is recommended that applications are not made until students have received guidance and training from school on how to use the system and the process involved.

After the Post-16 Options Evening, students wishing to apply to Mascalls must complete their application on-line via www.ucasprogress.com by **Friday, 15th December 2017**. Any student wishing to apply to other institutions should do so via www.ucasprogress.com or directly if this is an option, and should check individual closing dates for applications with the institutions concerned.

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All students applying to Sixth Form should have a back-up plan and would therefore be expected to make at least two applications to different institutions.

We hope that you are able to attend this information evening in order to help support your child in making decisions about this very important next stage of education, and we would be grateful if you could email Michelle Preston, Sixth Form Support Assistant (michelle.preston@mascallsacademy.org.uk) to confirm your attendance no later than **Wednesday, 4th October**.

WEST KENT SKILLS FESTIVAL: TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2017

All Year 11 students have an opportunity to attend the West Kent Skills Festival at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, and you will have received a separate letter regarding this careers event. It is recommended that students attend as there will be a diverse range of employers, colleges, universities, training and apprenticeship providers. Please return your consent form and money to Mrs Bayliss, Careers and Business Links Manager, by **Friday, 29th September**.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Students attending Mascalls Academy will receive on-going careers support, advice and guidance and have access to career interviews and resources.

Students are encouraged to talk to us or their Advisors regarding their future studies. If you would like more information regarding Sixth Form studies please contact Miss Shaw-Kew or Miss Entacott.

If you would like more information regarding careers (including arranging a careers interview), further education or the West Kent Skills Festival please contact Mrs Bayliss by email (lynn.bayliss@mascallsacademy.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,

C. Shaw-Kew

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