



Mr P A Wood
Head of Sixth Form
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Dear Parent,

LOWER SIXTH TO UPPER SIXTH

As students begin to look forward to the summer break they will also be considering their options for when they leave Ellesmere. Most progress to higher education and probably will already have some thoughts in mind. We want our candidates to be ambitious, but they also need to be realistic. Universities make offers on predicted grades (supported by academic record, Personal Statement and College reference).

The desirability of attending Open Days this term (not next) has been stressed, together with the need for some courses to show evidence of positive commitment or relevant work experience. The opportunity to have completed an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will benefit individuals as it helps demonstrate research skills and independent learning.

You may like to be reminded that there is a designated Parents' section on the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents. All aspects of the application process are covered. Ellesmere College now makes use of Unifrog – a website search engine. Students are already familiar with the details. They will also have a presentation specifically on how to write an effective Personal Statement.

Funding for higher education has seen significant changes in the last few years. Latest details and advice on student loans can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Key dates to bear in mind are as follows:

September 2019:	First date for receipt of applications by UCAS (candidates are allowed up to five choices).
15th October 2019:	Closing date for application to courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, also for Oxford or Cambridge.
15th January 2020:	Normal closing date for all applications.
Early July 2020:	Publication of International Baccalaureate results.
Mid-August 2020:	Publication of A Level results.

(Cont.d)



Early application is always well advised and we want to ensure that all our candidates are in the best possible position to make the right decisions. Ideally, candidates should be aiming to submit applications by the beginning of October (and certainly by half term). Those who are considering a GAP year may well want to apply for deferred entry giving some indication to universities what their plans might include.

Housemasters, Tutors and the Careers Team at Ellesmere College are all available to give advice – to students and to parents. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you think we can help.

As this is my final term at Ellesmere, before retirement, I would also like to pass on my every good wish to Dr Tom Gareh who will be taking over as Head of Sixth Form.

With best wishes for the rest of term and summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

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