



1536



1701

# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: [info@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Re: 'Beyond 18' Transition Activities

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Firstly, thank you once again for all your support over the past academic year.

Although your son/daughter is no longer attending school, we want to do all we can to continue to support them educationally. In the past 15 months they have missed significant time from school and we are conscious that we need to do all we can to support the transition to the next stage of their education; whether that is university or the world of work.

In many cases, your son/daughter now has a long, and we hope, enjoyable summer ahead before they commence either employment or study at university. In the interim we are signposting a range of activities that your son/daughter could engage with over the coming months to support their 'Beyond 18' transition.

For all students:

- [Virtual Work Experience](#) - unfortunately, with all the COVID restrictions of the past 15 months, many students haven't been able to engage in meaningful work experience. We recommend that your son/daughter continues to look for 'virtual' opportunities in order to broaden their skills. Mrs King (Head of Careers) has shared these opportunities with students consistently this year.
- The [National Careers Service](#) has launched its free e-learning programme referred to as 'The Skills Toolkit'. This excellent resource includes 70 free courses to help your son/daughter learn new skills. Some courses include generic skills that apply to all sectors whereas others specialise in more bespoke skills:
  - Practical Maths – 2 courses on offer
  - Computer Essentials – 6 courses on offer
  - Personal Growth and Wellbeing – 2 courses on offer
  - Professional Development – 12 courses on offer
  - Business and Finance – 9 courses on offer
  - Digital Design and Marketing – 7 courses on offer
  - Computer Science – 19 courses on offer
  - Coding – 9 courses on offer

During Year 12 and 13, we recommend that every student complete at least one MOOC (Massive Online Open Learning Course). MOOCs offer courses without the need to complete an entire programme of studies and are becoming increasingly popular. They offer a large number of students the opportunity to study high quality courses online with prestigious universities, often at no cost. They are ideal for independent study and users can select courses from any institution offering them. Video-based, they offer interaction either



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through peer review and group collaboration or automated feedback through objective, online assessments (including quizzes and exams). Your son/daughter may therefore be proactive and sign up for a MOOC if they are yet to complete one. 'FutureLearn' courses are the most widely utilised ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)). Most (not every) course is free and for many you are only required to pay if you wish to download the certificate (which you do not need to!) Other possible MOOCs are:

- [Coursera](#) features 500+ courses, from more than 100 partners worldwide, including Duke University in the US.
- [Udemy](#) offers free and paid-for courses, many from non-academic instructors.
- [Udacity](#) focuses on free courses, categorised into beginner, intermediate and advanced-level. Students may also enrol in a number of paid-for courses in order to gain California State University system credits.
- [EdX](#) is a not-for-profit provider, created by Harvard and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) universities. Today partners include the Australian National University, TU Delft (the Netherlands), and Rice, Berkeley and Georgetown universities in the US. EdX also offers ID verified certificates of achievement, for a minimum fee.
- [MOOEC](#), launched in November 2013, offers free courses and lessons in English supported by Pier online, the University of Queensland ITCE, Griffith University GELI, Queensland University of Technology, Goldcoast TAFE and many non-government providers. The courses offer English language learning all levels.

If you son/daughter is intending to continue with academic study at university, then we recommend the following:

- [Suggested Super-Curricular Activities](#): This superb resource, directly from the University of Cambridge, is a list of suggested subject-specific activities to assist students in their transition to 30 different undergraduate courses.
- [Careers and Employability](#): This resource includes an exploration of modern graduate careers, with real-life examples, and what skills pupils can develop to boost their employability. There are links to several Google Drive documents in the notes of the relevant slides.
- [Academic Study Skills Course](#): Queen Mary: The University of London offer students a free academic study skills course which students can sign up to. The course teaches student how to become highly competent in the key skills needed for university.
- [Transitioning to university](#): Your son/daughter's first year at University brings lots of changes, as well as exciting opportunities. This course will help you understand and prepare for your first few weeks at university, by delving deeper into the differences between school and university, and explaining some of the support services available.
- [Preparing for university](#): This MOOC from the University of East Anglia covers an introduction to the key skills yours son/daughter will need for their studies at university, helping them to get ahead before they start their course.

We also suggesting that students could take some time to engage with their new degree courses on a wider level. There is a series of excellent video lectures by Gresham College – [click here](#)



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We will write to you shortly with more information regarding the process for collection of A Level results in August and the various options students have on that day.

It has been a pleasure to work with your son/daughter over the past few years and we wish them all the best for a great summer!

Yours sincerely

Mr R Bell  
Deputy Head & Director of 6th Form

Mrs J Marshall  
Head of Year 13