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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

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Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Re: University Applicants

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

If your son/daughter has applied to study at university in the Autumn, I felt it was important to provide you with a brief update.

UCAS Extra

Today, we have promoted [UCAS Extra](#) to your son/daughter, via the year group Google Classroom. UCAS Extra opens this Friday (25th February) and is a facility for your son/daughter to add an additional university choice:

- If they have dramatically changed their mind about the type of course they wish to pursue
- Have received no offers and wish to apply to one more university

In reality, there are usually only a very small handful of students that this applies to, but I felt it was important you were made aware of this additional application feature. In order to apply for UCAS Extra, your son/daughter would need to 'decline' any current offers that they had received from universities. If your son/daughter is considering UCAS Extra then it is vital that they pop and see me so that I can chat it through with them in person.

Student Finance

Please be aware that early next month, Student Finance applications will open. If your son/daughter is looking to study at university then they will need to apply for finance to access a loan to pay for tuition fees as well as the maintenance costs. We will write to you as soon as we are informed that Student Finance has opened.

Making a 'Firm' and 'Insurance' choice:

Once students have received all their offers/rejections from their institutions they applied to, they need to ensure that they reply to offers by a certain date. This date varies for each student, based on when they received their final offer from an institution, but for most students this will be June. It is important that your son/daughter pays particular attention to their UCAS deadline and replies to all offers by this date. We would encourage students to wait until after Easter before they confirm their decisions with UCAS, so as to make the most informed decision. There are two reasons for this. At this point they will have received their results from the 2nd round of mocks. Secondly, they may wish to use the Easter period to travel to view some universities, in person. However, we understand that some students are already certain of this decision and so may wish to do this as soon as possible. Universities can put pressure on offer holders with regards to accommodation choices, but I would not rush into this critical decision; my experience is that post-Easter decisions will still leave sufficient time with regards to university accommodation choices.

Once students have received all their decisions from universities, they will have three options:



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- Decide which offer they will make their first choice - known as 'firm acceptance'. They can only have one firm acceptance. If they accept an unconditional offer, as their firm acceptance they are agreeing that they will attend the course at that university or college, so they must decline any other offers. If they accept a conditional offer, they are agreeing that they will attend the course at that university or college if they meet the conditions of the offer. In this instance, they can accept another offer as an insurance choice.
- Decide which offer they will make as their backup choice - known as insurance acceptance. Their insurance choice can be conditional or unconditional (depending on what the terms of their unconditional offer are) and acts as a back-up, so if they don't meet the conditions for their firm choice but meet the conditions for their insurance, they will be committed to the insurance choice. They can only have one insurance choice. **It is important that in the majority of cases this insurance offer is of lower grades than their first choice.** Please note that each year students/parents disregard this advice and as a result end up in 'Clearing' in the summer. Around 20 students were in this position last summer.
- Decline - Once they have decided which offer to accept firmly, and which (if any) to accept as an insurance, they must decline all other offers. If a student is in an unfortunate position of not receiving any offers from institutions then they will then be eligible to use UCAS Extra or Clearing, depending on circumstances.

We will be going through all this information in a face to face assembly with your son/daughter after the upcoming mock examination period, on 14th March.

We look forward to supporting your son/daughter in the coming days and weeks; thank you for your support at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Bell
Deputy Headteacher