

Post-16 College Applications – Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent / Carer,

As our Year 11 pupils begin to consider their options for post-16 education, we are supporting them to understand the college application process and to make informed decisions about their next steps.

As part of this support, pupils will be shown a Post-16 College Applications presentation during assembly. This will provide an overview of the key stages involved, including researching suitable courses and colleges, accessing careers guidance, making applications, attending interviews, receiving GCSE results and completing enrolment.

We have also attached a Parent / Carer Help Sheet to this letter. This has been designed to provide a simple reference guide for families and includes useful information about the application process, key contacts and ways in which you can support your young person. The Help Sheet can also be accessed through the Iford Academy school website, alongside the PowerPoint presentation that pupils will be shown during assembly.

We would particularly encourage parents and carers to support young people in developing their independence and confidence in preparation for post-16 education. This includes encouraging them to take responsibility for researching their options, checking and responding to emails, attending college visits and, importantly, planning and practising their journey to college independently. Developing these skills before they leave school will help prepare them for the increased independence expected at college.

Further Information and Communication

As the application process progresses, further correspondence will be sent to parents and carers. This will include important information once JCQ has released the GCSE examination timetable, as this will help pupils and families plan effectively around the examination period.

Pupils' target grades will also be shared with parents and carers in due course. These will provide a useful reference point when discussing progress, aspirations and the courses and grades required for their chosen post-16 pathways.

Iford Academy

Joe Phillips, Principal

Matt Britt, Chief Education Officer

Sir Jon Coles, Interim Chief Executive Officer

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Petersfield Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 6QP

Our Year 11 Parents' Evening in Term 1 will also be an excellent opportunity to discuss any questions or queries you may have about your child's progress, aspirations or post-16 plans. We would encourage you to use this opportunity to speak with teachers and, where appropriate, discuss any concerns or support your child may need as they begin making these important decisions.

Our Careers Advisor, Michelle Bradnam, is also available to provide careers guidance and support pupils as they consider their options.

We hope these resources and the information provided will help you and your child feel informed, supported and prepared as they begin this important next stage.

Yours faithfully,

Chloe Read

Vice Principal

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