

# IDSALL SCHOOL



## Student newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Student,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you and your family have coped through this difficult time. It has certainly been a time to remember and I'm sure that none of us will ever forget it. It feels somewhat unreal to see the way your school year has ended – and how quickly. However, you have proved how resilient you are in coping and finding a way through all the pressures of the changes forced upon you: you should be rightly proud. At this point in time, all of the grades and assessment evidence has been submitted to the exam boards, so it's now over to them to decide your grades.

We are hoping to invite you all back early in September, if possible, to have a final Leavers' Assembly if circumstances improve and allow us to do so. It is unfortunate that you have not been able to celebrate your time in the Sixth Form with the Prom that you had been planning; however, we will continue to work with the Senior Student Team and hope for you to celebrate your time at Idsall. But in the meantime, if you would benefit from a one-to-one call, please email into the school for us to arrange this: you are, and always will be, part of the Idsall family wherever you go on to study or work, and you will always be remembered and welcomed back. We also thought it timely to share some important information and dates with you.

### **A Level exam results day – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

We are pleased to be able to confirm and invite you to collect your results on A level exam results day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Results collection will begin from 8am in the school hall. You are requested to queue and follow the one-way system into the school hall where we will safely manage the flow of students in to collect their results as per social distancing guidelines.

Please remember that UCAS track will also update at 8am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August when the results embargo is lifted. Many of you may wish to check this for the final confirmation decisions from your university choices.

Of course, all this is subject to change if we have further guidance but we will keep you posted.

### **Support for your next steps**

As mentioned already, we would also like to remind you of the ongoing support you can access at school. At the moment, for most concerns we would suggest that your tutors, Mr Sehejpal or Mrs Bettelley would be your first points of contact whether you would like to further discuss university, apprenticeships or employment support. Your form tutors and the Sixth Form team are here to support you through this process as you transition to your next destinations of university, apprenticeships or employment. Please email us ([hsehejpal@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:hsehejpal@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk)) if you have any questions or to arrange one to one support, and we will get back to you. It is obviously an uncertain time for everyone but there is a lot you can do online and lots of support available.

Please continue to check your personal email address for updates from your choices of university and your school emails for opportunities and details that we are sending out to keep you updated whenever possible.

### **University and UCAS support**

Here are some links/reminders that may prove useful to you for your university placements or next steps.

For university students, UCAS will have emailed you but please ensure you have accepted your offers – firm and insurance (or you can leave insurance blank if you wish). Firm should be a higher offer than insurance, as insurance is where you go if you get the grades to get in there but not into your firm. If you don't accept offers, you lose them all!

- Up to 5<sup>th</sup> July, if you do decline all your offers, you can add another choice through UCAS 'extra'.
- After 5<sup>th</sup> July, clearing begins, which kicks in on results day, 13th August, where people without a place get matched to universities that have places. UCAS now do online 'self-release' where you can get out of your firm and go into clearing if you wish to trade up.

Useful link if you are trying to make final decisions/wondering about changing your plans:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

### **Apprenticeships and employment support**

For those of you who are looking at apprenticeships and employment, you might be feeling a touch uncertain about what to expect next year. Do try to remember that there are many exciting opportunities for you to look forward to as well. Being proactive and looking at your future options through one to one work with either your tutor or the Sixth Form team really is a great way to stay motivated, be fully supported and up to date with the latest information. You also still have access to the Unifrog destinations platform and where you can log in and access support in your apprenticeship search.

Link to government search website for apprenticeships:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

Link to Unifrog search website for apprenticeships tool:

<https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/how-to-apply-for-an-apprenticeship>

As we recover from the impact of coronavirus, funds are being made available via the Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Fund for small and medium sized businesses. Hence, it is expected that opportunities will start to increase over the next few weeks, and it is vital that you are quick to search and respond to vacancies as they arise.

### **National picture – A level students still setting sights on undergraduate study**

Overall applicant behaviour in the 2020 UCAS cycle is currently consistent with previous cycles, with the expected number of applicants, and no significant moves to change firm choices or providers, or to defer entry, so far.

Indeed, nine out of ten undergraduate applicants in the UK have not changed their mind about wanting to start university this autumn. 86% of applicants studying A levels who responded to a UCAS survey said they were continuing with their application as planned, despite the disruption caused by coronavirus.

Any students who may still be considering deferring their place for university for a year, should be aware that many universities may withdraw their offer and ask students to re-apply. The reason being that they cannot take in two cohorts at once in autumn 2021. Indeed, competition for places next year is likely to be greater as you would be competing for places alongside the current Year 12 students. It is strongly advised that you contact the Sixth Form to discuss your options before making any changes to access our advice and guidance. With this additional flexibility already introduced into this year's UCAS, you should take the time you need to confidently make considered, fully thought through decisions.

### **More personalised options and opportunities than ever for students in Clearing 2020**

This year UCAS is bolstering the Clearing process. Whether you have a conditional or unconditional offer, you will have the opportunity to change your choice once you have received your grades. This will be supported by a new service that can suggest alternative opportunities, based on your qualifications, your course interest, and other preferences, helping you filter the multitude of courses in a structured way.

Mr Sehejpal will send more detailed advice about the Clearing Plus system that will allow you to change universities and courses through the online self-release to swap up. It is expected to be used heavily this summer on results day. However, using this adjustment system in UCAS this year may be a great opportunity for you to 'trade up' to get places at 'better' universities. The reason this will be possible this year is because it is expected that thousands of overseas students will not be coming to the UK this year. Hence, many good universities have already signed up for clearing when they do not normally have a tradition of doing so.

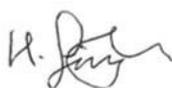
It is such a privilege to have our students complete their school journeys with us and a source of great pride to see the young adults who leave us to take up exciting opportunities beyond Idsall Sixth Form. We hope that all of you, regardless of your destinations next year, will feel prepared and ready to take on these new challenges. These last few months have been a test of endurance, but you must remember that in getting through this, you have also learnt important life skills like resilience and self-motivation that will be invaluable in your future endeavours.

Finally, we want to personally thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time. Rest assured that we are working tirelessly to ensure everyone is well cared for, and that we have shared all the information with the exam boards that will help you get the grades you deserve. In the meantime, before results day, remember we are here if we can be of any help. Please keep safe and well.

Hope to see you soon.



Ms M King  
**Headteacher**



Mr H Sehejpal  
**Head of Sixth Form**