

How was our usual university application process affected by school closure?

Normally, we begin to prepare Year 12 students for university applications from Easter onward, with weekly assemblies, fortnightly Extended Tutor Time activities and follow up tutor time sessions that would ordinarily take students through every stage of the Post-18 planning process, including preparations for university applications. Such help would normally encompass considerations that relate to choosing a preferred course, selecting a university, writing a personal statement, completing the UCAS application and preparation for interviews. All of this provision had to be switched to remote preparation, with the creation of dedicated Google Classrooms, offering advice, guidance and help in the form of links, information, videos, templates and pre-recorded materials delivered by the Head of Key Stage 5 and the Head of Year 12. Although we endeavoured to provide everything that Year 12 students would usually have received by way of information and guidance, we know that some students didn't or couldn't access it from home during the period of lockdown and we therefore feel our provision was unlikely to have been as impactful as our usual face to face delivery. As a result, some students have been delayed in preparing to apply for university.