



Banchory Academy

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Dear Parent/Carers,

Rector: Judith Wight

As you will no doubt be aware, the S6 students are heading towards an exceptionally important and very busy period with regards to completing and submitting their application to UCAS. In our experience, many of our students will be well organised and make excellent use of their time, researching their options and taking advantage of the many Open Days on offer, which we encourage.

Conversely, some students are less well organised, perhaps see the application process as a less important priority until the deadline fast approaches. Each Principal Teacher of Guidance has a large number of students to oversee and support, therefore, it is imperative that our students and yourselves be aware of strict deadlines we have put in place to enable us to manage this workload, whilst continuing to assist students to the highest standard.

Each PTG has weekly contact with your son/daughter, during which time they will be guided through the UCAS application system, and in particular, supported with the preparation of their Personal Statement. Regular meetings and consultations are welcomed, as ongoing support is paramount for a successful application. We would be very grateful if you could encourage your son/daughter to meet all of the deadlines detailed below. This will allow us the necessary time to ensure quality references are written for all our students. Failure to meet deadlines may result in less support and a rushed reference that is unsatisfactory to all concerned. This is in a time of greatly increased competition for places.

Dates/Deadlines:

Students applying for Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge must have their applications sent to UCAS by **Friday 13th October**. All students must submit a word processed first draft of their Personal Statement to their Guidance Teacher by **Friday 6th October 2017**.

Applications other than those detailed above must be with UCAS by 15th January 2018. However in order to ensure that all aspects of the application are of the highest standard our deadline for submission will be **8th December 2017**.

The UCAS website is very comprehensive and offers detailed information on all aspects of applying to University. Whilst the Guidance team will endeavour to give all students support through this process, the responsibility to submit an application which is correct and accurate ultimately lies with the student. Therefore, we would ask that you become familiar with the site in order to best support your son/daughter with this important application.

Visit: www.ucas.com www.planitplus.net www.myworldofwork.co.uk

The Guidance Team