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Letter 107

1st February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

University Offers

I spoke to students in assembly recently about university offers. The students will receive one of three responses from their universities:

- C - Conditional offer based on either grades or points.
- Rej - A rejection.
- U - Unconditional offer, however these can be conditional on the student putting the university as their first choice.

As I am sure you have seen in the news unconditional offers are becoming more frequent and there is a lot of debate about whether they help or hinder A Level students. I have advised students who have received them to think very carefully before accepting them, the key question being 'Would I put this university as my first choice if the offer was not unconditional?'

I have also spoken to students about the importance of aiming for their full potential in their A levels irrespective of an unconditional offer. A Level grades will stay with the student for life and will be looked at by future employers. Also, some students may find, when going to university in September, that it is not the course or the place for them and want to re-apply to a different institution; in this case their A level grades will be important.

Universities have until 2nd May to respond to students. If students receive all their offers by the 31st March then students must reply by 1st May. This gives them plenty of time to review their offers, assess how well they are doing in the subjects and ask for advice if necessary. If they do not receive all their offers until 2nd May then students have longer to respond.

Finally, student finance. Students can apply for student finance before they have made their final choice, however this can be changed at a later date. I will inform students when the applications open for 2019 and I will also 'tweet' the information. The deadline is usually the end of May and I do recommend getting applications in early. Applications are completed on the gov.uk website. I would also advise looking at university websites for scholarships and bursaries that they offer. There is a lot of money available to students and it is not always income dependent, for example some universities offer financial incentives to students who reach certain grades.

I will continue to inform students of important university information in assemblies and students may come and see me or Mrs Bond (our Careers Adviser) if they need advice or guidance about their next steps.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Dayton'.

Miss F Dayton
Head of Year 13