

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

## **RE: Information for Year 11 Cohort – Careers and Further Education**

Year 11 is an exciting but also stressful time for our students. There will be many decisions to make about what to do next and what the best possible options are. In order to help students make these crucial next steps we will be providing opportunities for information, support and guidance over the coming months. The dates for Open Events for local colleges have already been shared with our Year 11s and really their first step is to attend as many of these as possible. Part of the challenge is to make an informed decision which should result in a more appropriate outcome for them so knowing what's available and what the courses consist of is essential. The dates for Open Events can also be found at the bottom of this document.

**Many colleges such as Colchester Institute, Chelmsford and Writtle College request that prospective students book online for Open Events to save time on arrival.**

### **There are a number of different providers of post 16 further education but here are some of the local ones:**

#### **Colchester Sixth Form:**

Focus on a programme of academic courses for 16-19 year olds e.g. A levels and the IB (International Baccalaureate Diploma).

#### **Colchester Institute:**

Offer vocational courses which means they are focused on a particular occupation and its skills. They are courses that prepare learners for the workplace by relating theory to practice (Level 1, 2, 3 Diplomas, BTECs). They often also provide preparation for apprenticeships.

#### **Colne Community College:**

Focus on Health and Social Care and a range of other academic qualifications delivered through partnerships with Essex University and Phillip Morant College

#### **Writtle College and Otley College:**

Provide a wide range of specialist facilities for courses such as Diplomas in Agriculture, Animal Care, Veterinary Nursing, Equine, Floristry (Level 1,2,3 Diplomas)

**Specialist Colleges** e.g. Welbeck - The Defence Sixth Form College, Colne Sports College

### **Post 16 options – The Qualifications:**

#### **A Levels:**

Following the Government reforms to A levels which started in 2015, learners commencing their post 16 study from September 2018 will take linear A levels with exams taken at the end of two years. Assessment for A levels has become more exam orientated and course work is mostly confined to practical and expressive subjects.

#### **International Baccalaureate Diploma = Two year course:**

- Study 6 subjects chosen from 6 Areas:

English, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Humanities, Science, Art, Music, Theatre

- Three or four of these subjects are studied at Higher level, the remainder at Standard level. In addition, students have the opportunity to personalise their course of study - the Inner Core is student-driven and comprises:

- The Extended Essay - a 4,000 word in-depth study chosen by the student
- CAS - Creativity, Action, Service - a mini-Duke of Edinburgh designed to educate the person - students are encouraged to follow sporting and creative activities as well as an element of community service
- Theory of Knowledge: critical thinking skills

#### **Diplomas/BTEC Diplomas (Levels 1, 2, 3) Usually 1 or 2 years:**

These are work related qualifications which focus on a particular occupation and its skills. They relate theory to

practice. Examples of courses are: Business, Performing Arts, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Public Services, Health and Social Care, Music Technology, Digital Media, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Engineering Electronics, Automation and Robotics, Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Chef, Hospitality, Childcare.

### **Apprenticeship:**

An Apprenticeship is a job with training which allows individuals to earn while they learn, whilst gaining skills and qualifications specific to a chosen career. The student will typically work full-time and this will include technical skill development, which will be online and/or with a training provider or college e.g. Colchester Institute, Writtle College, and the Army. Employers recognise and value Apprenticeships because the student/employee is learning industry specific skills. Colleges now offer numerous Apprenticeships in many work sectors e.g. Accounting and Finance, IT, Agriculture, Business, Creative Arts & Digital Media, Welding and Fabrication, Catering, Engineering, Media, Auto, Sport. In order to do an Apprenticeship, learners will need to find a job – sometimes the training provider e.g. College can help with this but youngsters who have already sought and attained a work placement are in the best position to proceed.

### **Useful Websites**

- [www.careersoft.co.uk](http://www.careersoft.co.uk) Job Explorer Database · click on 'sign in' link. On the sign-in page enter the following access code: **u76cje5g**. Gives information about all sorts of jobs, salaries, training, courses, qualifications as well as a quiz which relates your likes/dislikes to careers and so on.
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>  
Job Profiles, links to similar careers, information about the labour market
- <https://www.plotr.co.uk/game>: Play the Game to find a career you like! The game analyses your personality, interests and needs in life to help you find the best careers for you.
- <https://successatschool.org> - aimed at inspiring possibilities for school leavers and gives lots of information about career sectors and career advice.
- <http://CGC.cld.bz/CGC-ebook-SE> - A series of Career Guidance Charts which give a visual impression of role types and scope of an occupational sector and answers questions like "What can I do with Chemistry?"
- **Google: russellgroup.org/InformedChoices**  
Post 16 qualifications and how they are organised; subjects required for different degree courses; how subject choices can affect your future career options
- [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) - "Find an apprenticeship" - a good site to give you an idea of apprenticeship vacancies; where they are and what sectors they are in (most vacancies tend to come out after Easter 2018)
- [www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships) - has local apprenticeship vacancies.

### **Open Events and Application Deadlines – a reminder!**

Colchester Institute: 14<sup>th</sup> October 10am-1pm (Deadline - 31/01/18)  
Writtle College: 14<sup>th</sup> October 10-1am (Deadline - as early as possible)  
Otley College: 14<sup>th</sup> October 9am -12pm (Deadline – no deadline but the earlier the better)  
Colchester Institute: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 5pm-8pm (Deadline - 31/01/18)  
Colchester 6<sup>th</sup> Form: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 6:15pm – 9:15pm (Deadline - 31/01/18)  
Otley College: 4<sup>th</sup> November 9am -12pm (Deadline – no deadline but the earlier the better)  
Ipswich Suffolk One: 14<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am and 19<sup>th</sup> October 5pm (Deadline – no deadline but the earlier the better)

**Most of the application forms can be found on the college's website and are available for submission from 14<sup>th</sup> October onwards.**