

April 23rd 2020

Year 11 Pupils and Parents

I hope that this finds you all well in these strange times. In school at this time we would usually be meeting with pupils through mentoring, one to one guidance sessions and tutor time as well as PHSE sessions to ensure that all of Year 11 students are ready for the next step and have made their choices post 16. Whilst many pupils will be choosing to stay at Balcarras for sixth form there may be some pupils that will have decided that this not a suitable route for them. We would like to take the opportunity to remind all year 11 students that the careers department is still here for them if choices have yet to be made or if any advice is needed.

All institutions in the Gloucestershire area have admission offices that are open – albeit with less staff and they have been in touch with us to say that all pupils should have heard from them about places for September. If you have not heard from a college or sixth form, please do get in touch with them directly. It is likely that demand for places will be higher in September as apprenticeship schemes may suffer as a result of Covid 19; We strongly advise **all** pupils to have a secure place at an establishment as a second choice even if they intend to pursue an apprenticeship. Getting this in place now instead of waiting until August is advisable as we would not want any pupil to be disappointed. **ALL** students must have a secure offer of education or training for September.

Whilst these are challenging times for all, we would also remind students that this is an ideal time to review CV's, update their Unifrog accounts, explore additional learning, learn new skills and take part in wider reading around the subjects they are passionate about and remain proactive about their employability during the lockdown if this is possible.

There is a lot of information on the school VLE careers pages for this and also in the students' Unifrog accounts. The careers department remains available for advice during this time and can be contacted for advice and appointments regarding careers guidance at - careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk.

We wish all of Year 11 well with their continued preparation for the future at this time.

With warm regards

Mrs V Bull and Mrs Lewis
Careers Department