



1st October 2024
AWi/SSn

Dear Parents/Carers

As we all know, year 11 is a really important time. It is a time when hard work finally comes to fruition and a time for students to consider their next steps.

At the end of year 10 your child attended an assembly where I explained what to expect from their careers interview with me in year 11. They were asked to consider their skills and qualities and to research what they might like to do once year 11 has finished. This preparation will make for a far more effective use of time during their upcoming careers interview with me.

We are aware that parents and carers play a key role in helping our year 11 students make their future plans. The information below will give you a better idea of what we talk about with students when it comes to careers information, careers guidance and timelines for when decisions and applications need to be made.

Please note that there is a wealth of useful information published in the careers section of The Malling School website, our careers specific Facebook Page (FutureYou) and further correspondence will be communicated via email and through our careers newsletter throughout the year. Having said that, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Applying for post 16 options (College, 6th Form, Apprenticeships)

The Kent Choices website <https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/> is your main resource when researching and applying to post 16 options with your child. This is where your child can search and apply for **any** future provider; 6th form, college, apprenticeships and supported internships. I will be giving year 11 students their log in details in October so they can make their applications, but you can use the search function on the site now without having to log in. You can search, filter and use the map function to find courses and providers that are most suitable for your child but please be aware that not all providers have uploaded their offer for next year yet.

We strongly advise that your child makes their application(s) before the end of January 2025. Please note that different institutions have different deadlines for applications to be in. sixth form providers are usually the most stringent here, so if you would like to go to a sixth form, please check with the specific institution to ensure you know their deadline. Please be aware that if your child is interested in a trade course at college (multi-trades, plumbing, electrical etc.) they should apply before Christmas to avoid disappointment. The trades are popular and spaces on these courses fill up quickly.



It is wise for your child to apply to more than one institution, so they have a back-up plan in case they change their mind over the course of the year, or they do not achieve the necessary grades to be accepted for their first choice. Once your child has applied, they will be offered an interview by the institution. This can feel daunting for some. Please reassure your child that this will be good practice for the future and they will be given guidance from the careers team on how to behave during an interview.

Apprenticeships

Students identified as showing an interest in apprenticeships will be offered support after Christmas as they will need to begin applying when apprenticeships start being advertised around May 2025. We have already liaised with ASK apprenticeship service and they have agreed to come in to deliver a “search and apply” workshop to those who are interested. Apprenticeship opportunities can be sparse or offers can fall through and so we highly recommend that all students make additional applications to colleges and sixth forms as a back-up plan.

Short term goals

Now is the time for you and your child to look into their options for year 12. I would advise you to check dates for open events at colleges and sixth forms and go online to register for these where necessary. Please note that these open events usually take place in October and November. At this point you need to help your child understand the different options available and talk to them about why each option may or may not suit them as an individual. A few things to consider when having these conversations are; the GCSE results they are likely to get, pursuing subjects they enjoy, travel plans to and from their future provider and do they need to continue a subject at a higher level because of their future goals?

Long term goals

Some students will have a very specific idea of what they would like to do in the future, some will have no idea at all and there will be others who may have an idea of the industry they wish to pursue but not the specific job role. Please let me reassure you that wherever they are on this spectrum is fine. I have included some links below and recommend that your child takes time to navigate their way around these sites and explore various career paths. It is important for them to look outside the box and discover the variety of jobs out there and not just focus on the ones they already know about. Research will open their eyes to the many opportunities that are available to them.

Helpful information

As you will see, I have included lots of links in this email. Please use them together with your child as you see fit. Some will be more relevant to you than others. I have offered a variety so you can choose which most suit your individual needs. Your child will find all these links and more on the “Careers” section on Teams. I also email these links and more to your child’s school email address. I know that this information can sometimes be “lost” amongst all the other material sent, so we have decided to set up a Malling School Facebook page dedicated to our careers content. It is called “Future You – The Malling School”. I will be sharing lots of helpful content here, so I recommend that you follow us to keep updated easily.



You can use the following links to spark conversations with your child about plans for next year and their future.

To research any careers or future pathways of interest why not try the following sites...

[Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#) – Explore careers and identify what your skills are on this site.

<https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/> - For relevant information local to us and for applications.

www.icould.com – icould.com has lots of video clips of people talking about their job and how they got into it – listen and learn about careers!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers> - I'm sure many of you will have used the BBC Bitesize website for other subjects but were you aware that they have an exciting careers section too? It's great and covers so many of the important aspects of careers as a subject.

And finally, please don't forget to subscribe to our new Malling School "Future You!" Facebook page where I will be posting lots of updates for year 11 parents and students.

<https://www.facebook.com/FutureYouTheMallingSchool>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me:

willisa@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Angela Willis
Careers Adviser

