



# CATERHAM SCHOOL

15 June 2011

To Parents and Guardians of Lower Sixth students

Dear Parents and Guardians

## Lower Sixth Higher Education Programme

During the final week of the summer term we will be running a dedicated Higher Education and UCAS programme for all our Lower Sixth students, as per the attached schedule. It is an intensive programme that will compliment the work already done with your sons and daughters. This preparation will ensure that all students will be ready to complete their applications, which will be submitted in early autumn. The School target is that all applications will have been completed by the third week in October prior to the half term holiday. Please note that Oxbridge/Medicine and Medicine related applications will have to be completed by the end of September.

Many parents have asked about the Higher Education process and have often felt that they lack information and understanding. We have tried a number of different methods to help inform parents. We will, as in previous years, open the Enrichment Week sessions to any parents that would like to join us. By and large the sessions will take place in the Humphreys Hall although some specialist sessions will be in other rooms or in the Library, dependent on other school events/activities.

Tuition Fees are a hot topic this year and I would like to draw your particular attention to the talk covering this aspect which will take place on Thursday 7 July at 2pm. This will explain the changes and also explain how students can apply for loans to cover the cost of a degree.

Increasing competition for Oxbridge, Medicine, Medicine related and other specialist areas means that additional tests introduced a few years ago, to help universities differentiate and select, have remained. With this in mind we have listed these tests along with website details for you and your son or daughter to research:-

<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Specialist test/Examination</u></b>	<b><u>Website for info</u></b>
Medicine	BMAT/UCKAT	<a href="http://www.bmat.org.uk/www.ukcat.ac.uk">www.bmat.org.uk/www.ukcat.ac.uk</a>
Law	LNAT	<a href="http://www.lnat.ac.uk">www.lnat.ac.uk</a>
History#	HAT	<a href="http://www.oxf.ac.uk">www.oxf.ac.uk</a> *
English#	ELAT	(as per History above)
PPE#		(as per History above)
Physics#		(as per History above)

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*follow through as search with History Aptitude Test*

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*Oxford University only*

The situation with regard to Higher Education is bewildering in its choice and diversity for both students and parents. The purpose of this intensive programme is to help you and your sons and daughters find your way through the myriad of opportunities and pathways.

University Open Days are also upon us for the aspiring Sixth Former in preparation for applications in five months time. As we need to protect teaching time after the public examinations have finished this June, we would strongly encourage university visits to be at weekends, school holidays etc to minimise disruption to the learning experience. We have for the last few years insisted that students in the Lower Sixth can have permission for **only two university visits during the working week in the summer term**. There will be university visits etc in the first six months of the Upper Sixth as the application and selection process will be in full swing. Can we please ask you to support and understand this requirement? Of course we understand the importance of these visits etc but we must ensure that our students do not short change themselves by missing vital lesson time.

The Higher Education Booklet will be distributed throughout the Lower Sixth during this final week although it is already on the School's website under School News. It is an invaluable tool that is both comprehensive and instructive. Please read through it and refer to it as the Higher Education process moves to the next stage in late June.

It is hard to believe that nearly half of the Sixth Form experience has now passed for your sons and daughters. It is with this in mind that we are seeking to encourage an informed choice of university application over the months ahead!

Can we wish your sons and daughters good luck and a structured and disciplined preparation programme for the public examinations that have already commenced? In addition can we wish you the patience and understanding to assist in your sons and daughters next stage in their educational journey!

If you have any specific concerns or would like to discuss the contents of this letter or any other matter concerning your son or daughter please do not hesitate to make contact. We look forward to seeing you over the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

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## Lower Sixth Programme for Personal Enrichment Week

### Monday 4 July

Time	Session	Location
8.50am	Registration	Humphreys Hall
9.00am	<b>UCAS1</b> Treasure Trail	Humphreys Hall and IT Rooms
10.45am	Break	
11.15am	<b>UCAS 2</b> An Introduction to HE	Humphreys Hall
12.45pm	Lunch	
1.50pm	Registration	Humphreys Hall
2.00pm-4.00pm	<b>UCAS 3</b> Interview Preparation	Humphreys Hall

### Tuesday 5 July

Lower Sixth Team Building at Bowles Activity Centre  
Please see separate letter via Clarion Call.

### Wednesday 6 July

House Music.  
All students.

### Thursday 7 July

Time	Session	Location
8.50am	Registration	Humphreys Hall
9am	<b>UCAS 4</b> Applying to UCAS	Humphreys Hall
10.30am	Break	
11am	<b>UCAS 5</b> An Introduction to Personal Statements	Humphreys Hall
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.50pm	Registration	Humphreys Hall
2pm	<b>UCAS 6</b> Student Finance	Humphreys Hall
3pm	Break	
3.10-4pm	<b>UCAS 7</b> Alumni Q and A	Humphreys Hall

### Friday 7 July

Assemblies and Tutor Periods for all students.