

THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, COLCHESTER
KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT PROGRESSION– 2026/27

TIME	First Year students Activity	Second Year students Activity
September 2026	• Introduction to Cedar Planning Ahead – Individual Learning plan which allows students to record activities and skills, destinations and helps draft a Personal Statement. • Careers and Progression information. Introduction to MOODLE • Careers interviews available during term time • Sign up to Doctors, Vets and Dentists additional study • Sign up to Lawyers as an additional Study • Sign up to Teaching for Primary Teachers/Teaching for secondary • Students to consider Additional Studies on Enrolment • Emails from Careers Team	• Continue to use Morrisby– a programme which helps students to make decisions about their future careers and progression from college to employment/Apprenticeships or University. • Update Cedar Planning Ahead – Individual Learning plan • Employability skills update – Personal statements and CV's • Discuss plans for next year with personal tutor. • Complete on-line UCAS application. Applications can be sent from 1st September • 18 September – <i>College deadline for Medicine, Dentists and Vets (ensures UCAS deadline of 15 October is met).</i> • 18 September <i>College deadline for Oxbridge (UCAS deadline of 15 October)</i> • Applicants for Teaching and other medically related courses are also advised to submit applications early. • Tutorial activity careers planning – University and Employment Tutorials • Start looking at Job/Apprenticeship opportunities (Moodle/Careers) -see employer list on 'MOODLE/Careers/Employment & Apprenticeships' • Seek help from Careers Team if experiencing problems.
October	• Employability Audit – Personal Statements/CV	• 15 October – UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry. • 23 October - <i>Recommended College deadline for UCAS submission</i> • Some Apprenticeship vacancies are advertised • Tutorial -Progression
November	• Personal Tutor reviews	• Personal Tutor reviews • Early applicants will start to have interviews and receive offers and rejections with or without interview. Check instructions carefully on how to accept interview times. • BMAT • 6 November – <i>College deadline for applications to reach UCAS before the end of December</i> • 13 November – <i>final College deadline for applications to meet the UCAS deadline of the 13 January. Applications submitted after this date may not reach UCAS by 13 January 2027.</i>
January 2027	• Options after college	• 13th January 6pm FINAL UCAS deadline • Applications submitted to UCAS after the 13 January are processed as 'Late Applicants' – Universities are only committed to considering these applicants if they have vacancies. (Always seek advice from the Careers Department if applying as a late applicant).
February	• Careers information to students and employability update • Tutorial – 'What happens at a Careers Fair' • Higher Education and Employment Briefing Evening. • College Employment & University Careers Fair (c.100 exhibitors).	• Continue to look for Jobs/Apprenticeships-see list of employers on 'MOODLE/Careers/Employment & Apprenticeships' or Careers Bulletin • College Employment & University Careers Fair (c.100 exhibitors). • UCAS Extra begins - This service is only open to students who applied by the 13 January deadline but are not holding any offers at this stage.
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March/April	- Consider Higher Education options/ other choices such as Apprenticeships. Talk to personal and subject tutors and careers staff. - Make arrangements to visit universities on their open days	Student Financial support application (LLE) for students going to University in 2027– register online and complete application. Lifelong Learning Entitlement website Year 2 Higher Education Parents' Evening. Final advice regarding Student Finance (LLE) and information about College post-results counselling service.
May/ June	- Begin detailed investigations. Make use of College resources, Careers Team, internet, etc. - Book a careers interview. - Tutorial – Progression Activities - Register for UCAS 'apply' (the online application process @ www.ucas.com/apply) Undertake research and make some preliminary choices. - Start completing a CV and look for work experience/shadowing opportunities/Volunteering - Start making lists of employers for apprenticeships - Make arrangements to visit universities on their open days - UCAS Essex Higher Education Exhibition (same as our careers fair in February)	- Ensure decisions about which offers to hold. Main 'Firm' (first choice) and one 'Insurance' (lower grades) have been made. Watch for and comply with deadlines given by UCAS. - Complete any outstanding/late Financial Support applications. - Apprenticeship and Employment advice available from Careers – opportunities in Careers Bulletin - Year 2 Exam leave
July	Career Progression event – Concentrated careers programme over 2 days. Higher Education subject talks, general careers and university matters, also a range of employers and guidance on CVs etc Personal Statements/signing up to UCAS - Oxford and Cambridge students to complete draft application forms. - Oxbridge applicants parents' evening	
August	- Continue Higher Education research. - UCAT 12th August – BTEC and Applied General results 19th August - GCSE results	12th August - A level results, BTEC and Applied General results. Do not be far from home. Offers are confirmed or not, 'Adjustment' and 'Clearing' begins. Make use of progression counselling service offered by College. Most courses will have started by October.