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**Higher Education
Process**
Key Dates and Activities

2015/2017

THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, COLCHESTER
THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROCESS
KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES - 2015/2017

FIRST YEAR:

TIME	ACTIVITY
January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Year 2 choices for AS level students. Careers interviews available. • 21 January-Introduction to Career Management (tutorial) • 26 January – College Careers Fair- ‘Options after College’
February/ March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 March – Careers Guidance Preliminary Information Evening, Higher Education and Employability Skills. • MEDICS briefings
March/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Higher Education (university) options/ other choices such as Apprenticeships. Talk to personal and subject tutors and careers staff. • Oxbridge meetings/briefings • Check programme of university open days.
May/ June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin detailed investigations. Make use of College resources, Careers library, internet, etc. • Undertake careers interview. • 15, 16 and 17 June Career progression event. Concentrated careers programme (Higher Education (university) subject talks, research activities, gap year advice, general careers and university matters, also a range of employers and guidance on CVs etc). • Register for UCAS ‘apply’ (the online application process @ www.ucas.com/apply) Order prospectuses, undertake research and make some preliminary choices. • Start completing a CV and look for work experience/shadowing opportunities/Volunteering • Make arrangements to visit universities during open days via university websites • Thursday 23 June & Friday 24 June Higher Education Superfair – Essex University • Late June Volunteering opportunities event at college • 5 July - Higher Education Finance briefing during Parents’ Evening
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford and Cambridge students to complete draft application forms. • 13 July - Oxbridge applicants Parents’ Evening
July/ August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Higher Education research. • 18 August - AS results are issued. Students may need/wish to refine HE choices in the light of results.

SECOND YEAR:

TIME	ACTIVITY
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss plans for next year with personal tutor. • Complete online UCAS application. • 12 September – College deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentists and Vets (to ensure UCAS deadline of 15 October is met). • Applicants for Teaching and other medically-related courses are also advised to submit applications early. • Start looking at Job/Apprenticeship opportunities • Seek help from Careers Department if experiencing problems.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 October - College deadline for applications if they are to reach UCAS before half-term. • 15 October – UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, and Veterinary and Dentistry courses. • 17 October - Recommended College deadline (to ensure favourable offers). Intentions to apply after this deadline should be discussed with Personal Tutors and or Careers.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early applicants will start to have interviews and receive offers and rejections with or without interview. Check instructions carefully on how to reply to offers. • 18 November – Final College deadline for applications to reach UCAS before the end of the Autumn Term. • 25 November – Final College deadline for applications to meet the UCAS deadline. Applications submitted after this date may not reach UCAS by 15 January
January 2017 onwards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications submitted to UCAS after the 15 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 before applying as a late applicant). • College Careers Fair- 'Options after College'
February/ March/ April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 February UCAS 'Extra' opens. This service is only open to students who applied by the 15 January deadline but are not holding any offers at this stage. • Student Financial support application– register online and begin application (process linked to UCAS application). • A lot of Job Vacancies and Apprenticeships come online during this time
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make decisions about which offers to hold. Main 'Firm' (first choice) and one 'Insurance' (lower grades). Watch for and comply with deadlines given by UCAS. • Year 2 Higher Education Parents' Evening. Final advice for Student Finance and information about College post A level & IB counselling service.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Baccalaureate (IB) results. Students able to confirm university offers.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 August - A level results. Do not be far from home and sources of advice (IB students may need to be available at this time). • Offers are confirmed or not, 'Adjustment' and 'Clearing' begins. Make use of counselling service offered by College. • Complete any outstanding Financial Support applications.
September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing continues and some courses start. • Most courses will have started by October.