



Hillhead High School
Oakfield Avenue
Glasgow G12 8LJ
Phone 0141 582 0100

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

S6 Parent and Carer Update- October 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I would like to start this letter by thanking all of you who were able to attend our recent parents evening. It was great to welcome you back into the school and to speak with so many of you face to face. If you were unable to attend, but would like an update on your child's progress, please get in touch and I will be happy to arrange this for you.

Through this letter I want to provide an update on some of the common themes arising from my conversations on parents night. This will include information on **UCAS and the supports available, uniform, attendance and contact with the school.**

Uniform

All pupils should be in full school uniform, every day. Pupils are now allowed to use changing rooms so the previous exemption under COVID-19 no longer exists so pupils should be wearing a shirt, tie, black trousers/shorts/skirt and black shoes/trainers at all times. If anyone has any difficulty in providing uniform please contact the Pastoral Care team who will be happy to support.

Attendance

All pupils should be in their registration classes at 8:54am every day. Even if pupils have a study period during period 1, they should still come into registration. This is because important information is shared during this time. Good timekeeping and attendance are important not just in school but for college, university, training or employment and as such will be included in all references that we provide for pupils.

UCAS

Glasgow – UK Council of the Year 2015

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UCAS is the system used by all UK universities for applications. Below is some information about the process, and then some details about the supports we offer pupils.

UCAS Process

- Pupils should work towards the deadlines set out in the UCAS Timeline we publish each year (See last page)- Some course such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine have earlier deadlines.
- When you start the application, you will be asked to provide a Buzzword. This links the account to the school and allows Pastoral Care teachers to check on your progress and submit your reference.
- The Buzzword for this year is **Hill2023head**
- The application will ask for personal details such as home address, date of birth as well as information about work experience and qualifications.
- All applicants must submit a personal statement. This has a **strict character limit of 4000/47 lines**, whichever comes first.
- Each applicant must also have a written reference. This is usually written by pastoral care teachers, but you can ask someone else to do it if you wish, but please discuss this with your Pastoral Care Teacher first.
- You can apply to up to 5 different courses.
- You have to pay a fee to apply through UCAS. If you apply for a single course the fee for 2023 is **£22.50**. If you are applying for more than one course the fee is **£27**.

UCAS Support

We are proud as a school to offer a great depth of support to everyone applying to university. We work with a range of partners to ensure everyone who wishes to apply is fully supporting in doing so. Some of our supports include;

- **PSE Lessons**- S6 PSE lessons have a focus on applying to university and college and teachers provide guidance throughout the year. We also cover how to apply for funding through SAAS.

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- **Drop Ins-** We offer various drop in sessions where pupils can get support on any aspect of applying, including their personal statement.
Friday 5 Drop in- Ran by Mr Griffin
Lunchtime Drop in- Ran by Mr Greechan
Family Drop in- Ran by Mr Richardson
Careers Advisor Personal Statement Drop in- Ran by Fiona Bain. The next session is **Wednesday 19th October 10am-2pm.**
- **Pastoral Care-** Pastoral Care teachers will check in on applications and contact anyone who is falling behind. They also have an open-door policy for anyone to come and speak about their applications.
- **FOCUS West-** We work closely with FOCUS West each year. They provide targeted workshops to support pupils in applying to university. They also read over personal statements and provide highly detailed, expert feedback on this.
- **Open Days-**We encourage pupils to attend Open Days at any university that they are considering applying to. We also ran a trip to the UCAS Discovery event at the SEC, where pupils could speak to lots of different experts and get guidance and support from them.
- **Pathways Evening-** Mr McFarlane recently ran a Pathways Evening with invited guests, including the University of Glasgow. During this event these experts provided their top tips on applying to university. The slides from this presentation are available on our school website-
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/2022/10/12/future-pathways-s6-and-life-beyond-hillhead-high-2/>
- **Personal Statement-** We supply students with access to a number of exemplar personal statements and helpful guidance documents through Teams and in class.
- **Ucas.com-** <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> is an excellent resource with video guides for each section of the application process, examples from previous students and more.

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