**UCAS – responding to offers**

It is important to take your time when responding to offers. Outlined below are a few guidelines to consider:

***Visiting the university***

* Don’t accept an offer before you’ve visited the university. It needs to feel right and you need to have a good understanding of what it will be like to live/study there for 3+ years.
* Most universities hold ‘post-offer visit days’, which resemble mini open days, but are more departmental specific. Make sure you go!

***Choosing your Firm and Insurance choices***

* Wait until you have received all your decisions before choosing. There is no hurry – but it must be before the deadline on 1 May 2019.
* Make sure you choose wisely. You should ideally choose an Insurance choice with lower entry requirements than your Firm, so that if you don’t meet the requirements of your Firm choice, your Insurance choice is likely to accept you.
* Bear in mind both your preference and the entry requirements when making a choice.
* You can’t choose between the Firm and Insurance on results day.
* You must choose TWO options that you are equally happy to go to. It is quite likely that you might be placed at your insurance university.

***Unconditional Firm offers***

* Universities often try to encourage you to choose them as your Firm choice, by promising an unconditional place if you do. This means that if you weren’t thinking of making a back up choice your number 1 – you might now be! This is a tactic that lots of institutions use to secure students. Make sure you think carefully before accepting.
* Other universities may offer you an unconditional change of course onto a foundation year if you don’t meet the grades in your offer on results day

*When thinking of accepting an unconditional offer:*

* You need to be sure it is where you actually want to go.
* An unconditional offer can sometimes be a really good thing – but don’t accept your offer before speaking to teachers and parents first.
* For some pupils it means they lose focus in their A level studies. Remember that your A level results are important and they stay with you, they’re not just for getting in to university.

***Change of course offers***

* Some universities might write to you, suggesting a change of course if they think you are better suited to an alternative one. This is usually due to your predicted grades or combination of subjects. School can’t see this on UCAS so please talk to Mrs Loftus.

***UCAS Extra***

* If you have no offers by 31 March, or you have rejected all your offers, you are eligible to apply to 1 more course. See Mrs Loftus for more information on this if you need it.

***Accommodation***

* Accommodation policies vary widely between universities, so you need to look at individual websites to see their accommodation policy. For some it is an important factor when choosing a course, but shouldn’t be the most important one.
* Some universities guarantee accommodation to all first year undergraduates, others only to those who make them their Firm choice. Make sure you are aware of the accommodation guarantee for both your Firm and Insurance university choices.

Universities are making more unusual types of offers than ever before, and lots of this information (such an alternative offers, invitations to interview) cannot be seen by School. Please keep communicating with Mrs Loftus, Mrs Wishart, Mr Gillies and your Housemaster/mistress so that we can support you over the coming weeks and months.