

Please forward this email to all parents and carers – if you are a parent or carer, great this email has reached you, please continue reading our newsletter.

How to help your child/children make decisions for upcoming school and higher education deadlines

Happy New Year from the Hepp team!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and you are as excited for a great new year as we all are. In this edition of our Parents and Carers Newsletter, we have spoken to a care experienced student ambassador to hear all about their experience in higher education and the support available.

We will cover decision making for both Y9 and Y11 students. These are key years for students in terms of decision-making skills; both GCSE and Post-16 choices are an exciting opportunity for your child to start thinking about their future pathway. We will give you information regarding deadlines for Y11 and Y13 students. It's so important to keep on top of deadlines for both post-16 study options and higher education options. We'll outline these for you to ensure you and your child are aware.

Finally, we are hosting some informative and exciting events that we welcome you to join in 2022, with the first being on the 13th of January! We will be covering important topics such as the benefits of higher education, finance and funding, and open days and clearing. It would be great to see you there. See the bottom of this newsletter for more information and links to register.

Blog from our Care Experienced Student Ambassador



We spoke to one of Hepp's care-experienced student ambassadors, to hear about his experience of higher education, the decision-making process and support available.

[Read the case study.](#)

Decision Time - Y9 & Y11 Students

As your child progresses through their education journey, there will be stages when they have important decisions to make.



These decisions start in Y9, and even Y8 in some schools, when students must make their GCSE subject choices. As your child starts their final school year in Y11, they will have choices to make surrounding their post-16 study or training. It is key that they research and make the best decision for their next steps. Below, we give some advice on how to support them.

Year 9 Decision Making:

Your child will have decisions to make in Y9 (or sometimes Y8!) for their GCSE subject choices. This can vary widely between schools and the pathways they offer. Aside from the core subjects that students are required to study, their option subjects can be important for the future. If your child has a pathway in mind, it can be useful to work backwards to ensure they are choosing any required subjects for their post-16 choices. In some cases, university courses require specific GCSE subjects alongside the standard entry requirements, so be sure to check!

Year 11 Decision Making

The decision your child makes in Year 11 is key for their next steps and progression. There are so many options to choose from at this stage, and your child now has the opportunity to shape their education to their skills, interests and goals. If your child is considering progressing to higher education, this is vital to look ahead to ensure they are meeting the entry requirements. There are so many post-16 studies and training options available, from A-Levels to paid apprenticeships; try to ensure your child explores all available avenues. Some universities require specific subjects and qualifications; so, ensure your

child doesn't limit their options by helping them make the best choice for their future.

Decision Making Tips From Team Hepp



Here are some top-tips for making tip-top decisions from our Engagement Assistant, Georgie:

Research is key - there are so many pathways to choose from, make sure you know all your options before making a decision.

Think ahead – if you know what you want to do in the future, work backwards to see how you can get there.

Independent thinking – it can be easy to follow your friends when choosing your next steps, but this is your future, so do what's right for you.

What do you enjoy? If you're not sure what you want to do in the future, don't panic! Many students don't have a clear goal for their future. Think about what you enjoy and what you're good at.



Deadlines for Y11 and Y13 Students

Deadlines for applications are coming up for both Y11 and Y13 students.

See below for deadlines for post-16 education and training and UCAS university applications.

Post-16 Deadlines

If your child is in Year 11, they should have already started discussions within school about their post-16 options. Applications opened in the Autumn term for colleges and sixth forms, and most schools across the region aim to have their students' applications finalised in **January**. If your child knows what they would like to do after school, it's key that you check the deadlines for the specific course or apprenticeship as some will be fast-approaching. Colleges and sixth forms have different application deadlines so it's best to apply early to ensure a place.

For those students who will continue at a sixth form at their current school, they will still need to register interest, discuss GCSE grade requirements, and sometimes also submit an application

Further Education Information

To apply for an apprenticeship, your child can use the Government 'Find an Apprenticeship' service (see below). Be sure to check the employer's application deadline as they vary greatly between employers, and check the possible start date, as some may want your child/children to start before they've finished their GCSEs, which they can't do!

Apprenticeships

University Deadlines

For those with children in Year 13, the deadline for the majority of undergraduate university applications for courses starting in 2022, is the **26th of January, 6pm**.

Applications must be made through [UCAS](#). Any applications received after this date do not have to be considered by course providers, so it is vital that your child has their application ready for submission by this date.

UCAS information

Student finance applications can be made through Student Finance England before a university application is accepted by a provider, so there's no need to wait. For this, you will need to support the application with household income information (Care leavers and estranged students please visit [here](#) for more information). The deadline for student finance is up to 9 months after the course start date, but to ensure your child receives their funding in time for their start date, make sure the application is submitted early! Applications open in early spring for courses starting in autumn of the same year.

[Student Finance Applications](#)

TOP TIP:

It's always worth checking with individual course providers to see if your child is eligible for any additional funding in the form of scholarships or bursaries!

Sessions coming up

Thursday 13 January 2022 – 17:00 – 17:30 – Benefits of higher education and how can I support my child to get there?

Join us for this 30 minute parent and carer information session where you'll hear about the different routes into Higher Education and its social, academic and employment benefits.

You'll hear from student ambassadors on their experience and why they chose Higher Education, plus parent ambassadors will share hints and tips that worked for them supporting their child make decisions on their next steps. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you have.

[Click to book](#)

February 7th - 10th Hepp FEST 2022!

After a huge success with our 2021 festival, it's back and bigger than ever! HeppFest is a FREE online festival for students, parents/carers and teachers/advisors.

We will provide information, inspiration and support to help your child when considering higher education and future careers, covering the following:

- *Is it for me?*
- *How do I get there?*
- *What is it like?*
- *Is it worth it?/Where does it lead?*

More information to come in the new year, so watch this space and share the word far and wide.

[Click for more info](#)

Thursday 28 April 2022 – 17:00 –
17:30 – Understanding student
finance as a parent/carer

As a parent or carer, we know the cost of higher education study can be daunting. Come along to this 30 minute information session where we'll explain how student finance works for Higher Education.

We'll give you the facts on how much money students can receive as a loan or non-repayable bursary / scholarship, the extra financial support they may be eligible for and repayments. Student and parent ambassadors will share their experiences and there will be time to answer any questions you have.

[Click to book](#)

Thursday 7 July 2022 – 17:00
-17:30 – Open days and clearing –
why they are important for your
child

Join us for this 30 minute information session where you'll find out why open days are important, what to expect at one and how your child can make the most of them. We'll also explain Clearing, which is used by 70,000 students each year to find a place on a university level course at the end of the academic year before they are due to start the course. You will hear from our student and parent ambassadors who will share their experiences and what they found useful. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions.

[Click to book](#)

Would you like to be a parent/carer ambassador?

If you have a child/children at a higher education institution this could be of interest to you.

Hepp deliver sessions to parents and carers about the pathway into higher education.

There is no better way to provide this information than through parents and carers who have lived the experience. With your support you can put others at ease through the process.

This is a paid role and if you are interested to hear more please contact **Kelly Self** on k.self@shu.ac.uk or 07824 431415.

For more information and advice

- [HeppHUB - Higher Education Progression Partnership](#)
- [HeppSY](#)
- You can also speak to our qualified careers advisers via online messaging or a phone line: www.heppsy.org/chat.

Remember your support is invaluable and working together can make a difference.

Keep an eye out for our next edition in April!

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