

CBA/KDE

21<sup>ST</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

## **RE: APPLYING TO RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES**

Please can we remind students that the yellow UCAS booklets are currently available in the College Office and should be used to facilitate their completion of UCAS applications.

As part of our on-going Career Information Advice and Guidance (CIAG) process, we are keen to encourage our students to include at **least one Russell Group university** in their final UCAS choices and we are hopeful that the information below will be useful as they research and consider their post-18 pathways.

## **WHAT MAKES A UNIVERSITY PART OF RUSSELL GROUP?**

The Russell Group is a self-selected association of twenty-four public research universities in the United Kingdom. Russell Group members receive over three quarters of all university research grant and contract income in the UK. In these universities, students work with world class experts, use first rate libraries and facilities, and are part of a highly motivated and talented peer group who often engage in cutting edge research. Research has indicated that Russell Group universities also have a higher than average student satisfaction and lower than average dropout rates.

Of the 21 Russell Group universities that have chosen to enter the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF), 10 hold gold awards (48%), 10 silver (48%) and one bronze (4%), compared to proportions across all higher education providers with full awards of 27% gold, 50% silver and 23% bronze.

The Russell Group states that *"its aim is to help ensure that our universities have the optimum conditions in which to flourish and continue to make social, economic and cultural impacts through their world-leading research and teaching"*.

## **WHY ARE THEY DIFFERENT?**

Russell Group universities tend to have a stronger reputation, receive more funding for research and therefore can provide state of the art facilities. They are also in a position to offer fantastic work experience and graduate prospects to undergraduates. It is important to note that not all of the best ranked universities are Russell Group and therefore some universities perform just as well as the universities that have been awarded the Russell Group label. Therefore, it is vital that thorough research is completed so students can make any informed decision about the relative merits of the courses and universities to which they are applying.

## WHO CAN APPLY TO RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES?

All Plume College students are encouraged to apply to at **least one Russell Group university**. Post-18 universities option choices should be aspirational as well as realistic and staff are available to provide bespoke advice and guidance.

Please be aware that like many universities, Russell Group universities offer financial support such as bursaries to lower income students. Bursaries provide valuable financial assistance and should be considered when reviewing each university choice.

Russell Group universities set their entry requirements in the same way non-Russell Group universities do. UCAS advises students to apply to at least one university with a slightly higher entry requirement and this should serve to motivate students to achieve at the highest level they can.

Some Russell Group universities may ask applicants to attend an interview and this will serve as a perfect opportunity for applicants to demonstrate to their interviewers their passion and motivation within the chosen field of study.

## WHICH UNIVERSITIES ARE RUSSELL GROUP?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Birmingham</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Bristol</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Cambridge</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Cardiff University</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Durham University</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Edinburgh</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Exeter</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Glasgow</u></a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>Imperial College London</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>King's College London</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Leeds</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Liverpool</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>London School of Economics &amp; Political Science</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Manchester</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Newcastle University</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Nottingham</u></a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Oxford</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Queen Mary, University of London</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Queen's University Belfast</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Sheffield</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Southampton</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University College London</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of Warwick</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>University of York</u></a></li></ul>
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All student should conduct thorough and comprehensive research about each university they are considering. We recommend they review their website, explore their social media, attend open days and read students reviews to gain the best insight prior to making a final decision regarding their final university choices.

Please encourage your son or daughter to use their UCAS booklet and liaise with appropriate staff for further advice and guidance. All students should be aiming to complete and submit their UCAS application by October half term to ensure they are one of the first applications the universities receive. Please be aware that the UCAS key dates are listed on the back of the UCAS booklets and the completed 2020 entry UCAS Undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The 2020 entry deadline for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry is **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

If you have any further questions about Russell Group universities or the UCAS application process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr C Barton**  
**Head of Year 12 and Year 13**