

Guidance Bulletin 92, 29th June 2020

Summary of the term To exchange ideas and to share good practice there was a meeting online on 21-Apr-20 of counsellors from across the three campuses and on 06-May-20 and 14-May-20 of counsellors just at Nations. For Year 12 there were online question-and-answer sessions for parents on 28-Apr-20 and 22-Jun-20 and an introduction for parents to the new counsellors, Mr Rowlands and Ms Villegier-Dhokia, on 18-May-20. For Year 13 there was an online question-and-answer session for parents on 29-Apr-20. This is the last Guidance Bulletin to be produced by Dr Grant. The following are some personal musings from the most recent of over thirty years visiting upwards of six hundred campuses and attending conferences at universities around the world. For those with a particular scientific bent: Imperial College London (GB), École Polytechnique Paris Saclay (F), Ryerson University (ON-CAN), Eindhoven University of Technology (NL) and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HK). For those looking for an intimately intellectual atmosphere: St John's College (MD-USA), University of St Andrews (GB), University College Freiburg (D), Trinity College Dublin (IRL) and University of Cambridge (GB). For those seeking international experiences: Bocconi University (I) and Johns Hopkins University (MD-USA). For those intending to be doctors without borders: Charles University Prague (CZ) and Humanitas University (I). For those attracted to bright city lights: Columbia University (NY-USA), King's College London (GB), Northeastern University (MA-USA) and University of Toronto (ON-CAN). For those wanting an academically supportive environment: Bishop's University (QC-CAN), Webster University Geneva (CH), University College Roosevelt (NL), Lynn University (FL-USA), Falmouth University (GB) and University of Sussex (GB). For those who love art: Norwich University of the Arts (GB), Maryland Institute College of Art (MD-USA), Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MA-USA) and Paris College of Art (F). For those looking for a special niche: St Louis University Madrid (E), Franklin University Lugano (CH) and Blanquerna Faculty of Ramon Llull University Barcelona (E). Every institution will offer the individual student a good education. Often it is the postgraduate qualification – whether academic or vocational – that determines the immediate future. The institutions I have mentioned above have appealed to me. What appeals to someone in his seventh decade compared to those in their second decade, however, can be markedly different. The physical aspect of all campuses has changed between the 1970s and the 2020s. Personal preferences must be supported by reading, checking and (ideally, although not crucially) visiting beforehand. With the rapid pace of technological change, and the potential disruption of ever more frequent global catastrophes, few careers will carry through a lifetime. Rather the ability to learn, engage with others and adapt is vital. An undergraduate degree may provide the cornerstone, but it is not the final building.

Year 13: Summer Guidance Dr Grant will be available by e-mail (mark.grant@ecolint.ch) until mid-August to answer questions relating to Year 13 and university entrance. Guidance questions concerning Year 12 and below should be directed to Mr Rowlands (martyn.rowlands@ecolint.ch). Any questions about visas for study should be referred immediately to the international office of the chosen institution. A room in a hall of residence/dorm for the new academic year should be arranged as soon as possible through the accommodation office of the university or college of choice. Each university and college will provide advice about the opening of individual campuses during the current health crisis.

Year 13: Documents The IB Organisation will send the final diploma results on 06-Jul-20 to a maximum of six institutions. Details about this free service were sent between 16 and 18-Mar-20 to all students and a reminder published in Guidance Bulletin 86 and 87. Additional universities and colleges can be added by going to <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/requesting-transcripts/>. Final transcripts were sent on 15-Jun-20 via Maia to all US institutions and by post to Canadian universities and the University of Geneva. The final IB results rather than the final transcripts are required by UK, Dutch and Irish universities.

Year 13: UCAS Instead of having to contact their chosen university or college and wait to be released into UCAS Clearing, applicants can effect this process themselves and so save valuable time. Self-release is available in UCAS Track (<https://wwwucas.com/students>) to all placed applicants. When using UCAS Clearing, or otherwise adjusting plans because of final grades, the advice of Garrison Keillor (*Lake Wobegon Days*, New York 1985) should be considered: 'Some luck lies in not getting

what you thought you wanted, but getting what you have, which once you have it, you may be smart enough to see is what you would have wanted had you known.' If the points achieved are better than those required by the (firm) first choice, then UCAS Adjustment can be used, which allows for holding onto the offer while looking at other possibilities: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-youve-done-better-expected>.

Years 11 and 12: Open Days UK universities are holding virtual open days over the summer holiday. These offer the chance to explore campuses, compare courses and attend talks. Amongst others there are University of Leeds and Writtle University College on 29-Jun-20, University of Northumbria on 30-Jun-20, University of Leicester, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and Cardiff University on 03-Jul-20, Bangor University on 08-Jul-20, Royal Agricultural University on 09-Jul-20. For a complete list go to <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/attend-virtual-open-day>. In the USA use Google to search for online “information sessions” or “visits” at particular universities, for example Princeton University <https://admission.princeton.edu/virtual-visit/virtual-information-session> and Cornell University <https://www.cornell.edu/visit/>.

Years 11 and 12: Summer Revision Oxford International Study Centre offers online tuition (Zoom or Skype) as private lessons or small seminar groups. For details go to <http://www.oxintstudycentre.com/>.

Years 11 and 12: Study Academy Vienna Study Academy Vienna is running IB revision courses for Year 11 (pre-IB) and Year 12 (mid-IB) between 12 and 31-Jul-20. Each subject is given eighteen hours of tuition. There are also excursions and workshops. For details go to <https://studyacademyvienna.com/>.

Years 11 and 12: Leadership Digital Summit for Young Leaders brings together bright minds to learn and collaborate. At the Digital Summit students hear talks given by academics and leaders from Oxford, Harvard, and the United Nations. Students collaborate with peers from across the world on a project of their choice, working to provide a solution to a global problem, while being guided by dedicated mentors with their insights into the professional world. The best projects are given funding so that they can be put into action. The Digital Summit will be held online from the 20 to 31-Jul-20 using a combination of interactive platforms. For more details and to register go to <https://www.youngleaders.digital/>.

Years 11 and 12: Lectures New College of the Humanities (NCH) in London is continuing a series of lectures: History on 01-Jul-20 at 16:00 CET Dr Lars Kjaer ‘Why did medieval people go on crusade?’ / English 02-Jul-20 at 16:00 CET Dr Peter Maber ‘Modernist Poetry’ / Law 06-Jul-20 at 16:00 CET Ursula Smartt ‘Vloggers, tweeters and snapchatters: is there still a right to privacy?’ / Philosophy 13-Jul-20 at 16:00 CET Dr Christophe Schuringa ‘Descartes’s pre-emptive scepticism’ / University applications 26-Aug-20 at 16:00 CET ‘Your UCAS Application and How to Complete a Winning Personal Statement’, 22-Jul-20 at 16:00 CET ‘Student Finance’ and 05-Aug-20 at 16:00 CET ‘Unibuddy Live: Student Life at NCH’. For details and to register go to <https://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/study/visit-us/ug-virtual-events>.

Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13: Wise words There is a Jewish proverb which holds that slander kills three persons: the speaker, the spoken to, and the spoken of. Always try, therefore, to choose your words with care, whatever your mood, whatever the circumstances. Everyone is possessed of a gift, a skill or a hand for succour. With receptiveness and patience you will invariably observe that truism. When life can seem unfair, or when circumstances beyond your control darken the world, stay resolute. In 1919 the incomparable Alexandrian Greek poet Constantine Cavafy wrote a poem *Of Dimitrios Sotir* about the very human need to hold fast to personal dignity when all around seems desperate. An English or French translation can be found easily on the internet. The original, however, is a perfectly cut gem of Stoic philosophy set in purely wrought verse. Ἀδιάφορον: ἐπάσχισεν αὐτός, / ὅσο μπορούσεν ἀγωνίσθηκε. / Καὶ μὲς στήν μαύρη ἀπογοήτευσί του, / ἓνα μονάχα λογαριάζει πᾶ / μὲ ὑπερηφάνειαν· πού, κ’ ἐν τῇ ἀποτυχίᾳ του, / τὴν ἴδιαν ἀκατάβλητην ἀνδρεία στὸν κόσμον δείχνει. / Τ’ ἄλλα – ἦσαν ὄνειρα καὶ ματαιοπονίες (lines 39-45). I end this last Guidance Bulletin of the academic year with the words of Julian of Norwich: “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

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