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24th November 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills announced changes to student finance to come into effect in 2012. We are writing to you to inform you of these changes and more importantly the implications of taking a gap year.

If your daughter/son is thinking of deferred entry to 2012 the new arrangements will affect them. There will be a tuitions threshold of £6,000 per year and in exceptional cases, Universities will be able to charge higher contributions up to a limit of £9,000 per year. Higher Education Institutions are currently reviewing their position on tuition charges that will apply to each of their courses for 2012 entry.

We would therefore advise your daughter/son to contact those universities where they hold a deferred offer or to whom they have applied for deferred entry in order to discuss the tuition charges that will be applied, as well as to discuss the possibility of being considered for 2011 entry. Further information on changes to student finance can be found at www.bis.gov.uk/student_finance

Another issue which will affect our students is the change that will be taking place to the EMA allowance. Students will need to ensure that if they are entitled to the EMA allowance that they register before the end of term, otherwise they will not be able to claim this benefit.

If you would like to discuss any of these issues further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marian Curran'.

Marian Curran
Director



Director Marian Curran Assistant Headteachers Ros O'Connor (Cotham) Benjamin Houghton (Redland Green)