

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

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November 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Centigrade – Higher Education Aptitude Test **Saturday 4 February, 2012**

Over the next few months, we shall be encouraging your son or daughter to further their thinking about their university choices, both in terms of the subject they would like to study and the institution they would like to attend. Finding the right degree course is vital for their future happiness and academic performance in higher education and could in some cases, be crucial for their career choice also. In view of this, it is very important that they use every opportunity to research their options carefully and thoroughly.

Given the enormous range of choice open to them and the fact that some may not be even be sure which subject(s) will best match their academic interests and abilities, we are proposing that they should take part in Centigrade, a computer based programme designed to help with this process.

Students simply answer 150 questions in a paper questionnaire about their interests, skills, abilities and personal qualities. Their answers are then analysed by computer which produces a report identifying not only suitable degree subject areas which match these interests but also identifies universities which offer relevant courses in these fields. Each pupil will also receive their own a copy of the publication 'Degree Course Descriptions'. Normally retailing at £12.99, this book provides detailed information on over 120 degree courses.

The Centigrade programme then encourages the young person to undertake a programme of structured research via Action Plans and Course Analysis Forms, before making the final choices required by UCAS.

Each student receives a personal workbook containing:

- A personal interest profile of over 50 course areas relating to his/her strongest interests and abilities
- Six to eight double-page course selection worksheets for the most relevant course areas
- Course titles, together with universities and colleges offering them within the student's broad ability range
- Supporting factors: bar graphs and notes challenging or confirming their choices
- An Action Plan and Course Analysis Forms for further personal structured research
- A selection of open days, taster courses and higher education conventions matching their interests
- A checklist for university visits and a map showing university locations

Endorsed by UCAS, Centigrade undoubtedly helps to improve the quality of pupils' decision making and thereby reduces the risk of them selecting courses not suited to their abilities or interests. In view of this, we feel they have much to gain from doing the programme. Please fill in the slip below if you would like your son or daughter to take part and giving your consent to allow the cost of this, £19.95, to be added to the end of term bill. **Please return this slip to the Higher Education Department by Saturday 3 December, 2011.**

Yours sincerely

Ruth Greenhalgh
Director of Higher Education & Careers

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Centigrade – Higher Education Aptitude Test
Saturday 4 February, 2012

I would like my son/daughter.....

to take part in the **Centigrade** programme on **Saturday 4 February, 2012** and agree to the cost of **£19.95** to be added to the end-of-term bill.

Signed.....Parent/Guardian/Housemaster/mistress

Date.....

Please return to the Higher Education Department by Saturday 3 December, 2011.