**University / Career Counseling Timeline**

The holistic education offered by KCCIS aims to ensure students a meaningful education that helps them become open-minded, caring, contributing, and responsible individuals and citizens in the society on different levels. As such, the relevance of our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) program to students’ development in different areas in life, including university / career counseling, cannot be overemphasized. Our teachers, together with our school counselor, will help students explore future studies and potential career options all through their secondary school years.

**Year 7 and Year 8**

From Year 7 onwards, homeroom teachers will discuss various topics related to subject choices and careers. When needed, the school counselor will explore these topics with students in class, so as to let students share their aspirations. The role of the school counselor will be made clear to students in Year 7, so when it comes to education planning, they know when to seek help along the way. In Year 8, homeroom teachers will help students appreciate their own strengths and those of others, and begin exploring different careers. Students will also be invited to attend university seminars targeted for higher form students. All courses offered in Year 7 and Year 8 set high expectations for students while preparing them for studies in higher forms.

**Year 9**

By the end of Year 9, students should have taken some challenging courses to help establish their academic credentials. Besides improving on their mathematics and critical thinking skills, it is recommended that students should have started (if they still have not), from Year 9 onwards or earlier, to learn another language other than Chinese and English. Apart from PSHE, their involvement in extra curricular activities would no doubt be helpful to their personal and social development, and exploration of their interest areas. It is very important that students carefully decide the IGCSE subjects they would like to study in Y10 and Y11, as this could have an impact on the opportunities open to them after their IGCSE years.

Students should aim at making the right choices: ideally subjects that they enjoy and are good at. In case of subjects on offer that the student has not studied before, it is important that they find out info about the course from teachers (the options evening is especially created for students and parents to talk to the teachers and the school counselor).

**Year 10**

Homeroom teachers will explore with students the skills required for success in a career and have them think about their won strengths and weaknesses. The school counselor will talk to students and initiate goal-setting process. Students are responsible in reaching their goals by making their own targets, to discuss how they can effectively utilize their high school experience for academic and personal growth. Students will use their goals as the basis for program /subject selection after Y11. The school counselor will help students identify skills they possess and recognize strategies they could use for their skill development, and subsequent career. Teachers will work closely with the school counselor to identify and assist at-risk students.

**Year 11**

If you still have not met with your school counselor, now is a good time to schedule a meeting and talk about your future. Here are a few most common questions that you should ask yourself (and your school counselor):

1. What is IB?
2. What subjects do we offer at KCCIS?
3. Should I take IB? Any other options?
4. What subjects should I take?
5. What do I want to do after Y11?

The person in charge of IB at KCCIS is Mr. John Beattie, who is the right person to ask when it comes to IB subjects on offer and registration. You are encouraged to discuss with your friends, siblings, parents, and teachers about your future. When you get more confused or in doubt, please do not hesitate to see me (Dr. Vinci, school counselor), who will guide you through. Most Y11 students would discuss with me in different ways (face to face, email, eClass) towards the end of the school year. Scheduled appointments will be made this year, to avoid students procrastinating on seeking help.

**Year 12 and Year 13 (IBD)**

For the important dates for university application, please refer to the University Application Timeline posted separately.

Year 12 (Junior Year)

Dr. Vinci will talk to the Y12 class by mid-September. All students must complete and return the “College Application – Student Information Sheet” to Dr. Vinci by early October.

Fall / Winter:

1. Take initiatives to talk to your school counselor about your educational plans.
2. Begin to identify colleges or universities: i. Where would you

 like to pursue your education? ii. What you would like to

 study? Do I need to get scholarship information?

1. For students who consider going to the States: Prepare for the SAT. Students can also consider taking PSAT in the last week of October. This is a good practice for the SAT. PSAT is a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship (NMSQT).
2. Look for and attend school fairs.

Spring

1. Visit some universities during the CNY break.
2. Register for SAT in May and/or June.

 3. Begin to plan for your summer.

Summer

 1. Get some work experience

 2. Complete your community service hours.

 3. Consider taking a summer course

 4. Visit colleges that interest you.

 5. Work on your first draft of Personal Statement

**Year 13 (Senior Year)**

Dr. Vinci will talk to you about your uni app in mid-September, as well as how to get your LOR (letter of recommendation) from teachers, some rules that you have to follow. Also, have your first draft of personal statement ready! Relevant info about PS and LOR has been posted on www.kccisuni.weebly.com for you to explore ☺

In Y13,

Fall / Winter:

1. Attend school fairs
2. Identify universities you would like to apply for
3. Develop college application plans with Dr. Vinci
4. Register for any SAT, TOEFL/ IELTS exams, if needed
5. Request LOR from your teachers (must get approval in writing from Dr. Vinci)
6. Request for transcript and recommendations (counselor’s report, if needed) from Dr. Vinci

Important reminders for two of the most popular higher education destinations. Please go to [www.kccisuni.weebly.com](http://www.kccisuni.weebly.com) for some other important info.

**USA:**

Apply 12 to 14 months before planned enrollment.

Early decision : Early November, reply from school in mid December

Regular Admission: From January 1 to February 1, earlier for highly selective schools. Reply from school: late March and early April.

Candidate reply date: May1st

**UK** (UCAS application form to be completed from September 1 onward.

 \*15 October - for students applying to Medicine or Veterinary Medicine, or if

 you are applying to Dentistry elsewhere or Oxford or Cambridge.

 \* mid-January - for all other programmes for students resident in the UK/EU.

 \* 30 June - for all other programmes for international students resident

 outside the UK/EU.

It is advised that you apply as early as possible. Universities and colleges do not guarantee to consider applications they receive after the deadline, especially for some popular courses. Please check with individual universities and colleges if you are unsure.

Remember to allow enough time for entry clearance or immigration; also travel and accommodation arrangements, which can take longer during the summer when immigration departments are busy.

N.B. Please note that the above are for reference only, please do your own research, talk to your parents, teachers and me before you make any important decisions.