

14 October 2011

To: Year 12 Parents

Dear Parents

COA CENTIGRADE PROGRAMME

For the past few years members of Year 12 have participated in the COA Centigrade programme. This has been of considerable benefit to all those who have taken part, even those who already had a good idea of what they wished to do and study. The programme is computer-based and matches the individual student’s interests and academic abilities with current degree courses. It is able to help with the increasingly difficult task of choosing between the many thousands of single and combined degree courses on offer throughout the country’s universities and colleges.

An explanatory leaflet *Centigrade – Finding the Right Course*, which provides information on the programme, follows this letter.

The School aims to enter all members of Year 12 into this programme. The questionnaire can be completed on-line at home or in school from early December onwards. All pupils should aim to complete the questionnaire by Friday 6 January. An individual printed report will be produced for each pupil and, if the questionnaire is completed on time, the report will be available prior to the Careers Convention on 23 February 2012. The cost is £19.95, which will be added to your summer account once the programme is completed. The cost is reduced to £18.50 if, as we expect, 100 or more pupils take part.

If you DO NOT wish your son/daughter to participate, please complete and return the attached slip as soon as possible and no later than Friday 18 November 2011. If you prefer to reply by email, please do so to careers@pgs.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



P W Galliver
UCAS Co-ordinator

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To: Dr P W Galliver, UCAS Co-ordinator, The Portsmouth Grammar School

I DO NOT wish my son/daughter to participate in the Centigrade programme.

Pupil’s name: Tutor:

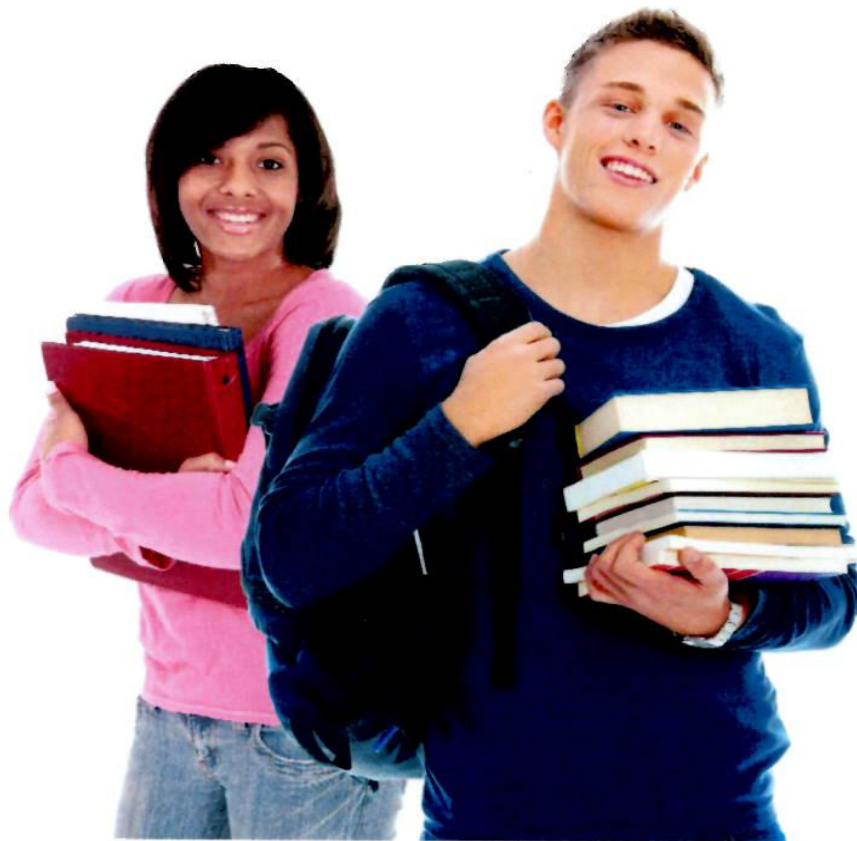
Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
UCAS

Parent/Student

Brochure



Centigrade

FINDING THE RIGHT COURSE

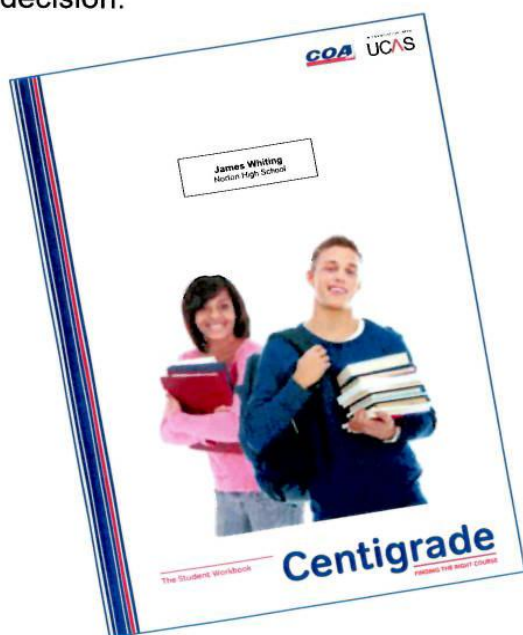
Centigrade

FINDING THE RIGHT COURSE

The challenge of higher education

You want to take the right degree, foundation degree, HND or Dip HE course - but how do you go about finding the one which will really match your strongest interests, abilities and likely examination results? With a UCAS application choice of a maximum of **five** out of around 50,000 courses at over 300 higher education institutions, there is a good deal of serious research to be done if you are to 'find the right course'.

Drop-out from higher education can be demoralising, whilst staying on in the wrong course can lead to poor performance and unhappiness. Too much is at stake to rush this vital decision.



What is Centigrade?

Centigrade is a computer-based programme which matches your interests and abilities to degree, foundation degree, HND or Dip HE courses. You simply complete a questionnaire of 150 questions, your responses are then scored and matched with all courses available through UCAS and are printed out as a bound workbook.

The use of Centigrade can significantly improve the quality of your decision-making and thus reduce the risk of selecting the wrong course.

How can Centigrade help?

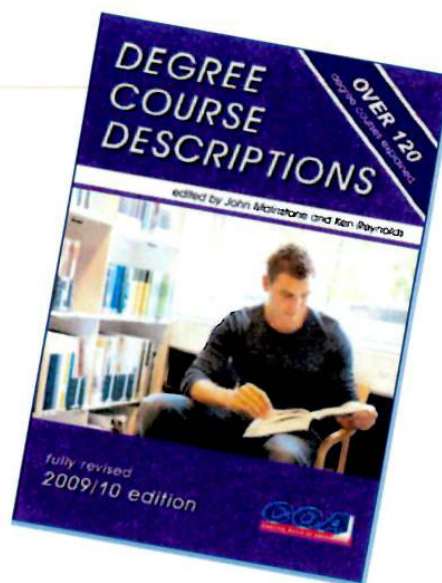
Centigrade helps you by:

- Highlighting those courses for which you seem to be well matched
- Challenging your choices when they may not be soundly based
- Presenting the information you need to make good decisions
- Making you more aware of your wider potential for higher education
- Helping you to complete your UCAS application in good time, on a well considered and informed basis.

What does your Centigrade workbook contain?

Approximately 23 A4 pages of personal printouts and many other supporting items. These are bound together, making about 40 pages in total. Your workbook will include:

- An introduction which explains the report as a whole
- A personal profile of over 50 degree course areas
- Six to eight double-page course selection worksheets, providing a wealth of data on available courses, including entry requirements, important supporting interests, and a commentary to affirm or challenge your suitability for each course area
- A case study designed to match your own interests and to explain how to use Centigrade effectively
- A checklist to use when visiting universities
- A calendar of open days, taster courses and education conventions, tailored to your course interests and geographical location.



A copy of the **Degree Course Descriptions** book is provided for each student as a part of the Centigrade programme

Who can take part in Centigrade?

If you have or intend to achieve any of the following qualifications:

- AS/A level or Pre-U
- AQA Baccalaureate
- International Baccalaureate
- BTEC or OCR Nationals
- HNC, HND, new Diploma
- Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher
- Irish Leaving Certificate
- Advanced Placement Awards
- any other equivalent qualifications

How do you apply?

Complete the attached tear-off reply card and hand it to the member of staff in charge of Centigrade, together with your fee made payable to your school or college.

Comments from Centigrade users

I have been using the Centigrade test for many years and have been impressed not only with the matching of its courses but also with the way it has adapted to keep up with the ever changing needs of the students. The choices in higher education now available to young people have

increased dramatically over the past 15 years or so, and Centigrade is the best tool that I have found for narrowing down the possibilities to a manageable level. It offers incredible value for money.

Ashville College

Centigrade has formed an integral part of our extensive programme of careers education and guidance for many years. It is easy to administer and it is the ideal starting point for focused individual research and decision-making relating to higher education. The report provides each student with her own profile, which we use extensively as a basis for further discussion with both her tutor, careers adviser and parents.



Centigrade has proved to form an excellent basis for the vital decision-making processes for our Year 12 students. They thoroughly appreciate the opportunity that the profile gives, for calm reflection on university and eventual career prospects, with its clear, informative and directed content. A guiding beacon in a confusing world.

Pate's Grammar School

Oxford High School

Invaluable - it saved me a great deal of time and effort and I ended up using my five UCAS choices based on my Centigrade workbook.

Centigrade started to focus my efforts on applying for university. Centigrade provided a very specific, detailed set of recommendations for possible degree courses and universities.

Students, Reigate Grammar School

An integral part of our preparing for the higher education programme. For some it provides that essential initial impetus, for most it is a strong confirmation that their existing ideas are indeed appropriate. They are presented with areas to explore and evaluate in a form that they find structured and easy to use, and the tutors find the report invaluable as a basis for discussion.

Uppingham School

Cambridge Occupational Analysts Ltd, Sparham, Norwich NR9 5PR
Telephone: 01362-688784 Fax: 01362-688677
Email: centigrade@coa.co.uk Web: www.coa.co.uk

Ref: CG10/PR
