



**US College Handbook for Students & Parents**  
**Campion College Guidance Department, 2017**  
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**Timeline & Recommended Activities**

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Form**

**Choose Carefully:** At the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> form, choose your subjects carefully in consultation with your teachers, parents, and counsellors, and mindful of school administration guidelines. These subject choices will affect what subjects you can take in 6<sup>th</sup> Form and will therefore affect decisions related to your major at college. For example, many US and Canadian colleges require you to have taken CAPE Pure Math if you are interested in majors such as the sciences, medicine, engineering, computer science or business, and you must take CSEC Add Math in order to take CAPE Pure Math. In addition, colleges like to see that you have taken the most challenging courses available—be honest with yourself to ensure that you do this, ever mindful of your own capabilities as a student.

**Focus on Grades:** The transcript that will be submitted to colleges will reflect your grades from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Form. In addition, these grades, along with your CSEC scores, will determine if you are accepted to 6<sup>th</sup> Form whether at Campion or elsewhere. Make sure you are working hard, getting the help you need and doing your best.

**Get Involved:** Colleges will be looking at your commitment to your chosen activities from 3<sup>rd</sup> Form on. Commit to at least one club and one team (or two clubs) and get more involved in them with the ultimate goal of taking on leadership positions and making meaningful contributions. For example, if you are in a service club, what event could you help organize that will have a positive impact? At the same time, don't just join a club so that you can list it on your transcript—you will be more committed and active when you do what interests you.

**Reputation is Important:** Ensure that your behaviour record is spotless and that you present yourself well in class and around campus. Being appointed sub-prefect or other class representative is an honour that you should aim for. In addition, ensure that your online presence is also clean—colleges may decide to Google you and search for you on social media sites. Also, create a simple, professional email address (your name@... Is best) with a decent profile photo that you will use to correspond with the colleges and employers later on. Finally, compiling a professional resume is a good way to keep track of your accomplishments through to 6<sup>th</sup> Form—it will help you and your teachers in writing recommendations later on and may spark an idea for a college essay as well as be useful in applying to summer jobs etc. (Some students have even begun LinkedIn profiles—please seek a parent's permission and advice before doing so.)

**Explore your Interests:** The long summer break is a good time to explore your interests and learn more about your career possibilities. There are many volunteer work and service opportunities; free online courses and presentations; books available online and at the libraries; and workshops and camps both here and abroad. Start early and you may even be able to get a paid job which would help with your general expenses and those related to the college application process. Other holidays and weekends are also good times to continue your participation in these interests.

**Start to Learn about Colleges:** Start researching colleges and attend the college visits held at Campion during the Christmas term. These events are open to students from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Form.