Educational Consultancy

Independent, personalised guidance for families navigating education with clarity, confidence and perspective.

ASPIRATIONAL | PURPOSEFUL | INTERNATIONAL

Helping families make thoughtful educational decisions while keeping the individual young person at the centre.

Educational decisions are rarely just about the next step

Choosing a school, planning subjects, deciding how languages fit into a child's education, considering sixth form or university, or exploring an international opportunity can all have long-term consequences. Families often have access to more information than they need; the harder task is deciding what is right for their child.

API Horizons offers independent educational consultancy designed around a young person's strengths, interests, aspirations and stage of development. The aim is not to prescribe a predetermined route, but to help families understand their options, ask the right questions and make well-informed decisions.

How API Horizons can support your family

School & sixth-form choices	Clarifying priorities, comparing options and looking beyond headline results or league tables.
Long-term educational planning	Thinking ahead across key transition points so today's decisions preserve appropriate future opportunities.
Academic pathways & subject choices	Considering strengths, interests, subject combinations and longer-term university or career possibilities.
Languages & international education	Planning language learning and opportunities that build genuine linguistic and intercultural confidence.
University & international pathways	Understanding possible routes towards university, including preparation for highly competitive applications.
Ambitious students	Balancing challenge, enrichment and wellbeing while identifying opportunities that genuinely fit the individual.
Education alongside sport	Creating a joined-up plan for young people balancing academic and sporting ambitions.
Internationally minded families	Bringing together schooling, languages, travel, cultural experience and longer-term international aspirations.

Consultancy can start much earlier than university applications

Educational consultancy is not only for families facing an immediate admissions decision. It can be particularly valuable earlier in a child's school journey, when there is time to explore interests, develop strengths and keep future pathways open without creating unnecessary pressure. The aim is to understand which decisions matter now — and which can wait.

Consultancy in practice: an international school decision

This example draws on educational guidance provided before API Horizons was established. Between 2015 and 2019, a family living in Vienna sought advice about whether their son should remain in Austria or move into the UK independent-school system.

The decision	Whether to remain in Vienna or pursue a UK independent-school education.
Options explored	A range of leading UK boarding schools, including single-sex and co-educational options.
Factors considered	Academic quality and fit; likelihood of admission; the demands of an accelerated programme; preparation for UK examinations; and the challenge of entering a new education system when English was not the student's first language.
The guidance	Informed comparison of schools and their cultures, together with honest discussion of the advantages, drawbacks and application risks involved in moving from abroad.
The outcome	The student received offers from Ardingly and Bromsgrove. After weighing the options, the family decided that remaining in Vienna for secondary and higher education was the better fit.

"What I particularly valued was that Alex's advice was informed and impartial."

Parent of an international student, reflecting on guidance provided 2015–2019

What might support look like?

Earlier school journey

Review emerging strengths and interests, family priorities, possible school transitions, language learning and enrichment — producing a practical medium-term plan without over-planning.

Approaching a school or sixth-form transition

Identify the criteria that matter most, compare academic and co-curricular fit, and develop questions that help the family test assumptions before deciding.

Building an international pathway

Connect language qualifications, authentic experiences abroad, subject choices and later university options so that they reinforce one another over time.

Balancing academics and sport

Consider timetable pressure, subject selection, languages, travel and training demands alongside longer-term educational options.

A consultancy process built around the individual child

1. Understand Begin with the family's questions, the young person's current position, interests, strengths and aspirations.

2. Clarify Separate immediate decisions from longer-term considerations and identify what genuinely matters.

3. Explore Consider realistic options, trade-offs and opportunities — including routes the family may not yet have considered.

4. Plan Turn the discussion into clear priorities and practical next steps.

5. Review Return to the plan at key transition points as the young person develops and circumstances change.

The API Horizons approach

- **Opportunities, not predetermined outcomes:** Education should broaden horizons and allow young people to discover their own interests and ambitions.
- **The individual comes first:** Advice starts with the young person rather than a particular school, institution or predetermined destination.
- **Confidence through ownership:** As young people mature, they should increasingly understand and participate in the decisions that affect them.
- **A trusted guide, not a decision-maker:** Consultancy provides perspective, structure and informed challenge — not a decision imposed on the family.
- **A broad view of education:** Academic achievement matters, but so do languages, sport, travel, cultural understanding, resilience and meaningful experience.

Experience behind the advice

API Horizons draws on more than two decades of work with children and young people, including coaching, private tutoring, work in an international primary school, and sixteen years teaching languages and holding leadership responsibilities in leading independent secondary schools. This experience brings together academic education, languages, sport and first-hand experience of creating meaningful educational experiences abroad.

Who is this for?

- Families seeking an independent perspective before an important educational decision.
- Parents thinking several years ahead while wanting to preserve options without over-engineering their child's future.
- Families navigating school, sixth-form, subject or university choices.
- Young people with strong academic, linguistic, sporting or international ambitions.
- Internationally minded families considering different schools or education systems.

Start with a conversation

Every family's situation is different. An initial conversation can clarify the question you are trying to answer, whether consultancy would be useful, and what an appropriate next step might look like.

API HORIZONS • Aspirational | Purposeful | International

Educational Consultancy for Families