

UCAS Launch for Parents & Guardians

Today's session:

1. UCAS Timeline
2. UCAS for students
3. Parental support



This term we are putting the spotlight on Year 12s. In lessons we are encouraging students to be the best they can with a particular emphasis on:

- **Oracy**- *'...the most important thing you learn in school is how to communicate'* (Phil Beadle)
- **Active vs Passive learning**- don't be a passenger- being present in thought as well as mind
- **Challenge yourself**- what have you got to loose?
- **Aspirational Conversations** - Working towards future goals and ambitions

UCAS planning and preparations have started

14th- 18th June End of Year 12 Exams taking place



This year...

Of the 30 students in Year 13, 27 students applied to university, 2 exclusively took the apprenticeship route and one is to follow a specialised college path.

100% of the students who applied to university have received offers of places to at least one of the universities applied to. 50% of the students received offers from Russell group universities and two of these students are on route to achieve their conditional offer of places at Cambridge University to study engineering and modern languages.

One of the two students seeking an apprenticeship has secured a placement.

What is UCAS?

UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. It's the centralised service that students use to apply to university.

Think of **UCAS** as an online dating service: through it you can select and apply to universities, the universities take your proposal and decide whether or not to offer you a place.



Is University for you?



WE WANT YOU!

- Do you seek academic challenge?
- Do you want to study for a further 3, or more years?
- Does this excite you?
- Are you seeking to develop as a person?
- Do you want to develop your independence?
- Is this your own decision or an aspiration?
- Do you have a medium/long-term career plan?

This must be the right decision for each of **YOU!**

After leaving school, most students going onto university or college study for an undergraduate degree. These are usually made up of modules (some compulsory and some optional) that add up to a full degree.

Here are some examples of the types of undergraduate courses you can do.

- Bachelor degree courses - which can include a placement year home or abroad
- Foundation years (1 year course)
- Diploma in Foundation Studies (art and design) (1 year course)
- Foundation degrees (usually 2 year courses; work has paid for this University route/ones which require fewer qualifications/exams)
- HNCs, HNDs, and other incremental routes (1 or 2 year ‘top-up’ course)#
- Degree or graduate level apprenticeship (work will be running this or the trainer; highly competitive and high entry requirements) video [here](#)

What is the right course for each student?

Over the course of this term we will be utilising the time students have to begin this exciting journey of higher education. It's really important they are having an open conversation with family, friends and teachers about life after sixth form. Also doing as much research as they can when looking at the courses and universities they want to go to...this may be a good place to start [What University Course Should You Study?](#)

Please watch [this](#) video from UK University search which will help when it comes to choosing the right university for you. All their webinars have been saved so it would be a good idea to start watching and getting ahead of the game.

How many applications or courses?

Students can pick **5** courses from up to **5** Universities unless...

Are applying for a course in the following fields, then they only have 4:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary medicine
- Veterinary science.



Timeline for sending off your personal statement is earlier for these courses - ucas deadline is the **15th October 2021** but the school has an earlier deadline!

<p>Oxbridge & Medics Group</p>	<p>If students are thinking about applying to Oxford, Cambridge or for Medicine / Dentistry / Vet Met / Vet Sciences - they will have already spoken to Mrs Kondal and a plan is in place. Have a look at this guide to Oxbridge to help you decide if this is for you.</p> <p>Students interested in applying for these subjects will meet weekly with Mrs K for preparation and the application This will be a chance to ask questions about these courses / universities / application process.</p>
<p>Maths / Physics / Computer Science / Engineering/ Law</p>	<p>If students are thinking about applying for any of the above subjects - some universities require an admissions test.</p> <p>There will be some extra support when preparing these applications, in particular if they have to prepare for any entrance exams.</p> <p>University Admissions Tests and Which university admissions test</p>

Be interested, start the conversations now, be a positive sounding board and keep them regular. It might be good to consider:

- Subjects they study now
- A subject related to a career
- What do they enjoy doing? What are they good at?
- What are their career ambitions?
- Attend virtual open days
- Help them to be ambitious and realistic in their choices
- Help them think about where they want to go
- UCAS provide a [Parent & Guardian](#) advice page where you can learn more about the application and the process.



UCAS

- Discuss choices with your child
- Citizenship and residency status questions on UCAS. Ensure your child has correct information

Student Finance

- Students will have a dedicated university led session on how to apply for student finance but the onus is on student to apply
- Requires information about parent/carer's income
- Requires national insurance number so ensure your child has one
- Passport/residency - if your child has not been born in the UK or does not have settlement status they may be subject to international fees

Timeline - school deadlines are earlier thanucas deadlines

19th April -end May	Students work on UCAS tasks over the next 5 weeks (see next slide)
4th May	UCAS Search is updated with 2022 courses but students cannot register
24th May	Students will register with UCAS as a group during a PHSCE lesson as they will need school buzzword.
17th May	Students hand in My Future Document including first draft of Personal Statement
11th June	Students work on second draft of Personal Statement ready to share with form tutors
6th Sept	Students submit their final PS to Head of Y12 and decide on final 5 choices
End Sept	All Oxbridge students and those for most courses in medicine, veterinary and dentistry to submit and pay for UCAS. Following payment the UCAS adviser will upload final predicted grades and teacher reference.
End Nov	All other applications for all other UCAS undergraduate courses will submit and pay. UCAS adviser will upload final predicted grades and teacher reference.

What next? The Plan for our Students

Date	Task
19/04/21	Future Planning and course research: Pick 5 universities and courses that you are interested in and fill out on a google doc and submit.
26/04/21	Virtual open days: You have now researched the universities now look into virtual open days for these universities and others (keep your options up at this stage)
03/05/21	Northwood Diploma: Go through your diploma booklet and start adding notes where you have completed relevant research, community service, intellectual curiosity towards the course you wish to apply for, note, you cannot waffle, the research and 'why' is so important when applying to university.
10/05/21	PS Notes: On a google doc, begin to make a bulleted list of everything you are able to add on to your personal statement - this will be your first draft (note form)
17/05/21	Draft: Finish your first draft (note form) of your personal statement and hand in - this is only a first draft, you will have many more chances to improve it!

What makes a good UCAS Application

- Clear planning and choices made - do students really know what they have applied for, are they passionate?
- Appropriate predicted grades (Teachers make predicted grades and write references which go on their UCAS application.)
- Strong Personal Statement
- Variety of wider reading
- Work Experience
- Interest in studying the course at a higher level

It is SO important that students continue to work hard to the best of their ability, even in these difficult times, to ensure their predicted grades are as high as possible. **This will affect the Universities they can or cannot apply to.**

[Writing a Personal Statement - Tutorial Booklet | Resources](#)

[Applying for Art Degrees: a step by step guide | Resources](#)

[Geography: applying for Geography degrees - step by step guide with advice for Year 11 and Year 12 | Resources](#)

[Medical Schools entry criteria 2020: created by the Medical Schools Council | Resources](#)

www.medschools.ac.uk

[UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com) - UCAS Hub is a very useful tool for students to start exploring subjects, considering apprenticeships, shortlisting their final 5 and about writing personal statements and CVs

[Unibuddy on ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com/unibuddy): Unibuddy gives you a chance to speak to current undergraduates who have already experienced student life and the courses you are applying for

[UCAS Guide for Parents and Carers](https://www.ucas.com/guide-for-parents-and-carers) - to share with your parent/carer

University Open Days: These have all now gone virtual so you can search via [Open Days.com](https://www.open-days.com) or [UCAS Open Days](https://www.ucas.com/open-days)

[Student Stream](https://www.student-stream.com) is another useful research tool. There are many available.

Question	Answer																					
<p>(Student:) <i>Do I have to do this preparation even if I don't want to go to university?</i></p>	<p>Yes. It might be a really useful process in helping you to decide whether university is the right option for you. Writing a personal statement is so useful and can be adapted later for apprenticeship / job applications.</p> <p>Feel free to start researching other options and add them to your copy of the 'My Future' document so you have a record.</p>																					
<p>(Parent:) <i>What is a distinction in BTEC equivalent to as an A Level?</i></p>	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="639 685 996 723">Diplomas</th><th data-bbox="996 685 1354 723">A level</th><th data-bbox="1354 685 1711 723">UCAS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="639 723 996 762">D*</td><td data-bbox="996 723 1354 762">A*</td><td data-bbox="1354 723 1711 762">56</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="639 762 996 800">D</td><td data-bbox="996 762 1354 800">A</td><td data-bbox="1354 762 1711 800">48</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="639 800 996 838">-</td><td data-bbox="996 800 1354 838">B</td><td data-bbox="1354 800 1711 838">40</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="639 838 996 876">M</td><td data-bbox="996 838 1354 876">C</td><td data-bbox="1354 838 1711 876">32</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="639 876 996 915">-</td><td data-bbox="996 876 1354 915">D</td><td data-bbox="1354 876 1711 915">24</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="639 915 996 953">P</td><td data-bbox="996 915 1354 953">E</td><td data-bbox="1354 915 1711 953">16</td></tr></tbody></table>	Diplomas	A level	UCAS	D*	A*	56	D	A	48	-	B	40	M	C	32	-	D	24	P	E	16
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Thank you for listening

This presentation will be available on the school website tomorrow to allow you to go through the links.

Any questions...