

Year 11 Higher Education



Year 11 Information Pack for Parents/Carers/Students

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Getting ready for A-Levels

The next two years will be important in shaping career choices as it will determine the path a student will take in life.

Students are expected to take increasing responsibility for their learning and management of their time and often this can prove difficult. It is therefore important to ensure that good working habits are set up from the beginning and students are encouraged to make use of all the support given.

Preparation work

Draw up a study timetable that you can start to use in September. You will be given homework to complete in the first week, so it is important to ensure they have good study habits from the start.

Look through the 6th Form Information Booklet available on the school website to find out more about the subjects you wish to study at A Level.

Then look at the Examination Board for each subject and use the following guidance:

- Some Examination Boards provide transition guides showing a comparison from GCSE to A Level. These are particularly useful to understand what the expectations of the course are.
- Find out the topics that you will be studying by looking through the specification.
- Look at the assessment criteria from the specification for each subject. This will provide a description of the skills that examiners will be looking for. A key area to look through is how students can achieve the maximum marks for each assessment objective. Also look at the weighting of each assessment objective.
- Some of the Examination Boards also provide recommended reading lists.
- Become familiar with obtaining past papers. Look through the style of examination papers and mark schemes. You will be using these in lessons.
- Examiners reports - This is a document produced every year evaluating the years examinations. It will review the questions and give you strategies to improve your answers.

Higher Education

In 2021 most of our students applied to Higher Education. 52% of these students went to a Russell Group University. We will support all students in making these important decisions in terms of which subject to study and to which university to apply, as well as supporting them through the application process through a personal UCAS mentor.

Understanding Degrees:

Single subject courses:

Two subject courses with equal weighting – 50% each:

Two, three or four subjects studied together:

Two subject with unequal weighting e.g. 75% 25%:

Single Honours degrees.

Joint Honours degrees.

Combined degrees.

Major/Minor degrees.

There are a number of courses that are modular based. This means students will be able to choose modules of different subjects to build up the course to suit their own needs.

Types of Degree Courses:

A degree course that is 3 or 4 years long is where a graduate will obtain a Bachelor's degree. A Bachelor's degree can have different titles (according to the nature of the subject):

BA	Bachelor of Arts
BSc	Bachelor of Science
Bed	Bachelor of Education
BEng	Bachelor of Engineering

Sandwich Courses

Some courses include a year of working within industry as part of the course. This will usually be for the third year of the degree. The purpose of this is to introduce students to the world of work, whilst gaining valuable experience in a profession they might consider after completing their Higher Education course. Students undertaking sandwich placements generally achieve a higher level degree as they are able to apply what they are learning to the work environment.

Art Foundation Diploma

Many students complete a one year Art Foundation Diploma after Year 13, if they are considering taking an Art or Design related degree. Some Art degrees require this Foundation Diploma in addition to A Levels for entry. This course gives the students the opportunity to try different areas of Art that they may not have been able to access at school, such as ceramics, textiles, sculpture, photography etc.

Importance of GCSE grades

Many universities especially the Russell group universities will be asking for very high A Level grades. As there is a connection between GCSE and A Level it will be down to the student to prove they are capable of achieving these top grades. As a result some universities may look at GCSE results.

Some career-related degrees also require subject specific grades as their entry requirements at GCSE. E.G Medicine/ Veterinary/ Dentistry, Engineering and Teaching.

The Russell Group's guide *Informed Choices* provides students/parent/carers with information, advice and guidance about their post-16 subject choices

www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informedchoices

Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group Universities are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the Public Sector.

Russell Group universities play an important part in the intellectual life of the UK and have huge social, economic and cultural impacts locally, across the UK and around the globe.

While their member universities have histories varying in length from 50 years to nearly 1,000, the Russell Group itself is a newer body, whose board members – the heads of the Russell Group universities - first began to meet in 1994. It was set up as a professional, incorporated organisation in 2007 following the appointment of Dr Wendy Piatt as its first Director General and Chief Executive. The aim of the organisation is to help ensure that the universities have the optimum conditions in which to flourish and continue to make social, economic and cultural impacts through their world-leading research and teaching. They provide strategy, policy development, intelligence, communications and advocacy for our member institutions.

What the Russell Group says:

“Our students work with world-class experts, use first-rate libraries and facilities, are part of a highly motivated and talented peer group and often engage with cutting-edge research.

Graduate recruiters rank ten Russell Group universities in the top 30 universities worldwide, and Russell Group graduates typically receive a 10% salary ‘top-up’ over others. Why? Because the combination of teaching and research excellence creates the ideal learning environment which produces ‘work-ready’ graduates.

Providing a world-class student experience is a top priority for us and our universities have higher than average student satisfaction and the lower than average drop-out rates.”

University of Birmingham

University of Cambridge

University of Durham

University of Exeter

Imperial College of London

University of Leeds

London School of Economics & Political Science

Newcastle University

Queen Mary University, London

University of Oxford

University of Southampton

University of Warwick

University of Bristol

Cardiff University

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

King's College London

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Nottingham

Queen's University of Belfast

University of Sheffield

University College London

University of York



Facilitating Subjects

Taking certain A-Levels will open up more university course options especially within the Russell Group Universities. These subjects are known as 'facilitating' subjects. The more of these subjects you choose the more courses will be available to you. Please note that if you would like to pursue a career in the arts then taking that specific A-Level will be relevant for your application.

Facilitating subjects are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Modern and classical languages
- Physics

Making a Career choice

The first step in making a choice for a career path is to know where your strengths are.

1. If you learn about your interests it will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to.
2. Think about the areas that motivate you and move you towards certain decisions.
3. Identify the skills you are good at. Assess these and determine which ones you want to acquire or further develop.
4. Think about your personality preferences and how these can be used in a work-related area

If you have a career or future degree in mind

- If you have a **specific career in mind**, see if you will need specific A Level subjects. Look at the job profiles on the National Careers Service website to find out more or within this booklet.
- If you have a **specific degree course in mind**, you need to check the entry requirements. Some university courses are very specific about the A Level subjects required – other degree subjects are very flexible. Check entry requirements on the [UCAS](https://wwwucas.ac.uk) website or on individual university's websites.

Specific A Levels

Some university courses will require you to take specific A Levels. You will also need to achieve the correct grades for them too.

The following pages provide guidance on specific A Levels to take for degree courses. Please note that the guidance provided is correct for entry 2017.

Art & Design

Many universities or art colleges will be looking for you to have an art foundation qualification.

This is a one-year course usually taken after A levels before progressing onto an art and design degree course.

Art and design essentials

- Many courses require a diploma in foundation art and design. This will help you to build up the portfolio you need when applying to creative arts degree courses.
- Art A-level or a design-related subject.

Useful A-levels

- Design technology
- Art and Design

Other typical A-levels taken by current art and design students

- English literature
-

Biochemistry

If you would like to study Biochemistry it will be critical that you pick the right A Levels. Chemistry A Level is essential and there also may be other 'essential' subjects depending on the type of course you apply to. Taking Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics (or both) will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you.

Essential A-levels

- Chemistry and often one from Biology, Maths or Physics.

Useful A-levels

- Biology
 - Maths
 - Physics
-


Biology

If you plan to study Biology or Biological Sciences degree you will need to take Biology and another science subject

Essential A-levels

- Biology
- Many courses also require at least one from Chemistry, Physics or Maths – a combination of these will keep all your options open to you

Useful A-levels

- Chemistry
 - Maths
 - Physics
- 

Building Services Engineering, Building Surveying

Many university courses require you to have A-Levels in Maths or Physics

Essential A Levels

- Maths and/or Physics (for building services engineering)

Useful A levels

- Maths
- Physics
- Technology
- A science subject

Other typical A levels taken by current building students

- Business studies
- Geography

Business including accountancy, finance, banking and management

Business Studies, Accountancy and Management are popular degrees

Essential A levels

- None (very occasionally Maths)

Useful A levels

- Maths
- Economics

Other typical A levels taken by current business students

- Geography
- 

Chemistry

Essential A levels

- Chemistry
- Occasionally Maths

Most courses require Chemistry and would like Maths and one other science subject (e.g. Physics, Biology).

Useful A levels

- Maths
 - Biology
 - Physics
-


Computer Science

Most Computer Science courses will require Maths and some Further Maths is also preferred.

Essential A levels

- Maths for some courses

Useful A levels

- Further Maths
 - Physics
 - Philosophy
- 

Dentistry

It will be essential for you to choose the correct A Levels when studying Dentistry. Most courses will ask for Chemistry or Biology or both. Some courses also expect Maths or Physics at A level too.

Essential A levels

- Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics (or both) will keep all Dentistry courses open to you.
- If you do not take Maths or Physics but do take Chemistry and Biology, most courses will accept you.
- If you only take one from Chemistry or Biology, fewer Dentistry courses will accept you.

Useful A levels

- Maths
 - Physics
-

Drama

Usually an A Level in Drama or English Literature is useful


Essential A Levels

- Some courses require English Literature.
- A few courses ask for English and / or Theatre Studies.

Useful A levels

- English literature

Other typical A levels taken by current Drama students

- History
 - Media Studies
- 

Economics

Not all universities require A Level economics some courses specific Maths as an essential A Level.

Essential A levels (or equivalent)

- Maths (some courses)

Useful A levels (or equivalent)

- Economics

Other typical A-levels taken by current Economics students

- Further maths
 - History
 - Statistics
-

English

If you plan to study English at university, combining English with certain other subjects is a useful way to prepare for your course.


Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- English literature

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- History
- Religious studies
- French or another foreign language

Other typical A-levels taken by current English students

- Psychology
- 

Engineering

It will be essential for you to choose the right A Levels to study engineering. Maths is essential in all types of engineering. There are other preferred subjects too depending on the course. The below requirements apply to degrees in Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Maths
- Chemistry for Chemical Engineering
- Usually Physics

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Further Maths
 - Design Technology
-

Geography

Although Geography will keep your options open, some universities can accept you without it. Some BSc degrees require you to have Science or Maths A Level.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)


- Most courses require Geography, but there are some exceptions.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

Some BSc degrees prefer one or more of the following:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- Physics

Other typical A-levels taken by current Geography students

- English Literature
 - History
- 

History

Studying History will keep your option open, however some universities will accept you without it. Having a combination of essay based subject such as English and History will help you prepare for your degree course.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Most courses require history, but there are some exceptions.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Economics
- English Literature
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Religious Studies

Other A-levels taken by current history students

- English Language
 - Maths
-


Law

The majority of Law degrees will be open to you with any A Levels, however certain A Level choices will prepare you more and give you a better opportunity over other applicants.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Essay-based subjects such as History or English.
- At least one facilitating subject such as a Foreign Language, Maths, Science, English, History or Geography, which are deemed as good choices for students who want to keep their degree options flexible.

Other typical A-levels taken by current law students

- Maths
 - French
- 

Maths

Combining Maths with other certain subjects is useful and will prepare you for university.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Maths, sometimes Further Maths

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Physics

Other typical A-levels taken by current maths students

- Chemistry
 - Economics
-

Media

Most degree courses in Media are open to you with any A Level, however some A Levels choices will help you better prepare for the course.


Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- English
- Media Studies
- Sociology
- Psychology

Other typical A-levels taken by current media students

- Maths
 - Art and Design
- 

Medicine

It will be essential that you choose the correct A Levels. Many courses also require you to achieve good GCSE grades.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics (or both) will keep all the medical schools open to you.
 - If you don't take Maths or Physics but do take Chemistry and Biology, it will keep the vast majority open.
 - If you don't take Biology, but do take Chemistry and one from Maths or Physics, fewer medical schools will accept you.
-

Modern Languages

It will be essential for you to take a language at A Level. The following requirements apply to degrees in [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#) and [Spanish](#).


Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- French for a French degree and German for a German degree (in most cases).
- An A level in a modern language is usually required.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Any other modern language
- English literature
- History

Other typical A-levels taken by current Modern Language students

- English Language
 - Maths
 - Business Studies
- 

Music

Taking Music will be essential.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Music and Grade VII / VIII for your main instrument (for most traditional courses).

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Some universities have a preference for at least one essay-based subject such as History or English.

Other typical A-levels taken by current Music students

- Maths
 - French
 - Physics
-

Philosophy

This course is usually open to you with any A Level, however certain A Level courses will prepare you for the course.


Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- None

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Maths
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies

Other typical A-levels taken by current philosophy students

- Maths
 - English Literature
 - History
- 

Physics

Physics and Maths will be essential. Some courses will accept you with one of these, but studying both will keep your options open.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Maths
- Physics

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Further Maths
- Chemistry

Physiotherapy

Requirements can vary on different courses, however the majority require at least one science subject.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Biology for most courses (many accept Human Biology).
- Some courses may accept Physical Education as an essential subject instead of Biology.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Chemistry
- Maths
- Physics
- Physical education

Other typical A-levels taken by current Physiotherapy students

- Psychology
- 

Politics

Most degree courses will be open to you with any A Levels, however certain choices will prepare you for the course.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- None

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- History
- Philosophy
- Sociology

Other typical A-levels taken by current politics students

- Maths
 - English Literature
-

Psychology

Psychology and other Social Sciences are open to you with any A Level. However certain A Level choices will prepare you for the course.


Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- A few courses ask for one or more from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Biology
- Maths
- Psychology
- Sociology

Other typical A-levels taken by current Psychology students

- English
 - History
- 

Sociology

Most degree courses will be available to you with any A Level, however certain A-Levels will prepare you for the course.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- None

Useful A-levels (or equivalent)

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Geography
- Media Studies

Other typical A-levels taken by current Sociology students

- English
 - History
-

Teaching


The A Levels listed here refer to the teacher training degree requirements whether you want to become a primary or a secondary school teacher. You also then need to decide if there is a subject you want to specialise in.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

At least one from:

- Art, Biology, Chemistry, Design and Technology, English, French, Geography, German, History, Maths, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Religious Studies (Theology), Spanish.

Other typical A-levels taken by current Teaching students

- Psychology
 - Sociology
- 

Veterinary science

It will be essential for you to take the correct A Levels. Chemistry is essential; however there will be other 'essential' A Levels depending on the degree and university course.

Essential A-levels (or equivalent)

- Chemistry
- Combining Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics (or taking both) is the best way to keep all veterinary courses open to you.

The information in this booklet has been taken from 'Which University'



Higher Education

During the A Level programme, guidance will be given to you about higher education. You will be given a personal UCAS mentor who will guide you through the process. During this time and more importantly before you should choose a course you might be interested in.

Here are some ideas to help you decide:

- Think about what you liked at GCSE and in the 6th form. What do you enjoy studying?
- Think whether you would like to study a subject you are familiar with or a completely new subject?
- Think about what you like to do in your leisure time; is there a course to match your interests?
- Talk to your parents/carers, friends and teachers as they can help you to think through your plans.
- If you have a career or a job sector you are interested in, find out more about it - the jobs available, the qualifications they are looking for, etc.
- Make sure you are making realistic choices both in terms of what you like and your target grades.

Look at the following useful websites and apps for further guidance:

- www.ukcoursefinder.com - A website where you enter your subjects and interests through questionnaires and it will which provides degree subject suggestions based on your answers.
- [Unistats site](#) – This website compares courses from different universities. You can see; what students thought of the course (through the National Students Survey); the average salaries after finishing; how many students go into the profession after university.
- Prospects.ac.uk – This website gives suggested jobs you can do with different degree subjects.
- bestCourse4me app - allows you to check the most popular A-levels and the grades achieved by previous students for specific courses at specific universities, see the most popular degrees that specific A-level subjects lead to, search the universities that offer the degree you are interested in and find the courses that lead to the career you are interested in.
- [Getting in](#) has lots of information about searching and applying for university, including dates for open days (it also has revision materials for A Levels and GCSEs).

How to research subject/courses

Researching different subject courses takes time. It is important to start this process early on so that you can make the right decision.

Different universities will often have the same course name, however, the content may differ.

There are a number of very good websites to assist you in this process. Each of them offers an array of different knowledge about the courses available. University prospectuses are also good and are free too.

- www.ucas.com - to research courses, universities and entry requirements.
- www.ukcoursefinder.com – course finder
- www.whatuni.com - compare universities and degree courses, rankings, profiles
- www.unistats.direct.gov.uk - The site draws together information on those areas that students have identified as important in making decisions about what and where to study
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk- comprehensive information about UK universities including league tables
- www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/universities-and-colleges/ - A-Z guide of UK universities
- www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide - view league tables, course finder
- www.push.co.uk – independent guide to UK universities, student life, gap years, open days, student finance
- university.which.co.uk – Getting into Uni guide, student reviews

How to choose a University

At this stage it is good to have an idea of where you might like to aspire to. The following points and the above websites should be considered when making choices:

Ranking

University rankings are useful if you are aiming to study at one of the very best institutions. Please note also that these universities are also the most competitive. Trusted university rankings include those published by The Times, Guardian and Complete University Guide. Although you are looking at university ranking it is important to also note subject ranking and student satisfaction.

Location

The location of where you will study may influence your decision on which university to attend. It is important that you look at the geographical location of the universities you are interested in.

The following questions may assist you further in making your decisions:

- Are these universities city based or several miles outside? How often will you be travelling back home? Is there a cost implication?
- How close are the amenities to where you might live at university?
- Cost of living – As you are aware the cost of living in London and the Southeast is more expensive than the rest of the UK. Find out how much student accommodation is at university.

University Fairs

Higher education fairs and events are an excellent opportunity for prospectus students to meet university representatives, discuss issues about degree programmes and university life. You will also be able to pick up prospectuses too.

There are a number of Higher education fairs that you can attend. The whole of Year 12 will visit the UCAS convention in April next year with staff members present, however there are also a large number of these that occur on Saturdays.

Open Days

In the Summer Term of Year 12 it is advisable to visit universities during an official 'Open Day.' During these days you can explore all facilities available to you and also meet current staff and students in departments. If you cannot attend an Open Day, look on the universities website for a virtual tour. You can find a list of all the virtual tours and videos from universities on the UCAS website under graduate/events and open days/virtual tours.

To see further information on Open Days visit www.opendays.com or see the website of the relevant university.

You will be provided with suggested questions to assist you further when visiting universities next year.



Oxbridge

Oxbridge:

Oxford and Cambridge are regarded as the best universities in the country and a degree from these universities is highly prestigious.

A collegiate university: who does what?

Oxford and Cambridge are 'collegiate' universities. This means that they comprise:

- various faculties and departments in different academic subjects
- a number of Colleges

Both universities are organised in the following way:

University:	The Colleges:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Determines course content▪ Organises lectures, seminars, practicals and projects▪ Sets and marks examinations▪ Awards degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Are responsible for the admission of undergraduate students▪ Organise small-group teaching (supervisions/tutorials)▪ Are responsible for academic and pastoral care▪ Offer accommodation, places to eat and recreational facilities

Courses at Cambridge:

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Cambridge courses (also called Triposes) is that they cover the subject area very broadly in the initial years and then offer a wide range of options in which to specialise in the later years.

Students with a clear sense of the subject they wish to pursue at university can specialise, while those who are less certain are able to explore the wider subject area before deciding what to focus on.

Course structure

Courses are divided into 'Parts', with each 'Part' lasting one or two years. You must pass exams in two 'Parts' to graduate with an Honours degree. Engineering and some science subjects also have a 'Part III' that leads to an MEng or MSci degree.

Teaching methods:

Your faculty or department arranges lectures, seminars and practicals that students from all Colleges attend together. Your College also arranges supervisions (regular small group tuition with subject specialists) for you.

However, as at all universities, there is a much greater emphasis on independent and self-directed study here compared to school or college. You are responsible for your own learning and are expected to read beyond what's required for your lectures and classes.

Courses at Oxford:

Oxford offers more combinations of subjects than Cambridge. e.g. Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology (PPP); Engineering, Economics and Management (EEM); Physics and Philosophy.

Tutorial teaching:

'Tutor' is Oxford's name for a member of academic staff. They are experts in their field, and tutorials are a chance to get individualised teaching from them. At least once a week in each subject studied, groups of two or three students will spend an hour with their tutor, discussing a topic in depth. This personalised attention means that you will face rigorous academic challenges on a weekly basis, encouraging and facilitating your learning in a way that just isn't possible in a lecture. It also means that tutors are immediately aware if you need any extra support with any aspect of your course, so they can help you right away.

Application:

You may only apply to Oxford **or** Cambridge, you cannot apply to both universities. Applications to Oxford & Cambridge (along with all your other UCAS applications) must reach the institutions by mid-October. Your Oxbridge application counts as one of your applications on your UCAS form. Cambridge will also require you to complete a 'Supplementary Application Questionnaire' online. Cambridge sends all the relevant instructions to complete this online upon receipt of your UCAS application. Oxford at present does not require an additional questionnaire, although that may change.

Assessment Tests:

Recently, admissions or assessment tests have become an increasingly important part of the application process for most subjects at both Oxford and Cambridge. Most admissions tests are administered by the Admissions Testing Service. They take place in early November in school and you must be registered by the deadline in mid-October. However, you may also be asked to send additional work including school essays, which may then be discussed at interview.

UMS Scores:

Cambridge will ask for high UMS (uniform mark scheme) in every AS and A – Level unit taken. They will measure UMS performance on an **average** across three subjects. In the last admissions round the average Cambridge applicant scored 90% on this measure, and the average successful Cambridge applicant scored 95%. Based on this, those applicants averaging 85% or below in their three best (or most relevant for Science/Maths courses) AS subjects are unlikely to be called for interview. Oxford do not request UMS scores.

Interview:

Interviews at both universities are held from early December onwards.

Optimise your Chances of Success:

If students present a very strong academic record they will be actively encouraged to apply to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

A possible successful Oxbridge candidate will have the following:

- A high proportion of GCSE 8 and 9 grades
- A* predications in most subjects at A Level
- Perform well in admissions tests
- A passionate commitment to the chosen subject. Additional wider reading is a must.

Students must strengthen their academic work as much as possible to support their application to Oxbridge.

This includes:

- Reading more books
- Reading relevant professional journals
- Look for relevant research work published on the internet
- Discuss aspects of your A level subjects in detail with your teachers
- Develop special areas of interest in your subject and research them
- Read newspapers and collect articles which may be relevant to the subject you wish to study (e.g. legal cases)
- Get as much relevant work experience as you can, and write it up carefully and analytically

Other Tests

As more and more courses have become competitive the need to differentiate between candidates has become more apparent. This has led to these courses requiring additional tests.

- LNAT (Law: some ten of the top UK Law Schools now require this))
- BMAT, UKCAT (Medicine: four universities require BMAT and virtually all the others require UKCAT)
- SAT (for US universities)

Summer school preparation for University applications

There are a number of different courses available during the summer holidays. As university places are very competitive, there is a greater emphasis on making your application stand out. Attending a summer school will add value to your personal statement.

There are a number of different websites to use:

www.heritagesummers.com – Cambridge University

www.oxbridgeprograms.com

www.oxford-royale.co.uk

www.london.ac.uk/tasters

www.etrust.org.uk/headstart

www.premed.org.uk

www.prelaw.org.uk

summerschools.suttontrust.com/host-universities/ - Sutton Trust Summer Schools (includes Cambridge)

www.uniq.ox.ac.uk Oxford University UNIQ Summer School

www.lse.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/informationForTeachersAndSchools/wideningParticipation/lseChoice.aspx - LSE Choice

www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/administration/outreach - Imperial College Headstart (STEM) (fee-paying)

www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/administration/outreach/eventsummary/event_4-12-2015-13-31-11 - Imperial College Work Experience

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/widening-participation/activities/summer-schools> - UCL Summer Schools

Making your decision

During Year 12 we will guide you through the UCAS process and making decisions. You will be allocated a personal UCAS mentor who will support you through your decision process. When you do decide you will have to choose 5 universities unless you are applying to Veterinary/Dentistry/Medicine to which case it will be 4.

You will not have to make a decision until Year 13.

UCAS application (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

You will make an application through UCAS 'Apply' system. This is the only way to apply to a UK university.

UCAS are a central system for all applications.

There are a number of different sections to complete on the form. One of these sections includes writing a personal statement.

Personal Statement:

The Personal Statement is an important part of the application form. It will give you an opportunity to include all the aspects that make you a suitable candidate for the course. The majority of the Personal Statement will be academic (80%) and the remainder (20%) should be about wider experiences. e.g. work experience, volunteering, other qualifications etc...

Certain courses however regard work experience to be essential.

These include:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Physiotherapy
- Veterinary Science and working with animals
- Architecture
- Education
- Law

You should try to source some of this work experience early and carry it out during holiday times or there may be an opportunity to carry out work experience during enrichment time on Wednesday afternoon.






(Further details of this will be given in Year 12)



Useful websites

Please scan the QR code to go directly to the website

www.ucas.com	to research courses, universities and entry requirements	
www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/	Guide to choosing A level options	
www.oxbridgeapplications.com	For students applying to Oxford or Cambridge Universities.	
www.ukcoursefinder.com	course finder	
www.whatuni.com	compare universities and degree courses, rankings, profiles	
www.unistats.direct.gov.uk	The site draws together information on those areas that students have identified as important in making decisions about what and where to study	
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk	comprehensive information about UK	

www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/universities-and-colleges/	A-Z guide of UK universities	
www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide	View league tables, course finder	
www.push.co.uk	Independent guide to UK universities, student life, gap years, open days, student finance	
www.parentalguidance.org.uk/	-Careers information and advice from the Careers Writers Association -The website section has detailed links to specific employment sectors	
www.icould.com/	Videos and information on a wide range of careers. Also includes quizzes to help generate ideas	
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/	Hundreds of job profiles and career related topics	
www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm	www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm	

www.careersbox.co.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A website with a series of short films describing different jobs -New film clips are added regularly 	
www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lots of information about training courses -Advice for students about apprenticeships, jobs and training -Details of employees offering apprenticeships and training -Students can register to receive weekly updates 	
www.apprenticeships.org.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The main website that advertises all apprenticeship opportunities -Can be searched by geographical region or by employment sector -Students can register to receive weekly updates 	
www.plotr.co.uk/	<p>Interactive careers site aimed at 11-24 year olds with lots of information</p>	
www.prospects.ac.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National service aimed at graduates but used effectively in schools and colleges -Options with your subject can help with course choice -Industry Insights gives information about future trends, graduate job prospects and individual jobs -What do graduates do? Useful info on postgraduate destinations 	

www.careercompanion.co.uk	<p>Comprehensive database describing a range of careers and required qualifications</p>	
www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Two websites specifically designed for students with details about the jobs available in all areas of the NHS -Lots of case studies of people who work for the NHS 	
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Links to university course 	