

FUTURE PLANNING EVENING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATIONS:

1. Can you apply for both university and employment?

Yes – in fact, we encourage students to do so!

2. Will I receive help for my employment /apprenticeship application?

Yes! This looks different to UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), as you will complete bespoke application forms – unfortunately, unlike UCAS, there is not just one universal form! We have **Careers Apps**, run by Ms Bertie and Mrs Simons. They have extensive knowledge in preparing our students for competitive applications in large corporates and smaller local firms alike. Ms. B hails from a 20-year career in Investment Banking and is therefore well placed for any business, finance or professional services-related roles. Mrs Simons is a published author and assists students who are not yet sure where their interests might lie. You can organize an individual tutorial with your tutor, Mrs. Simons or Ms. Bertie, to ensure your application is as competitive as possible. They will also run workshops that will help you find roles and then prepare for interviews and assessments as well as conduct a practice interview for you. We have also covered CV writing and support, work experience, and interview practice during Year 12.

3. Can you apply for vastly different degrees at different universities?

No, not really – after all you can only write 1 Personal Statement! But there are joint honours degrees (eg, Physics and Philosophy) if this would suit you better. It is possible to apply for subjects that are very similar.

4. Can you apply for multiple apprenticeship roles or direct entry jobs at the same time?

Yes – we encourage you to do so. The job market is competitive, so it is important to keep your options as open as possible.

5. When should I apply for apprenticeships?

As soon as the job or apprenticeship you like is advertised and before the deadline. You should set up an account and alerts on [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#) (it is a live site), keep checking Unifrog and specific company websites from September onwards, so you don't miss out!

6. Can you apply to 2 similar courses at the same university?

Yes 😊

7. What happens if a student doesn't get any offers to university?

If it happens, students qualify for **UCAS Extra** – students can carry on making 1 more application...until they receive an offer. We can offer support the next steps with this.

8. Can Sixth Form support students with Student Finance?

Not really, this is a very personal situation, so it really should be completed with parents and/or carers. We will, however, offer general finance advice for students.

9. When is the deadline for applications?

Jobs and apprenticeships will have their own internal deadlines as each company sets their own deadline. For most of the big corporate organisations, they launch their programmes between October and December with another tranche from January to March (for a September start date). Keeping an eye on individual websites and the gov.uk site is therefore imperative, as these are live roles. For UCAS, we ask that students have completed their form by **October half-term** in order for us to send it off before Christmas. The final UCAS deadline is 13th January.

10. How much does a UCAS application cost?

£28.95 You pay this via the UCAS website.

REFERENCES:

11. How is the Reference written for students?

The bulk of this is completed by Year 12 teachers at the end of the academic year. The tutor will then complete the reference and ensure that it is tailored to the students' chosen ambitions.

12. What is contextual information and how will a tutor know this?

Anything that has impacted their education at key times (ie, during secondary education and especially during Y12 and Y13). This could be illness (theirs or a close family member), financial difficulties, unexpected changes in home circumstances, and disrupted teaching. Students should share this information with their tutor.

13. Can a student read and have input on their Reference?

Yes – we ask all tutors to show their reference to students before the UCAS application is sent. However, whilst the student can request changes, the reference is written by teachers to reflect their professional judgement of the student. Appeals can be made to the Sixth Form team, but the Sixth Form management holds the final decision on the contents of the reference. Universities expect this to be the case.

RESULTS DAY:

14. What if a student does much better on Results Day than their Reference Grades?

If they have made a university application, they can apply for UCAS Adjustment. They can retain their Firm offer but also look in Clearing to see if there is anything they prefer and now qualify for using their now much better grades. Students can also apply again following a gap year.

15. Can a student change their mind about universities?

Yes, but ideally, students will have made this decision before Results Day. Students need to withdraw their application before another university accepts them. Students should only accept a university as an insurance place if they are genuinely prepared to study there.

16. How does Clearing work?

Clearing is an opportunity for students to select a university course (subject to availability) after receiving their results. Students must apply to the university directly. We will offer specific advice on this nearer the time. The UCAS website also offers useful advice.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ W/C 25th May: half-term
- ◆ W/C 8th & 15th June: **Year 12 Exams** (dates will vary depending on subject)
- ◆ Wednesday 24th June: **UCAS Discovery Exhibition** – University of Bedfordshire host venue
- ◆ W/C 29th June: **Work Experience Week**
- ◆ W/C 6th July: Year 13 commences
- ◆ W/C 13th July: **Progress Check** including Reference Grade released
- ◆ Thursday 16th July: **UNIVERSITY TRIPS** to Royal Holloway University London & University of Lincoln
- ◆ Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July: **PROGRESSION PROGRAMME** continues - school-based workshops – with external speakers from universities and other organisations covering among other things; how to write a personal statement, degree apprenticeships (what they are and how to find them), applying to med/vet medicine, student finance, making the most of open days, as well as completing the UCAS personal statement. Specific employment and apprenticeship support workshops will also take place on Tuesday 21st to further help students get ready for Y13.
- ◆ Tutors will expect UCAS form to be completed and a draft personal statement written by the end of the summer term. (**Choices do not need to be finalised**, but we would hope students will use the summer holidays to continue to research their options further.