

Welcome to the Year 12
Post-18 Information Evening
Mr White and Mr Lloyd

Tonight's Structure



- ✓ Welcome
 - Mr White - Head of Sixth Form
 - Mr Lloyd - Head of Year 12
- ✓ PG Exams and influence on university choices
- ✓ UCAS process and university
- ✓ Personal Statements
- ✓ Timeline
- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ Questions

Predicted Grade Examinations



- ✓ When?
 - Monday 16th June - Friday 27th June
- ✓ Why?
 - An accurate view of each student's progress
 - Learning the process (A levels are terminal exams)
 - To provide the most accurate information from which teacher will make a judgement about the students' predicted grades for UCAS
- ✓ What if...
 - The deadline for applications is in January.
 - October Assessments may provide evidence for Revised Predicted Grades.

Predicted Grade Guidance



A predicted grade is the grade of qualification an applicant's school or college believes they're likely to achieve in positive circumstances.

The Principles

- ✓ aspirational but achievable – stretching predicted grades can be motivational for students
- ✓ determined by professional judgement
- ✓ data-driven

Predicted Grades should not be:

- ✓ affected by student, parental, guardian, or carer pressure
- ✓ influenced by university or college entry requirements or behaviours
- ✓ affected by student behaviour or background – predicted grades should be made objectively and disregard external factors.

Applying to UCAS for 2026



There have been a few significant changes but the general structure remains the same as previous years.

Starting Point



- ✓ Is University right for me?
- ✓ What course would I like to study?
- ✓ Location:
 - City / Campus
 - Oxbridge?
- ✓ Start with Unifrog and use UCAS Hub (all students should have signed up)
- ✓ Research. Research. Research. Research.
- ✓ Students should now start looking for courses if they have not already done so

UCAS HUB



This is a fantastic resource and I highly encourage both parents/carers and students to explore the website:

<https://www.ucas.com/>

- ✓ All students should all have an account on UCAS Hub.
- ✓ If they haven't they need to get one.

How to start a UCAS application



- ✓ After PGEs all students will be shown how to start their UCAS application process in a CPD session
 - We do not expect all students to attend University but having an open application is worthwhile if students change their mind last minute!
- ✓ Starting the application is really easy. (Choices are much harder)
- ✓ It doesn't cost anything until you actually 'Submit'
 - It will cost £28.50 when you do submit
- ✓ It provides a good opportunity for the students to practice writing about themselves
- ✓ Students will also be provided with an Arden UCAS Guide.
 - This should be used when completing the remainder of the form!

The Arden UCAS Guide



- ✓ This will be shared on the 2024 Starters Google Classroom
- ✓ So long as students follow it, they will be fine.

Different University Courses



Broadly speaking there are the following options:

- ✓ Undergraduate Degree
 - Three year course
 - Includes joint honours degrees where you can combine two subjects

- ✓ Foundation course
 - Generally requires far lower grades
 - Usually a one year course
 - If passed, usually guarantees you entry onto an undergraduate degree

Students should talk to staff about...



- ✓ Choosing courses to fit with grades.
- ✓ Where students are and where they want to be.
- ✓ Their 5 choices
 - They will need a range
 - The insurance should be one they would accept
- ✓ And personal statements...

Personal Statements



- ✓ It is hard for them to write about themselves but we are here to support!
- ✓ We will run 'Person Statement Sessions' in July 2025 for all students.

Personal Statements for 2026



- ✓ UCAS are changing the format for personal statements for the 2026 entry.
- ✓ It will be changing from one longer piece of text to three separate sections.
- ✓ The new questions are as follows:
 - Why do you want to study this course or subject?
 - How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
 - What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Personal Statements for 2026



- ✓ Each section will have a minimum character count of 350 characters
- ✓ The personal statement will still be 4000 characters in total; this includes spaces.
- ✓ The content of the personal statement will remain broadly the same - it will just be split across three sections rather than one longer piece of text. The expectation for what students need to cover within the personal statement is mostly unchanged from current guidance.

Personal Statements for 2026



Do I need to spend lots of money on books on how how to write personal statements?

No!

Personal Statements for 2026



What if they haven't decided what to apply for?

Apply for everything and keep doors wide open!

UCAS timeline



My Profile

Complete majority of form before the summer:

Profile

Personal details
Nationality details
Where you live
Contact details
Supporting Info
Finance & Funding
Diversity/Inclusion
More about you

Experience

Education
Employment

Choices

Use Unifrog, UCAS Hub & University websites to research different university and course options.

Add **Choices** to UCAS form as soon as finalised.

Personal Statement

Writing your **Personal Statement** will be set as an assignment on Google Classroom so your Tutor can monitor your progress and share feedback.

Feel free to share it with parents, family friends, etc. as well to get additional feedback

When finished, add it to UCAS Form and make sure to **tell your Tutor**.

Pay & Send

Once Choices & Personal Statements are finalised you have to **Pay & Send**.

Your form will then be sent to the Sixth Form and your Tutor will start to work on your reference.

Your form can be returned to you for changes if required. Please ask someone in the Sixth Form Office.

2 x UCAS Meetings

Meet with your Tutor to discuss your application to help them write a good reference for you.

When you have "paid & sent" AND your reference is ready you will be emailed an appointment for a final UCAS meeting with your assigned teacher (one of the Sixth Form Team). Please accept this or see the teacher if you need to rearrange.

At the meeting you will go through the reference, predicted grades & submit final application to UCAS.

UCAS Deadlines



	DEADLINES		
	Recommended date for submission (to maximise your chances of success)	Arden deadline for submission (You need to Pay & Send before the UCAS deadline as we need to write your reference and check your form before sending it to UCAS. If you Pay & Send after the Arden deadline we cannot guarantee that your application will be processed on time.)	Final UCAS deadline for submission (Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline.)
Conservatoires (Music)	11 th Sept 2025	18th Sept 2025	2 nd Oct 2025 at 18:00
EARLY ENTRY (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Medicine, Oxford, Cambridge)	24 th Sept 2025	1st Oct 2025	15 th Oct 2025 at 18:00
All other courses	22 nd Oct 2025	19th Nov 2025	14th Jan 2026 at 18:00

Responding to offers



We'll talk about replying to offers / firm & insurance / clearing and adjustment during Year 13.

For now students need to focus on PGE's and revision

What if I want to take a gap year?



- ✓ We will still support your application out of year
 - We will still be your referee
- ✓ You will need to apply through 'reference only' NOT using the buzzword

Timeline



What we have already done:

October 2024	Unifrog launch
November 2024	CPD Futures: Apprenticeships
November 2024	CPD Futures: University and UCAS launch
February 2025	Work experience week
March - May 2025	Preparing for PGEs

Timeline



What's next:

June 2025	PGE's
July 2025	Mock Interviews
July 2025	UCAS workshops and CPD sessions
July-August 2025	Writing personal statements
September 2025 - November 19th	Apply for University and UCAS meetings

Timeline



Other events and support:

- ✓ How to manage your mental health during A levels
- ✓ How to prepare for examinations
- ✓ Oxbridge and MediVets sessions (early entry)
- ✓ Character and Personal Development (CPD) and Form Time
 - Finance and budgeting
 - Health
 - Futures support and UCAS
- ✓ Futures notice board
 - On Google Classroom
- ✓ Future Fridays
- ✓ Career advisor (Mrs Butcher Johns)
- ✓ Personal statement and UCAS support
- ✓ Apprenticeship support

What is an Apprenticeship?



- An apprenticeship is a real job, with hands-on experience, a salary and the training while you work.
- Treated just like all the other employees, with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- Get paid and train at the same time, with at least 20% of time spent in off the job training, often at a college, university or with a training provider.
- Train to be fully competent in chosen occupation some offer a career path to higher qualifications - with lots of future potential
- Apprenticeship can take between one and six years to complete, depending on which apprenticeship chosen, what level it's at, and previous experience.

What is an Apprenticeship



NAME	LEVEL	EQUIVALENT
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Benefits



- 1** Receive on-the-job training by industry professionals
- 2** Earn while you learn
- 3** There are over 200 different apprenticeships to choose from
- 4** Gain specialist skills
- 5** High street discount card available for all apprentices
- 6** No student loan!
- 7** Excellent career progression
- 8** Paid holiday
- 9** Gain a range of qualifications while you work
- 10** Good relationships with employers means better job prospects

There is an Apprenticeship for everyone



Construction,
Contracting
Operations,
Stonemasonry,
Plumbing,
Electrical Installation,
Bricklaying, Painting
and Decorating,
Site and Bench
Joinery

Accounting, Business
Administration,
Professional Cookery,
Hospitality industry roles,
Customer Services.

Sport Coaching
and management,
Public service
roles- police,
armed forces,
RAF.



Engineering(Civil,
electrical and
Mechanical),
Motor Vehicle

Digital Marketing,
Infrastructure
Technician &
Software
Developer,
Social Media and
Public Relations.

Dental Nursing, Clinical Health
Care, Hairdressing, Childcare,
Beauty Therapy, Laboratory
Sciences, Animal Care

Applying



- Apprenticeships are competitive to get, and each has its own entry requirements.
- Most require that at least a grade 4 in Maths and English GCSE.
- Degree apprenticeships usually require A Levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications.
- Employers will also want to know that candidates are keen to learn, have a positive attitude, can get on well with colleagues and have excellent attendance and time keeping.
- They will usually check these things by taking a character reference from school or employer from a part time job
- Volunteering and extracurricular activities are other ways to demonstrate potential.

Myth or Fact



“Applying for an apprenticeship is like applying for a course at college. I enrol to the apprenticeship programme and they provide me with the work placement, easy and simple.”

False- An apprenticeship is a professional vocation and it is applying for a job vacancy.

Find apprenticeship vacancies that are interested in applying for, submit application and await to hear if they gain an interview.

If successful will gain the interview and the apprenticeship, employer will then get in touch with their relevant training provider where theory of the course can be studied .

However, some training is provided in house and may not need to attend college; it is all dependent on the training provider.

Furthermore, can also seek out an apprenticeship independently by contacting companies to seek whether they would be happy to take on an apprentice, if this is the case then the employer would need to seek out a relevant training provider.

Myth or Fact



“Apprenticeships only pay minimum wage”

False- It's also a common (and incorrect) assumption that Apprentices don't earn much and are all paid the National Minimum Wage, this isn't true.

While many employers might choose to pay their Apprentices minimum wage, unions are always negotiating higher pay rates for Apprentices, well above minimum wage.

In fact, the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices would see you earning roughly £100 per week, the average pay rate for Apprentices is £170 per week

Myth or Fact



“You do not gain relevant or worthwhile qualifications and it is not seen as good as a university degree.”

False, A lot of people might think that Apprenticeships are for those that didn't choose (or couldn't get into) higher education like University, so are a step down.

For a huge amount of careers, employers will value the experience you've gained from an Apprenticeship just as much as the degree that someone gains from University.

All qualifications are relevant and are appropriate to different industries, not all are the same as not all require the same and needs different skills.

It is not that one is worth more than the other, it is all about individual personal choice and the job route that you would like engage with.

Myth or Fact



"I can apply for a degree apprenticeship through UCAS, just like applying for a studied degree at university."

False. Applications to Degree Apprenticeships are for people who are in paid employment and are initiated by the employer.

Employers are encouraged to contact the Degree Apprenticeships team to discuss individual circumstances and to be provided with the application forms

Applicants need to complete an application form which will then be then sent to the course directors for consideration.

Each Degree Apprenticeship has specific entry requirements and requires the applicant to be working in a role that would enable them to have the hands-on experience, to complement the learning process and the theoretical underpinning attained through studying the Degree course.

Apprenticeship Timeline



- ✓ Each company has their own application process
- ✓ UCAS announced that they wanted to try and streamline the application process to make it more similar to applying for Universities
 - This has not happened yet but UCAS have hugely improved their information on apprenticeships (more to come)

What should students considering an apprenticeship be doing right now:

- ✓ Research widely
- ✓ Networking
 - Futures conference, mock interviews, Future Friday's, Careers Team, friends, family...!
- ✓ Updating LinkedIn
- ✓ Fundamentally, they have to be a self starter
- ✓ Students need to start doing all of the above right away

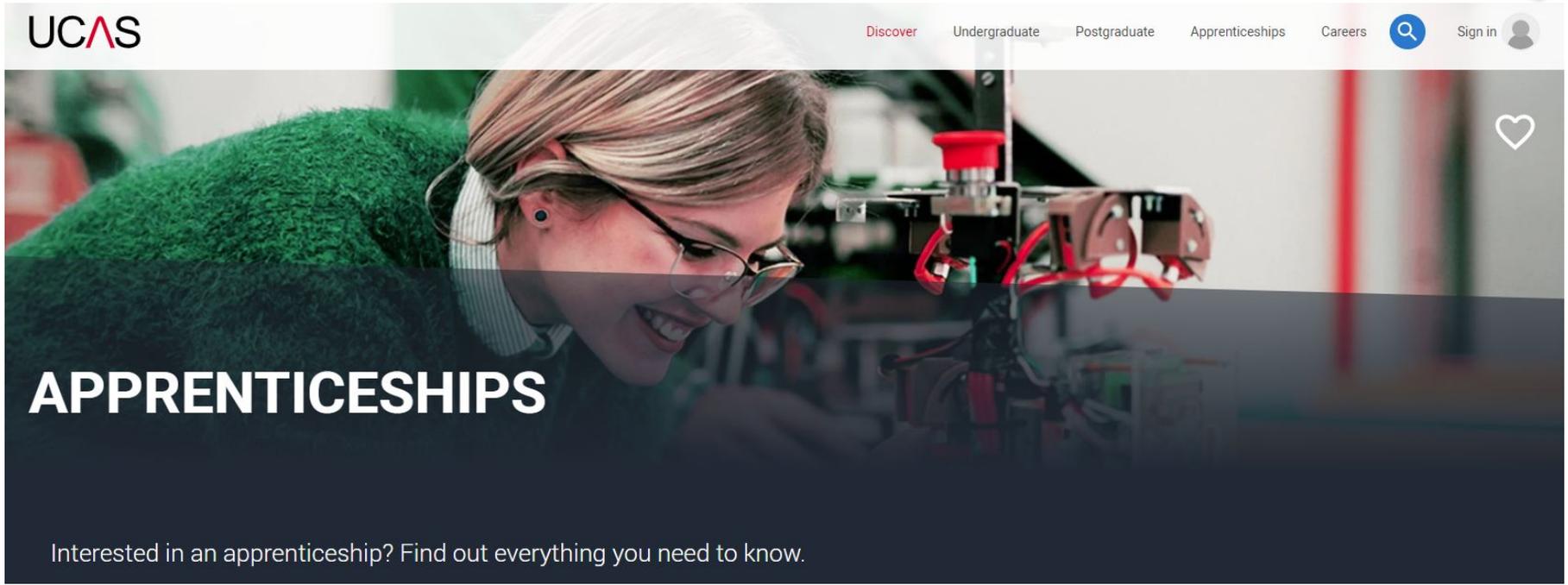
Apprenticeship Timeline



What support will we provide:

- ✓ We form an apprenticeship group that meets regularly to discuss:
 - What research have they done
 - How to prepare for applications
 - How to prepare for interviews including mock assessment centre opportunities
 - What they need to be doing to give themselves the best chance to get onto an apprenticeship
- ✓ We will support them with applications*
- ✓ We will provide references when requested

Apprenticeship information on UCAS

A screenshot of the UCAS website's Apprenticeships page. The page features a navigation bar with the UCAS logo on the left and links for "Discover", "Undergraduate", "Postgraduate", "Apprenticeships", and "Careers" on the right. There are also search and sign-in icons. The main content area has a background image of a young woman with glasses and a green sweater working on a robot. The word "APPRENTICESHIPS" is written in large white letters over the image. Below the image, there is a text prompt: "Interested in an apprenticeship? Find out everything you need to know." A heart icon is visible in the top right corner of the image area.

UCAS

Discover Undergraduate Postgraduate Apprenticeships Careers

Search Sign in

APPRENTICESHIPS

Interested in an apprenticeship? Find out everything you need to know.

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>

Apprenticeship information on UCAS



Considered an apprenticeship? An undergraduate degree isn't the only option – discover more about apprenticeships, and you could learn and earn at the same time.



Listen to our new podcast

Find out all about degree apprenticeships in our brand new podcast series.



Find an apprenticeship

Search and apply for apprenticeships using Career Finder.



What is an apprenticeship?

Get the facts on apprenticeships and how they work.



Browse by industry

From marketing to construction, business, and so much more, find out what industries might be a good fit for you.



Degree apprenticeships

Learn how you can gain a paid-for degree while getting industry experience and earning a salary.



Find your ideal career

Take our career quiz to find your ideal job matched to your personality type.



Get tailored advice in the UCAS Hub

Sign up to explore your options, favourite your interests and get personal support and advice.



Support for disabled people taking apprenticeships

Being disabled shouldn't limit your job or study choice, and apprenticeships can be a great route for you to get into your chosen career.

Apprenticeships - Further Information



Additional sources of information include:

- ✓ The Government Website
- ✓ Unifrog
 - A portal that all students can access
- ✓ Training providers
- ✓ Company websites
 - Some of the best are not always particularly well advertised
- ✓ The Futures noticeboard on Google Classroom
 - We update this with any opportunities that get sent to the school

So what can I do to support my child?



- Note down the deadlines for UCAS
- Encourage them to actively research university courses and apprenticeships and attend Open Days/Events
- Encourage personal statements to be written over summer/early September
- Be patient, supportive and give advice but also be mindful that the onus is on them to think about their own future
- Talk to them about their aspirations and be realistic about goals/ back- up plans?
- Proofread their personal statement?
- Help with revision for PGE?

Questions



There will be a Google Form sent out to all parents and carers along with a copy of the slides.

I can stay briefly if the questions are simple yes or no questions!