

# *Year 12 Higher Education Evening*

*3rd July, 2023*



# *Sixth Form Careers Workshops*

## *Recap*

- The advantages and disadvantages of HE/ going straight into and apprenticeship or job at 18
- How to choose higher education courses
- The post-18 and graduate job markets
- Degree apprenticeships – visiting speaker
- Personal statement writing – visiting speaker

- ▶ Personal Statements and UCAS registration
- ▶ Apprenticeship support



# Additionally

- ▶ Year 12 virtual work experience opportunities shared
- ▶ Work experience – later this month
- ▶ Practice university interviews (Year 13)
- ▶ Individual support for students applying for apprenticeships/other employment (Year 13)
- ▶ Individual tutorials



# Why do students drop out?

- Wrong choice of course
- Inability to cope with course demands
- Dissatisfaction with course or university
- Poor quality of student experience
- Unhappiness with social environment
- Financial reasons

Making an informed choice re: university and course is therefore very important!

# *Applying For Higher Education Courses*



# *How to apply*

- Applications are made through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
- UCAS Hub and UCAS Apply (a web-based application system)

# *Course choices*

- Can choose up to 5 courses via UCAS
- Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science applicants should only list 4 such courses
- Invisibility of choices but can add a different course as their fifth choice
- Choices listed in alphabetical order of institution code name (not preference)

# *When to apply*

- Applications for 2024 entry can be submitted from September 2023, although the form can be filled in from May onwards
- Applications for Oxford / Cambridge (all subjects) should reach UCAS by Monday 16th October 2024 Applications for Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine / Veterinary Science (all universities) should reach UCAS by Monday 16th October
- Other applications by 31st January 2024  
(They must be completed well before this, however, as references need to be added before they are sent to UCAS)

# *When to apply*

- Early application is strongly recommended
- Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry & Vet. Science applicants should plan to submit completed forms to school by 16 September 2023
- All other applications by the end of October (From October to December, references will be added and forms sent to UCAS)

# *The Personal Statement*

Used by applicants to convince admissions tutors to make them an offer.

It should include:

- Reasons for choosing courses listed – it should convey strong motivation and commitment
- Interest in present studies especially if related to the UCAS course choices



# *The Personal Statement*

- Work experience and the knowledge / skills gained (particularly if relevant to chosen courses)
- Interests, activities and responsibilities within or outside school
- Career ideas and plan for the future
- If planning to take a year out, reasons why



# *The Reference*

- Contextual information about the school
- Academic potential, predicted grades
- Extra-curricular activities and enrichment
- Extenuating circumstances
- Special achievements

# *Offers*

- Each course / department makes its own decisions on whether and when to make an offer (not UCAS)
- Unconditional – applicant has met all entrance requirements
- Conditional – applicant is asked to achieve specific grades, possibly in named subjects, or a certain number of UCAS Tariff points
- Informed by letter/email and UCAS Track

# *The UCAS Tariff*

- A system to report achievement in a numerical form (points)
- Points from different qualifications can be added together

# *The New UCAS Tariff*

## GCE A Level

▶ **A\*** 56

▶ **A** 48

▶ **B** 40

▶ **C** 32

▶ **D** 24

▶ **E** 16

# BTEC Diploma in Business /Health and Social Care

D\*D\* 112

D\*D 104

DD 96

DM 80

MM 64

MP 48

PP 32

# BTEC Extended Certificate in Digital Content Production/Health and Social Care

▶ **D\*** 56

▶ **D** 48

▶ **M** 32

▶ **P** 16

# The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

▶ **A\*** 28

▶ **A** 24

▶ **B** 20

▶ **C** 16

▶ **D** 12

▶ **E** 8

# Sample Points Offer

- A minimum of 128 UCAS Tariff points
- At least 112 points from A Levels or equivalent (BTEC is an equivalent)
- To include a pass at grade B in GCE A level Mathematics

***Note - there is a tariff calculator on the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com))***

***IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO CHECK CAREFULLY, FOR EACH COURSE APPLIED FOR, WHAT IS INCLUDED AND NOT INCLUDED IN THE POINTS OFFER. IF ANYTHING IS UNCLEAR, CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY FOR CLARIFICATION.***



# *Replying to offers*

Applicants cannot reply to offers if waiting for decisions from other universities or colleges

- Up to 2 offers can be accepted
- One firm acceptance
- One insurance acceptance
- Applicants must be happy to take up both
- If no offers received applicant can enterucasextra (mid-March to end of June)

# *Confirmation and Clearing*

- When exam results known in August UCAS confirms place if conditions of offer met
- Many institutions are flexible by a grade or more and may confirm if offer not fully met
- If a place is confirmed, applicant must take up place or self-release into Clearing
- Applicants whose firm or insurance offers are not confirmed are eligible for Clearing

N.B. There is little point in accepting an offer as insurance that is higher than the one accepted as firm, except in particular circumstances (for example the overall offer is a little higher but it does not specify certain grades in certain subjects).

# EXAMPLE

- ▶ An example of an exception might be for a student who already has 16 points from a dropped AS Level and is hoping to gain another 20 from an Extended Project Qualification.

- ▶ Offer firmly accepted (The student's preferred course): 120 points from 3 'A' levels including at least grade B in Geography: ALL the points must come from A Levels and therefore the student must average BBB including her B in Geography.
- ▶ Offer accepted as insurance: 128 points from *Level 3* qualifications, including at least 2 A Levels: for this offer, the student could count her 36 points from other qualifications so would only need 92 points from her 3 A Levels, which she could get for three Cs. If the student was unsure of whether she would achieve Bs at A Level, this would be a good back-up. Even though the points requirement is higher, what is expected in terms of results at A Level is lower and less specific.

# GENERAL RULE

- ▶ APART FROM EXCEPTIONS LIKE THIS, THE RULE IS THAT AN INSURANCE ACCEPTANCE SHOULD BE FOR A LOWER OFFER THAN A FIRM ACCEPTANCE.
- ▶ If a student's first choice of course makes a lower offer than their other choices, there is no need to hold an insurance offer - the student can just select a firm offer.

# *General Advice*

- Research courses and institutions in detail
- Consult teachers & tutors about academic progress, anticipated grades, choice of courses – be realistic
- Seek guidance from teachers & careers staff when needed
- Keep tutors informed about interviews & offers
- Be available on results day and for Clearing



# *Timetable for UCAS Applications*

- ▶ July Draft personal statements and register with UCAS. Fill in parts of the UCAS form
- ▶ September Complete personal statements
- ▶ October Complete online applications
- ▶ October-December Information collected from subject teachers and references completed by Sixth Form tutors



# *Support Offered- Students*

- ▶ Personal statement Workshops
- ▶ UCAS Application Workshop
- ▶ Individual support from tutors, Deputy Headteacher (14-19) and Sixth Form Team, subject teachers, Careers Co-ordinator and Careers Adviser

# *Additional Support*

- ▶ Students applying for courses at Cambridge or Oxford, for vocational courses such as teaching or nursing and for very competitive courses elsewhere, will have access to additional support, for example practice university interviews where appropriate.

# *Preparing for University Study*

- ▶ Free online courses to help prepare for university
- ▶ HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- ▶ <https://www.futurelearn.com/search?q=preparing+for+university+study>

# *Support Offered - Parents*

- ▶ A Guide for parents can be downloaded from the UCAS website, using the following link:
- ▶ <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>