

Year 12 Higher Education Evening

Thursday 11th June 2026

Higher Education



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL



Year 12 & 13 Careers Sessions

- The advantages and disadvantages of HE/going straight into an apprenticeship/job at 18
- How to choose higher education courses - Edge Hill University
- **UCAS Discovery Exhibition**
- Employability skills
- Degree apprenticeships – visiting speaker
- Personal statement writing
- UCAS registration

Additionally

- Work experience – this month
- Personal statement support
- Apprenticeship applications support
- Practice university interviews (Year 13)
- Individual tutorials
- Access to independent careers guidance

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 (university & course)
is therefore very important!**

How to apply for Higher Education courses

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

Course choices

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

Timeline for applying for university

- **July to Sept:** Finalise subject choice
- **July to September:** Decide which universities to apply for using the UCAS website, university websites, other resources in the Google Classroom and open day visits
- **August to the start of September:** Draft personal statement
- **September** – IT room session with tutor to register and fill in the UCAS form (excluding the personal statement)
- **Friday 2nd October:** Submit draft personal statement to tutor
- **Friday 6th November:** Receive feedback from tutor on personal statement if your child has submitted it by the deadline
- **Friday 20th November:** Paste in the personal statement and submit the UCAS form to school
- **November/December:** Your form is checked and returned to you for any amendments – **keep checking emails!**
- **Wednesday 16th December:** Forms are sent on to UCAS if students have met the internal deadline (**20_11_26**). Otherwise a student's form will be sent after the Christmas holidays
- **Wednesday 13th January:** UCAS external deadline

Exceptions

- Applications to Oxford or Cambridge for all subjects
- Applications for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science at any university
- These have an external deadline of **15th October** and should therefore be completed by **15th September** to allow time for processing

The Personal Statement

- Used by applicants to convince admissions tutors to make them an offer.
- It should include:
- *Reasons for choosing courses discussed – it should convey strong motivation and commitment*
- *Interest in present studies especially if related to the UCAS course choices*
- *Work experience and the knowledge / skills gained - if relevant to chosen courses*
- *Interests, activities and responsibilities within/outside school*
- *Career ideas and plan for the future*
- *If planning to take a year out, reasons why*
- Use of AI!

The Reference

1. Contextual information about the school
2. Extenuating circumstances
3. Academic potential

**Predicted grades, based predominantly on Year
12 mock exams**

Extra-curricular activities and enrichment

Special achievements

Offers

- Each course/department makes its own decisions on whether & 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 email and **UCAS Track**

Preparing for University Study

- Free online courses to help prepare for university
- Highly recommended
- Use the free version!

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-higher-education>

Support Offered - Parents

- A Guide for parents can be downloaded from the UCAS website, using the following link:

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