



# Post-18 Pathways

Oaklands Sixth Form College  
27 February 2024





# Post-18 pathways



- The choices made will be affected by many things like career ambitions financial situation, interests, attitude to study, qualifications, the job market, etc.
- Now is a good time to explore in detail with your son/daughter job sectors what they are interested in and post-18 pathways.





# Post-18 guidance in the Sixth Form

- Designated UCAS and Careers advisors in SF.
- Our UCAS lead also provides a weekly drop-in session on Tuesdays.
- Unifrog subscription is provided for all our students.
- The SF tutorial programme also covers post-18 pathways.
- External speakers.
- University and careers fair visits.





# Post-18 pathways



We can broadly summarise these into three below post-18 pathways which we will now explore:

- **Continued study**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Employment**
- **Gap year**





# Continued study



## University degree

- An academic course that is usually studied at a higher education institution.
- There are lots of different types of higher-education level courses available. Higher education means any sort of nationally recognised qualification which is at Level 4 or above (A Levels, BTEC Level 3, Tech Levels and Advanced Apprenticeships are all Level 3 qualifications). A degree starts at Level 4 and progresses to Level 6 in the third year.





# Degree providers

Although in the past higher-education courses were just delivered at universities, they are now offered at universities, colleges and also some training providers too.

- Duration: 3 to 4 years (some courses are longer e.g., medicine, veterinary science, architecture).
- Entry requirements: Universities set their own entry requirements. Usually need A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- Qualifications: Ordinary or honours degree
- Leads to: Postgraduate taught or research degrees, professional qualifications, graduate employment

Find out more: [UCAS information about undergraduate degrees](#)  
[Unifrog](#)





# Continued study



## Higher technical skills courses

Opportunity to learn the higher level skills that employers want in sectors like finance, engineering, management and scientific jobs on a classroom-taught course.

- Location: College or university, some of which specialise in subjects as part of an Institute of Technology or National College
- Duration: 1 to 2 years
- Entry requirements: Varies by course
- Qualifications: Higher Nationals (HNC/Ds), foundation degrees, certificate/diploma of higher education and various other technical qualifications
- Leads to: Skilled employment in higher technical job or higher levels of study

Find out more: HSDC College, City of Portsmouth College, UCAS





# Apprenticeships

## Apprenticeships

Advanced higher and degree apprenticeships combine practical on-the-job skills training with off-the-job learning. This includes training that is relevant to a job and provides a salary.

Location: 80% of the time in the workplace and 20% off-the-job with some study in a college, training centre or Institute of Technology (IoT)

- Duration: A minimum of 1 year
- Entry requirements: Will be dependent on the industry, job role and apprenticeship level
- Qualifications: apprenticeship certificate, diploma, degree and masters depending on level
- Leads to: Work, next level of apprenticeship, further education, higher education

Find out more: [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)







# Apprenticeships

- There are now plenty of sectors offering Higher and Degree Apprenticeship (Level 4+) opportunities.
- But remember, an apprenticeship will train someone to do a job so your son/daughter needs to be happy that is the job they want to do. Also, these have to be applied for like a job, so candidates have to be pro-active in finding a vacancy.
- **For students studying Level 3 qualifications who are not sure whether they want to go to university or do an apprenticeship then the advice is: apply to university through UCAS (you can decline any offers later) AND look for an apprenticeship at the same time.**





# Employment



Get straight into the working world to start earning.  
This will require need an up-to-date CV and cover letter.

Careers advice and practice interviews can be arranged  
on request in the Sixth Form.





# Employment

## Start a business

Becoming an entrepreneur can be exciting, but think carefully about your ideas and make a solid business plan.

- Entry requirements: You may need special skills, qualifications or experience before you can start a business. There may also be start-up costs.

Find out more: [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)





# Gap year

- A gap year usually means taking a year out in between your studies, often at age 18 and after Level 3 qualifications such as A Levels, etc. There are lots of things to do on a gap year like travelling, working or volunteering.
- Some people apply and get a place at university and then ask for their place to be deferred so that they can have a gap year. Those interested in a gap year will need to request a deferred place when you apply via UCAS.
- A gap year can offer a great opportunity to develop personal and employability skills or to get experience working in a job area of interest or to meet people from different cultures. Also, some people use their gap year to confirm what sort of job or career they are interested in before they choose their next step. And, for some, having A-Level grades in the bag before applying for university can help decide what and where to apply to, especially if it is a very competitive course or students did better than anticipated.





# Gap year - pros and cons



## PROS

- The experiences you gain can make you better prepared for university, both academically and socially
- It's probably the longest 'holiday' you will ever be able to take in your life - taking long breaks will be harder once your career starts
- You can use some or all of the time to earn money for university, taking the pressure of your finances
- You can learn new skills
- Volunteering gives you the opportunity to help people
- Both volunteering and working will provide valuable work experience

If you didn't get the grades in one of your A-levels, you can retake it and reapply while using the rest of your time to do something else

## CONS



- If you want to travel or take part in an organized gap year programme, it could be expensive
- There may be changes to your course or your student finance package during your year off
- Unless you revise, you can forget a lot in a year that would be useful to your course
- If you've got a university offer and haven't already agreed to defer your place, you could be putting your place at risk
- If you don't get organised, you may end up spending your gap doing nothing but watching TV. Not great for the CV!






# UCAS


UCAS

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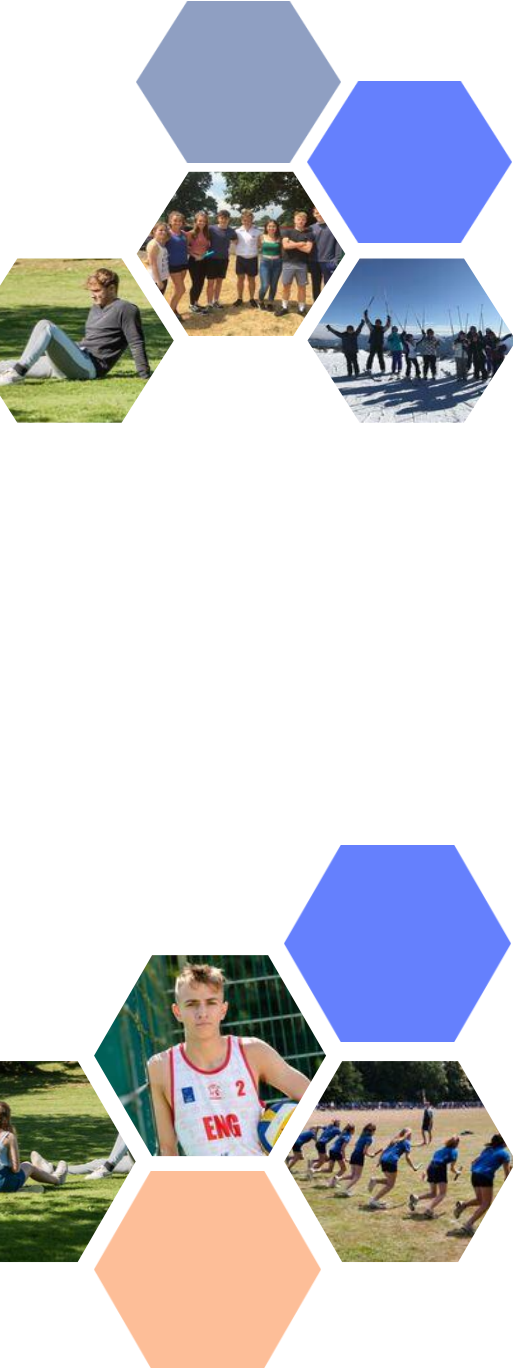
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# UCAS - which university?

- UCAS Fair
- Subject specialism
- Financial – living at home, living away
- Financial – scholarships, grants and bursaries
- City vs. Campus?
- Distance
- UCAS points/grades
- League tables (subject/institution)





# Oaklands open day trips



- University Fair – 27 March 2024, cost £15.17 – payable on Scopay
- Oaklands Sixth Form university visit 25 June 2024– University of Bath
- 19 June 2024 – University and Apprenticeship Fair at University of Portsmouth







# University open days and summer schools



- ✘ Guided tours of the university's accommodation facilities (halls of residence); faculty or department for your chosen course
- ✘ Opportunity to explore other courses, if you have not yet finally decided on one;
- ✘ Talks by students on campus life; student finance (the costs of university life, student grants and loans, bursaries and scholarships);
- ✘ The opportunity to talk to careers advisers.
- ✘ Most important of all: you will get a *feel* for the place.





# Preparing for UCAS Applications



- How to decide on a university?
  - Absolute best way is to go and visit – Posters around Sixth Form and on Teams, click on QR code and EVERY open day will come up
- If you can't visit, use **UNIFROG**
  - All students have an account
  - Details all the universities in UK and some abroad inc USA and Canada
  - Virtual tours available of university campuses
  - Students can put in their predicted grades and subject choices and a list of suitable courses at a variety of universities will be listed
    - **Aspirational, Safe, what if everything goes wrong...**





# All about you - a personal statement



- Employment or university
- Articulate your inspiration/passion for the subject/career
  
- Your current academic skills
- Initiative and creativity – how you stand out
- Your hobbies and unique experiences
  
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – UCAS Support Day and Personal Statement Workshop**





# How to stand out from the crowd

- Universities are looking for students that can stay the course
- Personal statements allow student to demonstrate **WHY** they are suitable and why they should have a place on the course
- Personal statements should include **motivation** for the course, **preparedness** for the course and **preparation** through other experiences
  - **Preparation** is key. Students are being encouraged to **reflect** on what they have learnt outside of their A level curriculum.
    - **HE Plus** – this has finished now and 45 students attended
    - **EPQ** – continuing, with final submission January 2025





# How to stand out from the crowd



## Unifrog is key here

This online platform is the perfect place to record any extra curricular experiences

Reflect upon what they experienced at **HE plus** – favourite topic/lecture, what questions did it raise, will they research further, why, what interested them so much? **REFLECT and TAKE IT FURTHER**

Documentary/Podcast – do the same thing! This encourages extra knowledge and understanding; grow the context of their subject interests. **REFLECT and TAKE IT FURTHER**

**EPQ** – just because the university does not accept it as part of their offer does not mean that the project is not useful/important/great preparation for university. **Don't let them just give up because it takes effort...**





[www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)

- Careers interview (independent advice)
- Discussion with tutor
- Over 58,000 courses within UCAS system
- After Open Days and online research choose 5!
- Or choose just one or two – leave spaces for later decisions





# The UCAS on-line application form



## Main deadline dates


- **June/July** – completion of Personal Statement
- **17 October 2024** deadline for applications to Oxford or Cambridge universities and for applications to **medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science**
- **School Deadline - 20 September 2024**
- **15 November 2024** school deadline for completion of UCAS form for remaining applications
- **29 January 2025** – official UCAS deadline





# Student loans: the truth about uni fees, loans & grants - MSE (moneysavingexpert.com)



 **MoneySavingExpert**  
Cutting your costs, fighting your corner  
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[MoneySavingExpert.com](#) > [Students](#)

### In this guide

- You don't need the cash to pay for uni
- Repay 9% of everything earned above £27,295
- All remaining debt is wiped after 30 years
- The interest charged is currently at 6.5%
- Beware of the hidden parental contribution
- Deadlines and how to apply for funding
- Grants have been replaced by loans
- Student loans DON'T go on your credit file
- Think of loans like a 'graduate contribution'
- Warning. Retrospective changes may be made



## Student loans

### The truth about uni fees, loans & grants

 **Martin Lewis** and **Clare Casalis**  
Updated 10 November 2022

[Share this guide](#)

Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £50,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay. For some that's far more, for others it's free. This guide is written to bust common myths about student loans, grants and finance, including the 20+ key facts every potential student, parent and grandparent should know.

*This guide was originally written by Martin Lewis but is now regularly updated by the MSE team.*







# The year ahead:

- June/July
- Summer 2024
- Every Tuesday 3.30-4.30
- Every Thursday morning
- November – March 2025
- Dec 2024 onwards
- June 2025
- August 2025
- Autumn 2025

Complete Personal Statement  
Research

University help and advice

Careers interviews (IAG)

Interview practice

UCAS Track and offers

Leave college

A level Results, UCAS Clearing

Employment, university begins





# Tutor reference

Only three specific paragraphs:

1. sixth form info,
2. extenuating circumstances
3. extra activities/subject information

Work experience/volunteering/extra

Research your destinations – start now!

Applications in the Autumn term for UCAS and Spring term for Apprenticeships





# Enrichment Week

Opportunity for work experience

TEFL course

First Aid course

University of Bath visit

Fundraising Friday



# National Careers Service

## National Careers Service

[Explore careers](#) [Skills assessment](#) [Find a course](#) [Contact us](#) [Action plans](#) [Careers advice](#)

**BETA** Complete [Ipsos MORI survey](#) to give us your feedback about the service.

## Post 18 options

There are a lot of options to choose from at 18. What's right for you will depend on your situation and the career or job you have in mind.

You may be eligible for the [16 to 19 Bursary Fund](#), which can help with things like books, travel or equipment if you will struggle with education or training costs.

If you have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan there may be different and more suitable options available to you.

You can find out about financial support for university from [Student Finance](#).

### Combine work and study

Improve your skills and get work experience. Some options allow you to earn while you learn. Spend time in a real workplace while working towards a qualification that employers need.

- [Traineeships](#)
- [Supported internships](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [School Leavers Schemes](#)

### Continue your studies

### Speak to an adviser

You can call [0800 100 900](#) or [use webchat](#) to speak to an adviser.

Our opening hours are:

- **8am to 8pm** Monday to Friday
- **10am to 5pm** Saturdays and bank holidays
- **closed** Sundays

### Other opportunities

You could consider [volunteering](#) to strengthen your job and study opportunities.





# apprenticeships.gov.uk



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