

Post 18 Pathways

UCAS



THE SIXTH FORM
Oaklands Catholic School





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Oaklands Catholic School

- Some of our students have long held a career goal and some may have no idea still what they want to do.
- 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 what job sectors they are interested in and post-18 pathways.

- 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.



We can broadly summarise these into four post-18 pathways:

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





Employment

Get straight into the working world to start earning.

Start a business

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

Find out more:

<https://www.kingstrust.org.uk/how-we-can-help/support-starting-business>

What is UCAS? www.ucas.com

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people **discover** what their next step might be.

UCAS **does**:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS **doesn't**:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas

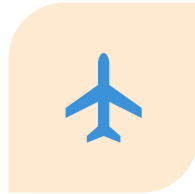
Discover options



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



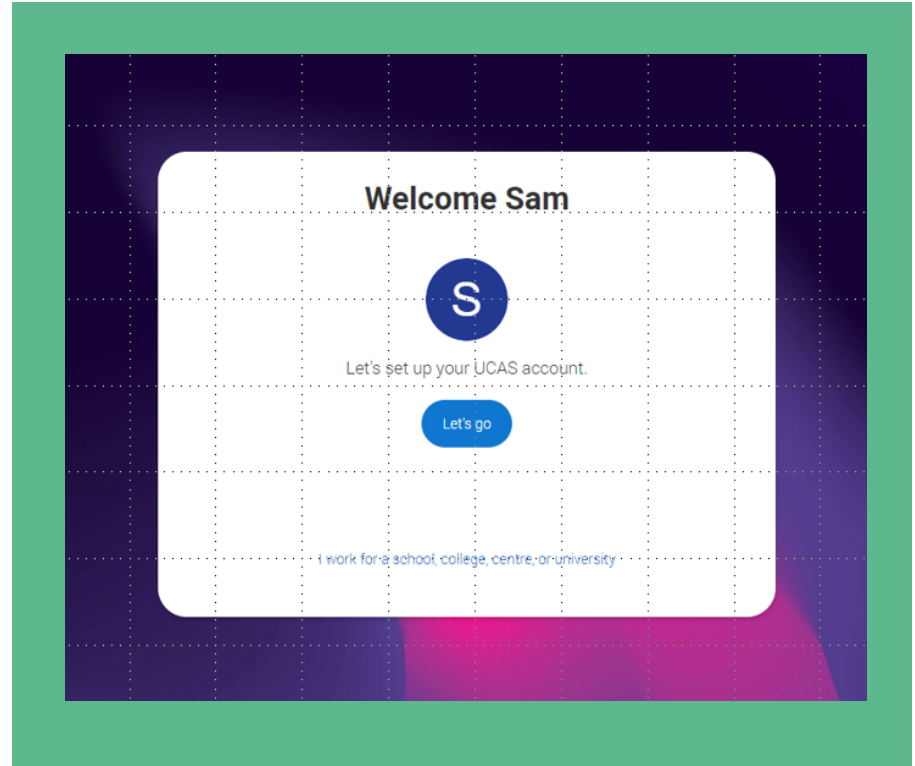
GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand all your options and make the right choices for you: ucas.com/hub

Discover options

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships in one place
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- try before you apply with [Subject Spotlights](#) from Springpod.
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find career matches
- start your application



Your next steps [Open legacy to do list](#)

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

[Discover more](#)



FAQS

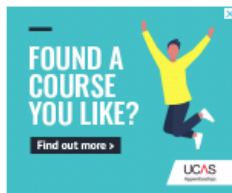
What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.

HOW TO

How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.



DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

[Take the quiz](#)



FAQS

Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

HOW TO

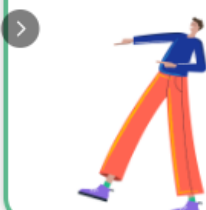
How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

[Find out more](#)



What's happening

Replying to your offers - your questions answered

Getting ready to reply to your offers? We've got all your questions answered.

[More info](#)



Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on UniBuddy.

[More info](#)



University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

[More info](#)



Live now: Studying in the UK

There's a lot to consider when moving to a new country. We explore accommodation, visas, scholarships and everything in between.

[More info](#)



Discover pathways

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

Discover pathways Side by side

You can see apprenticeship opportunities alongside undergraduate courses.

The UCAS Hub enables you to explore all your options and build your profile in one place.



Dental Nurse Apprentice

MR DEVANAND ISUKAPATLA

📍 South Shields

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Advanced Apprenticeship - Level 3	Medicine, dentistry and nursing
Start date	Duration
30/10/2023	18 Months
Date posted	Closing date
06/03/2023	29/10/2023
Salary	
£10,982.40	



AAT Apprenticeship - Audit, Accounts and Tax (March 2024)

MOORE KINGSTON SMITH GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

📍 LONDON

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Higher Apprenticeship - Level 4	Accounting and Finance
Start date	Duration
04/03/2024	2 Years
Date posted	Closing date
05/07/2023	30/10/2023
Salary	
£25,000.00	

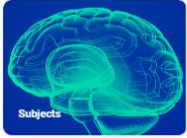
Is it **right** for you?

There's things to consider with your next step

- something you enjoy – you're investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances

Build your profile. Favourite as you go.

Browse by

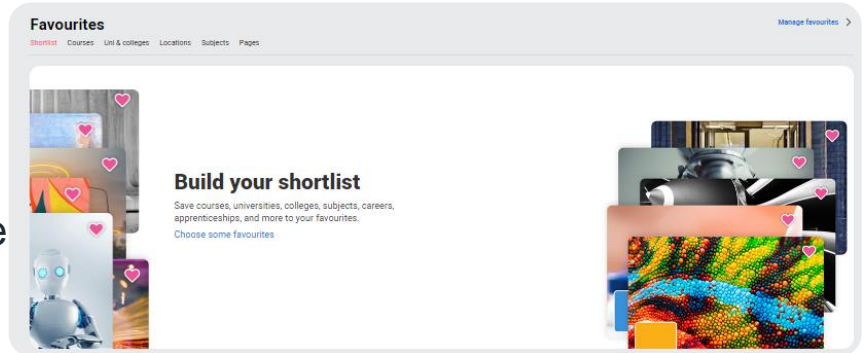


Explore your future

What to do? Where to go? **Discover** all the options with our subject, industry, and career guides. **Explore** city, employer and accommodation information. **Compare** apprenticeships and course opportunities for you.

Build your shortlist

Save for courses, universities, colleges, subjects, apprenticeships and more! Use to shortlist your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand.



Subject Spotlights

Learn from some of the UK's finest academics as they give you a genuine, insightful, and engaging experience of studying their courses at their universities.

- On-demand interactive video **experiences**
- Have a go at **interactive quizzes** and **activities**
- Get **feedback** on how you've done.
- **Try** university degrees before you apply.
- **Certificate** of completion

Explore more Springpod [Subject Spotlights](#).

University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

[More info](#)

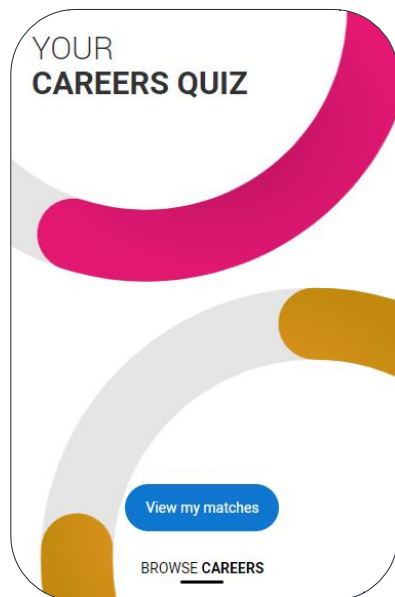


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

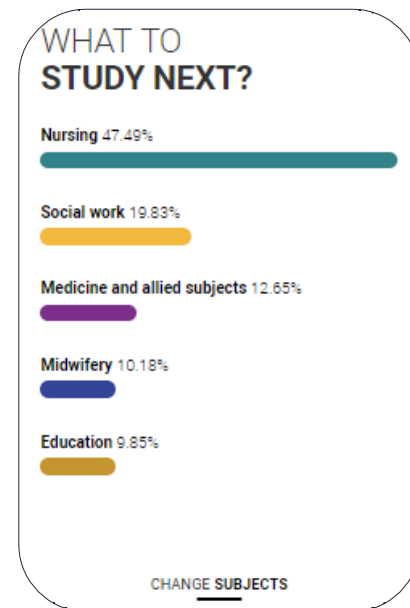
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



What to study next?

Broaden your horizons by exploring another subject area, that student's who did your qualification went on to study.

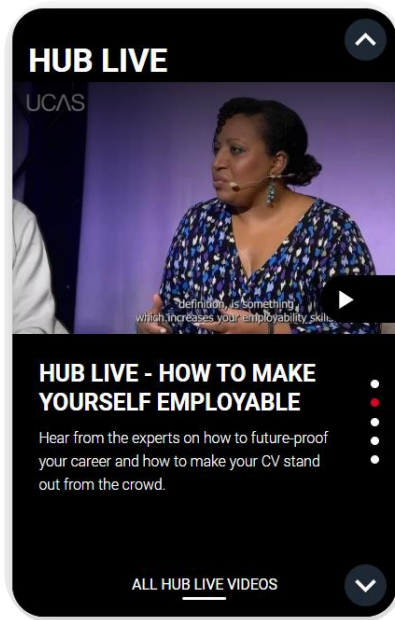


Advice and events

Hub lives

Watch expert interviews on demand.

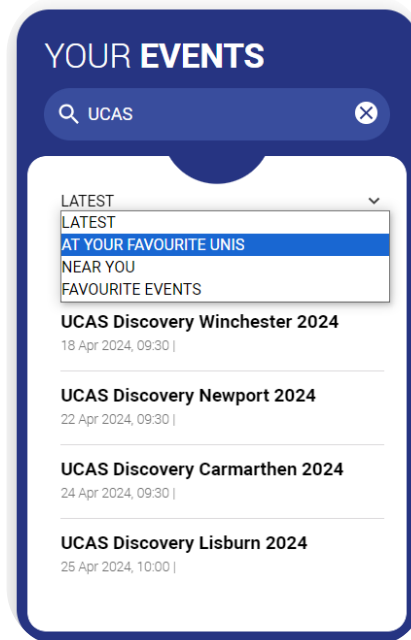
Make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



Your events

Filter to explore events, open days and tours to suit your needs.

Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery events, with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



Oaklands open day trips

- Wednesday 26th March 2025– University and Apprenticeship Fair at Amex Stadium, Brighton
- Oaklands Sixth Form university visit 30th June 2025– University of Bath



Apprenticeships

What are
apprenticeships?

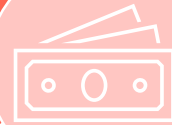
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Study



Job



Wage*

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

* Foundation apprenticeships in Scotland are unpaid

The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

What am I doing now?

For example, in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a **Level 2 qualification**



A level or T level is a **Level 3 qualification**

Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

When can I apply?

- Not one deadline
- Advertised throughout the year
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

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6 steps to follow

UCAS

— Step 1 ————— Step 2 ————— Step 3 ————— Step 4 ————— Step 5 ————— Step 6 →

Register on
UCAS Hub

Option to sign up to receive
alerts on opportunities that
match your profile

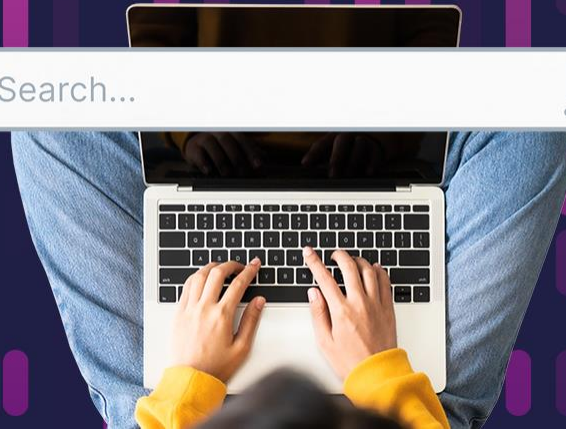
Explore subjects, courses,
industries, job roles

Build your
profile

Search
for vacancies

Make an
application

Search...



How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!



UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



Main deadline dates

- ✘ **Wednesday 21 May 2025 – Application and registration day**
- ✘ **June/July – completion of Personal Statement**
- ✘ **15 October 2025 deadline for applications to Oxford or Cambridge universities and for applications to **medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science****
 - **School Deadline - 19 September 2025**
- ✘ **7 November 2025 school deadline for completion of form in all other applications**
- ✘ **14 January 2026 – official UCAS deadline**
- ✘ **Every Tuesday 3.30-4.30** University help and advice



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- **Year 13 – 92 applications**
- **First offer back from university**
- **- October – 11**
- **- November – 11**
- **- December – 47**
- **Out of 92 applications – 69 students had at least 1 offer before Christmas**
- **20 students had all their offers back before Christmas**

Key facts



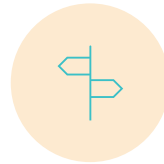
Start your application from
13 May 2025



Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



Apply by the **equal consideration date**.



Five choices, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.



You **can't apply to both** Oxford and Cambridge.



Applying costs **£28.50**.

Choosing the right **place** for you

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course for you

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research?
How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills



Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy skills?



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Why is the Personal Statement changing?

Previous UCAS research found 79% of students felt that the process of writing the statement was difficult to complete without support.

The new format will ensure students from all backgrounds better understand the key information universities and colleges want to know about them, when making admissions decisions.

The three sections, each carefully scaffolded with specific, mandatory questions will improve the application experience for all.

Overall word count **still 4000** characters

Minimum of 350 for each section – flexibility suits the differing needs of subjects. (theoretical/applied/vocational e.g. nursing or medicine which will need more work experience than a theoretical course such as English or History)

The purpose remains clear

The personal statement remains a student's opportunity to:

- **show** passion, curiosity and knowledge.
- **evidence** relevant skills and potential.
- **communicate** genuine interest and a desire to learn more.

The structure is there to encourage students, providing prompts to:

- **link** their academic, extra-curricular and other experiences to their **chosen area(s) of study**.
- there's no right or wrong.

Examples could fit into more than one section, remember:

- the important thing is to **explain** why they're including it and what they've **learned** from it.
- the statement will still be reviewed as one piece.

What are the questions?



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?

Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and ICAS why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for the subject or course(s), this could include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to their chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities:

- Is there a situation they've personally overcome that has influenced their decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped them develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why they'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications they've attained outside of the classroom.

Examples of evidence

In person work experience	Blogs & vlogs	Positions of responsibility	Projects or essays	Mentoring
Virtual work experience	Documentaries	Awards	Books	Tutoring
Work shadowing	Podcasts	Challenges	Influencers	Online subject courses
Paid employment	TED Talks	Personal life experiences	Hobbies	Trips or visits
Volunteering	Articles	Work based learning / training	Clubs	Competitions

Remember to PEEL

Point

Evidence

Explain

Link





How to stand out from the crowd



Unifrog is key here

This online platform is the perfect place to record any extra curricular experiences, including work experience. All students should be planning **work experience for 23-27 June 2025**, during Enrichment Week.

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...



Next steps

UCAS



What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies





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- Book a Careers Appointment
- Speak to your tutor/Kelly
- Use www.ucas.com and www.unifrog.org
- Organise work experience
- Record and reflect on experiences

Keeping you informed



www.ucas.com/parents



[Sign up](#) for UCAS
parents newsletter



Read UCAS [guides](#) just for
parents and carers

Support available

Email – thesixthform@oaklandscatholicschool

Careers appointments available for students to book on Thursday mornings

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:

0371 468 0 468

Monday to Friday

08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



Thank you

UCAS