

ASPIRE Sixth – Parents' information evening

1. Choices including apprenticeships
2. University v apprenticeship
3. Cheslyn Hay Academy's support during the research process
4. Deadlines
5. What you can do to help
6. The applications



Choices available

- University education
- Apprenticeships – application
- Studying abroad
- Gap year – valuable activities
- Getting a job – long term career?

Understand the options available at

www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university

Apprenticeship advice

- UCAS has [apprenticeships advice](https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> the website for registering and finding apprenticeships
- Planned day - IN-COMM training (big West Midlands apprenticeship provider) in school to offer advice and information about apprenticeships. Students will register on the gov.uk website

What is UCAS?

- An independent organisation that provides advice and processes university applications and works as an intermediary between student/school and the universities. This year they charged £26.50 for making five university choices.

Why does Aspire Sixth strongly recommend that every year 12 student applies to university through UCAS?

- A higher apprenticeship can lead to a job and a degree qualification. This obviously makes apprenticeships highly sought after.
- Only the most qualified candidates will secure a higher apprenticeship.
- In 2019 IN-COMM training had over 150 applicants for each apprenticeship position. Collins Aerospace recruited for 16 advanced apprenticeships which generated over 1000 applicants.
- A significant number of applicants are not suitable due to exam grades, experience, skills and qualities and the attitude of the candidate.
- They look for drive and ambition, outside interests, initiative and passion. They also value research - that the candidate knows about a company and the job role.
- Therefore a backup university application is crucial

Why university/higher education?

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

With a degree, they'll have:

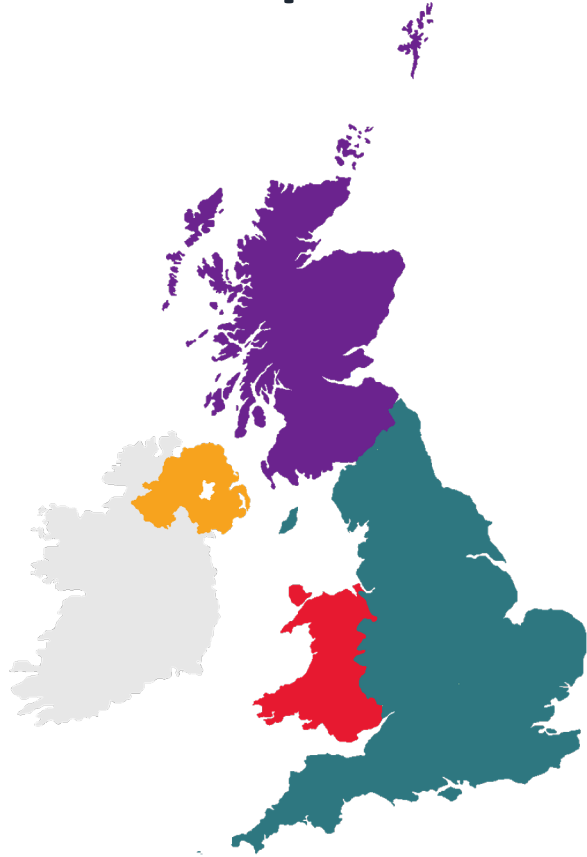
- The opportunity to follow their (eventual) chosen career path
- Better job prospects - many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential
- Academic subject equips students for a range of careers

A university degree offers a life time value of £250,000 to £165,000 above a non graduate.¹

The working age graduate earned £10,000 more than non-graduate counterparts.²

1. Dept. for Business, education & skills (2017)
2. gov.uk/statistics (2018)

Course providers



370+ universities and colleges

- **five** in **Northern Ireland**
- **20** in **Wales**
- **21** in **Scotland**
- **334** in **England**
- **one** in mainland **Europe**
- 37,000+ courses available

18 year olds in 2022 have a huge advantage in securing offers from universities

Current steps: researching options...

- **October Aspire day - the importance of super-curricular thinking and reading**
- **November Aspire day - advice about researching university choice**
- **February Aspire day - how to research and apply for apprenticeships**
- **March Aspire day - visit to University of Birmingham**
- **Meetings with previous students**
- **Visit to the UCAS conference at Birmingham NEC in the summer**
- **Summer school applications open around this time, including the Sutton Trust's free school to enable students' to experience Russell Group universities**

The booklet given to year 12s on google classroom in November. In February I will give a similar booklet on Apprenticeship applications.

Cheslyn Hay
Academy



Your application to

University

Student Copy

UCAS

Top tips for research

- Do they enjoy the subject? – they're investing time, money, and effort
- Is it the right career path? Careers interview
- Location – city/rural, transport links, accommodation, etc.
- The study style that suits them
- Extracurricular activities
- finances – course fees, travel, and living costs

Research –

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> - a good starting place
- <https://careerfinder.ucas.com/> - unsure about career direction?
- <https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice> - general careers advice
- <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects> - guides to unfamiliar subjects
- <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/> - useful unistats website
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2020/sep/05/the-best-uk-universities-2021-league-table> Allows you to search university league tables. Inputting different subjects will allow you to see how the university performs for that particular subject. The website then has a link that will take you to the university's website where you can find more details.
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day?keywords=> Virtual open days
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/> - online university student forum. Good for finding answers to specific questions

UCAS Apply – key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry
(maximum of four), Oxford or Cambridge
- Equal consideration if deadlines are met
- ‘Invisibility’ – universities cannot see other institutions applied to.

When to apply to UCAS for 2023 entry

May 2022
2022 entry.

UCAS Undergraduate online opens for

Sep 2022

Completed applications can be sent.

15 Oct 2022

Application deadline for Oxford/Cambridge, medicine, veterinary, dentistry.

3 First Mon Nov 2022

Internal school deadline for all applications

15 Jan 2022

Equal consideration application deadline.

Feb 2022

Extra opens (for changes to choices)

June 2022

Last date for applications

Completing the UCAS application

UCAS

Contact us | [Help](#) | Print page

Search (by name):/E ? search

<Log out

Qualifications

Welcome

Applications

References

Link applications to centre

Send to UCAS

Delete applications

Security

Setup

- > Centre details
- > Contacts
- > Buzzword
- > Payment methods
- > **Qualifications**
- > Staff
- > Groups
- > Permissions

Welcome > Setup > Qualifications

Please select the qualifications most appropriate to the applicants you administer. This will create a shortlist for each applicant applying through your centre. They will also be able to select other qualifications from a much larger A-Z list.

Double-click a truncated qualification name to view the full name.

Qualification type
Baccalaureate

Choose from the list

AQA Baccalaureate
European Baccalaureate
International Baccalaureate - Creativity, A
International Baccalaureate - Extended E
International Baccalaureate - Theory of k
International Baccalaureate Career-relate

add >

< remove

Your shortlist

AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting
BTEC Diploma (QCF)
BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF)
GCE Advanced Level
GCE Advanced Subsidiary
GCSE

Sections to complete:

1. Personal details
2. Additional information
3. Student finance
4. Choices
5. Education
6. Employment
7. Personal statement
8. **Referee details**

Tutor adds
reference
UCAS

Universities/colleges

UCAS

The importance of predicted grades

- Each course will publish its entry requirements – either a UCAS points tariff (e.g. a B = 40 points) or grades required. Look for “entry requirements” on the university website.
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator> use this website to work out if you have that entry requirements.
- Schools are required to include predicted grades on the UCAS application. We add these grades to the application, not the student.
- Students’ reports from now will have a “UCAS predicted grade” to aid university research. We encourage our sixth formers to ask their teachers what they could be doing academically to get this grade raised.

The personal statement

- The only chance students can market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.
- Tutors will check and advise students' personal statements from May and I will make a final check.
- I will check any statement from a student who wants to start this process early.
- The UCAS guide has detailed information on how to write the statement as well as extracts from previous statements
- Has some similarity to the type of things that might be written in an apprenticeship application.

The academic reference

- A trusted subject teacher writes a subject specific reference – the form should be sent to that staff member by your son/daughter in the summer term.
- The subject teacher will then send the completed form to your son/daughter's tutor to complete a full reference.
- Tutors will also write an apprenticeship application reference when requested.

Tracking applications

UCAS website's "Track" application will allow your son or daughter to:

- follow the progress of their application online
- see their choices and personal information
- see their offers
- reply to offers online

Track

[English](#) [Cymraeg](#)

Hello Rebecca Chen
(Personal ID 34567 56789)

[Log out](#)

UCAS

Track **Your choices** / Your application / Your details / Help / Contact us /

Welcome back Rebecca

Today's date: 13 March 2013

Frequently asked questions


- [Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet](#)
- [Consectetur adipiscing elit sed diam](#)
- [Nibh euismod tincidunt ut](#)
- [Laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat](#)
- [Ut wisi enim ad](#)
- [Minim veniam quis nostrud exerci](#)
- [Ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl](#)
- [Ut aliquip ex ea commodo](#)
- [Duis autem vel eum](#)


Waiting for offers >

Reply to your offers >

Waiting for confirmation >

Confirmation of place

 **Your status**
You've received offers from all your choices.

 **Next steps**

Reply to your offers
(by 6 June)

If you don't reply on time you'll lose your offers.

Decisions

Universities will review the:

- personal statement
- reference
- qualifications
- Possible admissions test result
- Possible interview
- Possible portfolio
- Possible audition

Universities will take into account contextual factors and mitigating circumstances to make a contextual offer where they will lower their normal entry requirements to accommodate students who, for example might be first generation university.

Universities will then make one of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

Applicant replies

Applicants should wait for all decisions from all choices, then they can choose one:

- **firm** – usually the offer with higher grade requirements
- **insurance** – usually lower conditions, in case firm conditions are not met

Any other offers must be declined.

If a student firmly accepts an unconditional offer, they must decline any/all others.

Students can get into top universities even without a strong academic background.

Not all students progress at the same rate, therefore some students think university isn't for them, but there are ways to get into top universities.

- Foundation degree - these are where prestigious universities let students in with low A-Level grades. In return the student studies over 4 years instead of 3. The applicant needs to display potential.
- Contextual offers - many universities will lower their entry requirements to students from certain backgrounds, e.g first in family to go to university.

Some of the university offers current year 13 have received so far

Tom - Warwick BBB - politics (also applied to Oxford University)

James - Oxford interview for medicine

Sophie - AAA - Sheffield AI and computer science

Ollie - AAA - Warwick

Tom - AAA - York - Law

Other options

Extra (Feb – Jul)

Used all five choices and had no offers (or declined all offers/withdrew).

Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time via Track.

Clearing (early Jul – Oct)

Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, or not met conditions.

Find vacancies from 5 July, and add one choice via Track.

Adjustment (up to five days in Aug)

Placed with firm choice, and did better than conditional offer.

Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

What should your son or daughter be doing now?

- Research – online/open days/participating in school visits/apprenticeships
- Super-curricular activities e.g. reading – make you stand out
- Work experience – especially for competitive degrees e.g. medicine
- Go beyond the syllabus – super curricular reading
- Focus on this year's studies – convince your teachers to put high predicted grades on reports

Reading lists...
on the school's
website
(students tab).
Vital for
improving
personal
statements
/apprenticeship
applications

Art	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Biology						Y12-13
Business Studies				Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Chemistry						Y12-13
Computer Science	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Construction				Y10	Y11	
Drama	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
DT	Y7	Y8	Y9			
English	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Food	Y7	Y8	Y9			
Geography	Y7	Y8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Years 12-13
Government and Politics						Y12-13
Health and Social Care				Y10	Y11	Y12-13
History	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Hospitality and Catering				Y10	Y11	
Maths	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Media						Y12-13

Higher Apprenticeship applications

- Typically positions become available from Spring of year 13, much later than the UCAS process. Students will need to register on the gov.uk website and check regularly.
- In March I will publish apprenticeship information including advice on how to register and search for apprenticeships.
- Students who want to make a higher apprenticeship application will write a template application/CV in the Autumn of year 13 which can then be easily adapted for apprenticeships that are advertised.

How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.
- Use UCAS's [parent information tool](#) for advice, hints, and tips about the application process.
- View virtual open days together – you may have a different perspective.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Look at gov.uk apprenticeships website.

Thank you
- if you do have any questions
do please email me

rallen@cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC