



# HIGHER EDUCATION

Makers of the  
Future Day 2025

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



## What did students do today:

- Inspired, Insight, Advice - Listen and talk to experts from industry or Higher Education Admissions tutors
  - Personal Statement
  - UCAS process
  - Choosing you Uni
  - Guidance and Info
  - Student Finance
  - Alternatives to University - Apprenticeships
-

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



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UNIVERSITIES
Bath
Birmingham
Brighton
Bristol
Cardiff
City, University of London
Derby
Exeter
Gloucestershire
Imperial College London
Kent
Kings College London
Lancaster
Leicester
Norwich University of the Arts
Nottingham
Plymouth
Queen Mary's
Royal Holloway
SOAS
St George's, University of London
Surrey
Sussex
Warwick
Winchester

EMPLOYERS
Clavium.io
Civil Service - Cabinet Office
Gousto
Morgan Stanley
Mott MacDonald
NHS
SEFE
Strand Partners
Sutton SCITT
Twinnings
YouView

WHSB AMBASSADORS
Careers
Medical Careers
Oxbridge

Sports Hall  
1.15pm-2:50pm

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



- 232 Accepted places and off to University/1 Music Conservatoire (16 gap year/re-apply)
- 211 students (85%) accepted onto their firm choice & 22 students 9% accepted onto their insurance choice
- 3 students are beginning Apprenticeships
- 13/16 Oxbridge (6 Oxford & 7 Cambridge)
- 148 (64% of accepted places) attending Russell Group Universities
- Universities with greatest numbers attending: Kings College London (19), University of Warwick (16), University of Southampton (13), City University of London (13), UCL (12), University of Bristol (12), Imperial College London (12), Queen Mary University, London (10), University of Birmingham (10)

University	Course name
University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
University of Oxford	Biology
University of Oxford	Physics
University of Cambridge	Engineering
University of Cambridge	Mathematics
University of Cambridge	Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
University of Oxford	German and Spanish
University of Cambridge	Medicine
University of Oxford	Experimental Psychology
University of Cambridge	Veterinary Medicine
University of Oxford	Chemistry
University of Oxford	Human Sciences
University of Cambridge	Medicine

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



Medicine	34	Law	19	Accounting & Finance	12	Computer Science	9
Biomedical Science	10	Psychology	11	Economics	8	Chemical Engineering	4
Pharmacy	6	Politics and International Relat	5	Business Management	7	Materials Science & Engineer	4
Dentistry	4	Philosophy, Politics and Econo	4	Actuarial Science	3	Electrical Engineering	3
Neuroscience	4	Geography	2	Mathematics	2	Engineering	3
Biochemistry	4	Global Development	2	Modern Language with Busin	2	Mechanical Engineering	3
Dental Therapy	2	History	2			Aeronautical/Aerospace Engi	2
Diagnostic Radiography	2	Sociology	2	English Literature	6	Design Engineering	2
Midwifery	2	Human Sciences	2	English & Theatre St/Classical	2	Automotive Engineering	1
Biomedical Engineering	1	Criminology	1	Theatre & Film	1	Civil Engineer	1
Clinical Science & Medicine	1	Liberal Arts	1	Chinese & French	1	Computer Animation and Vis	1
Pharmacology	1	Social Science	1	French & German	1	Sustainable Built Environmen	1
Physiotherapy	1	Primary Education	1	French	1		
Osteopathy	1			German & Spanish	1	Fine Art	2
Sport & Exercise Medical Sci	1	Veterinary Medicine	2	Spanish	1	Architecture	1
Nursing (Mental Health)	1	Biological Sciences	2			Arts & Science	1
		Zoology	1			Music Performance	1
Physics	4	Natural Sciences	1			Music - Conservatoire	1
Chemistry	3	Environmental Biology	1				
Biology	3	Geophysics	1				
		Animal Science	1				

# Post 18 Options



Higher Education – Foundation & Undergraduate

Level 3 or Degree Apprenticeships

Gap Year – Gap Year programme

Study Abroad

Entry Level Job or Internship

Gap Year – Travel/Work Experience

# University Degrees



After A-Levels these are the Higher Education options for you:

- Undergraduate Degree (Bachelors Degree) – 3 or 4 years
- Foundation Degree – 1 year (This can be combined with an undergraduate which means you complete the foundation before advancing – most common when you have lower grades than needed for the full undergraduate)
- Undergraduate Masters Degree – 4 year undergraduate and masters combined
- Postgraduate Degree – Masters or for example in medicine you can complete a degree and then post grade Medicine

# What to Study?



## University Subjects/Courses:

- 80% of careers do not require a specific degree
- 85% of jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't been invented yet
- Most degree's do not require specific A-levels, or only a specify 1 or 2. They want good grades and lots of experience

## Summary

It's hard to tell whether a graduate is in a graduate job. For some jobs, a degree will be one route into employment, but there might be others.

Almost twice the percentage of the UK workforce are underqualified for their role than overqualified for their role. This might be due to low investment in adult skills training in the UK.

The labour market and jobs themselves are also constantly changing. At least a quarter of new graduates do jobs that did not exist 50 years ago. Many non-graduates may be in graduate jobs because the jobs themselves have changed over time.

In the UK, your degree subject matters less. Many employers are looking for well-rounded graduates with transferable skills, rather than specific degree subjects.

# What to Study?



## Educated choices principles:

- Any choice is a possibility
- Choose something you enjoy
- Choose something you are good at
- Good grades follow good choices

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUBJECT

WHAT DO  
YOU ENJOY?

WHAT ARE YOU  
GOOD AT?

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING NOW?



# What to Study?



What are you good at? Subjects you study, hobbies and passions?

Are there any careers that need specific qualifications or subjects?

What skill set do you have? What are your qualities? Do these lend themselves to any particular career?

Think about the future to enable you the best chance of picking the right Higher education pathway/Post 18 pathway?

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# Course Advice

Use these links to explore future subjects and careers:

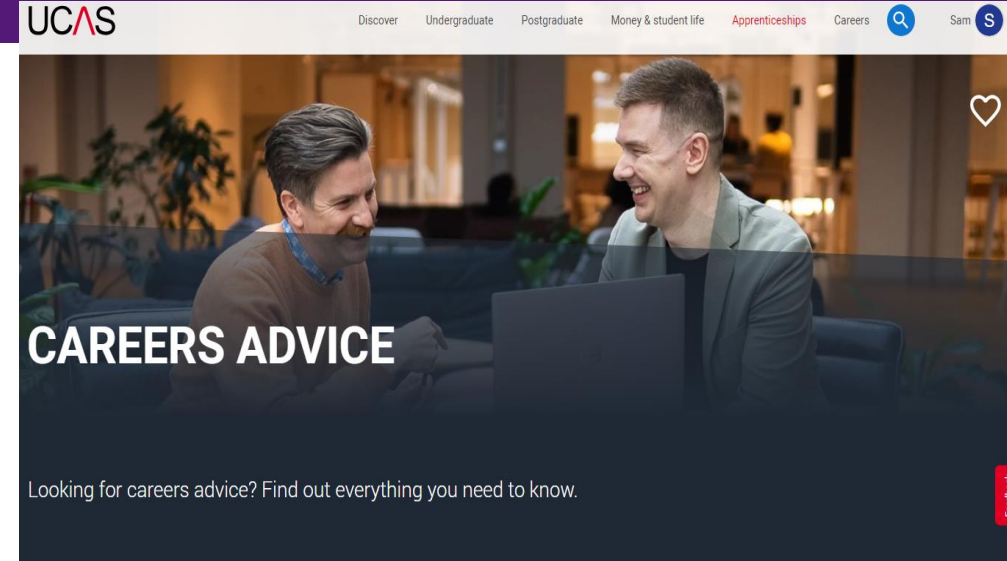
UCAS – [Explore Subject Guides](#)

UCAS – Careers Advice [What University Course Should You Study? \(ucas.com\)#](#)

UCAS – [Careers Quiz](#)

UniFrog – Personality Quiz

6<sup>th</sup> Form Team, Careers Dept, Subject teacher,  
Parents



Applying for jobs? Not s



**Find your ideal career**

Take our career quiz to find your ideal job matched to your personality type.

# Course Advice

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### INTEREST

What do you enjoy day to day?

### MODULES

Which course is more relevant to your interests?

### CAREER

Think about your goals and the qualifications required

### OPPORTUNITIES

Year abroad  
Year in industry  
Sports facilities and societies

### RESEARCH

League tables  
UCAS  
REF

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# University – Where to Study?



## University - Where to Study:

- Oxford or Cambridge (Oxbridge Co-Ordinator - Mrs Whitely Beckford)
- Russel Group University
- University in UK
- University overseas (Study in USA)

✓ London, Scotland, Coastal , Town



# What is a Russell Group Uni?



## Russell Group Universities:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics & Political Science
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University College London
- University of Warwick
- University of York



24 Universities that have a high reputation for global research and education

# Makers of the future day 2025



## League Tables - Best Universities for Campus & Facilities

#1



### University of Cambridge

"It's one of the top universities in the world, so the facilities and social experiences including talks, seminars and etc. by experts in different areas are really good."



Overall rating

4.90/5

Not only is the University of Cambridge set in some of the most beautiful surroundings, it also boasts more than 100 libraries and an impressive range of museums with unique collections and an outstanding Language Support Centre. It is one of the richest universities in the UK; it even has its own farm! No wonder they scored an impressive 4.9 out of 5 in student reviews!

#2



### Loughborough University

"Just finished first year and it's great! Lecturers and all staff in general are very helpful. Accommodation is great too. Brilliant facilities all over the uni, especially powerbase gym!"



Overall rating

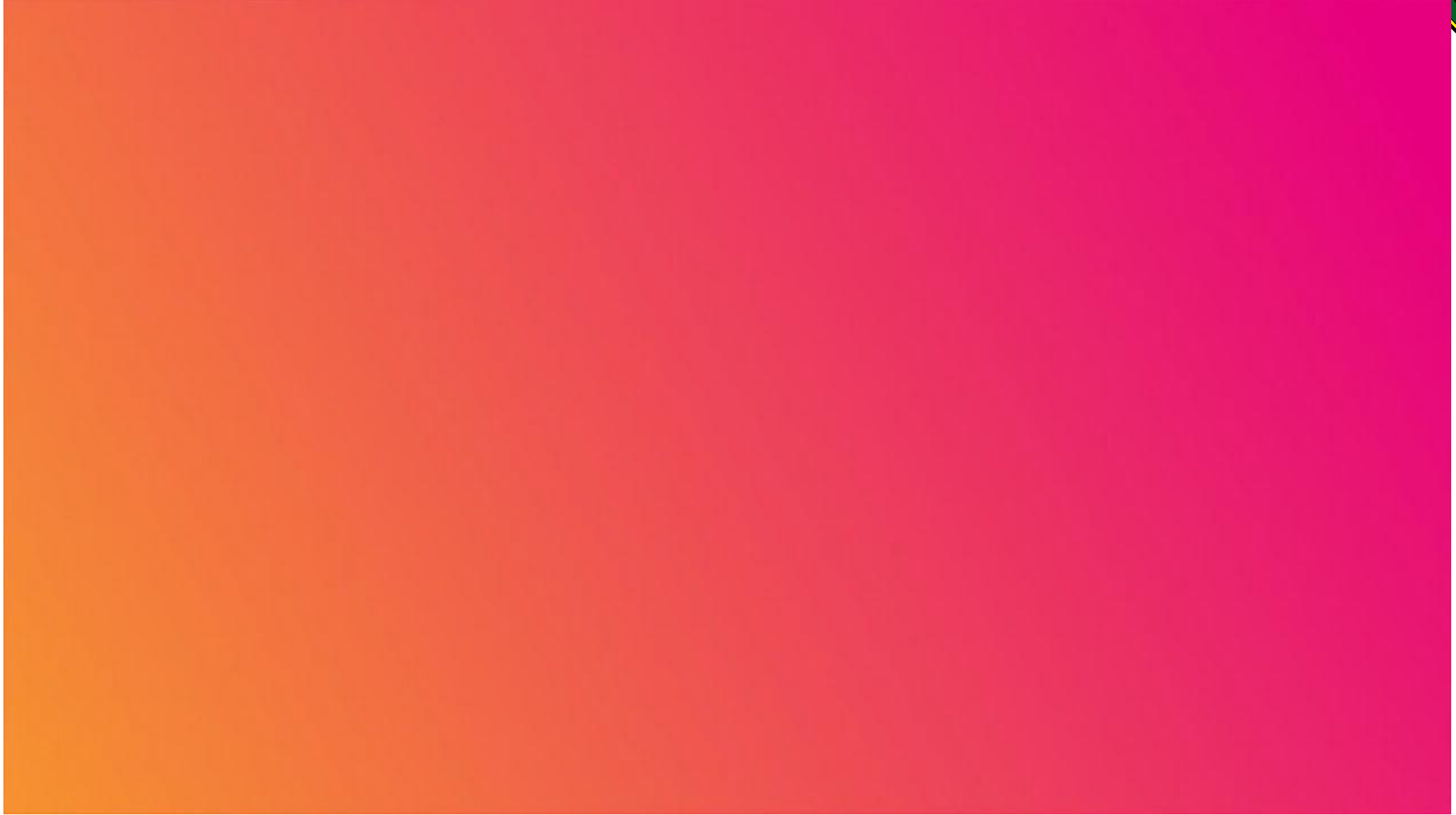
4.75/5

With £350 million invested into campus facilities over the last 10 years, it's no wonder Loughborough University has developed a reputation for its excellent student lifestyle, academic facilities and sports centres. The campus boasts a £17 million high-tech STEMlab and excellent science, technology, engineering and mathematics centres. In addition to the academic provisions, Loughborough also offers two fully equipped gyms, an olympic-sized swimming pool, and high-performance athletic centres.

# Makers of the future day 2025



Student Finance:





## What finance is available:

There are two costs associated with going to university:

- ✓ Tuition fees (to cover your course costs and paid directly to the university)
- ✓ Living costs (what you need to live at university) could be covered by a maintenance loan.

### **i** Essentials

£75 per week | 34% of total weekly spend

### **i** Fun

£76 per week | 35% of total weekly spend

### **i** Lifestyle

£66 per week | 30% of total weekly spend

### **i** Rent

Between £115-175 per week



# Tuition Fees



## What are tuition fees?

- Tuition fees are charged by universities and colleges to cover key elements of your course and academic life, as well as core services related to students' wellbeing and experience on campus.

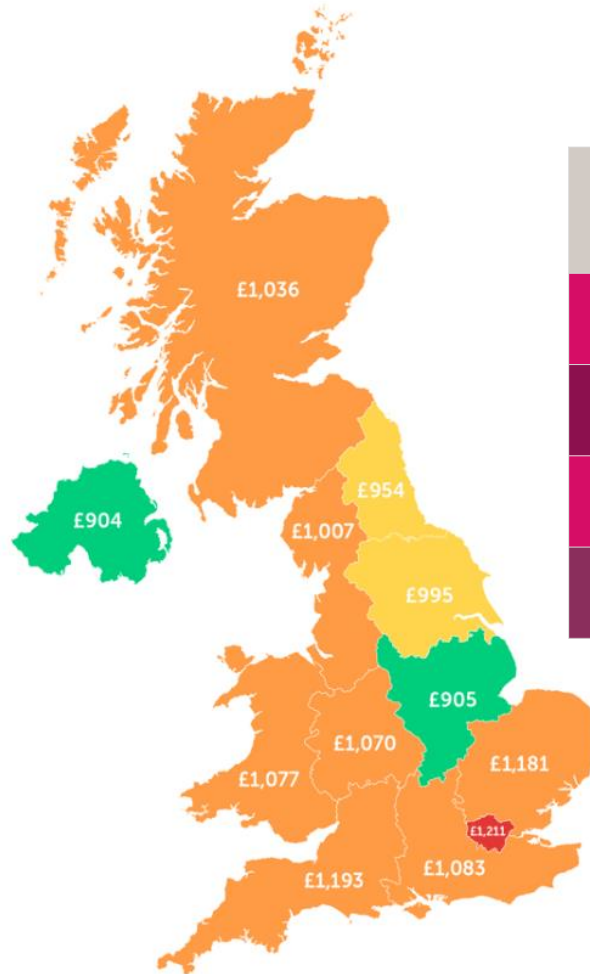
## Tuition fees normally cover:

- lectures, seminars, and tutorials
  - course admin costs
  - access to course-related facilities and equipment (e.g. laboratories, studios)
  - access to campus libraries and computer rooms
  - support services for students
  - student union membership
  - field trips essential for completion of your course (travel and accommodation only)
  - graduation ceremony
-

# Maintenance Fees



- Accommodation
- Food
- Bills
- Course materials
- Travel costs
- Clothing
- Technology
- Social life



Region	Average weekly rent
London	£300
South West	£290
Midlands	£248
Staffordshire	£95-135

# Student Loans



- You will start to repay your loan the April after you leave university
- You will not pay back anything if you earn under £25,000 a year
- You will pay 9% of anything you earn over the threshold e.g. if you earn £28,575, you will pay 9% of £2000, which is approx. £15 a month.
- Your repayments will be taken by HMRC along with tax, pension and National Insurance straight out of your wages.
- Repayments are always based on your income rather than what you owe
- The loan belongs to you, and no family member or partner can be asked to repay
- If your income falls below the threshold, repayments stop
- If you choose to work abroad, repayments will be taken through the local tax system where applicable, and adjusted for each country's cost of living
- Repayments stop after 40 Years

[How much will I get? 2025 to 2026](#)



# Disabled Students Allowance



## **DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE**

- Support to cover study-related costs
  - Allowance of up to £26,948
  - Type and amount of support depends on your individual needs
  - Received in addition to tuition/maintenance loan
  - DSA does not need to be repaid
-

# Care Leavers & Estranged Students



## SUPPORTING CARE LEAVERS AND ESTRANGED STUDENTS



All-year round accommodation



Dedicated bursary



Specialist application support pre-entry



Dedicated contacts



# Scholarships & Bursaries



## Check for scholarships and bursaries:

These financial awards are available directly from universities to provide extra financial help and support. Details will be available on university websites and you can ask for details at open and applicant days.

Scholarships and bursaries tend to prioritise students when:

- their family has a low income
- they are the first person in their family to go to university
- they study a particular subject (depending on university)
- they achieve higher than average grades at school/college

Scholarships and bursaries reward high achievement or support students with greater need. You don't need to pay this money back.

**University bursaries** are usually awarded to students who need more financial help. They may offer support due to a students' personal circumstances or a low family income.

**University scholarships** usually reward students who are outstanding in their subject. They generally need to be applied for and are quite competitive. Scholarships may also support non-academic achievements such as sport, music or volunteering.

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# UCAS Process



## University - UCAS Application Process:

- Students investigate their choices (UCAS Hub) – Tutor time and the pack will help enable this. Organise virtual/live visits to Universities and ask those critical questions.
  - Attend the Personal Statement Day on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May and focus on producing an impressive personal statement – NEW FORMAT 2025
  - Tutors will work on the academic reference statements (New from 2024)
  - Student seeks advice from Tutor, Mrs Parkinson, Mrs Waight, Mrs Collins, Subject staff...and then Final Reference Editor..... – when ready to progress.
  - Students need to ‘own’ the process and be proactive.
-

# UCAS Process



## University - UCAS Application Process:

Students need to create an account with UCAS

Then begin populating with their personal information

UCAS

Discover Undergraduate Postgraduate Apprenticeships

Search for courses, uni & colleges and information

**CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE**

[All results](#) [Courses](#) [Uni & colleges](#) [Apprenticeships](#) [Advice](#) [Events](#) [Accommodation](#)

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR CHILD AFTER SCHOOL OR COLLEGE? Find out more >

GET UPDATES FROM UCAS Learn more >

STAND

# UCAS – School reference



## University - UCAS School reference statements (2024 onwards)

We're replacing the free text approach with three structured sections. These sections will start from the 2024 entry cycle opening in May, for all undergraduate applications:



**Enter a general statement about your school/college**  
(mandatory for applications sent via a registered centre)



**Enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may affect this applicant's performance in examinations or other assessments** (optional)



**Outline any other circumstances specific to the applicant that you think universities/colleges should be aware of** (optional)

We will be writing a statement for students that have impeccable attendance, punctuality, conduct and give back to the school community i.e leadership, running clubs, primary outreach etc

# Ucas – personal statements



## University - UCAS personal statements (2025 onwards) NEW

- **All personal statements are read** by a Admissions Officer/Academic Tutor
  - Provides the basis for interview questions
  - Evidence of voluntary/work experience
  - Consideration of borderline cases
- 
1. Why do you want to study this course/subject?
  2. How have your Qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
  3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?
-

# UCAS Personal Statements



# Work Experience



## Work Experience during Sixth Form: 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> July

Stand out on applications – Skills - Decisions about whether to go into that field

- ✓ It is a school week so compulsory?
  - ✓ All logged through UNIFROG, until done not confirmed
  - ✓ We can help but won't do it for students
  - ✓ You can help..... a lot
  - ✓ Does it have to be in chosen industry?
  - ✓ Can it be split?
  - ✓ What about other dates?
-

# Apprenticeships



Apprenticeships - This route is becoming exciting!! UCAS [Apprenticeships](#) or Gov.uk [Apprenticeships](#)

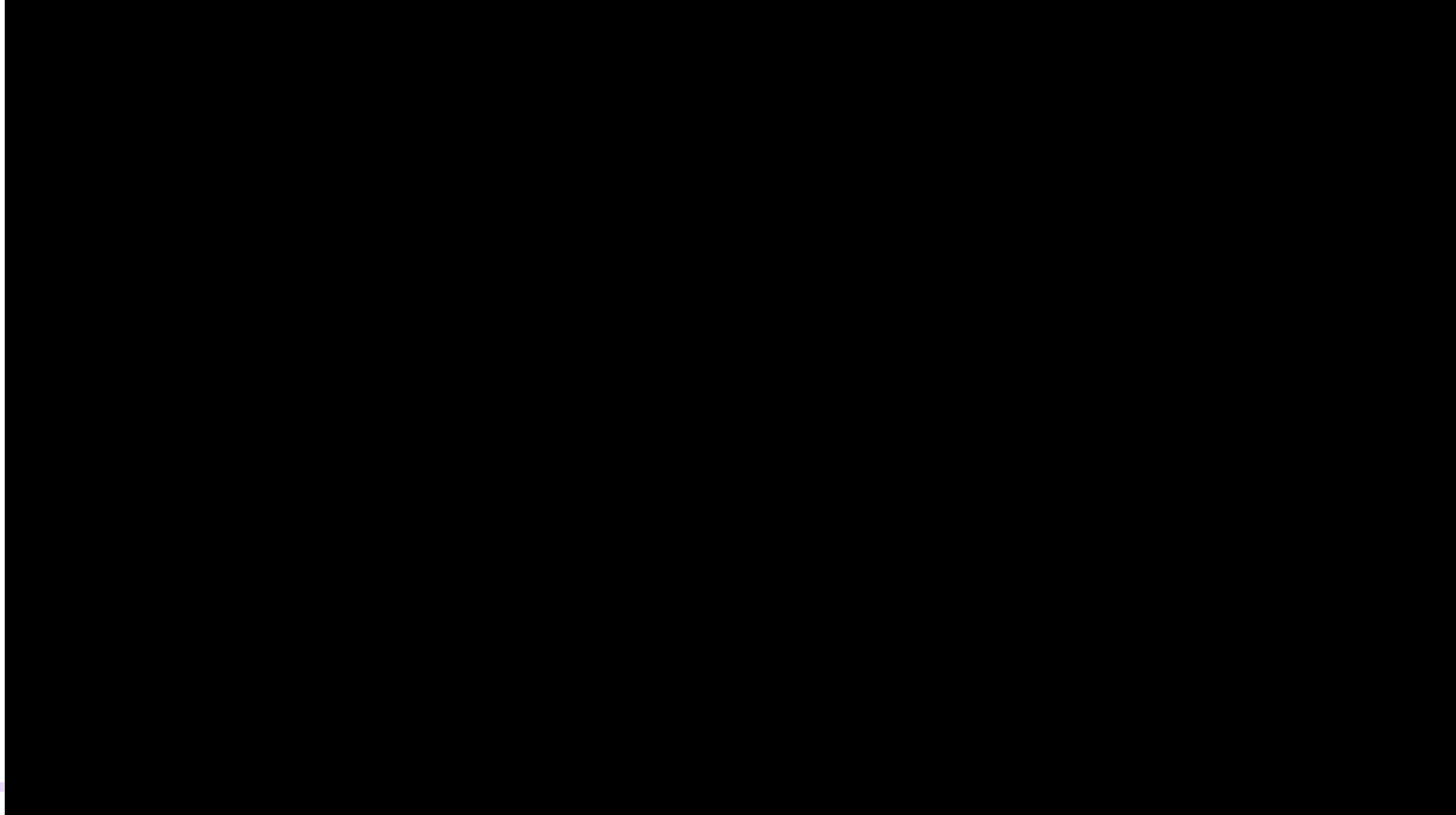
We have lots of current Year 13 students that have applied to a range of Apprenticeships this year and have successfully achieved offers for next year!

1. 80:20 (Work/Study ratio)
2. You will be paid by your employer while you train – No student debt
3. Guaranteed or high chance of permanent job at the end
4. Achieve a Undergraduate degree or sometimes a Masters by the end

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



Apprenticeships – Jaguar Automotive Engineering - University of Warwick

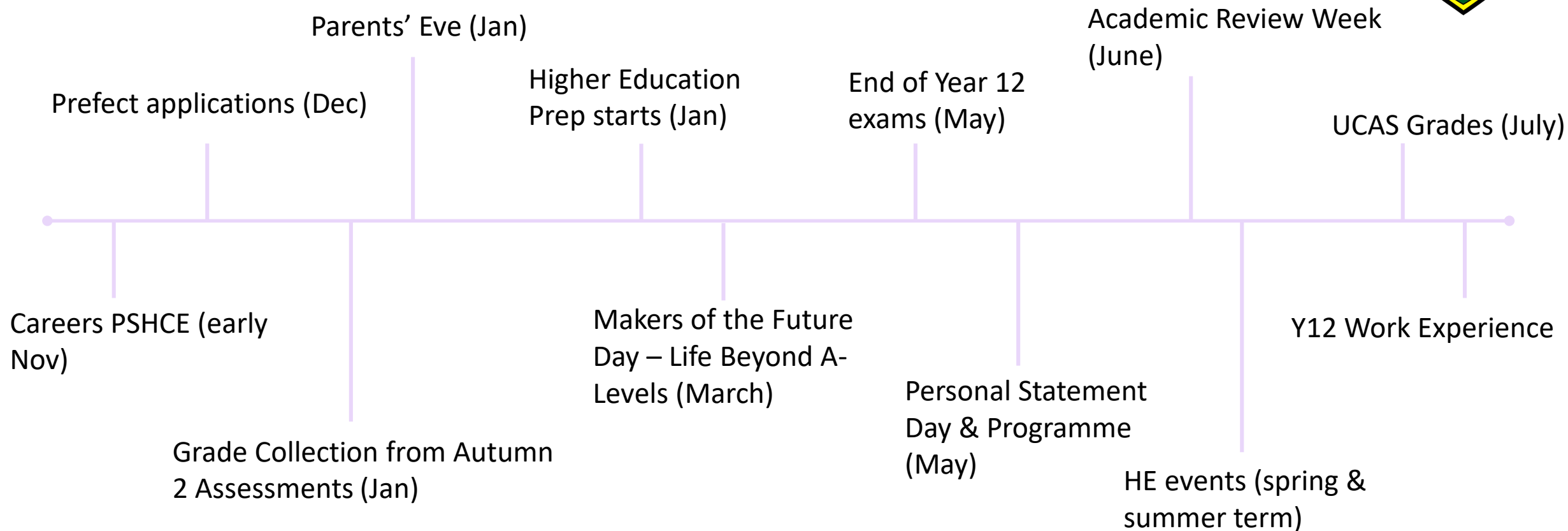


# Timeline for University Applications

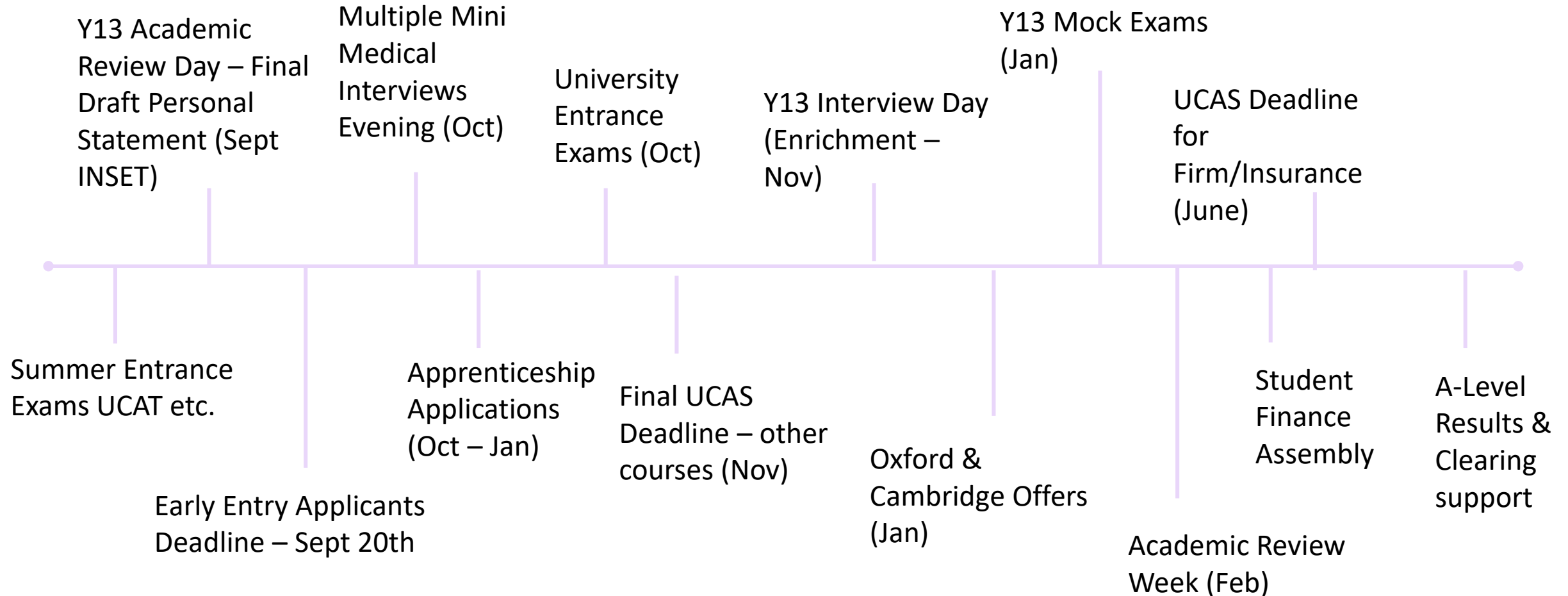


Makers of the Future Day (Higher Ed & Apprenticeships)	Wednesday 26 March
Research Courses, Uni's, Apprenticeships – explore UCAS Hub, Taster lectures via UCAS	Easter Holidays
Year 12 EOY Exams	29 <sup>th</sup> April – 10 <sup>th</sup> May
Personal Statement Day (Continuing for 2 months in Form time)	Monday 12 May
School Reference Statements/Student Supra-curricular/Extra-curricular collation	June
Y12 Academic Review Appointment	June
UCAS Grades Issued	June/July
Work experience week	Monday 14 July – Friday 18 July
Personal Statement Final Draft due – Y13	September (1 <sup>st</sup> school day)
UCAS Early entry deadline (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Med)	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September
UCAS Final deadline for all other courses	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November

# Timeline for Y12



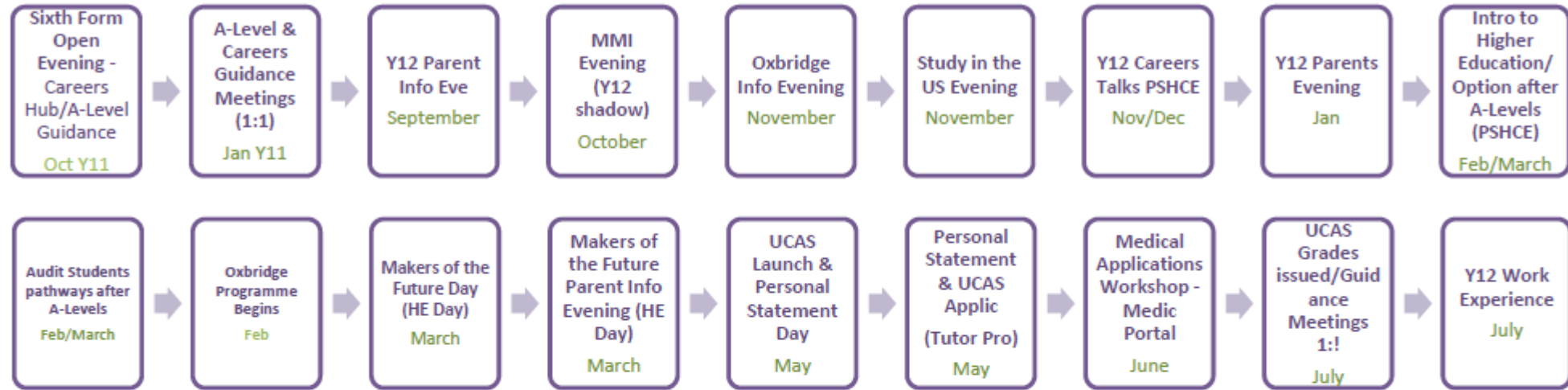
# Timeline for Y13



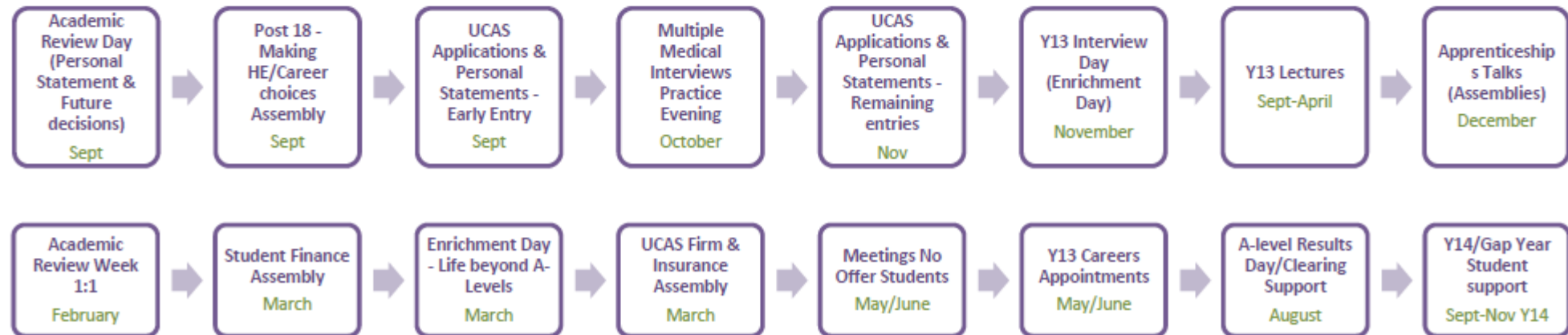
# Timeline for Post 18 support



## Year 12:



## Year 13:



# UCAS Grades – Y12 EOY Exams



## **Why do we use End of Year 12 exams to ‘mostly’ contribute to your UCAS grade?**

- Reflection of what you can achieve in a exam situation like that of Y13 A level examinations
- First true summative assessment which is done under full exam conditions, with all students in that subject sitting the paper at the same time
- End of Year exams, unlike other work/tests throughout the year, are marked against exam level mark schemes, and are marked with the same scrutiny and precision
- End of Year exam will often allow you to demonstrate knowledge, application and skills across a range of topics/synoptic
- They are the last assessment you do before your application is submitted. Many students have a UCAS deadline of mid-September and it would not be possible to have another exam series in September, have it marked and ready all within 3 weeks.

# How are my grades calculated?



**Step 1:** All UCAS grades are populated at one grade higher than the EOY exam grade (Example C2 would be a UCAS grade of an B)

**Step 2:** Departments will look at the populated UCAS grade and will consider any other significant factors that may move this grade any higher such as Practical coursework, mitigating circumstances already applied for and approved (not all mitigating circumstances meet the threshold)

**Step 3:** Assistant Head - Sixth Form will check the grades are correct in line with the projection and mitigating circumstance.

# How will I receive my grades?



## **End of June (Form Time)**

You will receive an email with your UCAS grades on, along with an opportunity to discuss this with your tutor.

You will have this form time to think about what this means for you moving forward, as well as potentially a time to begin thinking about your plan B/C/D/E

Giving you your UCAS grades before the summer allows you time to research and explore your options. For some of you this may be time to change your personal statements in line with new course routes



# Can I appeal my grades?

- Sadly whilst we are empathetic that some of you wont be happy with your UCAS grades we **WILL NOT** be able to change them, they are FINAL. The system we use at Wallington has been in place for many years and has proven to be very robust with our students often having the right balance between the grades being aspirational but also achievable.
- Over predicting would be very detrimental to you and students from Wallington to go on to get their 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> choice universities in most instances. 85% Firm choices, 93% firm or insurance (confident in our system)
- We are happy to help you with next steps and alternative options, career advice.

# Learning from previous years



- 37/224 Students got their UCAS grades or higher
- 187 Students did not get their UCAS grades in their Y13 Summer A-Levels
- UCAS Grades given by Wallington are very 'Aspirational'
- 85% of students achieved their first choice university, 93% firm or insurance

# Learning from last year – U,E,D



Y12 EOY	Y12 Predicted	Y12 UCAS	Y13 Mock	Y13 A-Level Results
E1 E2 C1	D C B	C C B	E E C	DED
D3 E3 D3	C B C	C C C	D U B	EEC
D2 C3 D3	C D D	C C C	D D C	DDB
E3 U E2	D D D	C C C	E E D	EUC
D C1 D1	C B B	C B C	D C C	CCB
E2 D1 C2	B C B	Abs B C B	C B A*	BCA*
D3 B3 A2	A B A	B A A*	C C B	CCA
E1 U E3	D C D	C C C	E U U	UUD
D2 C2 D3	B D C	C B C	D E C	DDB
D1 D1 C2	B C B	C C B	C C B	CCC
U C3 C1	E B B	C C B	E D C	EDB
D2 E2 E1	B E D	C C C	A D C	CCC

# Learning from last year – C/B



Y12 EOY ▼	Y12 Predicted ▼	Y12 UCAS ▼	Y13 Mock ▼	Y13 A-Level Results ▼
B3 C2 C2	B C B	B B B	C B D	B C C
C2 C2 D3	B C A	B B B	C D A	B C B
B3 B3 C1	B D C	B B B	B D A	C D B
C2 C3 C2	B A A*	B B A	A C B	B B B
C1 B3 C2	B A B	B B B	B B U	A B A
C2 C1 B3	B B A	B B A	C C B	D D A
C3 C1 D1	B A B	B B B	B C A	B D A
C3 B3 B1	B B B	B B A	E D B	E D B
C1 C2 B2	A A D	B B A	C B A*	B A C

# Learning from last year – A,A\*



Y12 EOY	Y12 Predicted	Y12 UCAS	Y13 Mock	Y13 A-Level Results
A* A2 A*	A* A A*	A* A* A*	A* A* A*	A* A* A*
A* A1 A3	B A A	A* A* A*	A* C A	A A A
A*2 A2 B2 A1	A* A A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A A A	B A A A*
A*2 A*2 B1	A A* A	A* A* A* A	A A A* A	A A A* A
A*3 A*3 A*3	A* A* A*	A* A* A*	A* A* A*	A A* A*
A* A* A*2 A*2	A* A* A* A	A* A* A* A*	A B A* A*	A* A* A* A*
A*1 A*1 A*1	A* A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A* A* A	A A* A* A
A*2 A* A*2	A* A* A*	A* A* A*	A* A* A	A* A* A
A* A* A2	A A A*	A* A* A*	B A C	B A A
A* A*3 A*1 A*	A* A A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A A A	A* A A A
A*1 A*3 A1	A A* A*	A* A* A*	A A B	B A B
A* A2 A2	A A A	A* A* A*	A* C C	B B B
A* A3 A1	A* A* A*	A* A* A*	A A A*	A A A*
A* A*1 A*3	A A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A* A* A*
A* A*2 A*1	A* A* A*	A* A* A* A*	A* A A* A*	A* A* A* A*

# Why am I showing this to you?



- Trust our End of Year exams (Most students got the same grades as EOY exams (Y13 work is new and challenging therefore EOY exam grade is generally a great indicator as to where you are working at))
- Our Teacher predictions are much closer to the reality than UCAS
- Attendance/Punctuality & A-Level outcomes had a strong link (You can change this, BE IN SCHOOL)
- 37 Students got their UCAS grade which is Aspirational (You can be one of those 37), Some E/D/C students climbed up to C/B/As
- MOTIVATION

# Parents/Carers



## How can I support my child from now:

- ✓ Sit down with them and talk about their future. Encourage them to reflect on their interests and skills What does your teen do that makes them feel interested, curious and happy? What are they really good at?
  - ✓ Help them with their research into universities or alternative options after A-Levels
  - ✓ Go with them to University open days/events (if they want you to) [Advice For Parents And Guardians | UCAS | Parent Guide To University](#)
  - ✓ Be open to explore all possible avenues (This is their future not yours)
  - ✓ Support them with their application process
-

# Students should now be...



- Create a UCAS Hub login
- Explore UCAS Hub – courses, universities
- UCAS HUB & Springpod – Now you can partake in subject taster sessions via the UCAS Hub
- Check the complete university guide – rankings for course, uni, student experience, graduate prospects
- Book a careers appointment – Library
- Meet with your form tutor, HOY or Mrs Collins
- Begin uploading to Unifrog all of the extra-curricular, work experience, leadership examples you do/have done
- Supa-curricular – read, watch, explore
- Work Experience

# Makers of the Future Day 2025



## Sixth Form Staff Contacts:

- S Collins – Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form  
[scollins@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:scollins@wallingtongirls.org.uk)
  - M Horton – Director of Sixth Form (Academic)  
[bsander@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:bsander@wallingtongirls.org.uk)
  - J Waight/K Parkinson (Joint Heads of Year)  
[jwaight@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:jwaight@wallingtongirls.org.uk) [kparkinson@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:kparkinson@wallingtongirls.org.uk)
  - J Day – Sixth Form Administrator (Sixth Form Attendance and UCAS)  
[jday@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:jday@wallingtongirls.org.uk)
  - S McCormack – Student support officer (Sixth Form)  
[smccormack@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:smccormack@wallingtongirls.org.uk)
-