

Year 12 Parents' Higher Education Information Evening

2023



Mr Darren Leatherbarrow
Mr Mark Constance
Mrs Elen Derrick
Mr Alex Boughton



Head of Sixth Form
Head of Year 12
Head of Year 13
UCAS Administrator





Balcarras

From strength to strength

B⁶
FORM



Turning this ...

... into this!

UCAS & Post-18 provision so far ...



Throughout this academic year, we have provided a range of post-18 advice and guidance, as part of the Y12 Futures programme and various talks and workshops from:

- **Alumni students**
- **Unifrog**
- **The Boost programme**
- **Oxbridge & Early Entry assemblies**
- **UCAS Discovery online conventions**
- **Encouraged enrichment opportunities**

UCAS & Post-18 provision so far ...



Now Y12 have begun the summer term, we anticipate that we will be providing various talks and workshops from:

- **Moj Taylor from PUSH***
- **Personal Finance by St James' Place***
- **Alumni Advice**
- **Oxbridge Aspirants Advice Workshops & October Admission Test support**
- **Art Foundation & Conservatoire Advice Workshops**
- **UCAS Convention at Birmingham NEC, 27th June 2023**

- *** pending confirmation of bookings**



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University applications (UCAS)

Preparation

Process

Context



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Which Higher Education courses are for me?

Making the right choice

Selecting the right University & Course

The UCAS online application process

Information and advice available

Strategies and tactics

Finance and Tuition Fees

Accommodation choices

Non-UCAS pathways



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Booth
FORM

Set a New Task | Bookmarks | Messages | Darren Leatherbarrow



Dashboard

Resources

Planner

Tasks

Markbook



Explore SIXTH FORM

- SIXTH FORM
- Boost
- Debate
- UCAS
 - 1. Rough Guide to University
 - 2. UCAS - A Guide to My Application
 - 3. Unifrog User Guide
 - 4. Personal Statements - The Basics
 - 5. UCAS & Demystifying Student Finance
 - 6. UCAS Interview Advice
 - 7. UCAS - Managing your Offer
 - 8. UCAS - Managing your Track
 - 9. UCAS - Results Day Advice
 - Higher Education Parents' Information
 - Higher Education Refresher Evening
 - UCAS - Getting the right Accommodation
 - UCAS - Moving On Advice

SIXTH FORM > UCAS

UCAS


Immersive Reader

Sixth Form EXD UCAS Personal Statement Guidance

Writing Excellent UCAS Applications

(with a particular focus on Early Entry - Oxbridge, Russell Group, Medics, Vets & Dentists)

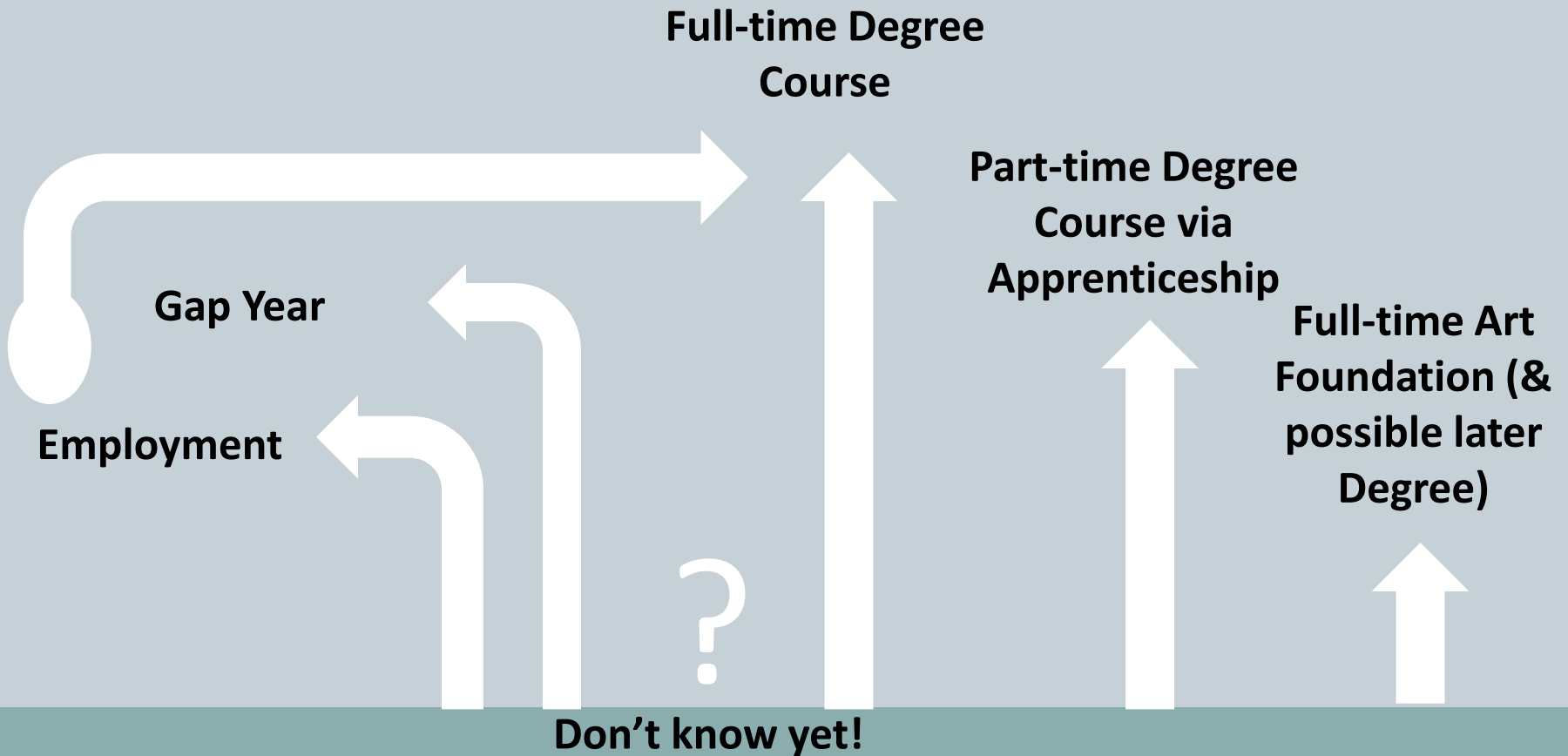
Watch on YouTube



Anything not covered tonight can be found on the VLE

Preparation - the basics

The Preparation: where am I going?



Preparation - the basics



- Each student applies through UCAS via the electronic system (available at home).
- Each student will choose up to five different courses.
- These are usually similar subjects at 5 different universities.
- All students should have started preparation for their application before the summer and have already started visiting university open days where available, or online virtual open days.

Preparation - the basics



Over 1000 different subjects and 100,000 different degree, diploma or HE and HND courses available.

NO-ONE CAN DECIDE FOR YOU!

- Single Subject (Single Honours) History
- Combination (Joint Honours)
 - Equally Business **and** French
 - Subsidiary Business **with** Politics

Preparation - the basics



There are lots of different types of courses available, so think what would suit you best:

- Full-time Degree Course?
- Full-time Degree course with a preparatory Foundation year?
- Sandwich Courses (Year in industry or abroad)?
- Part-time Degree Course (often as part of an Apprenticeship)?

You might also want to consider whether or not you aim or aspire to pursue any further post-graduate courses – a Masters, PHD or PGCE for example.

Preparation - the basics



There are lots of different types of courses available, so think what would suit you best:

Course Duration is a significant factor to consider:

- **Most degree courses are three years (though some ‘fast-track’ two-year courses are now available)**
- **‘Sandwich’ courses which include a year-long placement in industry are four years**
- **Medicine is ordinarily five years, six with a foundation year**
- **Art can require a foundation year first, followed by a degree course (4 years in total)**
- **Degree apprenticeships vary in duration as the degree is studied part-time as you fulfil your apprenticeship**
- **HNDs are two years**

Preparation - the Institutions



The Institutions

Old Universities

Oxbridge

Russell Group universities

Private universities

Specialist Colleges

“New” universities

Former Polytechnics

Campus universities

Preparation - the Russell Group



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
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

Russell Group Universities carry out some of the most highly rated research in the world and have a reputation for academic excellence and high quality teaching. In many surveys, Russell Group universities also have higher than average student satisfaction and lower than average drop-out rates, and Russell Group graduates typically can anticipate a 10% salary 'top-up' over other graduates from UK universities over the duration of their careers.

Preparation - the Russell Group



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
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

Non-Russell Group Universities are not necessarily 'poor' institutions by any means. For example, universities such as Bath, Lancaster, Loughborough, SOAS, Sussex and St Andrews are not in this list, but all are among the most successful academic universities in the country. A significant number of non-Russell Group universities also have higher post-graduate employability rates and higher student satisfaction feedback too.

Preparation - Choices



Think, why you want to go to university?

- You want to pursue higher education and study a favourite subject(s)
- You want a career that requires a degree qualification
- You hope to earn a high salary in the future
- You want to gain life experiences and university sounds interesting, challenging and enriching
- You cannot decide what job to do at the moment
- Your friends are / your parents did, so you think you ought to?

Preparation - Choices



Where would you like to be for the next 3+ years?

- At home (no university accommodation costs)?
- Relatively near to home (get emergency washing and ironing done by mum & dad)?
- Relatively far from home (avoid parents?)
- Far from home - overseas (Europe / USA)?
- A smaller 'campus' university or a busy town or large city?
- Accommodation – Halls, self-catering flats, private rental?

Preparation - Choices



What are your alternatives to embarking on a university-based degree qualification straight after your A-levels?

- Apply in 2023-24 and defer entry for 2024-25?
- Wait until 2024-2025 and apply externally?
- Complete an additional qualification e.g. Art Foundation
- Take a 'gap year' and travel?
- Take a 'gap year' and work?
- Apprenticeship?
- Seek full-time employment?

Preparation - University Rankings



There are lots of different ways of comparing universities other than simply relying on 'prestige'. All of these comparisons are available from various online sources. Remember, there are numerous ways in which universities are ranked:

- Entry requirements demanded
- Student satisfaction
- Number of Firsts and Upper Seconds awarded
- Specific subject ranking
- Post-graduate employment statistics
- Quality of university research undertaken
- Quality of teaching provided

The Complete University Guide

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk



Search the site



Register / Log In

Clearing 2019

League Tables

Universities

Open Days

Courses

Fees

Preparing To Go

Careers

Postgraduate

MBA

International

Home > Universities

Universities



2020 Complete Univer
Discover which UK universities

UNIVERSITY GUIDE

University Profiles

College Profiles

ADVICE

Results Day

Choosing a University

Applying to University

Advice for Parents

Advice for Care Leavers

Sexism at University

Mental Health at University



s
ifferent subject areas.

Essential Information

- **NEW:** 2020 UK University League Tables
- See rankings for 70 subjects
- Find a course
- Discover how to reply to offers
- Guide for international students
- Ask us a question

**STUDY POLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AT KENT**

**ENGAGE WITH A
RANGE OF POLITICAL**

2023

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2021/sep/11/the-best-uk-universities-2022-rankings>

Complete

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | University of Cambridge |
| 2 | University of Oxford |
| 3 | University of St Andrews |
| 4 | Loughborough University |
| 5 | Durham University |
| 6 | University of Bath |
| 7 | Imperial College London |
| 8 | University of Warwick |
| 9 | Lancaster University |
| 10 | University of Leeds |

Guardian

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | St Andrews |
| 2 | University of Oxford |
| 3 | University of Cambridge |
| 4 | London School of Economics |
| 5 | Imperial College London |
| 6 | Durham University |
| 7 | University of Bath |
| 8 | University of Warwick |
| 9 | UCL University College London |
| 10 | Loughborough University |

Preparation - University Rankings



A few caveats when using any League Table information ...

Objective versus subjective data: know where the data's coming from. Statistics collected by outside agencies should be more neutral, while student feedback might be influenced by all kinds of external issues and by personal feelings.

Indicators, not definitive info: not all categories are updated every year. Assessments to evaluate a university's research quality may be several years old.

What's missing: the Guardian's league table, for instance, relies heavily on the student experience while The Times leans more towards facts and figures. That means some complex cross-referencing may be required to get a fuller picture.

Preparation - University Rankings



A few caveats when using any League Table information ...

League tables don't always tell you the full story

Certain university courses are well regarded by employers in specific career areas, even though the universities may not feature in the upper reaches of the tables. For example, Falmouth University and Sunderland University are known to produce high-achieving graduates in animation and journalism respectively, but there's little sense of that reflected in the league tables. SOAS is very well-respected, but a niche provider of language courses. Overall university rankings may also conceal pockets of excellence, or mediocrity, at a course or department level.

Preparation - University Rankings



A few caveats when using any League Table information ...

League tables don't always tell you the full story

Choosing the right course for you is the most important task at hand.

Looking at league tables shouldn't be a substitute for undertaking thorough research into things such as the specific content of the modules you'll study and how you'll be assessed. Decide on your priorities. This could be the content of the course, distance of the university or college from your home, or the long-term career possibilities.

Preparation – Careers on the VLE

The screenshot displays a VLE interface with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes a logo on the left, a 'Set a New Task' button, and 'Bookmarks' and 'Messages' icons. Below the navigation bar are icons for 'Dashboard', 'Resources', 'Planner', 'Tasks', and 'Markbook'. The 'Resources' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of categories and sub-sections. The 'Student Zone' category is highlighted with a white oval, and the 'CAREERS' sub-section is also highlighted with a white oval. The 'CAREERS' sub-section is circled in red. The 'View all sections' link at the bottom of the dropdown is also visible.

Set a New Task | Bookmarks | Messages

Dashboard | Resources | Planner | Tasks | Markbook

Subjects > | **Student Zone**

Staff Room >

Student Zone >

Parent Portal >

Firefly Training >

SCHOOL CLOSURE >

View all sections >

Student Zone

FOLEY HOUSE | EXAMS | STUDENT VOICE

GRAVENEY HOUSE | EXPEDITIONS | VLE HELP CENTRE

OTTEWELL HOUSE | EXTRA-CURRICULAR | WORK FROM HOME

SELVEY HOUSE | LIBRARY | YEAR 7 TUTORING

SIXTH FORM | LITERACY | YEARBOOK

BALCARRAS ARTS ONLINE | MENUS

CAREERS | REVISION HELP

D of E | SKI TRIP

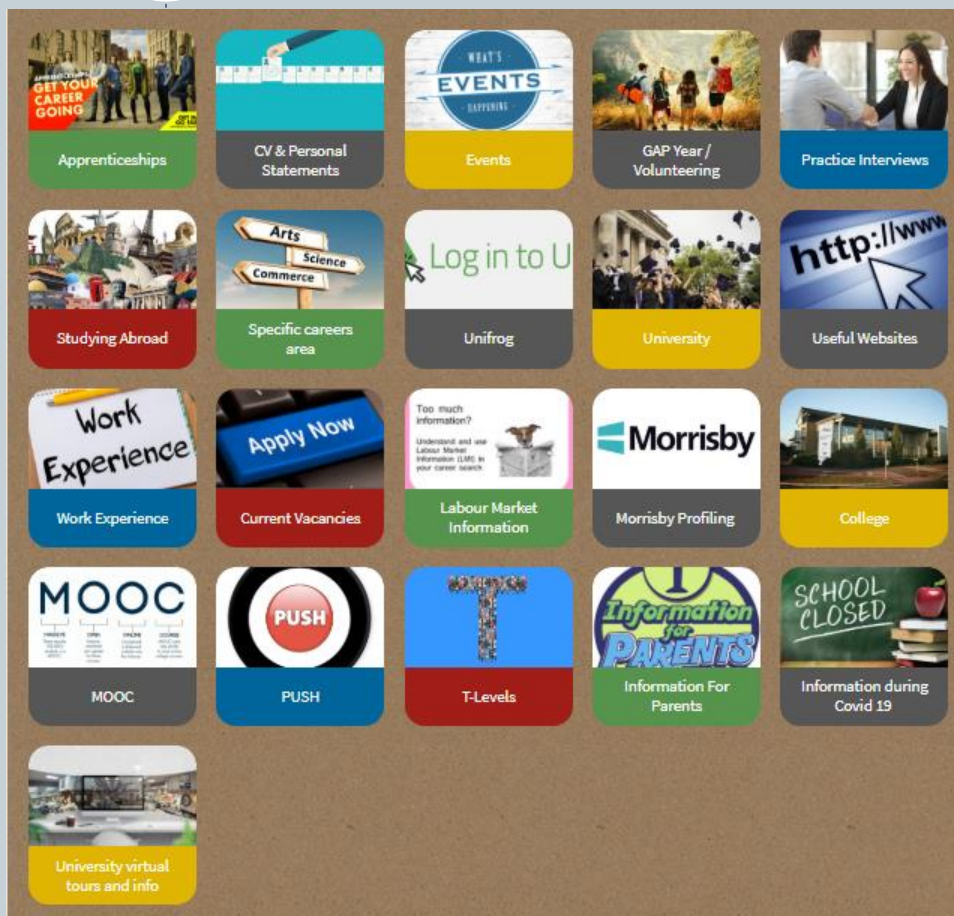
ECO-SCHOOL | STUDENT SUPPORT

See all 23

Preparation – Careers on the VLE



○	CAREERS
●	Apprenticeships
●	CV & Personal Statements
●	Events
●	GAP Year / Volunteering
●	Practice Interviews
●	Studying Abroad
●	Specific careers area
●	Unifrog
●	University
●	Useful Websites
●	Work Experience
●	Current Vacancies
●	Labour Market Information
●	Morrisby Profiling
●	College
●	MOOC
●	PUSH
●	T-Levels
●	Information For Parents
●	Information during Covid 19
●	University virtual tours and info



The guidance and advice available on the VLE is exhaustive, and updated regularly by Mrs Bull and Mrs Lewis.

Preparation – Careers on the VLE



If you are simply unsure of what to do next, whether that be a post-18 university course or an apprenticeship, or any other destination, then you can explore the range of potential opportunities that could be available to you based on the qualifications you have and are currently studying using Morrisby profiles.

How Morrisby Works -

Morrisby profiling helps guide students to make better choices about their future, using our online platform backed up with our adviser support. Morrisby testing is available to all pupils via application by letter - see below. The cost is the registration fee that pupils then keep and can update their profile as they move through the school. We recommend this for pupils from Year 9 upwards who are really struggling with identifying their skills set and their future pathways.

Morrisby can help in a number of situations, including:

- Self discovery helps students understand themselves and the sort of options that will suit them.
- When a student doesn't know which subjects to pick, Morrisby's study suggestions will give ideas.
- Ensuring subject choices keep doors open.
- When there is a concern that a student's desired career or study choices might not suit them then Morrisby's impartiality and objectivity helps with the decision making.
- Boosting motivation by providing a career goal and what is required to achieve it.

Morrisby helps with choices at all key decision points:

- Careers - Suggestions, career information, career requirements and routes to careers.
- Options at 13/14 - GCSEs
- Options at 16 - A-Levels, Apprenticeships
- Options at 18 - Higher education, subjects, courses, universities, apprenticeships, and further education.
- Planning - Pathways, helping keep options open, and interviews.

Preparation – Careers on the VLE



Apprenticeships

APPRENTICESHIP

SCHOOL STUDIES PROFESSION SKILLS PERFORMANCE CAREER MOTIVATION GOALS

Parents' Pack
Apprenticeship Information
Edition 14: November 2019

**NOW
HIRING**

Apprenticeship 2019.pdf

If a post-18 university course is not the right next step for you, and you want to explore apprenticeship opportunities, then you can access a thorough guide on how best to apply, and find links to available apprenticeship vacancies that you can apply for.

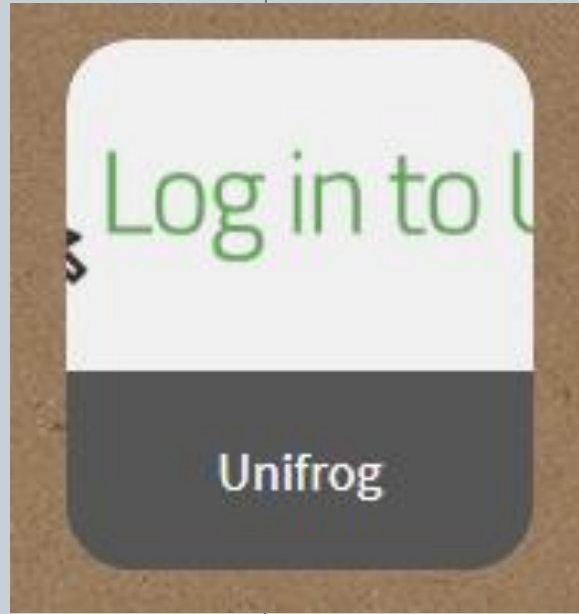
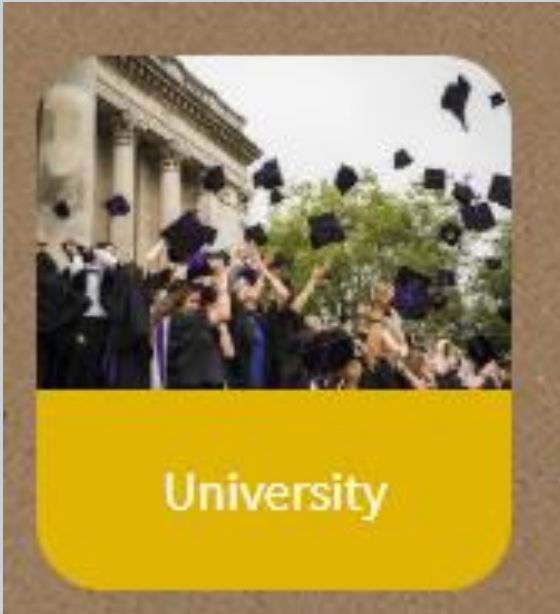
Apprenticeship Opportunities

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Cyber Security Degree Apprenticeships

Audi Apprenticeships

MIS Apprenticeships

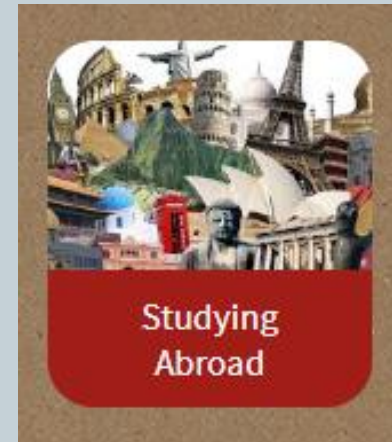
Preparation – Careers on the VLE



If you are confident that the next step for you is university, the best places to get started on your research into potential post-18 university courses are also available on the VLE. To get a more detailed understanding of universities and university life, how to apply, and much more, then the resources above are ideal places to begin.

Preparation – Careers on the VLE

If you are inclined to pursue a post-18 university course, but are unsure as to whether to apply to begin your course immediately after your A-levels, or whether to defer your entry and to gain some life experience and work experience during a 'gap year' first, then we can provide guidance and advice, and links to reputable organisations.



If you are interested in the possibility of pursuing a post-18 university course overseas, then again you will find advice on the VLE. A number of Balcarras alumni have enjoyed both summer school courses and residential placements with the Sutton Trust for example, and several have applied to go on to study abroad.

Preparation – Careers on the VLE



MOOC

MASSIVE

There may be 100,000+ students in a MOOC.

OPEN

Anyone, anywhere can register for these courses.

ONLINE

Coursework is delivered entirely over the Internet.

COURSE

MOOCs are very similar to most online college courses.

A MOOC is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

If you're unsure of what you want to study at University, they're a great way of trying out a subject area.

The majority of MOOCs on Unifrog are free. Most platforms charge a small fee for access to certain tests and a certificate to prove you have completed one of their courses but you do not need this certificate to mention taking the course in your university Personal Statement or job application. Some platforms offer a small number of courses on a pay-for basis only. The exact cost will depend of the platform and the course chosen.

If you are finding it difficult to narrow down your options as to which post-18 university course to apply for, experiment by exploring MOOC options. In addition to giving you a taster, it will consolidate your CV, expand you knowledge and skills base, and many carry accreditation which is recognised by UCAS and employers.

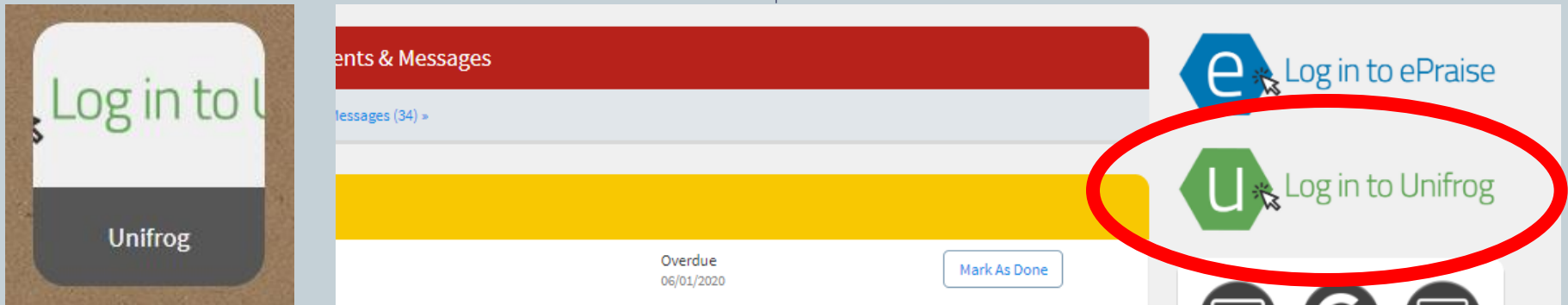
Preparation – Careers on the VLE



If you are nervous about applying for a post-18 university course to apply for, and whether it is the right thing for you, then the resources offered by PUSH are well worth exploring.



Preparation – Careers on the VLE



All students in the Sixth form have access to Unifrog. All are able to log-in from the VLE, and use this platform to explore any of the potential destinations available – degree courses in the UK or overseas; apprenticeships; gap year and travel. In addition, there are links to MOOCS, and a multitude of advisory video tutorial on how to complete applications, personal statements, how to use Open Days most effectively and much, much more.

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



HOME

SHORTLISTS

LOCKER

APPLY

HELP



TEACHER >

1 Start

2 Filter

3 Learn

Careers library

Find the best careers for you, then save your favourites here:

Search by keyword

Search for careers using a keyword

private investigator

Go >

Search by school subjects

Search for careers using the subjects you're studying at school that you like the most

English Literature



German



History



Go >

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



UK universities
127 guides and videos

Go >

US universities
105 guides and videos

Go >

European universities
92 guides and videos

Go >

Asian universities
46 guides and videos

Go >

UK apprenticeships
35 guides and videos

Go >

World of work
25 guides and videos

Go >

Canadian universities
24 guides and videos

Go >

Wellbeing
24 guides and videos

Go >

Australasian
universities
23 guides and videos

Go >

Oxbridge
14 guides and videos

Go >

UK college & 6th form
10 guides and videos

Go >

Useful stuff
2 guides and videos

Go >

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



Preparing to apply



A guide to work experience

How to find it and how to be successful on it



[Read the guide >](#)



UK Open Days

7 tips for making the most out of UK university Open Days



[Read the guide >](#)



Strategies for success

7 top strategies for UK university application success



[Read the guide >](#)



What does 'wider reading' mean?

The 'what' and the 'why' explained



[Read the guide >](#)

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



Our advice is to conduct course searches using Unifrog. This allows you to compile long-lists of courses that are:

- Aspirational (with entry requirements above your target grades)
- Accessible (with entry requirements in line with your target grades)
- Insurance (with entry grades in line with or below your target grades)

Following further Unifrog research and university open days visits, these long-lists can be shortlisted to your final 5 application choices.

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



Typical Offers

Be realistic with your application!

Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Physiotherapy

A*AA - AAA

Traditional Universities, Popular Courses

AAA - BCC

Popular Courses at newer universities or less popular courses at traditional universities

BBC - CCD

Less Popular Courses

EEE and above

Some universities may offer an unconditional entry also.

Remember, the grades requirements expected are not necessarily a measure of the quality of provision

Preparation – Use Unifrog!



We can check historic entry grade trends to help advise choices



Remember, the grades requirements expected are not necessarily always those which will be required for acceptance

Preparation – Personal Statements



The Personal Statement

(4,000 characters)

This is your chance to sell yourself

Why you have chosen your course?

Career plans if any?

Intellectual activities? School activities?

Out of school activities?

Relevant experiences?

Focus on independence, achievements and learning.

Preparation – Personal Statements



Strategy & tactics

Be consistent in your course selection – avoid being too eclectic, otherwise the personal statement is a nightmare!

Use Unifrog to research all your options for your 5 applications.

Use our advice to avoid Personal Statement pitfalls! Do not copy and paste from the internet – a plagiarised personal statement will guarantee a rejection!

Draft and re-draft Personal Statements based on feedback.



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University applications (UCAS)

Preparation

Process

Context



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The Process



- Student makes choices – consultation in school with tutor, Futures teacher, subject teachers, Sixth Form leadership team
- Completes UCAS application form with help from Tutor, futures teacher etc. Students register their application with Balcarras by using a ‘buzzword’: **Futures2023**
- Final version is checked by Sixth Form leadership team.
- Balcarras UCAS advisor adds academic reference written by Tutor and Head of Sixth Form compiled from subject-specific references from teachers.
- Predicted A Level grades and GCSE results included.
- Student pays by credit/debit card - £26.50.
- Payment is made directly to **UCAS** (not Balcarras).



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The Process



▼ Personal details

Title

First name

Last name

Previous name(s)

Preferred name

Date of birth

Gender

▼ Contact & residency

Mobile number

Other telephone number

Email address

Postal address

Nominated access

Do you want someone else to act, or speak on your behalf, about your application?

Full name of nominee

Relationship to you

Residency details

Is your home address the same as your postal address?

Yes

Area of permanent residence

Gloucestershire

Residential category

UK Citizen - England

▼ Nationality

What is your country of birth?

United Kingdom

What is your nationality?

UK national

Dual nationality

▼ Supporting information

Have you ever lived or worked in the EU (excluding the UK), European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland?

No

Do you have a parent, spouse or civil partner who is an EU (excluding the UK), EEA or Swiss national?

No

▼ English language skills

English proficiency tests and exams are taken by students who don't speak English as their first language. Is English your first language?

Yes

This question is to find out whether you have taken an IELTS or TOEFL English proficiency test. The answer to this question is not passed on to your choices, only the proficiency test certificate numbers, where provided.



▼ Finance & funding

What will be your main source of funding for your studies?

Student support arrangements

02 UK, CHI, IoM or EU student finance services

Gloucestershire

▼ Diversity & inclusion

Equality monitoring

Ethnic origin

National identity

Dual national identity

Care support information

Have you been in care?

Parental education

Occupational background



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The Process



Would you consider yourself as living with any of the following?

Further details about your disability

Would you consider yourself estranged from your parents (i.e. you're not in contact with and supported by your parents)?

Do you have any caring responsibilities?

Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities?

Do you have official refugee status or limited leave to remain, or are you seeking asylum?

Do you have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?

Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?

Are you currently receiving free school meals, or have you been in receipt of free school meals during your secondary education?



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The Process



Student Qualifications:

A-levels (pending)

GCSEs

Additional accredited qualifications eg:

EPQ; Duke of Edinburgh; ASDAN - (Connection to UWE) Certification of Personal Effectiveness Level 3;

CCEA - Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (16 UCAS Points) ; Music - Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance;

British Sign Language Qualifications Level 3 Qualifications; Debating - English Speaking Board - Level 3 Award in debating;

1st4Sport -or Active IQ Level 3 Coaching awards ; LAMDA Level 3 - Speech and Drama;

Certificate in BHS Preliminary Teaching of Horse Riding;TEFL

Employment history

Personal Statement

Course and course provider choices

Academic Reference **(provided by Balcarras)**

UCAS Predicted Grades **(provided by Balcarras)**



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The Process



Balcarras Sixth Form

UCAS Checklist

Please use this form to assist you in completing your UCAS application.

Please completed before you go to the pay and send section of your UCAS application

Name _____ Tutor Group _____

Degree Course(s) applied for _____

You must agree your UCAS predicted grades with you teachers. Make sure they cover the entry requirement of the courses you are applying for:

Subject _____ Grade Agreed _____ Teacher's signature _____

Subject _____ Grade Agreed _____ Teacher's signature _____

Subject _____ Grade Agreed _____ Teacher's signature _____

Subject _____ Grade Agreed _____ Teacher's signature _____

Subject EPQ (if applicable) Grade Agreed _____ Supervisor's signature _____

UCAS Predicted Grades are NOT guarantees of any student's eventual performance!



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The Key Dates

Conservatoire Balcarras deadline	25 th September 2023
Early Entry Balcarras deadline	1 st October 2023
UCAS Conservatoire deadline	2 nd October 2023
UCAS Early Entry deadline	16 th October 2023
Balcarras Deadline for UCAS checking	4 th December 2023
UCAS Final Deadline	31 st January 2024
UCAS Extra Opens	February 2024
Acceptance Deadline	May – June 2024
UCAS Extra Closes	July 2024
UCAS Clearing Opens	July 2024
A-Level Results	15 th August 2024



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Post-application



Interviews:

Some courses will conduct interviews (about 30% in 2019-23, though fewer less in 2020 due to covid):

- Most commonly, Oxbridge, medicine, education, law, London universities, popular courses, teaching, veterinary, dentistry, physiotherapy.
- Some interviews may be still be conducted via Teams or Zoom (all 2020 interviews were remote, as were the majority in 2021).

We will provide an interview preparation workshop later in the academic year, and interview advice will be disseminated through Futures too.



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Post-application



Offers and conditions:

Most offers will be conditional, very occasionally they will be unconditional. We are seeing more contextualised 'conditional' unconditional offers.

Some offers will be conditional grades eg BBB

Some offers will be conditional cumulative points eg 120

Some offers will contain specific conditions eg a specific grade for one A Level subject. (Remember, vocational qualifications (Food, H&SC) do not have grades equivalent to B and D).

Some offers will offer contextual dispensations, e.g. a reduction in a specific grade in recognition of an EPQ.



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Post-application



UCAS Points Calculator

A-Level Points

A* = 56

A = 48

B = 40

C = 32

D = 24

E = 16

U = 0

EPQ Points

A* = 28

A = 24

B = 20

C = 16

D = 12

E = 8

U = 0



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UCAS Points Calculator

Voc. Points

(Cashed in after Y12)

$$Di^* = 28$$

$$Di = 24$$

$$M = 16$$

$$P = 8$$

$$U = 0$$

Voc. Points

(After Y13)

$$Di^* = 56$$

$$Di = 48$$

$$M = 32$$

$$P = 16$$

$$U = 0$$

The vocational / A-level equivalent subjects offered at Balcarras are Food and H&SC.



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A Points-based offer does provide the reassurance of flexibility.

For example: University 1 offers 120 points
 University 2 offers BBC

In terms of points these are similar (BBC = 112). AAD would be good enough for the University 1, but not necessarily for University 2.

Some points-based offers may exclude some qualifications, so it is important to scrutinise offer conditions carefully. If in doubt, contact the relevant university admissions team and / or the Sixth Form team, particularly Mr Boughton, our UCAS advisor.



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If you receive two or more offers, you can keep only two - one firm and one insurance. The deadline for making this choice will be May-June, dependant upon when you receive your last decision from the institutions you have applied to.

If you get five rejections, you can then apply to re-select courses through “UCAS Extra”. This ‘second chance’ is free.

We will be tracking the progress of all applications and advising students throughout the post-application process. Y13 tutors, Y13 Futures teachers and relevant Heads of Department receive these Track updates too



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The insurance offer should be 2 grades below the firm offer. For example:

- Firm: AAA Insurance ABB
- Firm: BBC Insurance: BCD

This is the most sensible way to provide yourself with a contingency on results day and avoid the Clearing process!

Remember – you can withdraw at any time, and without penalty. Future applications will not be discriminated against, and we will fully support re-applications into clearing, or for the 2024-25 application cycle.



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Results and Acceptance:

- **A Level Results Day is Thursday 15th August 2024.**
- Come in to school - students **must** be available.
- If you have met your offer, you can confirm your place if you choose to accept – congratulations!
- Both university and student are committed to offers and firm acceptances.
- You will have a ‘cooling’ period in which to confirm or consider a deferral / Clearing.
- If you have not met your offer and not been offered a place - contact the university directly to negotiate and challenge the decision.
- If the university declines your place, don’t panic. You have a further chance for an admission via the Clearing process.



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University applications (UCAS)

Preparation

Process

Context



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Year 13 Destinations 2019

- 165 UCAS applicants, 80% of the cohort, of whom 145 (90%) took up places in September.
- 3 Oxbridge undergraduates, 2 medicine undergraduates, and 1 veterinary undergraduates. 81 (56%) enrolled at Russell Group universities.

Year 13 Destinations 2020

- 138 UCAS applications - 75% of the Y13 cohort.
- 2 Oxbridge undergraduates, 3 medicine, dentistry and veterinary science undergraduates also. 2 students secured placements at music Conservatoires. 67 students (52%) enrolled at Russell Group universities.



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Year 13 Destinations 2021

- 138 UCAS applications - 80% of the Y13 cohort.
 - 9 Oxbridge & 7 MDV applicants. 1 Oxbridge applicant secured their place; all MDV applicants were successful.
 - Increasing number of unconditional offers.*
- The impact of coronavirus has been a factor in encouraging universities to make unconditional offers
This is despite pressure on universities not to do so.



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Year 13 Destinations 2022

- 150 UCAS applications - 79% of the Y13. (2023 = 149 / 90%)
- 8 Oxbridge & 8 MDV early entries. 2 Oxbridge applicants and 3 MDV applicants received offers, and all 5 secured places.
- 64 applicants secured places at Russell Group universities (50%)
- Our Boost programme has continued to thrive.



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Most popular destinations

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cardiff (15)	Bristol (13)	Cardiff (20)	Cardiff (14)	Cardiff (11)
Leeds (10)	Bath (7)	Bristol UWE (9)	Bristol (11)	Bristol UWE (8)
Birmingham (8)	Leeds(7)	Gloucestershire (6)	Bristol UWE (8)	Birmingham (6)
Manchester (7)	L'borough (7)	Sheffield (6)	Leeds (8)	Leeds (6)
Swansea (7)	Birmingham (6)	Bristol (6)	Exeter (7)	Nottingham (6)
Exeter (5)	Cardiff (6)	Leeds (6)	Sheffield (6)	Bristol (5)
Liverpool (5)	Southampton (5)	L'borough (5)	Oxford (5)	Liverpool (5)



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Parents: what can you do?

Attendance & Punctuality

Even more important than last year!

All students, including sixth form students, are set a target of 97% attendance during the year.

Please avoid booking family holidays during term time.

Doctors and dentist appointments should be made outside of school time wherever possible.

Driving lessons / tests are not permitted during the school day.

If a student goes to a party during the evening, they must arrive promptly at school at 8:55am, irrespective of 'illness'.



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Parents: what can you do? Effort, Progress, Attainment & Communication

Do your best to know where your son / daughter is at in terms of their progress and attainment versus their aspirational progress and attainment.

Monitor teacher feedback with regard to effort levels, progress grades, and specific effort, skill or knowledge targets they are being set.

Monitor the dynamic between school work / work / social life – encourage a healthy balance.

If you are ever in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact us!



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Information

There is lots of information available – make use of it all!

The Internet

At school – VLE - has lots of links

UCAS site - www.ucas.com

Unifrog – www.unifrog.org

Contact Universities directly

University Open Days

(2 approved visits in Summer and Autumn terms)

On-line prospectuses - or order by e-mail



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Advice

Your UCAS Guide (on VLE, along with LOTS more)

Subject Teachers, Futures Teachers & Unifrog

Mr Leatherbarrow, Head of Sixth Form

DL@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mr Constance, Head of Year 12

MBC@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Derrick, Head of Year 13

EXD@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mr Niblett – Boost

JCN@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Bull & Mrs Lewis – Careers

VB@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk / JL@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mr Boughton – Sixth Form Administrator & UCAS Advisor

ADB@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk



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Art Foundation

Apprenticeship

Employment

Gap Year



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Work Shadowing

From 10th July 2023

Any Questions?

DL@balcarras.glouc.sch.uk

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Mr Darren Leatherbarrow
Mr Mark Constance
Mrs Elen Derrick
Mr Alex Boughton



Head of Sixth Form
Head of Year 12
Head of Year 13
UCAS Administrator

