

Bolingbroke Academy Sixth Form

Post 18 Options – A Parent & Student Guide



Bolingbroke
Academy

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Introduction

An early start is always recommended when applying to university and so a great deal of preparation is carried out and finalised in the summer of year 12. For those applying to university, this means that students can submit their applications well before the start of December and in so doing can secure offers before the UCAS deadline on the 15th January.

UCAS Timeline Overview 2020/2021

University preparation timeline	
UCAS all	UCAS Early Entry
<p><u>Stage 1 (Au1)</u> The Elephant Group Students identified</p>	<p><u>Stage 1 (Au1)</u> Early entry students identified and confirmed</p>
<p><u>Stage 2(Sp1) 2020</u> Early Entry candidates sign up to Project Oxbridge and Project Medicine.</p> <p><u>Sp2 2020</u> Sign up for summer schools</p> <p>Use Morrisby for research</p> <p>Morrisby revisit for all year 12 in Enrichment time Sign up to UCAS Hub and complete Survey monkey re ideas.</p> <p>Monday 16th March – Study day - Research into courses / locations and universities</p>	<p><u>Stage 2(Sp1) 2020</u> Early Entry candidates sign up to Project Oxbridge and Project Medicine. 14th Feb UCAT workshop for Med and Dentists</p> <p><u>Sp2 2020</u> Sign up for summer schools Medicine Evening at St Paul's School – Tuesday 3rd March, 4:15-5:30 pm Project Oxbridge workshops. 7th March. Globe</p> <p><i>Oxbridge Conference – Epsom. 25th March</i> <i>Project Access mentoring for Oxbridge students (Students matched with mentor from Project Access who is studying the same subject) This has moved to Summer 2.</i> <i>Easter Holidays – Oxbridge Insight trip (2 day residential in either Oxbridge or Cambridge. This has been moved to late summer.</i></p>
<p><u>Stage 3</u></p> <p><u>Su1 2020</u></p> <p>Distance learning workshops weekly for all students to include. Super curricular / Choosing a university and course / Personal statement writing / Applying for student finance.</p> <p>Parent meeting re UCAS process – 21st April at 4pm. MS Teams</p> <p>Personal statement writing and university research in Morrisby</p> <p><u>Su2 2020</u> Register with UCAS – June 2019. The buzz word is bebold Draft of personal statement complete by the summer break</p> <p><u>Summer holidays</u> More research, wider reading and super curricular activities</p>	<p><u>Stage 3</u></p> <p><u>Su1 2020</u> Admissions test practice including BMAT and UCAT Clinical skills and BMAT workshop for med and dentist plus support finding online work experience and healthcare volunteering opportunities. Moved online. Interview skills workshop</p> <p><u>Su2 2020</u> Project Oxbridge- June 2020. St Paul's Oxbridge Prep day. Online WEX and super curricular</p>
<p><u>Stage 4 Au1 2020</u> A level predicted grades received Final 5 university choices decided</p>	<p><u>Stage 4 Au1 2020</u> Mentor for each Oxbridge student – parents / staff / Governors.</p>

<p>Finalise personal statement – this should be updates only as this should be complete by July 2020. Virtual open days All statements complete and with the tutor</p>	<p>Sept – Oxbridge open days plus pre interview assessment prep support and mock interviews. Med and dentists – Interview skills workshops MMI circuits.</p>
<p><u>Stage 5 Au2 2020</u> All applications sent by end of November at the latest. Early entry by Oct 15th Offers and interviews Once interview dates received – mock interviews are scheduled</p>	<p><u>Stage 5 Au2 2020</u> Admissions tests Mock interviews</p>
<p><u>Stage 6 Spl 2021</u> Final UCAS deadline is 15th Jan Receive offers and invitations to department open days. Decide on first choice and insurance and update UCAS. Apply for student finance <u>Sul 2021</u> Final Guidance meeting to discuss back up plan and clearing. Parent talk re clearing and adjustment</p>	<p><u>Stage 6 Spl 2021</u> Feb onwards tutoring and A Level revision support</p>
<p><u>Stage 7 August 2021</u> Results and Clearing or Adjustment Core team and 6th form team in school to support</p>	

Summer 2020 Activities and Deadlines

Date:	Session:	Outcome:
Spring 2 2020		
09/03/2020 Complete	Monday morning briefing Morrisby and University research	All students to have chosen five universities and courses to complete further research on.
16/03/2020 Complete	Year 12 Study day	Resit Morrisby and start careers plan Sign up for UCAS HUB 2021 https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today
Summer 1 2020		
21/04/2020 4pm – 5pm	Parent online meeting	Students and parents informed about the process for applying to University / HE and Apprenticeships
23/04/2020 9am – 9.45	1.Assembly re Super Curricular activity for all students.	Super curricular plan in place and recorded on Morrisby. Reading lists and online resources being used.
Wk. beg. 20 th April.	1a. Early Entry additional session for Early Entry students	Volunteering plan for Medics. To plan the alternative to this using links at St George's and the Medic Portal Knowledge of admissions tests and action steps relating to this.
30/04/2020 9am – 9.45	2.Choosing a university and course for all students.	Plan to virtually visit universities based on session.
Wk beg. 27 th April	2a. Early Entry additional session. Choosing a college, choosing a course – early entry	Students have chosen a course / college, identified admissions tests needed. Online practice for tests to start.
07/05/2020 9am – 9.45am	3.Writing an impressive personal statement	Understand what must be included in a personal statement and how to write a good one. Start drafting personal statements. Send to sixth form team for feedback
Wk Beg 4 th May	3a EE. Writing an impressive personal statement – exemplary early entry statement masterclass.	Understand what must be included in a personal statement and how to write a good one. Start drafting personal statements. Send to Mr Lennox Hilton and Ms Orchin for feedback
14/05/2020 9am – 9.45am	4. Applying for higher courses/degree apprenticeships.	Understand the application process for higher courses and degree apprenticeships. Students start application process for apprenticeships
Wk beg. 11 th May	4a. Early Entry additional session. Preparing for interview and the entry tests	Students leave with solid understanding of the range of admissions tests they will have to take post-application. They will understand the interview process and what is required to prepare.
21/05/2020 9am – 9.45am	5.How to apply – the UCAS process all students	Create new account and complete all personal information and qualifications. UCAS open for new 2021 accounts. Buzzword is 'BeBold'
04/06/2020 9am – 9.45	6. Student finance all students	Understand different financial options for HE, how to apply for bursaries and funding for different courses and universities.
Wk beg. 1 st June	6a. Early Entry additional. Funding – what is available for medics and Oxbridge?	Understand what is available for medics and Oxbridge students to apply for
Ongoing from session 3. 11 th May	Personal statement work – drafts sent to Sixth form team for comments	Completed first draft of personal statements.
TBC	Exams week	Exams week
10th June	Deadline for personal statement.	Completed personal statements shared with sixth form team.
Wk Beg. 22 nd June	Final checks/decisions/deadlines.	Civitas tutors complete student references for UCAS applications / apprenticeship applications.
25/06/2020 9am – 9.45	Workshop: Making the most of the summer break during / after lockdown	Summer plans finalized and submitted to the team Students have a structured plan in place for over the summer to support university applications and moving into year 13.

Choosing a University

Types of universities and Courses

Universities can be broken down into four categories:

The 'Ancient' Universities: Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh founded between the 13th and 16th Century.

The 'Red Brick' Universities: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield founded in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century

The 'Plate Glass' Universities: York, Kent and Lancaster founded in the 1960s.

The New Universities: Nottingham Trent, Portsmouth, Hertfordshire, Oxford Brookes: often former Polytechnics which had university status conferred upon them in the 1990s.

There are a variety of courses available:

BA(Hons) / BSc(Hons): they denote Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science

All final awards at degree level are classified as follows:

First-Class honours (1st); **Second-class honours, upper division** (2:1); **Second-class honours, lower division** (2:2); **Third-class honours** (3rd); **Ordinary degree** (pass)

SINGLE HONOURS: where one subject is studied

JOINT HONOURS: where two subjects are studied either both subjects equally or one as a minor and one as a major

COMBINED HONOURS: where there is even more flexibility in the chosen course e.g. up to four courses in the first year and then two in the second year.

SANDWICH: these are courses which have a built-in placement in industry as part of the courses, often available in Business, Engineering and Computing.

HND: this is a full time vocational qualification higher than A Levels but lower than a degree. They usually last two or three years and combine theory and practice. Achieving good results in the first or second year would allow students to transfer to a degree level course.

Foundation degree: Introduced in 2001 in a range of work related areas, these courses are meant to meet the needs of industry and commerce. They are not studied to Honours level, although good progress would enable a transfer to this level. They normally take two or three years to complete.

Diploma in Higher Education (Dip HE): This can be a qualification in its own right awarded for completing two years of study. Subject areas include Visual studies, Art and Design and Popular Music. Again access to degree level is possible.

Year abroad: there are an increasing number of courses which now offer time abroad to study or work. Aside from languages where it may be compulsory, it may apply to American studies, Business, Engineering, Geography and Law.

Gap year: many students take a year out before going to university/college often to travel or save money. Students can plan this in their application and apply for a deferred place.

Selecting the University for You

Simply by deciding on a course you will have narrowed down your choices. However, there may be many courses that appeal to you, so it is vital to look carefully on the academic entry requirements for each university course. You will base your choices on the predicted grades that you will receive at the end of y12. Some universities will specify A Level grades and others will specify a number of UCAS points. Points based offers use the UCAS Tariff table.

Grades / Qualifications	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
A level	56	48	40	32	24	16	0

You can also gain UCAS points for Drama and Music exams, check the tariff calculator here:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

It is a wasted choice if a student is predicted 112 points and they apply for a course requiring 152 points!

Students can search for the institutions that offer their subject by referring to UCAS website

<http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch> Once a choice has been made then you can check to see how realistic your choice is by clicking on an institution.

Ideally, you need to make **five** choices on your application form and so we suggest that you try to ensure a balance according to your predictions. You should include **one** choice which is just above your predicted grades, **three** choices that are exactly on the tariff score and **one** choice just below predictions to be certain of a safe reserve.

It is important to realise that predicted grades are based on the student's potential and the professional judgement of the teachers. These will be issued in the summer term but could change throughout the year. However once an application is submitted, any change to predicted grades later in the year cannot be changed. If students perform better than predicted there is a process called 'Adjustment' which students can use once they have their results. <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-you've-done-better-expected>

As well as UCAS tariffs and the contents of the course, also consider the following points:

- Location – do you want to be in the South of England or elsewhere further away from home?
- Do you want to stay in a campus or non-campus university?
- Do you want a vocational, semi-vocational or purely academic course?
- What sort of location do you prefer (e.g. town, city or country)?
- Do you like the “feel” of the place?
- What is the length and structure of course and assessment?
- What is the accommodation like? Catered halls or self-catering houses?
- How good are the learning resources facilities, as a whole and in the department of choice?
- What are other facilities like? (sports and social)
- Are the learning support and welfare services good?
- Have a look at the universities' reputations as reported by independent assessors e.g. Sunday Times Good University Guide. Here you can compare ratings for different degree courses, the quality of teaching, research and employability.
- How is teaching rated? How is research rated?
- Which degree courses are rated excellent?
- Where are the 'destinations' of past students?

For further advice students should see Miss Robinson. The following websites will also be helpful:

www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/

<https://unistats.direct.gov.uk>

Useful Preparation to improve applications:

To enhance the quality of your application in the personal statement section, it is strongly recommended to engage in a range of Taster days or Master classes, as well as completing some related reading that can be cited as evidence of interest in your chosen subject area. Ms Robinson has arranged a collection of wider reading on the Mezzanine but please also ask her for recommendations.

Note for summer 2020, most events and taster sessions have been moved online.

When we are notified of events they will be posted on Show My Homework. You can also find events, open days, taster days and skills workshops here www.mystudentevents.com

Questions to ask at Higher Education Fairs or University Open days

If you attend either of the above try asking some of the following questions: (these questions can also be asked at online open days.

About the courses:

- What courses are available within the subject area?
- What are the entrance requirements?
- Do my GCSE results matter?
- How is the course structured?
- What options could I take / which areas could I specialise in?
- How will I be assessed?
- Are there opportunities for an industry or overseas placement?
If so, who organises it?
- What have graduates done after completing the course?

About the University:

- What teaching facilities are available? (e.g. Science and language labs)
- What study facilities are available? (library, internet and PC access)
- Does the university have strong links with employers? (Do they recruit through the university?)

About the Accommodation:

- How much university accommodation is available?
- How much does it cost?
- Am I guaranteed a place in university accommodation in my first year?
- Is there much private accommodation available?
- Is there support in finding accommodation in my second year?

About student life – ask the students if you can:

- What social facilities are there on campus?
- Is the Student Union active?
- Are there many university clubs and societies?
- Is it an expensive place to live on a student budget?
- Are there many opportunities for part-time work?

THE UCAS PROCESS www.ucas.com

Application to most higher education establishments is via the UCAS website. Each applicant must pay a £26 fee.

There is a comprehensive help facility supplemented by short films covering every aspect of the application process and university life.

Parents can sign up with UCAS to receive regular newsletters. You can also download the parent guide <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians>

Applying for 2021 entry

When the UCAS system for 2021 entry is available (from June 2020) students will register and begin to create their application. Students will be guided through every stage of the application process by Ms Robinson / Civitas tutors and the Sixth form leadership team. This will be delivered through the Thursday morning workshops and Civitas along with the opportunities for 1-1 calls with Ms Robinson. It is important that students do not miss Civitas or the Thursday morning workshops as they may miss vital messages. Additionally, early entry students will meet weekly with Mr Lennox-Hilton.

Sending the Application

From mid-September, students whose applications is ready and the fee paid should select a suitable time to see the Sixth Form Leadership team. At this meeting we will go through the application with the student, checking that all details are correct and the choices are realistic according to predictions. The final stage is to add the predicted grades and the school reference. UCAS will then send an email confirming that the application has been received.

UCAS track

Students will receive regular email and text reminders if they have ticked these options on their application and they can use their application number, username and password to monitor the progress of their application on line by using the Track option on the UCAS website.

Replying to offers – March/ April 2021

You should choose your first choice assuming that you will achieve the expected grades but your second should be a reserve choice below expected grades in case your results are not as good as were hoped.

UCAS will always alert students to looming deadlines via email and text along with reminders from school but they must be aware of specific deadlines for replying to offers.

Results Day August 2021

For results day, students must make sure they know their Track logon and password. It is preferable that they are not out of the country for A-level results day.

The majority of students will receive confirmation of their place via email from either their first or insurance universities depending on grades achieved. They should accept the offer and be in touch with the university regarding accommodation.

If not contact is received, students can log on to UCAS Track from 8am to see if their status has changed.

For students who have achieved better grades than predicted and would like to try for a place in a university requiring higher grades than the initial application, they can go through Adjustment whilst retaining their confirmed place. Oxford and Cambridge do not participate in adjustment!

If students haven't been given their confirmed place, students will have to use UCAS Clearing and help will be provided at school.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

Completed first draft to the sixth form team 10th June 2020. Finished personal statement: 7th September.

In a personal statement, students have to sell themselves. University Admissions tutors read thousands, therefore, the more interesting, relevant and engaging statements will attract more attention. Correct grammar and punctuation is taken for granted. There is plenty of advice and guidance regarding personal statements on the UCAS website and on University websites. The statement must be the student's own work and they should avoid copying online examples. Parents must resist the temptation to write sections of the statement for the students. Universities do check for plagiarism and will automatically reject anyone who is suspected of committing this offence.

Preferred layout of paragraphs

Paragraph 1-4: Explain why you want to do the course:

Approximately two thirds of the statement should be used for this. Avoid generalisations and give evidence to support the statements made. Instead of saying 'I enjoy chemistry' explain that you have 'enjoyed researching the industrial implications of by-products to standard chemical processes such as.....'. Mention any publications / books / journals you are reading that you have used, have fired your interest or any person / talk in your specific field who has inspired / motivated you and why? Explain which particular aspects of your subjects have influenced your choice of course. Show evidence that you are passionate about the subject and have an opinion. The opening paragraph is very important as it sets the tone for the rest of the statement. It should clearly reference the area you want to study with reasons why.

Paragraph 5: Personal Qualities

Indicate what skills you have learnt from GCSEs and A Levels which will be useful in your chosen course. Give evidence of personal attributes: independent, reliable, adaptable, curious etc. Include career aspirations if any ideas at this stage and how the course fits into this. Discuss any work experience or community service or further study particularly if it relevant to the course.

Paragraph 6: Key Skills / Responsibilities in and out of school / Hobbies / Interests / travel

Don't just write a list – say what insights have been gained from the non-academic activities. These may include D of E, sport, Prefects, drama, music, volunteering etc.

If reading is a hobby, refer to specific books and why they appealed. Favourite author? Period? Theme? Add brief details of employment and how this has developed your skills.

Final Paragraph:

This should be a strong concluding statement. It is a good idea to finish with a really punchy sentence reminding the Admissions Tutor how enthusiastic you are, committed to the course you've applied for and looking forward to participating in university life as a whole.

1-1 appointments can be arranged with Ms Orchin, Ms Gelder, Mr Knight, Mr Lennox-Hilton and Ms Robinson to support personal statement writing. Please email a basic first draft that can be discussed.

Completing the UCAS form: Who does what?

The Role of the Student:

- Students should ensure they attend all UCAS sessions and fill in each section of the UCAS form using the detailed instructions keeping to specified deadlines.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the information on the UCAS form is correct including all qualifications.
- Students should inform Mr Knight, Ms Gelder, Ms Robinson, Mr Lennox-Hilton or Ms Orchin as soon as they have completed the form and seek advice on how to improve their personal statement.

The Role of the Subject teachers:

- They will provide the subject reference at the beginning of the summer term 2020 and predicted grades for the student will be added to this. These are based upon the professional judgement and past performance of the students. The teachers are asked to be realistic but optimistic in their judgement.
- If students are unhappy with their predicted grades they should refer this to the Sixth form leadership team, not the subject teacher.

The Role of the Sixth Form Leadership Team:

- The Sixth form leadership team will check the application form and reference for the final time.
- They will identify any problems with the application and predicted grades.
- They will send the application to UCAS

Competitive Course Applications

There are two sets of university courses which are referred to as 'competitive courses': courses at Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) and medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry courses. Students applying for competitive courses face the toughest competition for a limited number of places; they are expected to have the very highest academic qualifications and references. UCAS require all such applications to be with them by 15th October in any academic year. This means that Bolingbroke Academy requires these students' applications to be ready by 1st October.

Students who display intellectual clarity and agility as well as outstanding academic performance are best suited to the type of student life that these institutions and courses offer.

Prospective candidates should have received grade 9s or grade 8s at GCSE level. Successful candidates will most often have 8 or more 9/8/7 grades at GCSE. Candidates with fewer than 5 9/8/7 grades are unlikely to be successful.

The Academy will make an initial assessment of candidates this term using past academic record, consultation with Head of Departments and Subject Leaders. Potential candidates are expected to attend all meetings to which they are invited and meet all deadlines which they are given. There will be no chasing or changing deadlines.

It is vital that students extend their knowledge beyond the existing A-level specification to develop a broader understanding of their subject. In fact, they should already be doing so! It is expected that Oxbridge candidates show a consistent desire for their subject and initiative to find out more independently.

All application forms together with personal statements and references need to be complete by 1st October in order to allow the academy to check everything before the UCAS deadline of the 15th October. The Candidates' choice of their four other universities must also be made by this date.

Students will be given a number of rigorous practice interviews and practice papers in preparation for their interview.

Not all candidates are called for interview. Some subjects will require the candidates to sit a formal exam. These will be held in school. Alternatively, samples of written work can be requested and will be sent in November.

Successful candidates to Oxbridge are usually informed after the Christmas holidays.

Successful candidates are truly passionate about their chosen subject area, thorough in their planning and research, have read the wide range of material available and have accepted advice and guidance given to them.
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Applications for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry

Much of the content above applies as much for applications to Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry as for Oxbridge. Students applying for these courses should be able to offer a clear majority of 9/8/7 grades at GCSE, particularly in relevant science subjects.

However, in addition to this, students are expected to have undertaken and be able to reflect upon a portfolio of relevant work experience placements, for example, time spent work shadowing in hospitals, work in GP surgeries, Vet or dental practices, time spent shadowing other healthcare professionals such as physiotherapists or chiropodists, voluntary work with appropriate charities or community services e.g. Old people's homes, animal welfare centres. Other work experience which develops desirable interpersonal skills or technical knowledge e.g. abattoirs, pharmacists, restaurants can also be useful. It is very difficult to obtain direct medical work experience because of the competition involved and health and safety implications – this is one of the first challenges in embarking on this pathway. The academy will sign up for any placement opportunities that arise and make sure serious candidates are aware of the opportunities.

Potential applicants should also be aware that they may well be required to take additional aptitude tests such as the UCAT (Clinical Aptitude test) or the BMAT (Biomedical Admissions test) which measure students' aptitudes for the academic and practical applications of clinical science. Students are expected to research and prepare for these courses themselves but the Sixth Form leadership team will be on hand for guidance and support. The Exams officer will need to be informed as soon as possible if they are to sit these tests in school.

Entrance Examinations

A number of competitive courses may require you to complete an additional exam to enable University Admissions Tutors to distinguish between similar students. The courses are: English, Law, Medicine, Physics, Mathematics, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Physiological Sciences, PPE and Computer Sciences. Students should read the appropriate university websites to confirm whether they are required to sit an entrance examination.

1. LNAT (Law): University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, Durham University, University of Glasgow, Kings College London, UCL, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, SOAS.
2. HAT (History) University of Oxford
3. BMAT (Medicine and Vet Science): University of Cambridge, Lancaster University, Imperial College London, University of Oxford, Royal Veterinary College, UCL, Brighton & Sussex School and University of Leeds
4. UCAT (Medicine and Dentistry): University of Aberdeen, University of Birmingham, Cardiff University, University of Dundee, University of Durham, University of East Anglia, University of Edinburgh, Exeter University, University of Glasgow, Hull York medical school, Keele University, Kings College London, University of Leicester, University of Manchester, University of Newcastle, University of Nottingham, Plymouth university, Queen Mary University, Queens's University Belfast, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, University of St Andrews, St George's University, University of Warwick.
5. ELAT (English Language, English lit, English & MFL, Classics and English): University of Oxford
6. STEP (Mathematics and Mathematics joint honours degrees. In some colleges also computer science, Economics, Engineering and natural Sciences): Cambridge, Warwick. Other Universities also encourage applicants to take this exam.
7. TSA Oxford (Economics and Management, PPE, Experimental Psychology, Psychology and Linguistics, Psychology and Philosophy, Geography, Philosophy and Linguistics, Human Sciences): University of Oxford.
8. Modern and Medieval Languages test (MFL and Linguistics) University of Cambridge
9. TSA Cambridge (Computer science, Economics, Engineering, land Economy, Natural sciences (Physical and Biological) and Politics, Psychology & Behavioural sciences, History, Human, Social and Political sciences): University of Cambridge.
10. TSA UCL (European Social and Political Studies): University College London.

You must check the requirements of the course you are applying for as courses change from year to year – do not take this list as the definitive list as Ms Robinson may have missed a university or course.

You must let the Sixth Form Team know if you think you will be required to take an admissions test for the course you want to apply for

Other courses

Art Foundation Course

The majority of students wishing to pursue a career in Art will decide to continue with a one year Art Foundation Course after year 13. This course allows students to experience a breadth of artistic disciplines whilst continuing to improve their skills. They also give students time to reflect on the area of Art in which they would like to specialise and continue at degree level. Applications for subsequent degree courses will then be completed at the institution where the Foundation course is being studied.

There are a number of institutions which offer Art Foundation courses. These are either colleges of Further Education, universities or specialist institutes located in London (e.g. University of the Arts).

Some Art Foundation applications are processed through the UCAS system in a similar manner to other applications. However, a number of institutions require you to apply directly to the university with their own application form or via an on-line application form. You must refer to the specific college or establishment and follow their admissions process.

When applying for Art related courses you will be required to present a portfolio of your work so please seek advice from Ms Gougeon and Mr Thomas.

Music Courses

There are two ways to apply for music courses. The route you take depends upon the type of course you would like to study.

For full time undergraduate degree courses, you apply through the UCAS process and use the online application system, UCAS Apply.

If your preference is for practice-based music courses at a Conservatoire, you apply through UCAS Conservatoire, an admission service that provides the facilities to research and apply for practice-based music courses taught at UK conservatoires:

- Royal Academy of Music
- Birmingham Conservatoire
- Leeds College of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Drama

The courses offered by conservatoires are creative and varied. The deadline for application is very early – usually 1st October. Auditions will then start from the 15th October. **Please double check these dates.**

If you cannot make up your mind, why not apply through both systems? You can make applications through UCAS and UCAS Conservatoire, then decide which course to take later in the year.

For more information visit <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires> where you will find all the relevant details and information regarding the institutions and how to apply.

Drama Courses

Most applications for Drama degrees will follow the normal process via UCAS. However, there are some institutions which have an independent application procedure. Examples of these are:

- The Guildhall School of Drama
- The Royal academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA)
- LAMDA

If a student wishes to apply to these institutions and others not in the UCAS process, they must contact the institutions and ask for application forms. Once completed under the guidance of Ms Robinson and their tutor these should be sent to that institution.

Students are advised to apply for Drama degrees via the UCAS process and those offered by other institutions.

Dance Courses

Any students considering a course in Dance should make the Sixth Form Team and Ms Robinson aware of this well before the summer holidays. The application deadlines on the UCAS website do not necessarily apply for dance courses, often being much earlier, so you will need to check the deadline for each institution and make sure your application is ready to send as you return from the summer break.

Nursing

Nurses usually train in one of the following four fields of nursing:

- Adult nursing
- Children's nursing
- Learning disability nursing
- Mental health nursing

A small number of universities run 'dual field' degrees, where you can study two of the above fields. Applications are made through UCAS; the university courses are approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)

Entry is competitive. Courses often specify preferred or essential A level or equivalent subjects, such as science e.g. Biology or a social science e.g. Psychology. Some universities offer a foundation year for those without the necessary entry qualifications.

Please be aware that you will be interviewed, and you will need to show that you are aware of what a career in nursing entails. You should therefore arrange several work experience or work shadowing placements in a healthcare setting so that you can observe and speak to registered nurses in the workplace and reflect from what you have learned from these experiences in your personal statement.

Find out more about Nursing careers from the NHS website:

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/studying-nursing

Student Finance

While at university or college there are two main costs – tuition fees and living costs. The good news is you do not have to pay your tuition fees up front.

The main types of finance are tuition fee loan and maintenance loan. The Tuition Fee loan of up to (£9250) covers the tuition fees, while the maintenance loans help towards living costs such as rent and bills. How much student finance is paid depends on household income. Tuition Fee loans are available to all eligible full time students irrespective of income. To get an idea of the size of Maintenance loan available please go to www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

There is also extra support for those with special circumstance, for example, if you have children or adult dependents, a disability, long term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. See Disability Student Allowance: www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsas

Repayments are based on a Graduate's income, not on the sum borrowed and repayments only start once you've left university or college and are 9% of the income in excess of £26,575 pa threshold year. If your income drops below this threshold repayments stop automatically. An idea of the size of repayments can be calculated via <http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk/scheme/rep/repayment-calculator/sfe>

Interest is charged on your loan from the day the first payment is made until the loan is repaid in full or written off, whichever is first. At present the maximum annual Tuition Fees for 2020 entry remains at £9250.

Bursaries: Students from lower income families can also benefit from university bursary schemes. There is a range of sporting, musical, academic and other bursaries available at universities which can be viewed through the UCAS course search facility at <http://search.ucas.com/> and students will receive guidance on how to search for these in Enrichment and Civitas.

All the information you need about Student finance is here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

The deadline for applying for finance is usually the end of May in the year of entry.

Apprenticeships and School Leaver programmes

Increasing number of Sixth form students are choosing not to go to university and opting to learn on the job instead. Through the National Apprenticeship Service, apprenticeships are on offer from a range of occupations from law and accountancy to IT and Journalism. They combine practical training in a job with study.

Many of those seeking to be accepted for them will have top-grade passes – with some companies looking for at least 120 UCAS points (3Bs) before accepting candidates. There are also a range of other apprenticeships requiring lesser grades.

As an apprentice you'll work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills, earn a wage and get holiday pay along with study towards a related qualification. Apprenticeships take 1-4 year to complete depending on the level.

Type of apprenticeship	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades 9 to 5
Advanced	3	A-level / BTEC pass
Higher	4, 5, 6, 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6, 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

How to apply and next steps

Your starting point when searching for apprenticeship vacancies is the Find an Apprenticeship tool: gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship. Some employers will ask you to apply directly to them. If this is the case, you'll be directed to the right place from the Find an apprenticeship results page. If you are interested in working for a particular employer, take a look on their website. Most businesses have a page on careers, apprenticeships or vacancies. You can also search for apprenticeship vacancies on the UCAS website.

When to apply

Unlike university applications, there is no fixed deadline when it comes to applying for apprenticeships. Vacancies appear throughout the year, so it is worth registering for alerts at gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship to hear about vacancies as they appear. Don't wait until the deadline to make an application. Some companies close their recruitment as soon as they have enough candidates. As a rule, vacancies with larger companies start appearing in the autumn, but the majority pop up from January or February onwards. Smaller businesses might start recruiting a month or two before the job starts, so if you hope to start work in August or September, you might start looking from Easter onwards. Do check start dates closely, to make sure you'll have finished school or college.

Start your research early – the sooner the better, so you have time to fill any gaps in your CV with the things employers are typically looking for including getting some relevant work experience.

You can apply to School Leaver and Apprenticeship programmes alongside applying to through UCAS to universities if you are undecided.

The recruitment process

There can be a number of hurdles to leap before you even get to a face-to-face interview: an application form, online tests, perhaps a phone or online interview, before heading to an assessment day. You might find that smaller organisations have a slightly more informal or personal process, perhaps involving an initial written application, followed by face-to-face interview stages if you are shortlisted.

Action Points

Ms Robinson will post vacancies regularly on Show My Homework but you will also need to be proactive.

1. Let Ms Robinson and the Sixth Form team know you are interested in this pathway
2. Create a CV and keep it up to date
3. Use Morrisby to research careers and opportunities
4. Visit websites of different companies to see if they offer apprenticeships or School leaver schemes.
5. Register with the National Apprenticeship Service www.apprenticeship.gov.uk
6. Set up Text / email alerts on the sites / companies which interest you.
7. Get Interview experience

Key School Contacts

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Mr Lennox-Hilton (Early Entry Support)

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