

## Overview:







- Universities & Colleges Admissions Service
- A centralised system: One application to UCAS and they pass it on to the 5 choices.
- Students can monitor progress using Tracker
- http://www.ucas.com
- They also offer an early clearing at the end of Feb called "Extra" (if not holding any offers after all decisions) and a later one after A2 results.

### **UCAS** Conservatoires

- Now via www.ucas.com
- "Conservatoire" tab
- For Music, Dance and Drama courses at 8 UK conservatoires.

# What are the most competitive universities looking for in applicants?

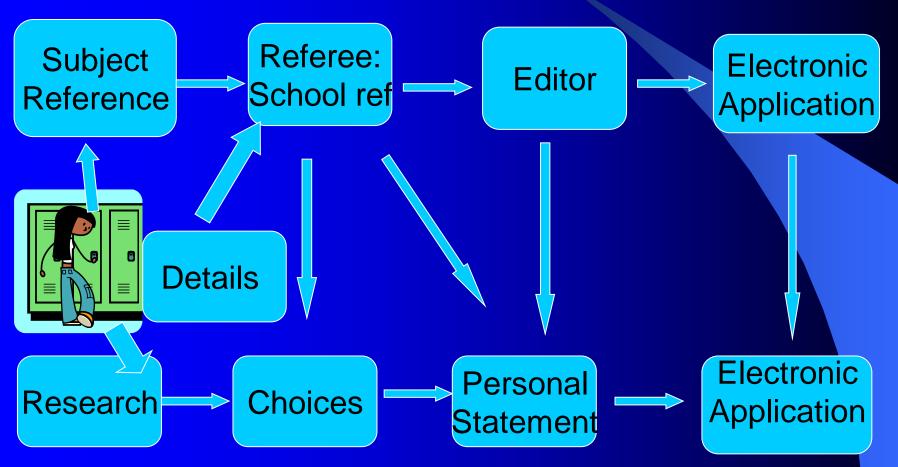
- Genuine interest in their chosen subject.
- Appropriateness of their chosen course.
- Strong exams record.
- Motivation, commitment and organisation.
- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas.
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability.
- Intellectual flexibility.
- Vocational or professional commitment (where appropriate). Eg Medics/Law.

#### **Selection Criteria**

- GCSE grades
- Year 12 exam grades
- Predictions
- A Level subject combinations
- School reference
- Personal Statement
- Submitted work
- Test results
- Interview performance



#### **UCAS** Process



## Student Action 1: Request Subject References

#### SUBJECT TEACHER REFERENCE FORM FOR UCAS APPLICATION

ALL OF THE GREY BOXES SHOULD BE FILLED IN BY STUDENT BEFORE E-MAILING TO SUBJECT TEACHERS

Name of AS subject; (If Maths be specific. Eg Maths/Stats) Subject of degree choice(s): (you may have more than one and you can change the choice): If no idea write that Oxbridge (please put an 'x' against one) Yes Possible No  Reminder to the teacher of good work. Eg presentations, essays, oral contribution, extra reading, lectures, group work, practical work, IT work, helping others etc. Be precise. Date sent to subject teacher Category of applicant (deadlines): A=Oxbridge/Medics B= Know choices but not above C=Not sure	SUBJECT TEACHERS				
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#### Student Action 2: Course Choice



True or False - really a course?

Glass

Quantum
Science &
Lasers

Tournament Golf Ballistic Engineering

Hacking & Countermeas ures

Yacht &
Powercraft
Design

Perfumery

Viking Studies

Bovine Management Viticulture & Oenology

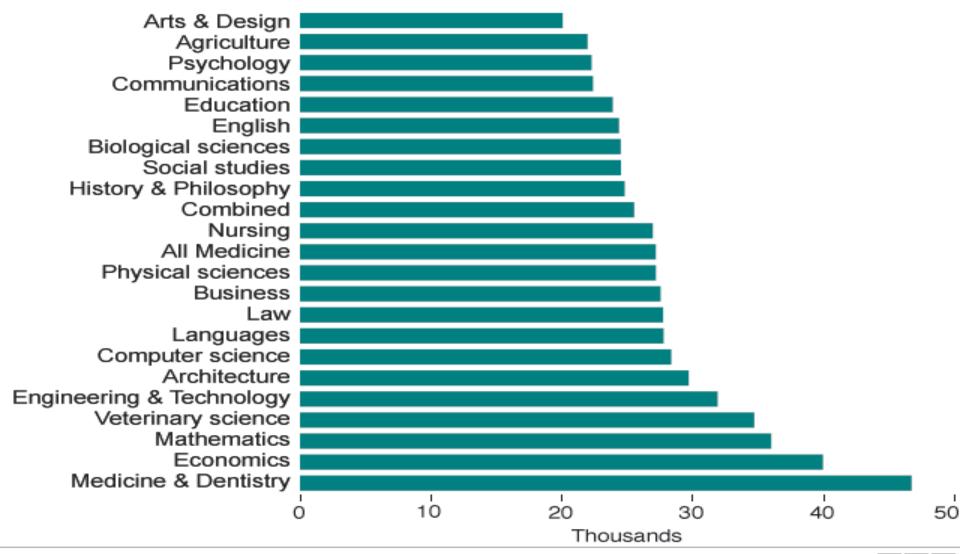
Motorsport
Design
Engineering

Football
Studies
& Music

#### Student Action 2: Course Choice

#### Which graduates earn the most?

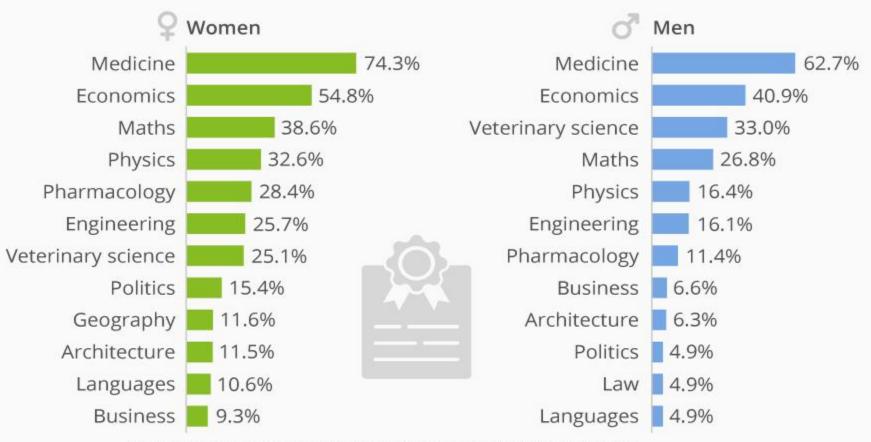
Median annual earnings (£) by subject, five years after graduating



#### Student Action 2: Course Choice

#### Which degree will earn you the most?

Difference in earnings 5 years after graduation compared to avg. degree (England)



Figures based on the raw differences in PAYE earnings for graduating cohorts 2007-08 to 2011-12 in the tax years 2011-12 to 2015-16. n=108,354 female graduates of the subjects shown / 147,759 male graduates of the subjects shown.





### Student action 3: University Choices

- There are 7 categories. Some in more than one.
- Russell Group. Eg Sheffield
- Ancient Universities. Eg Edinburgh
- Traditional research-led universities. Eg Bath
- 1960s. Eg UEA
- 1992 Universities. Eg Kingston
- Brand new universities (2000s). Eg Bournemouth
- Specialist colleges, institutes... Dance, Drama,
   Music, Art. Eg RCM, Chelsea, Guildhall

### **Institutions:** Ancient

Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen



## Institutions: Russell group

The Russell Group is formed of 24 British research universities – Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial, KCL, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, QML, Queens Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick and York



## Institutions: "new universities"/ "plate Glass"/ "red brick"

Aston, Bath, Bradford, Brunel, City, Heriot-Watt, East Anglia, Essex, Keele, Kent, Lancaster, Loughborough, Salford, Sterling Strathclyde, Surrey, Sussex, Ulster, Warwick, York,



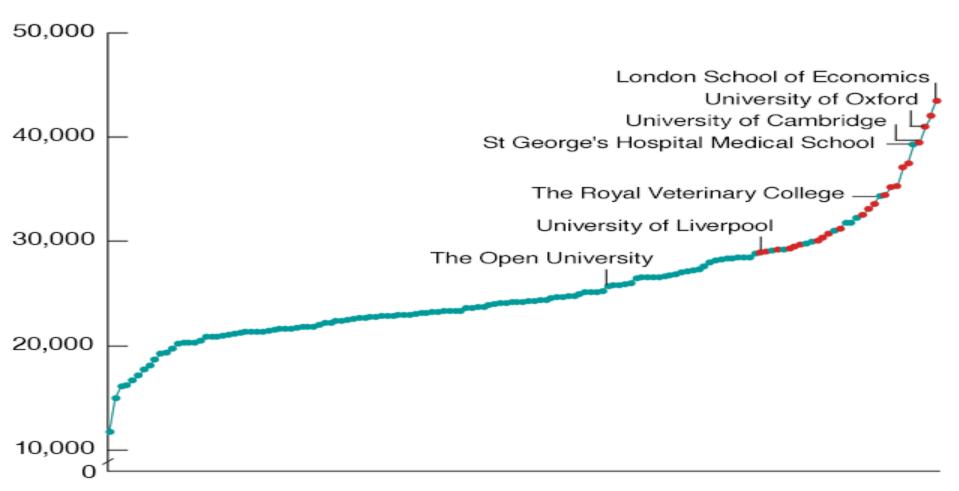


#### Student Action 3: University Choice

#### Graduate earnings by university

Median annual earnings, five years after graduation (£)









#### Student Action 2: University Choice

#### BEST UK UNIVERSITIES RANKINGS

#### 2022

- University of Oxford
- 2. University of Cambridge
- 3. University of St Andrews
- 4. London School of Economics and PS
- Durham University
- 6. University of Warwick
- 7. Imperial College London
- 8. University of Bath
- University College London
- Loughborough University



www.atozedu.co.uk

### Student Action 2: University Choice

University	UK Ranking	World Ranking
University of Cambridge	1	2
University of Oxford	2	4
Imperial College London	3	6
University College London	4	8
University of Edinburgh	5	15
University of Manchester	6	28
King's College London	7	37
London School of Economics	8	56
University of Bristol	9	61
University of Warwick	10	64
University of Southampton	11	78
University of Glasgow	12	81
University of Leeds	13	86
University of Birmingham	14	91
Durham University	15	92
University of Sheffield	16	96
University of St Andrews	17	96
University of Nottingham	18	114
Newcastle University	19	122
Queen Mary University of London	20	125

#### Criteria for choices

- Grades
- League Tables/Reputation. Check how it is awarded.
- Course content
- Cost of living
- Bursaries
- Campus
- What jobs do the graduates get.
- Level of teaching and support.
- How near is to home.

## Alternatives: Sponsored Degrees (Degree Apprenticeship)

- **KPMG:** Business & Administrative Studies at Durham and Birmingham.
- PWC: Business & Administrative Studies at Newcastle, Reading or Nottingham.
- Airbus: Engineering, Finance and Manufacturing at 4 different universities
- Barclays: Business and Administrative Studies at Anglia Ruskin.
- Capgemini: IT Degree Apprenticeship Programme at Aston
- CGI: IT/Computing career and another in Business Management at Winchester.
- Experian: offers a BA(Hons) in Management and Leadership at Nottingham Trent.
- A consortium including Bosch, Eaton-Cooper Industries, GSK, Johnson Matthey, Moog, Nestlé. Engineering at Loughborough.
- MBDA: Business & Administrative Studies at Bolton or Hertfordshire.
- Morrisons: Business & Administrative Studies at Bradford.
- Nestle: Business & Administrative Studies at Sheffield Hallam.

#### **Alternatives: Degree Apprenticeship**

- https://www.notgoingtouni.co .uk/
- <u>https://amazingapprenticeships.com/</u>

## Alternatives: Overseas Applications









#### **Alternatives: USA**

- The Fulbright website is useful see below
- http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-theusa/undergraduate/educationusa-advice/applying
- Students can apply using the Common Application see below
- https://www.commonapp.org/
- Support will be given individual support when required. WKE is the "school counsellor" and you will need another teacher to write a subject specific reference.

### Alternatives: Med/Dentist/Vet schools in Europe

- Grade requirements are lower.
- Costs may be lower
- Taught in English?
- Qualifications accepted in UK?
- https://www.studymedicineeurope.com/medicineeurope?gclid=EAlalQobChMlsteelqfY5QIVVeDtCh07pg Z5EAAYASAAEgI9vfD\_BwE
- https://www.medlinkstudents.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI steelqfY5QIVVeDtCh07pgZ5EAAYAyAAEgJEDPD Bw E

### Alternatives: Part time





### **Alternatives:** Art Foundation









## Student Action 4: Personal Statement



## Student Action 3: Personal Statement

- Interest in subject: Evidence not passion/love. List them and write up – analyse / critique / evaluate / debate. Use the skills that you have developed.
- Aspects of your subjects that you have enjoyed.
- Study skills: Research, presentations, discussions
- Super Curricular. Eg extra reading, lectures, attending societies, research, essay competitions, Formula 1, Jet Engine, Economics, Science, Medical and History Magazine
- HE+ Cambridge University
- Current issues / Hot topics
- Relevant work experience /voluntary work

## Student Action 5: Relevant work

experience







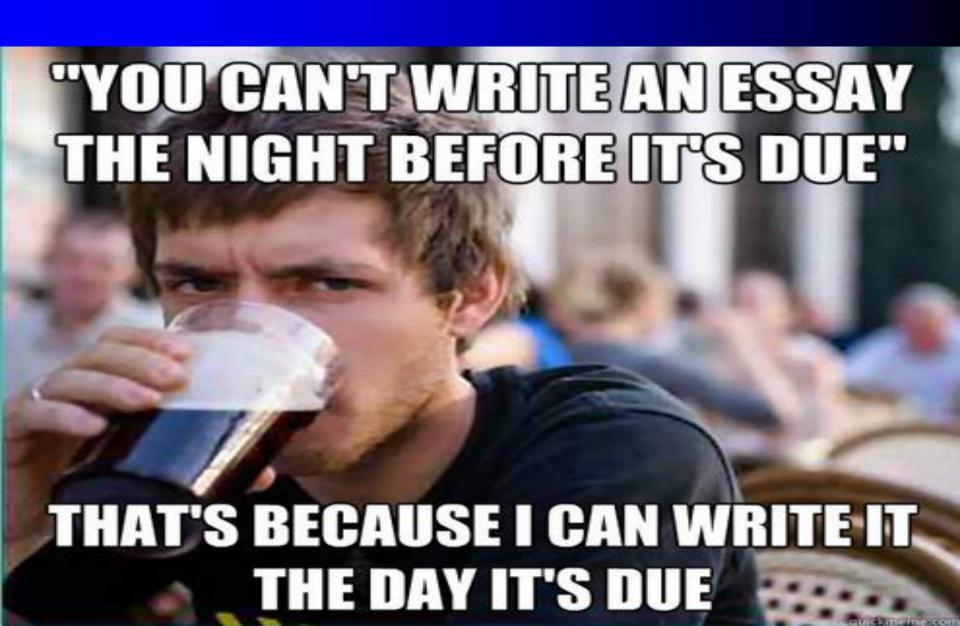


## Student Action 5: Electronic Application





#### Student Action 6: Essays



#### **Student Action 7: Tests**

#### Thinking Skills Assessment - Short Sample Test



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#### **Question 1**

In order to succeed in academic examinations it is necessary to study. Therefore, if a student works hard in a particular subject, he or she should do well when it comes to the examination.

Which of the following best describes the flaw in the argument?

- **C** A It assumes that it is necessary to study in order to succeed.
- OB It overestimates the value of studying in preparation for examinations.
- C It ignores the fact that some subjects are more academic than others.
- O D It assumes that studying hard is a sufficient condition for academic success.
- C E It ignores the fact that some students do not need to study very much in order to succeed.

<u>Previous</u>

Next

Finish Test

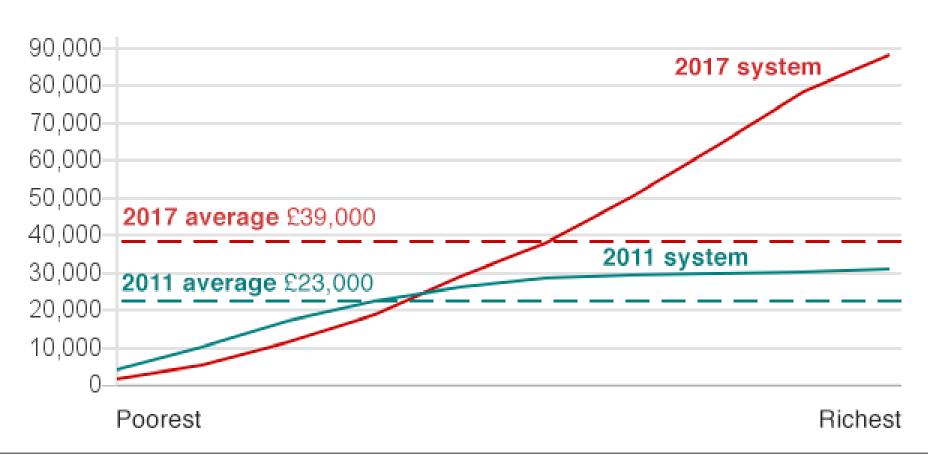
#### Student Action 8: Interviews



#### Student Action 9: Finance

How much are graduates repaying on their student loans?

Expected lifetime repayments (£)



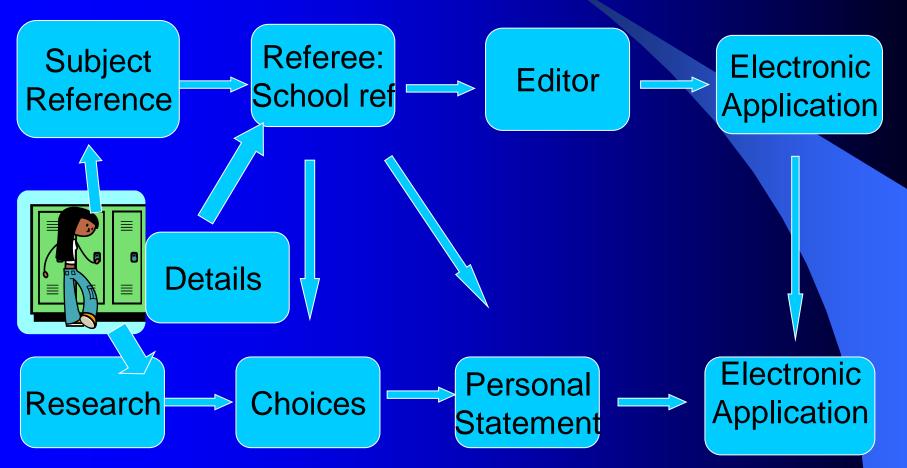


### Student Action Summary: Prepare to meet the admissions criteria

- Know what you have to do and prepare in advance.
- Tests, Essays, Interviews.
- Check the relevant websites
- Reflect on feedback: Autumn Progress Report and Parents Evening. Act on the advice
- Achieve the highest grades possible in Year 12
- Participate in your subjects
- Super Curricular list and write up
- Relevant work experience



#### **UCAS** Process



### School Action 1: Subject Reference

CHEMISTRY MATHS HISTORY FRENCH BIOLOGY ENGLISH PHYSICS

#### School Action 2: Predicted Grades



### School Action 3: The school reference



### Right combination of A Level subjects and "preferred subjects"

- We deliver a presentation to Yr 11 students before option choices and this was available on our external website for new students. A Level subjects and degree choices.
- We advise students to check with potential university choices before dropping anything and wait until Year 12 exam results.
- Informed Choices (The Russell Group): <a href="http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx">http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx</a>

#### Dates

- Summer Year 12: Referees allocated, potential medics sit the UKCAT exam, LNAT (Law) tests, UCAS online instructions, send subject references to teachers, send personal details form to referees.
- Summer Year 12: UCAS (internal) Exam results.
- August: AS results and A Level Maths results
- Autumn Year 13: UCAS Predictions
- Early October (even earlier for those doing BMAT due to entry deadline): Early applicants deadline (Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Vets)
- November: University tests sat at school.
- Nov/Dec onwards: Interviews and sending work
- Early Dec: Deadline for all other applicants
- Oct onwards: Offers
- February Extra an early clearing if not holding any offers
- March onwards: Offer decision. 1 firm (first choice) and 1 insurance (2<sup>nd</sup> choice)
- Mid August: A Level Results / Clearing/Adjustment Period. Please email if you need advice.

### Useful websites 1: Application Process

- www.ucas.com
- www.studential.com
- www.universityadvice.co.uk/UKAdvice.as
   px

#### Useful websites 2: Choices

- www.ucas.com
- www.unistats.com
- www.universityadvice.co.uk
- www.universitycourse.co.uk
- www.push.co.uk
- www.education.guardian.co.uk
- www.unofficial-guides.com
- http://www.ug.studylink.co.uk
- www.hero.ac.uk
- www.bubl.ac.uk/uk/fe

### Useful websites3: Guidance for Parents

- www.ucas.com
- www.parentcentre.gov.uk
- www.universityadvice.co.uk/ParentConcerns.aspx

### Useful websites4: Financial Information

- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.universityadvice.co.uk
- www.slc.co.uk
- www.hefce.ac.uk
- www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk

### Useful websites5: Gap Years and/or summer placements

- www.findagap.com
- www.gap.org.uk
- www.csv.org.uk
- http://www.deloitte.co.uk/scholars/
- http://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/Home\_(1).aspx
- http://www.gapyear365.com/company/deutschebank
- http://www-05.ibm.com/employment/uk/

### Useful websites 5 Gap Years cont

- http://careers.accenture.com/Microsites/uk
   -graduate-joinersconsulting/Pages/index.aspx
- http://www.bankofenglandjobs.co.uk/opportunities/gap-year-internships/
- http://www.yini.org.uk/
- http://www.metaswitch.com/careers/internships/pre-university/rachel-tocknell.aspx
- http://www.futurereach.org.uk/

### Useful websites 6: Student websites

- www.nusonline.co.uk
- www.studentuk.com
- www.uni4me.com
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- www.ucas.ac.uk/yougo

#### Useful websites7: Tests

- http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/choosingco urses/admissions/
- www.lnat.ac.uk
- www.bmat.org.uk
- www.ukcat.ac.uk
- www.history.ox.ac.uk
- www.elat.org.uk
- www.tsa.ucles.org.uk

#### Useful websites 8: Oxbridge

- https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/preparation-materials/
- https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-tooxford/guide/admissions-tests

#### Useful websites 9: Interviews

- https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.u k/applying/interviews
- https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/interviews

#### Useful websites 10: Supercurricular activities

- https://myheplus.com/
- https://oxplore.org/
- https://nrich.maths.org/post-16
- https://isaacphysics.org/

### Q1: What advice do you give about Gap Years?

- We provide web links to gap year opportunities
- There are a number of assemblies on these opportunities often led by former students. Eg Deloittes or charity work in South America
- If a student hasn't got the right grades at AS level and they may be considering applying for entry after they have left Latymer then a gap year may be appropriate
- Past students who haven't got the offers that they wanted have then explored gap year opportunities. But could be a bit late by then
- Its best to apply for the schemes in the Autumn Term of Yr 13 as some schemes have deadlines in that period of time. Eg Financial companies. Start researching in the summer term of yr 12.
- Maths Admissions Tutors are particularly concerned about gap years (maths skills lost over a year) so it is best to check with individual universities.
- Some admissions tutors like students to do something "worthwhile".
   Eg Work experience, charity work, further study, travel.

#### Gap Years:

#### Top 10 gap year destinations and suggested minimum daily budget



Note: Based on dormitory hostel accommodation, self-catering or street food and the cheapest form of public transport. Exchange rate as of 11 July 2016.

### Gap Years Placements: Apply early

- KPMG
- Deloittes
- Dresdner Bank
- Bank Of England
- Year In Industry
- IBM

# Q2: What help is provided for students who have "no idea" what course to apply for

- The initial stage of the UCAS process at Latymer for all students involves research. All students are encouraged to explore different subjects and different universities.
- Students should explore which subjects/topics within subjects/ they enjoy and the skills they have developed and how does this link to university courses. Create a long list
- The university websites offer detailed descriptions of the courses
- Some students consider careers that they are considering and then work backwards – what is a useful degree to secure such a career
- They are encouraged to explore the content of non A Level degree courses. Eg
- We advertise taster courses, summer schools and lectures at London universities and societies. Explore
- Yr 13 students do presentations on their university applications
- Past Latymer students, now at University also present and describe their courses
- Sixth form staff are available for individual consultations.
- Some students are not ready to apply in yr 13 and opt to take a gap year and apply the following year or after.

### Q3: How do I find out about scholarships and bursaries

- The universities run these schemes and the information is available on their websites.
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk might be a useful starting point

### Q4: What does deferred entry mean?

- Most students will be applying in 2023 for entry in 2024 but some will apply in 2023 for entry in 2025. This is a deferred entry. They are intending to have a Gap Year
- We advise that students contact university departments directly and see if this is acceptable. They do not encourage it for Maths students as it is felt that they can become de-skilled. So students need to show evidence that they will be avoid this
- It is important that students continue to develop their academic interests by extra reading for example.
- Some students apply after that have left Latymer and they still receive the same level of support. It is important that subject references are requested at the same time as other students otherwise it will be impossible to write a reference when they need one.
- Not much advantage in deferred entry any longer because the application is electronic and can apply easily. Some universities judge applicants asking for deferred entry more harshly as they cannot compare them to the current cohort.

#### Q5: How are referees allocated?

- In March of Year 12 the students indicate the subject(s) they are intending to apply for.
- Once teaching timetables have been allocated we will know which staff are available to write school references.
- We use the information about degree intentions to allocate staff with some expertise in that area. Form tutors will also be given an allocation. Some staff are able to write references for a range of degrees.
- All the allocated referees are trained each year in writing school references.
- The references are based on the subject references, which are written by staff who know the students very well.
- Students send the "Personal Details Form" to their referee and this
  information helps them to write the reference. They also meet with
  them at a mutually convenient time

### Q6: Where are UCAT and BMAT tests taken?

- UCAT is taken at test centres, not in school. The nearest one to the school is in Southgate.
- http://www.ucat.ac.uk
- BMAT is taken at school
- http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-testtakers/bmat/about-bmat

## Q7: What if Year 12 UCAS Exams grades are lower than expecting/hoping for?

- Eg wanted to apply for a course requiring A\*AA but achieved BBC
- Still apply in Year 13 for 2024 entry but for courses in line with those grades. Aim to perform better in final A2 exams hopefully achieving the desired grades. Then use the "Adjustment period". If no suitable courses left then withdraw from 2024 entry and apply again for 2025. (There is no penalty for doing this.) So plan for a Gap Year just in case. If grades have not improved then you can decide to accept any offers being held
- Or wait and apply in 2024 for entry in 2025, with final grades. Obviously plan for a gap year.

### Q8: Why do you only allow 3 days off school for Open Days?

- Students are welcome to visit as many universities as they want but we only allow 3 days off school as we are keen that they are in school to keep up with their studies and therefore achieve their full potential
- Some Open Days are at weekends
- All the information about courses is available on the university websites
- Often students are visiting a university to decide if they
  would enjoy living in an area rather than to find out the
  information mentioned above so this can be done at a
  weekend even if there is not an open day
- Some universities invite students to an open day after application and it is a quasi interview. Ie come and we will make an offer. We allow attendance at those in addition to the 3

### Q9: What are the predictions procedures?

#### **UCAS Predictions Procedures 2023**

- Predictions will be completed by the Year 12 subject teachers based on the internal Year 12 UCAS exams.
- 2. Predicted grades will be in the range A\* to C. There are only a very small number of final A Level grades below a C, hence the decision not to predict D or E. However, we reserve the right to predict below a C if a student does not meet expectations regarding work and attendance.
- 3. Predictions will not be more than one grade above the achieved UCAS exam grade, in the A\* to C range, unless there is exceptionally strong evidence, such as consistently high grades on exam style assessments. It is not a given that they will automatically be above the UCAS grade. Teachers have been asked to be generous, but the predictions are evidence based.
- 4. There will be one prediction per subject being taken at full A Level.
- 5. UCAS predictions will not be below the achieved UCAS exam grade.

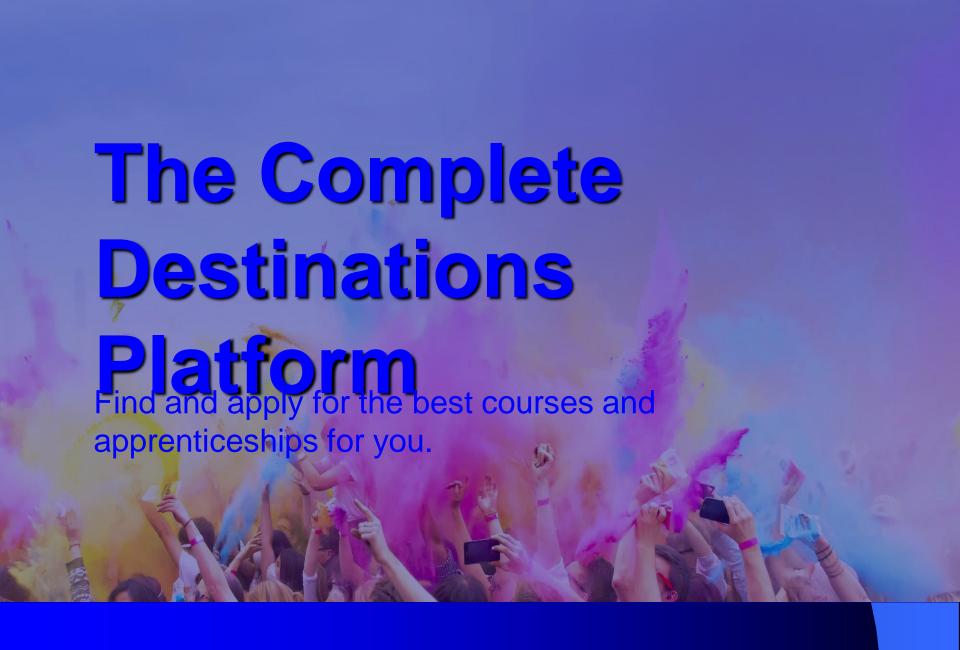
#### Q9: Continued

- 6 Students may approach teachers and politely request to discuss their predicted grade, but staff will not improve predictions based on pleading. For example, "I need an A\* to apply for", "I will work harder next year", "I didn't work last year but will this year", "I was ill during the exams". The last point would have been covered by special exam consideration. If a genuine mistake has been made (e.g. wrong data input) the teacher will contact Mr Wakefield asap. The prediction is a judgement of the subject teachers and not something to be negotiated.
- 7 Students will be given a printout of predicted grades in September and this information will go on the UCAS form. If any changes are made due to inputting errors, please do not rely on word of mouth If it is not changed on the master spreadsheet (check with Mr Wakefield) then assume it's not been changed.
- 8 Most students will have elected to drop a subject and therefore they will have got a grade award in that subject. Some may subsequently change their mind and decide to continue to study that subject at A2. In those cases, the prediction will be based on the AS grade and points 1 to 7 above will apply.

#### Q9: Continued

9 The students doing Further Maths will have been given a full Maths A Level and their predictions for Maths and Further Maths will be based on that grade. Points 1 to 7 above will also apply.

10 Parents should not contact individual subject teachers about predictions if they feel there has been an error. They should contact Mr Wakefield by email <a href="wke@latymer.co.uk">wke@latymer.co.uk</a> He will look into it and reply to the email, but it will not be possible to organise a meeting for parents to negotiate a higher prediction. At that time of year, we are very busy with supporting the entire year group with their university applications, and a significant number who have already left. All students need time to be individually supported and it would be wrong to reduce that time.





#### First time registration with



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#### Signup page

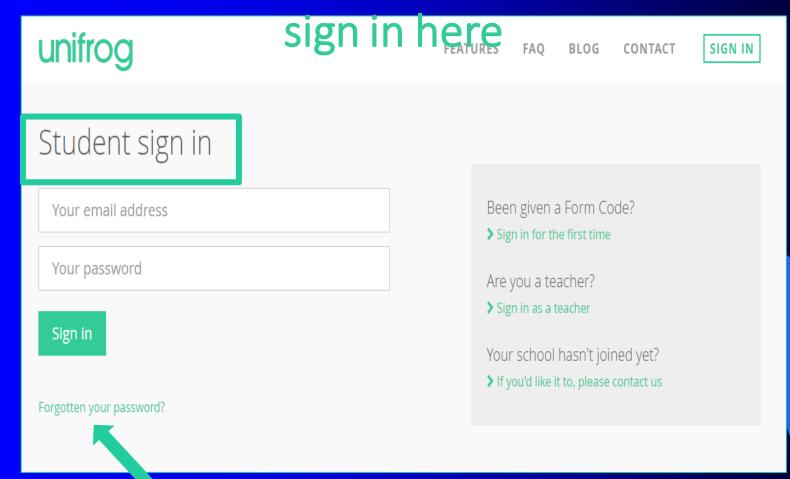
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