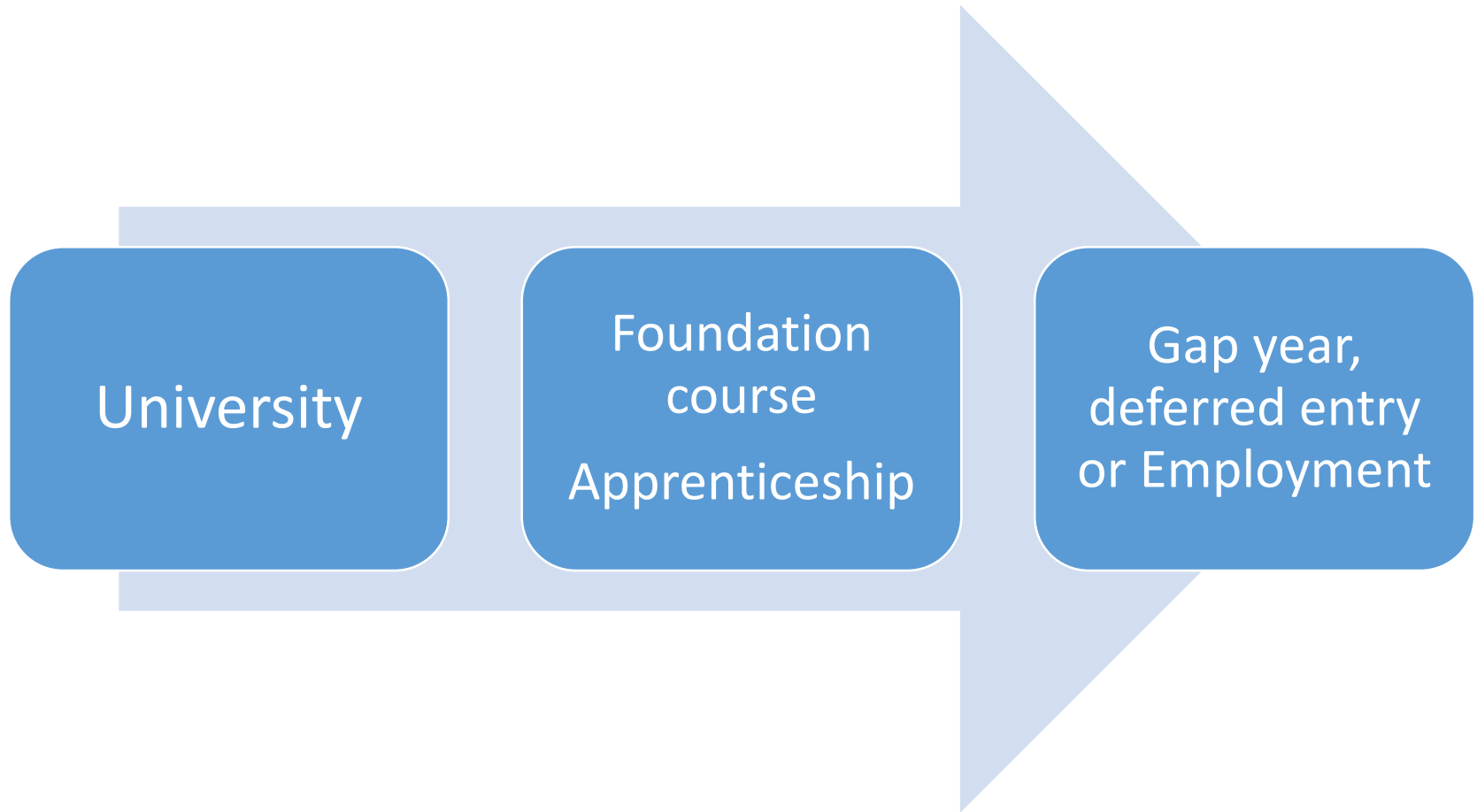


Applying to Higher Education

Pathways beyond the
Bennett Sixth Form

Pathways at the end of Y13



Application Process

- UCAS form – fill out online at www.ucas.com
- Can apply to as many as 5 Higher Education Institutions
- Personal details, qualifications, education.
- Academic reference
- Personal Statement
- Pay the UCAS fee of £24 and send
- UCAS then forward this on to the relevant HEIs

What admissions tutors look for...

3 KEY points:

- Qualifications / predicted grades
- Personal Statement
- Academic Reference

YOUR personal statement

- Only part of the UCAS form with 100% personal control
- Chance to tell university tutors why you want to study your chosen degree.
- Opportunity to promote your interest in your selected subject
- Personal Statement can set you apart from other applicants, especially if you convey your capacity to write thoughtfully and analytically.

Admissions tutors are looking for someone who really wants to do the course, and someone they really want at their university.

SO TELL THEM:

- **WHAT** you want to study and **WHY** you want to do the course
- **WHERE** you hope to go with the qualification once you have qualified
- **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE/ENRICHMENT**
- **RELEVANT** Experiences which show you are a **RELIABLE** and **RESPONSIBLE** person
- **RELEVANT INTERESTS** and **SKILLS**
- **RELEVANT GAP YEAR PLANS**

In Summary

- **Plan ahead** – write lists of your skills and interests
- **Be sure of what you want** to study and **why**
- Take time over your personal statement – you'll probably need **several drafts**
- Get family and friends to look over it – they know you best and may spot things you've left out
- The final personal statement is a maximum of 4000 characters, including spaces
- Deadline for first draft of Personal Statement: **4th September 2019**; this will not be the complete or finished document.

Work Experience

- Very important, not just to gain a university place, but for the job market following your degree, or apprenticeships
- Essential for Medicine and other health care courses, Veterinary, primary teaching.
- Desired for all other subjects.
- For non-vocational degrees work experience may be broadly related.

Offers and Interviews

- 80% University places are offered based on your application form; there won't be an interview
- Oxbridge, medicine, healthcare, primary education always interview
- However, increasingly universities will choose to interview candidates for the most popular courses



What the interviewers are looking for

Interviewers are looking to meet focused, well-rounded students. Students who actually want to do the course and who will be able to find a balance between academic life and outside interests.

It is important to be yourself – they want to know about YOU.

Assessment and Testing

- Subject specific tests, for example: maths, physics, languages.
- Oxford and Cambridge admissions tests: either pre-interview, 30 October 2019, or on the date of the interview.
- Literacy and Numeracy tests
- UCAT: driving test centre
- LNAT: driving test centre

What happens after your application has been sent?



- **You will be sent a letter from UCAS or the university to let you know if you are successful.**
- **It will be a conditional offer, based on achieving specified grades at A Level or Diploma course.**
- Once UCAS have received decisions from all of your choices, they will send you a Replying to Offers letter or email and it will appear in your UCAS Track account.
- You should choose one course as a firm acceptance, one as an insurance acceptance (if you wish) and decline all others.

Which University?

Russell Group

Pre-1992

Post 1992

Other

Unconditional Offers

- Students do not have to pass any A levels in order to study their chosen course, although examinations must be taken.
- Predominantly used by universities who may otherwise struggle to attract enough students.
- Russell Group and Pre-1992 universities have largely indicated they will not be using unconditional offers in the 2020 cycle.

Student Finance & Fees

www.gov.uk

How much?

The maximum tuition fees for students in the 2020 UCAS cycle are £9250 for each academic year. You will need to consider:

- tuition fees
- accommodation and living costs
- Location: living and accommodation costs vary depending on where you study, so it's worth doing some research on how much you'll need to cover them

2 TYPES OF STUDENT LOAN

- **1 – STUDENT FEE LOAN**

- **To cover the tuition fees for your programme**

- **2 – STUDENT MAINTENANCE LOAN**

- **To cover your accommodation and living expenses**

STUDENT FEE LOAN

- **To cover the cost of tuition fees**
- **Tuition fees are paid direct to the University by the Student Loan Company**
- **This is not repayable until you finish studying and you are in employment earning over £25,000**

NO TUITION FEES FOR...

- **The NHS pay tuition fees, if you are eligible for an NHS bursary, for the following subjects:**
 - **Medicine**
 - **Dentistry**

STUDENT MAINTENANCE LOAN

- To help you cover your living expenses whilst at University
- The basic loan to which every student is entitled, regardless of household income, is £4054, if you are studying away from home. Students studying in London are entitled to £5654 as a minimum.
- Paid directly to the student in 3 instalments each year.
- Start to pay back April after graduation and when earning £25,000 or more

University & College BURSARIES

All universities have bursary schemes in place, usually to help students from lower income families with the cost of their studies, but sometimes linked to academic achievement.

Look on the university websites, and in their prospectus to see what they offer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Information for students and/or parents:
 - www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
 - www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk
 - www.ucas.com/studentfinance/
- So the key points are that no LOANS are repayable until after graduation, and when you are earning above £25,000 PA. Grants and Bursaries do not have to be repaid providing you complete the course.

OTHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- Grades and Tariff Points

AS Level

A = 20 points

B = 16 points

C = 12 points

D = 10 points

E = 6 points

A Level

A* = 56 points

A = 48 points

B = 40 points

C = 32 points

D = 24 points

E = 16 points

Grades and Tariff points: Diploma courses

Grade	Tariff Points
D* D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

Grade and Tariff Points EPQ

A* 28

A 24

B 20

C 16

D 12

E 8

Key Dates: In School

- 8th July Higher Education and Careers Fair
- 4th September First draft of personal statements completed
- **23rd September : Bennett deadline** for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science
- **30th September 2019** All remaining drafts of personal statements to be completed
- **17th October: Founders' Day**
Bennett deadline for completion of all other UCAS application forms

Key Dates: externally set

- **NOW:** Law and Medical students should register to sit aptitude tests, ideally before the end of Y12.
- **September** - UCAS open for receiving applications.
- **15th October** UCAS deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science.
- **15th January** Final date to submit applications to UCAS

Further Key dates:

- BMAT: deadline for registration 1st October
- UCAT: Registration open now. Tests available between 1 July – 2 October. Booking closes midday 4th October. £65 rising to £85 after for tests taken after 1st September
- LNAT: registration opens 1st August £50.00
- University of Cambridge pre-interview assessment registration: school deadline 29th September.
- Oxbridge admissions tests (taken at school) 30th October 2019

What should you be doing now?

- **Drafting and responding to feedback on your personal statement**
- **Investigating courses:**
 - Talk to your teachers
 - Look in the UCAS books, especially Heap.
 - Look at university prospectuses - in the SFC, LRC and online
 - Ask for an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form team if you are struggling to refine your ideas about your chosen course or plans after the Sixth Form
- **Visiting university open days** www.opendays.com
- **Undertaking relevant work experience** and/ or enrichment to include in your personal statement

And in September?

- Complete any remaining sections of your application form including your personal statement and update your AS mathematics or EPQ results in the qualification section.
- Pay the UCAS fee and send your application so that it can be checked by our SFC Managers and Mrs Owen. Mrs Malone will attach your reference and send your application to UCAS after giving it one final check.

A Level Results Day 2020

Thursday 13th August 2020

Deferred Entry and Gap years

- Apply now, in the 2020 UCAS cycle
- Check your chosen course admits students taking a gap year
- Indicate you wish to take a deferred entry on the UCAS form
- Establish in your personal statement what you will do during your gap year

Applying to university after leaving Bennett

- Contact us in September so you can receive the new buzzword and link your application to school
- Make an appointment to speak with one of the Sixth Form team so they can advise you on your application and personal statement
- Ensure you meet UCAS deadlines
- If you intend to travel abroad ensure you are available for any interviews; these cannot always be done by Skype!
- We can provide a reference in support of your application, and you may link your application to school, in the first UCAS cycle after you have left Bennett: the 2021 UCAS cycle

Studying Abroad

- A growing interest in studying abroad, there may be some interesting cultural and cost benefits to this.
- European Degree programmes are often very different to UK ones, offering a more broad based introduction to a subject area in the first year(s) of study
- Many courses are taught in English

Higher and Degree level Apprenticeships

An alternative to full time university study

Gain qualifications as you earn

Use the www.gov.uk , www.ctfpathways.org.uk and www.getingofar.gov.uk site to research current opportunities

Some places are advertised directly on employer's websites and through agencies such as White Hat.

Places for the most prestigious Higher Level and Degree level apprenticeships are competitive.

Higher level Apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year, so look carefully at the required start date as you will need to have completed your studies at school before you can begin.

Foundation Courses

Students apply directly to most Art foundation courses; they are not part of the UCAS system. The Art department are available to advise and support this process.

Catering colleges also require students to apply directly. We have a successful history of students applying to prestigious courses, for example at Westminster catering college.

Some universities have 1 year foundation courses, with a lower entry tariff. Successful completion of this year allows entry to the associated undergraduate degree course at that university

CUKAS

- CUKAS is the online system used by students applying to study Drama or Music at conservatoires, for example RADA or the RCM. As well as completing the CUKAS application students will be required to attend an audition.

Keeping all Options Open

- UCAS?
- Apprenticeship?
- Employment?
- Foundation Course?
- Deferred Entry?

Webliography

- www.ucas.com
- www.gov.uk (student finance)
- www.getingofar.gov.uk (apprenticeships)
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- www.opendays.com
- www.lnat.ac.uk (Law admissions test)
- www.admissionstestingservice.org (BMAT, Oxbridge pre-interview assessments)
- www.ukcat.ac.uk
- www.unistats.direct.gov.uk
- www.university.which.uk

Thank you for listening

ANY QUESTIONS?

