

# UCAS and University Applications Launch Evening



WHO'S WHO?

TIMELINE

UNIFROG

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

TEACHER REFERENCES

PREDICTED GRADES & CHOOSING UNIVERSITIES

NEXT STEPS, INCLUDING SUPER CURRICULAR

Mrs Foley- Assistant Headteacher

Miss West – Top Universities/Medics  
coordinator

Mr Chamberlain – Assistant Head of Year



# Who's who?

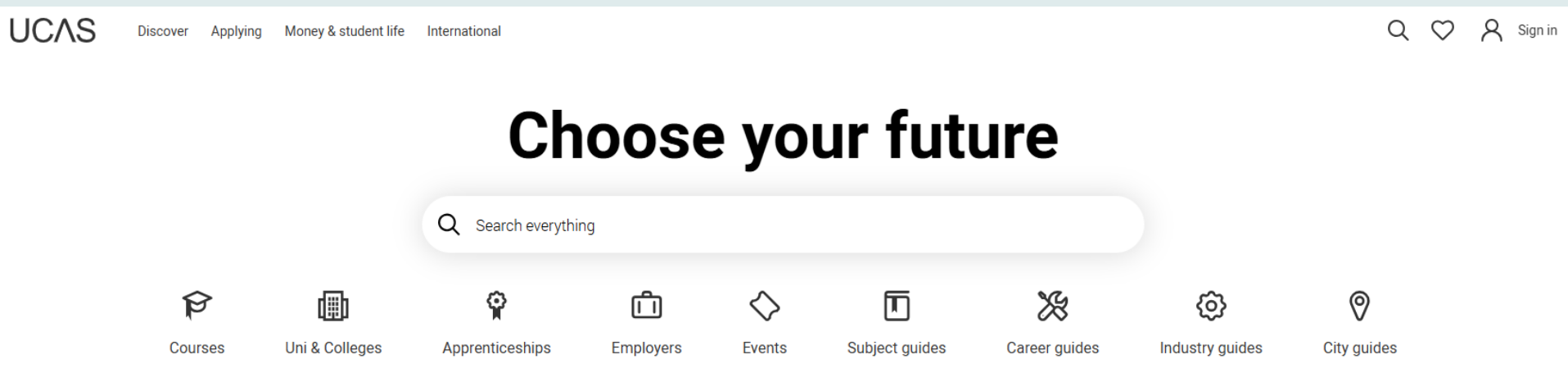
- Form tutors- First port of call (emails on the website>staffing)
- Mr Waite - Head of Year [mrwaite@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mrwaite@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Miss West- Top universities, Oxbridge & Medics coordinator [topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Mrs Blyghton- Careers Lead [careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Mrs Foley- Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5)
- Ms Kaur - Assistant Head of Year
- Mr Chamberlain – Assistant Head of Year



# What is UCAS?

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Initially set up just to manage applications and offers
- Now gives a huge amount of advice and information about which courses to do, which universities to attend, apprenticeships, internships, graduate jobs and various events.

**Buzzword:**  
**Swan26**





# Timeline

- **From now** - Students continue to research courses and universities via Unifrog and by discussing with peers and teachers. The universities to which students can apply will be based on UCAS predictions. Research should begin now



Complete a post-school **Shortlist**



Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons)



University of Bristol  
Bristol, England



Website

Open Day

Course page

Finance page

Disabilities

Contextual offers

Scholarships

Visa info

Accommodation



# Timeline

- **From now -**
  - Students continue to research courses and universities via Unifrog
  - Develop their personal statements
  - Revise for the September assessments
  - Students should have already uploaded their 'notes for reference writers'
- **This week** -Year 12 will set up their UCAS accounts and begin filling in key information during Directed Study sessions.
- **September-** Internal assessment used to review predicted grades.
- **Wednesday 15th October** - UCAS Deadline for Oxbridge and Medical/Dentistry/Vets applications.
- **Thursday 16th October** – For **non-early applicants**, first full draft of PS to tutors – This allows time for feedback. Submitted via Unifrog.

N.B. For those applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences or to Oxbridge there is an accelerated timeline. Miss West has outlined this to you already.

# Application timeline



- **13th November** - Final draft to tutor. After this we cannot guarantee feedback.
- **July- November** - Most aptitude exams take place during this time.
- **10th November** - Final choices confirmed with tutor.
- **20th November** – Student deadline: Application finished, paid (£28.95) and sent – this means sent to the school to review. This allows the school team to have time to process references. Applications submitted to the school after this date may not receive a reference.
- **Late November and December** - Oxbridge interviews take place.
- **14th January 2026** - Final deadline to UCAS.
- **End of May 2026** - Student finance applications deadline .



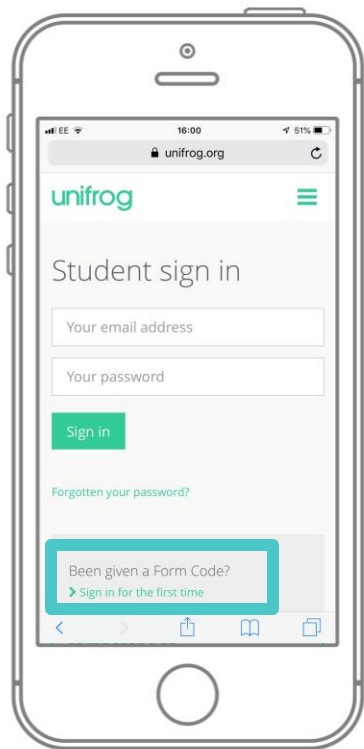
# The Unifrog tools

Access all tools on Unifrog to learn what options are available, access good quality information, and search for opportunities to support your child.

Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application	Making applications
Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Subjects library	Competencies	US universities	Classes	Locker
Know-how library	Interactions	European universities	Subject References	Applications list
MOOC		Oxbridge	CV / Resumé	
Personality profile		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
Interests profile		Asian universities	Common App Essay	
Read, Watch, Listen		Australasian universities	US recommenders	
Webinars		ME and African universities	Notes for Reference writers	
		Irish universities		
		Special Opportunities		
		Events		



# Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to  
[www.unifrog.org/code](http://www.unifrog.org/code)

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign  
up Code. This is what you need:

**BEGRparent100**

After signing up, log into Unifrog using  
your email address and password via the  
student sign-in page!





# Personal Statements

- Each student can apply to a maximum of 5 universities/courses – they will all see the same application and personal statement.
- Students should identify what courses they are interested in before starting to write the personal statement.
- We also encourage students to give their personal statement to their tutor **AND** a relevant subject teacher to ensure accuracy in their subject-specific discussion.
- Guidance has been provided and there are also weekly drop-in sessions.
- For students applying to top universities, they can also receive feedback from Ms West throughout the process.



# The new format for personal statements (2026 entry and onwards)

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

[The new personal statement for 2026 entry | UCAS](#)





Taken from the UCAS website:

## Is using AI to help with my personal statement 'cheating'?

As you can imagine, we have had a lot of questions from people applying for university or college about whether using tools like ChatGPT to help with your UCAS personal statement is considered 'cheating'.

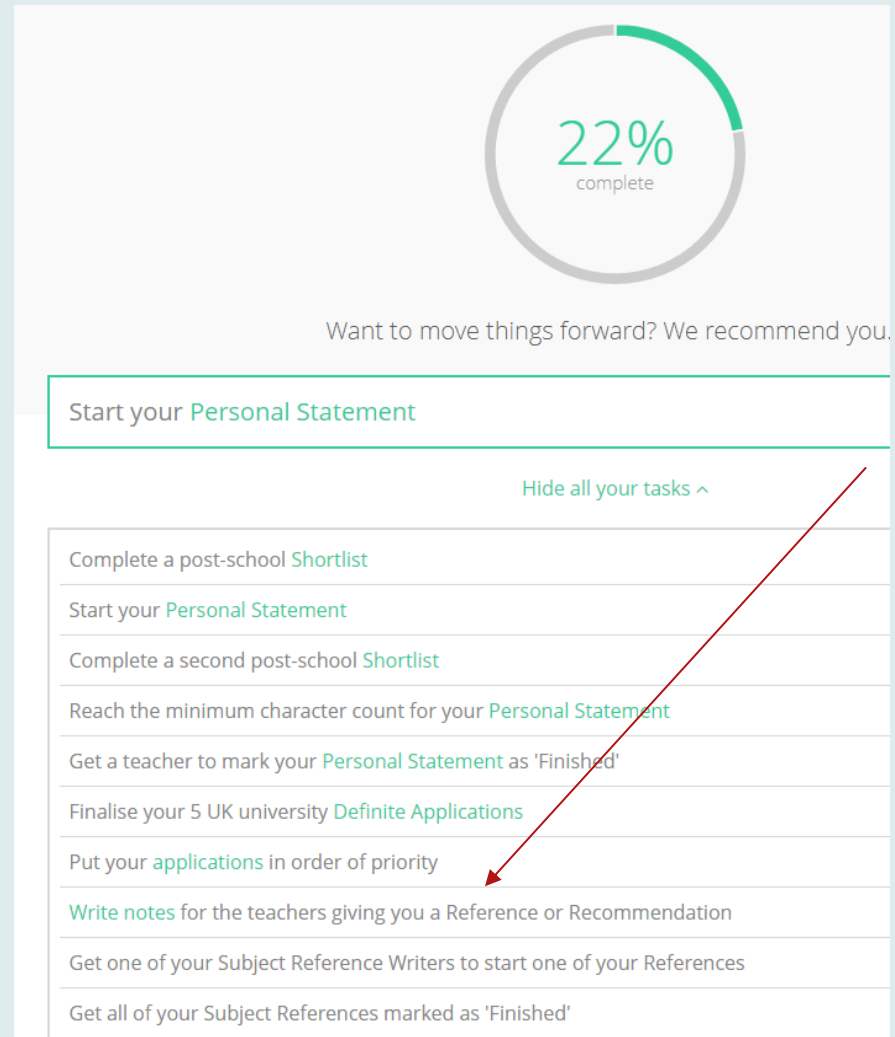
Generating (and then copying, pasting and submitting) all or a large part of your personal statement from an AI tool such as ChatGPT, and presenting it as your own words, **could be considered cheating by universities and colleges** and could affect your chances of an offer.

When you complete your application, you now have to declare that your personal statement hasn't been copied or provided from another source, including artificial intelligence software.



# Teacher References

- Teachers will be as positive as possible, and students will be consulted on attributes they want highlighted.
- Students will write their notes for their reference writers this week. This helps to guide tutors/teachers.





# So how do we calculate UCAS predictions?

1. Teacher prediction + 2 sub grades
2. Convert to a whole grade

Teacher predictions can be H,M,L within each grade

## Student 1's Report

Subject	Teacher Prediction	+2 subgrades	UCAS prediction
Maths	AH		
Economics	AH		
Biology	AL		

## Student 2's Report

Subject	Teacher Prediction	+2 subgrades	UCAS prediction
Maths	CM		
Economics	CH		
Biology	BL		



# Choosing your Universities

- Students can select a maximum of 5 university choices on UCAS
- 1x 'Aspirational' choice, where entry requirements **match your UCAS Predictions**
- 3x 'Solid' choices, that **match your Teacher Predictions**
- 1x 'Safe' choice, where the standard offer is **lower than your Teacher Predictions**

# Choosing your Universities



Complete a post-school [Shortlist](#)



















## Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.  
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ✓

Rank ▼ Filter ▼ Keyword search















### Aspirational (81)

Top of your range

-  **Political Economy - 3FT BA/BSc (H)**   
 King's College London, University of London  
A Level: A\*,A,A
-  **Politics - 3FT BA/BSc (H)**   
 King's College London, University of London  
A Level: A\*,A,A
-  **European Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**   
 King's College London, University of London  
A Level: A,A,A
-  **Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)**   
 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London  
A Level: A,A,A
-  **Politics and Data Science - 3FT BSc (Hons)**   
 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London  
A Level: A,A,A
-  **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**   
 University of Exeter















### Solid (58)

In the middle

-  **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**  
 University of Leicester  
A Level: B,B,B-A,B,B
-  **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**  
 Goldsmiths, University of London  
A Level: B,B,B
-  **Politics with Placement - 4SW BSc (Hons)**  
 Brunel University London  
A Level: B,B,B
-  **International Politics with Placement - 4SW BSc (Hons)**  
 Brunel University London  
A Level: B,B,B
-  **International Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)**  
 Brunel University London  
A Level: B,B,B
-  **Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)**  
 Brunel University London  
A Level: B,B,B
-  **International Politics - 3FT/4FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)**  
 City, University of London (2)

### Safe (44)

At the bottom

-  **Politics with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)**  
 Durham University  
Foundation year
-  **International Relations and Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**  
 University of Sheffield  
Foundation year
-  **Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**  
 University of Sheffield  
Foundation year
-  **Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BSc (Hons)**  
 University of Surrey  
Foundation year
-  **Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BSc (Hons)**  
 University of Surrey  
A Level: C,C,C  
Foundation year
-  **Politics with Foundation Year - 5SW BSc (Hons)**  
 University of Surrey  
A Level: C,C,C  
Foundation year
-  **Politics with a Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**  
 University of East Anglia UEA

[next](#) or [go back](#)



# What does the application process look like? - Interviews and offers

- Some students might be called to interview – we will offer support with this (eg. Mock interviews)
- Many universities will skip this step and make an offer/rejection
- Once all 5 universities have responded, students will then choose a ‘firm’ university – the one they will go to if they meet the offer made...
- and an insurance university – a university that **has made a lower offer**, that they will go to if they miss the offer of their firm university





# Entry Requirements

- University websites list their 'standard' entry requirements, but the final offer they make to individual students is entirely at their own discretion. They may also have subject-specific requirements (e.g. ABB with the A in Maths).
- Students who have bursaries or live in postcodes that have a deprivation marker against it can possibly receive a contextual offer (a slightly lower offer) in recognition that they are statistically less likely to have access to the same opportunities as other applicants.
- Universities all have their own criteria for contextual offers.



To qualify for a contextual offer, you must have Home-UK fee status and your current or most recent school cannot be an independent school.

One of the following must also apply:

- You live in an area where people are less likely to go to university – [check your postcode below](#)
- You have completed one of the following programmes not hosted by the University of Nottingham: a UNIQ, Lincoln Medical School or [Sutton Trust](#) summer school or another Sutton Trust programme at post-16.
- You have refugee status from the Home Office
- You have spent more than three months in care – in this situation, you are still eligible for a contextual offer if you have attended an independent school



# Predicted Grades – Teacher vs UCAS

- The teacher predicted grade will predominantly be based on the Year 12 trial exams, however other assessment data may also be considered. This prediction is a grade that their teacher feels your child is most likely to get. This will enable your child to apply to suitable universities where they are likely to get conditional offers and meet the conditions of the offer.
- The UCAS predicted grade is usually the same or higher than the teacher prediction to support your child in making aspirational applications.
- Predicted grades are not influenced by:
  - Pressure from students and/or parents
  - University entry requirements



# What can students do to prepare?

- **Read** around subjects [Beths Grammar School - Super Curriculum](#)
- Engage with [My Super Curricular](#) - a site that all year 12s have a subscription to
- Engage in opportunities provided to extend their learning
- Research courses on Unifrog
- Research universities on Unifrog and visit universities [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)
- **Attend lessons, engage fully and consistently in all sessions, including directed study sessions**



# What can students do to prepare?

## Super curricular

**Read** around subjects [Beths Grammar School - Super Curriculum](#)

[www.myheplus.com](http://www.myheplus.com)

[www.theconversation.com](http://www.theconversation.com)


[www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)

Super website produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.

The Conversation is an online newspaper written by academics from around the world. Every article is credited to the researcher who wrote it which means that you can write a sentence along the lines of "I was fascinated to read a recent article by researchers from the university of blah about current research into x,y,z" and you suddenly sound like a genius.



# UCAS YouTube channel



**UCAS**

@Ucasonlineofficial · 14.9K subscribers · 263 videos

The official UCAS channel, bringing you expert support, how-to guides, application advice ...more

[ucas.com](https://ucas.com) and 4 more links

**Subscribe**

Home Videos Shorts Live Podcasts Playlists 🔍



# Studying abroad and apprenticeships

- Research the university and their entrance process – may need additional tests
- US universities need the SATs
- Look at funding
- For apprenticeships or degree apprenticeships
  - UCAS [Apprenticeships on UCAS](#)
  - Gov.uk [Higher and degree apprenticeships](#)
- Careers team – [Careers@beths.Bexley.sch.uk](mailto:Careers@beths.Bexley.sch.uk)
- Unifrog



# Who's who?

- Form tutors – First port of call (email on the website>staffing)
- Mr Waite – Head of Year [mrwaite@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mrwaite@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Miss West- Top universities, Oxbridge & Medics coordinator [topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Mrs Blyghton- Careers Lead– [careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- Mrs Foley - Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5)



# Final points



- We understand this can be stressful for students and everyone at home. Talk to us.
- Meet deadlines – it means we can support you and it's also a life skill.
- **Getting offers is only the first step. Getting the grades is more important.**
- Our Careers Team supports all students in identifying their options. (Careers Centre is at the bottom of the Student Reception stairs).
- The slides, and other key information about UCAS will be placed on the Sixth Form Teams area for students and added to the school website for parents/carers to access.



# Oxbridge and Medics Key Information

- For all those who intend to apply for early entry, please ensure all students have completed the **Microsoft Forms on Teams** and **Satchel One** by **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**.
- After half term, **all early entry students** will be meeting with myself to begin the process of writing personal statements, entrance exam preparation, etc.
- All students need to ensure that they are on track for the high-grade requirements of **A\*A\*A\*-A\*AA for Oxbridge** and **A\*A\*A\*-AAA for Medicine**. This will help ensure realistic expectations and avoid disappointment.



# What do you need to consider?

- A-Level predicted grades
- GCSE Scores
- Personal statements
- Admissions tests
- Interviews



# Entrance Exams: Cambridge

- All students who are applying to study at Cambridge will need to check if they will need to sit an entrance exam.
- Various courses involve a college-registered assessment which takes place before interview. These do not need to be registered for in advance.
- However, some courses require you to book this in advance:

Course	Entrance Exam	Registration Deadline
Law	LNAT	15/09/2024
Chemical Engineering, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Veterinary Medicine	ESAT	16/09/2024
Computer Science, Economics	TMUA	16/09/2024



# Entrance Exams: Oxford

- All candidates need to register and book their test at a Pearson VUE test center from the middle of August (TBC). Please keep an eye on the Oxford website for the official registration dates and deadline when they are released.
- For the LNAT and UCAT, please follow the guidance on their websites.

Course	Entrance Exam
Ancient History	AHCAAT
Biomedical Sciences	BMSAT
Classics	CAT
Computer Science	MAT
Modern Languages	MLAT
Engineering and Materials Science Science, Physics	PAT
Philosophy and Theology	PhilAT
Economics and Management, PPE, Psychology	TSA
Medicine	UCAT
Law	LNAT



# Entrance Exams: Medicine and Dentistry

- All students who are applying for Medicine and Dentistry need to sit the **UCAT**.
- All students need to ensure this is sat **before** the next academic year.
- Students who will need to sit the UCAT need to ensure they have **registered an account** ASAP on the **UCAT website before 17<sup>th</sup> June** (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/register/booking-your-test/>).
- Bookings open on **Tuesday 17th June and happen in test centers**. This is very competitive so please ensure you have booked early to avoid disappointment with the test center location.
- **UCAT preparation sessions will commence during Medicine Society, every Tuesday at lunchtime in S3.**



# Personal Statements

- Students need to prioritise their **supercurricular activities** for all **Oxbridge** courses to help demonstrate their interest in the subject. This should be the **majority** of their personal statement.
- For Medicine, students will also need to demonstrate their passion for the course through **supercurricular activities**, but also showcase their dedication to studying the vocational degree and **transferable skills** through work experience, extracurricular activities, etc.
- Students who look to study Veterinary Medicine need to check the **work experience requirements**, e.g. Royal Veterinary College require 140 hours.



# Personal Statements

- For all those who are applying, they need to ensure their **first draft** of their personal statement has been given to **Miss West** by **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**.
- The earlier this is submitted, the more time there will be to check it and for her to give feedback before the holidays.
- Students will be invited to a session to receive feedback.

*This can be submitted via Teams (@Ms West) or via email (topuniversities@beths.Bexley.sch.uk)*





## **Email:**

- Miss West: Top universities, Oxbridge & Medics coordinator [topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

## **Key dates:**

- *First draft of personal statement – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025*
- *Early entry school deadline – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025*
- *UCAS early entry deadline – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025*