

UNIVERSITY & CAREER SUPPORT

A guide to how students' specialist Tutors give individual, tailored support to help prepare them for the next step after College.

Although continuing onto university is not every student's intention and many go on to employment and apprenticeships, each student at the College will apply for university places. The application process itself provides invaluable experience for future employment opportunities, and securing university places offers a safety net should circumstances change.



MEET THE TEAM

Jo Wood leads the team of Tutors who are solely responsible for students' pastoral support. This allows subject teachers to concentrate on teaching, while the individually assigned Tutors help students with navigating College life, university applications, employment possibilities, life-skills, personal support and more. The specialist team are experts in careers guidance, regularly attending conferences and industry seminars, keeping right up-to-date in order to offer the best advice possible.

IN BRIEF: Applying to university

- Applying for all university places is done centrally through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) and applications must be submitted by the Christmas holidays in students' second year.
- Students should apply for five different university courses and applications must contain: Qualifications achieved (i.e. GCSE grades), a personal statement, predicted A Level/BTEC grades and a reference from the student's tutor.
- Students will be offered places before they sit their A Level/BTEC exams. Offers will mostly be 'conditional' – subject to achieving set target grades.
- Students accept their chosen places after successfully achieving their target grades.
- Our Tutors support students every step of the way through this journey, in every scenario: from helping some students apply for places at Oxford or Cambridge to supporting others to make the most of Social Mobility opportunities – national measures put in place to help those from lower income families and neighbourhoods, and those who would become the first generation of their family to go to university.

GOOD TO KNOW

TUTORIALS: Each student has an assigned Tutor who will work with them across their two years at College, and a large portion of that time is spent in weekly, timetabled Tutorial sessions in small groups. The other time spent individually with the Tutor is referred to as a One-to-One: these are scheduled once every term and on an ad-hoc basis whenever needed.

UNIVERSITY & CAREER

A term-by-term guide to just some of the help and guidance that assign

FIRST YEAR

Autumn Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

To understand each student's career ambitions and ensure that students have settled in and adapted to College life. Personal targets are agreed to set students up for success.

SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

A scheme to make the University of Liverpool accessible to all students and can result in a reduced grade offer and/or a bursary.

ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The Social Mobility Foundation opens up routes into 11 different professional career sectors. Students are supported with UCAS applications, offered amazing placements opportunities and mentoring.

UNIFROG

All students are registered with Unifrog – a platform that allows students to conduct research into all post-18 options and to record skills and experience developed throughout College life.

Spring Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

To refine students' career options now that they've settled into sixth form study. Tutors will help each individual student determine aspirational yet realistic goals for themselves.

HIGHER EDUCATION MONTH

Major universities visit the College with all students attending inspirational talks from a range of institutions. Tutors help students narrow down choices and prepare for financial and cultural aspects of university life.

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

The opportunity to discover what universities have to offer first-hand. Most Open Days take place at weekends; some prearranged weekday visits may be possible.

OXBRIDGE CONFERENCE

Oxford and Cambridge Universities give students the inside track on the application process, admissions procedures and student finance.

SUTTON TRUST SUMMER SCHOOLS

Residential Summer School places at one of twelve leading universities in over 40 courses, with all travel, food and other costs covered.

Summer Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

To review the year, assessing what has gone well and what improvements can be made. Goals are set for over the Summer break to support their provisional university course choices.

FUTURES DAY

The College hosts this unique and interactive day where students attend talks from a broad range of visiting universities, employers and apprenticeship providers, chosen individually dependent on their own aspirations.

UNIFROG

Skills and experiences recorded on Unifrog help students to create great impressions on University Admissions Tutors.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Students begin drafting their Personal Statements - a key component of the UCAS application. This is where the student is able to sell themselves to universities, outlining their skills and experience as well as academic ability.

SUMMER HOLIDAY

The summer at the end of the year at College is a perfect time for a vital experience that can add to your CVs and university applications.

Students can participate in activities such as:

- University Events
- Residential
- Work Experience

R SUPPORT TIMELINE

ded Tutors give to each student to enable them to fulfil their ambitions

SECOND YEAR

Autumn Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

Students review their first year performance with their Tutors. Final decisions about UCAS course choices are made.

UCAS APPLICATIONS START

The university application process starts and students choose five university courses to apply to. The College internal deadline is the end of the Autumn term.

UCAS REFERENCES

Teachers and Tutors provide considered, tailored references for each individual student's university application. Teachers also provide predicted grades based on the student's current performance.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Students prepare for university and apprenticeship interviews by performing mock interviews with a panel of Tutors.

SPECIALIST DEADLINE

There is an October submission deadline for any students wishing to apply to the Oxbridge universities, or wanting to study Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry at any university.

Spring Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

UCAS offers are reviewed and students discuss applications for apprenticeships and employment with their Tutors.

UCAS DEADLINE

All university applications must be submitted by 15th January.

APPRENTICESHIP TUTORIALS

Students examine the possibility of applying for apprenticeships with local and national employers. Students interested in apprenticeships still apply to university to give back-up options.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS AND INTERVIEWS

Students begin to hear if their applications have been successful; interviews and offers will be made with grade conditions. Tutors help students identify firm and insurance choices.

APPLY FOR FINANCE

Student Finance applications open in March and need to be in place before a student can start university in September. Tutors provide full support with the students' part of the application process.

Summer Term

ONE-TO-ONE REVIEW WITH TUTOR

Final checks are made that all applications including student finance and accommodation are complete. Individual revision plans are discussed, focusing on what works best for each student.

UNIVERSITY TUTORIALS

Focus will be on the everyday 'real life' of a university student, with help and advice on topics including accommodation, finance and personal budgeting.

FOCUS ON THE FINISH

Tutors help students with the fine tuning of exam and revision technique. Focus is not on 'why' to revise but 'how', working on methods and organisation.

EXAMS

The culmination of two years' work. With the guidance of assigned Tutors and subject teachers over this time, students will feel ready for the challenge of their final exams and for life after College.

RESULTS

Results Day in August is a chance for students to celebrate their hard work and enjoy the final days before starting a new chapter in their lives. Tutors are on hand to support students on this day.

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FAQs

What is UCAS? The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service which deals with all university applications centrally. Students submit one UCAS form for all five of their course choices.

How much does it cost to apply and can I get help?

Applying for one university course is £18 but applying for 2-5 courses is £24, which students are encouraged to do. The College is able to help with fees in some circumstances.

What is a personal statement and why is it

so important? The personal statement is part of the UCAS university application form and can be what puts you ahead of other students when it comes to receiving offers. Grades are obviously crucial, but the personal statement is a chance for students to demonstrate what they offer outside of the classroom as well as their skills and academic ability.

When I apply, do the universities know which one is my top choice? No, UCAS do not share that information with the universities - course choices are automatically listed alphabetically. After you have received all of your offers, you will make a firm and insurance choice which the universities will be aware of.

How do I know if my application's been successful? Universities begin to make successful students offers during the Spring term. You get notified through UCAS when an offer has been made. Most offers will be 'conditional' – subject to students achieving target grades. Occasionally, a student will be offered an 'unconditional' offer. Some universities will ask students to attend an interview or applicant day before making an offer.

Why don't we start our applications until the September of the second year? The summer holiday between the first and second years is a crucial time to visit university open days and get as much information and experience under your belt as possible without College to attend. This holiday period can play a key part in narrowing down your choice of courses, as well as making your personal statement as impressive as possible.

Why do I have to apply for uni? University is the natural next step for A Level and BTEC Level 3 students. The process of applying for university is a transferrable skill for applying for any job, course or apprenticeship. Practicing how to sell yourself, both on paper and in person, is an invaluable life-skill to learn in a supportive environment before leaving College.

What if I'm not sure uni is for me? That's not a problem at all. Tutorials and other fairs and events throughout your time at College will give you all the information you need about apprenticeships and employment. However, applying for and gaining places at university is a valuable process, plus it gives you a back-up plan should your feelings or situation change.

How do Tutors write our references? By the Autumn term of your second year, your Tutor will be highly aware of your academic performance, as well as your skills and other abilities, and the ambitions that you harbour. With that information, Tutors provide each individual with a deeply considered, personal reference without using templates or having to be vague because they don't really know you. Teachers also contribute academic references for each subject.

What if I want a gap year? Gap years can appeal to plenty of students. Our advice would be to gain and accept your place(s) at university and then defer for a year. This ensures that your place is guaranteed for the next year and everything will be in order for you to start without having to go back through the application process again.

