

WADDESDON CE SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

SUMMER TERM 2019

RESEARCHING & PLANNING YOUR FUTURE



Aims for the rest of the Summer Term:

- 1) Complete further research into, think carefully about and assess the various pathways that are open to you after school, to make informed decisions about your future**
- 2) Understand the various application processes and deadlines for Universities, Apprenticeship, Employment and Gap Year Opportunities**
- 3) Reflect on your personal achievements so far and complete a competitive Personal Statement help you reach your post-18 aspirations**

POST 18 OPTIONS AND APPLICATIONS SUPPORT IN YEARS 12 AND 13

Date	Session/Event
YEAR 12	
December 2018 (assembly)	Introduction to post-18 pathways and some initial advice
18 th January 2019 (Extension Studies lesson)	Presentation from the University of Coventry – benefits of a university education and advice for choosing your degree course
25 th January 2019 (Extension Studies lesson)	Presentation from ASK Apprenticeships – benefits of a degree apprenticeship, the opportunities available and how to apply
1 st February 2019 (Extension Studies lesson)	Gap Year presentation – advantages of taking a Gap Year and an introduction to the many opportunities on offer
February 2019	Careers Fair & guided independent research in IT suites through recommended websites
24 th June 2019 (assembly)	Weighing up your options and making informed decisions
26 th June 2019 (evening event for parents and students)	Life after Waddesdon Evening. Presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford Brookes University • Degree Apprenticeship provider • Project Trust - Gap Year organisation
28 th June 2019 (Extension Studies lesson)	'My Brand' – writing your Personal Statement and super-curricular activities
5 th July 2019 (Extension Studies lesson)	Time in IT suite to start drafting Personal Statements
Week of 8 th July 2019	Conversation with form tutor about plans and applications
Friday 13 th July (Extension Studies lesson)	Interview and CV advice from current employment recruiter
20 th July 2019	Presentation of Employability Awards
22 nd July 2019	Hand-in first draft of Personal Statement to form tutor
YEAR 13	
Beginning of September	Written feedback on personal statement from a member of staff
September 2019	1 hour workshop to begin UCAS/CUKAS application (registration and completion of personal details)
September to October 2019	One to one support with personal statements (drafting and redrafting) and confirmation of predicted grades
Assemblies/workshops	Sessions on Employability, Creating a CV, Applying to Competitive Universities
September to December 2019	One to one support with checking of application forms and submission to UCAS
December 2019	Presentation on how to make the best impression at interview with one to one support as necessary
January to April 2020	Workshops on Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and Gap Years with one to one support on advice and applications
February 2020	30 minute Student Finance Presentation
April 2020	Assembly on Firm and Insurance choices with advice Assembly on living independently and budgeting

You are welcome to make an appointment to meet with Mrs Bridges, our impartial careers advisor, at any time during your time in Sixth Form; her office is at the back of the library. There are also lots of careers resources available in the Library and Study Centre.

OVERVIEW OF BEST WEBSITES FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Really unsure where you see yourself or what to do... don't worry, this is perfectly normal!

- Start here: <https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options> which gives you an overview of the different routes.
- <https://icould.com/stories/choices-at-18-what-now/> for further details and a different perspective.
- <https://icould.com/stories/choosing-well-how-to-pick-the-right-path-for-you/> for some advice about narrowing things down.

Have a particular career in mind already?

- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> and type the career into the search bar for information about average salary, possible pathways, skills and qualifications needed, as well as career progression.
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs#js=on> and select a job family, subject or skill.

Is a university degree for you?

- Start at: www.ucas.com You can apply for five university courses, so you need to narrow things down.
- If you aren't sure which degree course you want to study, look through the subject guides: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/subject-guide-list?scheme=undergraduate>
- If you already have a degree course in mind, complete a course search here: <https://digital.ucas.com/search> Type in your subject and look at entry requirements.
- Get an idea of what is involved in the application process: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university> and what goes into a Personal Statement: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>
- University fees and financial support: <https://www.ucas.com/finance/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-student-loans> and <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes/>
- University scholarship funds: <https://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk/>
- University League Tables: <https://unistats.ac.uk/>
- Open Days: <https://www.opendays.com/>
- Study abroad: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad/study-in-the-usa>

Want to apply to a really competitive university?

- Russell Group Universities: <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/>
- Oxford and Cambridge Universities: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/applying-to-university-and-ucas-deadlines/guide-to-applying-to-oxford-and-cambridge/>

Interested in the Creative and Performing Arts?

- For conservatoires: <https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>
- Complete a creative degree course search here: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
- For Art Foundation courses: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/art-and-design-foundation-diplomas-art-foundation/>
- Performing Arts colleges: <https://www.thestage.co.uk/training/institutions>

Thinking about a Gap Year?

- Start here for some general advice: <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about>
- Range of options: <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/gap-year-226>
- Gap Year Companies for volunteering abroad: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/gap-year-travel/gap-year-100-companydirectoryvolunteering/>
- Gap Year Companies for working abroad: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/gap-year-travel/gap-year-100-companydirectoryworkingabroad/>
- International Citizenship Service: <https://www.volunteerics.org/>
- Camp America: <https://www.campamerica.co.uk/>
- Ski season: <https://www.workaseason.com/>
- Year in Industry: <http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>
- UK volunteering: Volunteering: <https://vinspired.com/>
- UK work experience: <http://www.s4snextgen.org/Taking-Part/Students>

Is a higher or degree apprenticeship for you?

- Start here: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentice/what-is-an-apprenticeship>
- More advice here: <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships>
- Look at what is currently available: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> Put in your postcode and level – Foundation or Degree.
- Other opportunities: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/> and <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223>
- Have a look at School Leaver Programmes: <https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/>
- Also worthwhile looking at company websites like: <https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprenticeships>

Would you rather go straight into employment?

- Start with a job search at: <https://www.indeed.co.uk/>
- Think about your CV: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/get-a-job/cv-tips> or <https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/cv-templates-and-tips/>
- Interview technique tips: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/get-a-job/interview-advice>

Interested in making your application stand out?

- Work experience: <http://www.s4snextgen.org/Taking-Part/Students>
- Free online university courses (MOOCs): <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- Volunteering: <https://vinspired.com/>

Researching the University/College Route



- 1) Consider what sorts of courses you are interested in. What subjects are you fascinated by at A level? Are you passionate about the Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts etc? Have you got a career in mind?
- 2) Log on to www.ucas.com.
- 3) Watch the UCAS video 'How to choose your course' and complete a Course Search on UCAS to review the kinds of courses available as well as the grade entry requirements. Once you've narrowed it down to about 8 courses, look very carefully at the course content at each university on their websites as it can vary greatly. You can only apply to FIVE university courses through UCAS so think carefully.
- 4) Where do you want to study? A campus/non-campus/city/more rural university? What extracurricular activities do they offer? What financial support/accommodation might you get? How well is the university ranked for what you want to do? (Use <https://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>) What kinds of jobs do graduates from the course go into? Consider going on a University Open Day. Go to www.opendays.com for information and dates. Order some university prospectuses.
- 5) Be sure you understand the UCAS points tariff and how it links to AS and A level grades.
- 6) Have you explored studying abroad? Go to www.dreamfoundation.eu as a starting point as well as '5 Myths about Studies Abroad' booklet in the Study Centre library. Lots of courses abroad are taught in English and in some countries there are no fees. Universities in the USA also have bursaries for foreign students – go to www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad/study-in-the-usa
- 7) Check if your course requires you to sit an admissions test at: www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/admissions-tests
- 8) If you are interested in applying for an Art Foundation Course, you need to apply to colleges directly (e.g. Banbury College). If you want to apply to a Music conservatoire, you should go to www.cukas.ac.uk.
- 9) If you are worried about university fees, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=55fKa-ErQ8E to hear from Martin from MoneySuperMarket.com – this busts all of the media myths about fees. Also look at: www.moneysavingexpert.com/students
- 10) Also, research the scholarships and bursaries that are available: <http://www.thescholarshipuk.org.uk/>

We do not begin your actual UCAS application until September 2019, but it is important to have all of the thinking and research done by then. You will be given your predicted grades at the beginning of Year 13 which will also help to inform your choices. We will help you with the application process at the beginning of Year 13.

UCAS Application Stages, Deadlines and Tariff Points

When?	What happens?
After Study Leave	Introduction to UCAS, advice and research; Open Day visits
Before the summer holidays 2019	First draft of Personal Statement handed in
September 2019	1 hour UCAS workshop to complete UCAS log on and personal details; registration for Admissions Tests if needed
September to end of November	Confirmation of your predicted grades; one to one support at school for the re-drafting and refining of Personal Statements; sit Admissions Tests if needed
15 th October 2019	UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Vet, Medicine and Dentistry courses
Beginning of December 2019	Internal school deadline for sending off applications
15 th January 2020	Official UCAS deadline for most courses
February 2020	Applying for Student Finance presentation
From sending off of application to April 2020	Students receive offers and rejections through UCAS Track. Students may be invited to interview – school support is available
By the beginning of May 2020	Students need to decide on their Firm and Insurance Offers and input their decision onto UCAS Track; Students may also start applying for accommodation
End of May 2020	Deadline for Student Finance if students want their fees/loans/grants for the start of their courses in the Autumn
August 2020	A level Results and offers of places through UCAS Track

Grade	A-level points	AS-level points	Extended Project Qualification points
A*	56	N/A	28
A	48	20	24
B	40	16	20
C	32	12	16
D	24	8	12
E	16	4	8

UCAS TARIFF POINTS

Some universities make offers using A level grades, but others use the points in this table to make offers.

e.g. University 1's offer = ABB vs.
University 2's offer = 128 points
(equivalent to ABB)

Use the UCAS Tariff Calculator to add in your BTEC grades too at:

www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator

Researching the Apprenticeship Route



- 1) Go to www.gettingofar.gov.uk, type in your postcode, the radius you'd be prepared to travel and search for opportunities. Watch the level of apprenticeship – with A levels, aim for higher or degree level.
- 2) Register if you want to explore the website more fully. Complete your name, address, DOB and e-mail. Then activate your account via your e-mail. This does not commit you to anything! If you decide to apply for apprenticeships you can set up your profile later.
- 3) Explore individual company websites e.g. BMW, National Grid, Siemens, Nielsen, Rutherford Appleton Labs or companies you are interested in.
- 4) Consider going to The Skills Show at the NEC in November.
- 5) Come to our school Careers' Fair in February 2020.
- 6) Look out for events during National Apprenticeships Week in March 2020.
- 7) You could also approach local employers/family connections to ask them if they would consider taking on an apprentice.
- 8) Explore the 'Apprenticeships Guide 2019/2020' in the library as well as other resources there.
- 9) Consider the entry level requirement for the apprenticeship – remember you are applying with A level qualifications so can apply for higher or degree apprenticeships. Although a lot of apprenticeships start you on minimum wage, you need to consider the longer term prospects, lack of debt and the fact that many will pay for your qualifications, in some cases, degrees.
- 10) You will also see apprenticeship opportunities advertised on <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/> or www.notgoingtouni.co.uk.
- 11) Deadlines will vary depending on the apprenticeship and company. More become available after February/March every year.
- 12) See Mrs Bridges for opportunities and listen out in assembly for local apprenticeship opportunities.

Researching the School Leavers Programme/Apprenticeship Route

- 1) These are very competitive as they are run by big International Companies who want to dispel the myth that you need to be a university graduate to work for them. They will train you on the job and pay for you to complete your professional qualifications e.g. in accountancy.
- 2) Read the following article at www.icould.com/article/the-rise-of-school-leaver-programmes/
- 3) Go to this website: <http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/>
- 4) Explore the following company's websites for details of their School Leaver Programmes:

KPMG: <https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/school-leavers>

Deloitte: <http://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/careers/school-leavers.html>

Ernst and Young: <http://www.ey.com/uk/en/careers/students/schools-opportunities>

Royal Bank Scotland:
<http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/employers/profile/rbs>

Price Waterhouse Coopers: www.pwc.co.uk/industries/government-public-sector/education/higher-apprenticeships.html

Nestle: www.nestlecareers.co.uk/academy/content/school-leavers

John Lewis: <http://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/work/training-and-development.html>

- 5) We will advertise these opportunities in assembly as they come up but you might want to contact the companies directly to get further information or go to visit them if they offer 'Insight Days'.

Researching a GAP Year

1) It is very important to plan your GAP year carefully and have some firm plans in place for when you return from it. Ideally your GAP year should help to prepare you for what you want to do after it.

2) Explore opportunities on the following websites:

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.icould.com

www.etrust.org.uk/year_in_industry.cfm (Year in Industry – great opportunity)

www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/alternatives-higher-education/gap-years-%E2%80%93-93-ideas-and-things-think-about (pros, cons and lots of good links)

www.gapyear.com

<http://www.volunteerics.org> (International Citizenship Service – very cost effective)

www.bunac.org (Camp America)

www.esu.org/programmes/scholarships/students/secondary-school-exchange
(American High School exchange)

www.gapyear.com/plan/snow (Ski Season)

www.vinspired.com or www.ncvo.org.uk/ncvo-volunteering (volunteering opportunities)

3) There are also lots of companies who offer opportunities abroad. Search for the companies through Google.

4) Most students work for part of their GAP year to earn money to travel and complete a project abroad. They usually organise some work experience as well. Some students complete a TEFL qualification so they can teach English abroad.

5) You can apply to UCAS this year and defer your place for a year meaning your university place is waiting for you when you return. You must check with individual universities if they are willing to let you do this, especially if you are considering studying Maths. Equally, you can during your GAP year, but do remember you may need to be in the country for interviews.

WEIGHING UP YOUR PATHWAY OPTIONS

PATHWAY	PROs	CONs	RANK ORDER
UNIVERSITY			
APPRENTICESHIP			
EMPLOYMENT			
GAP YEAR			

NEXT STEPS I NEED TO TAKE:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

STILL VERY UNSURE?

Make an appointment to talk to Mrs Bridges, our impartial careers adviser, in her office at the back of the library, see your form tutor or any member of the Sixth Form team for further advice and guidance.