
**POST-18 DESTINATIONS:
UCAS PROGRAMME 2026**

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders

At LPGS Sixth Form we want you to have the best possible chance of a fulfilling and rewarding future career and are therefore keen to make sure that you are fully aware of the different options open to you when you leave school. During Form time you will have completed a research project. This has been designed to help you to carry out research into Higher Education, and your other options after you leave school and how you can best prepare yourself for this. Your future will depend upon the quality of this research and your proactivity in ensuring that you have the right experience.

At LPGS, advice about what to do when you leave school is available from:

- Our Careers Advisers - Mrs Hayley Hayden: hha@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk
Ms Wallis Day: wda@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk
- Your Form Tutor
- Your Subject Teachers
- Your Head of Year
- Your Head of Key stage

Please note, staff contact details are available at: <http://www.lpgs.bromley.sch.uk/74/staff-list-email>

UCAS Exhibition at the ExCel Centre on 24th March 2026



All Year 12 students visit this exhibition. For many, attendance at this exhibition will be your first step in deciding what to do when you leave school. UCAS exhibitions bring together a huge range of universities, colleges, gap year providers and employers in one place. Not only that, but it's also a person rather than a website, so if you have any questions, you can just ask them. Whether you want to confirm your decision or have no idea where to start, a UCAS exhibition can help you find the answers.

Can I study and work at the same time?

Some universities offer programmes called 'Degree Apprenticeships'. These combine working with studying part-time and have been developed by employers, universities, and professional bodies working in partnership. Students can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship. This approach can take between three to six years to complete. Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there are a limited number of vacancies. However, they are growing in popularity. More information can be found <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships>

Interested in taking a Gap Year?



In recent years more and more students have been taking a gap year from their studies between school and higher education. You may defer entry through UCAS, but it is a good idea to check with the institution concerned to find out their attitude to students taking this form of action. They are more likely to encourage you if you have plans for the constructive use of your time. Below are listed some of the more general advantages and drawbacks of following this option.

The advantages may be listed as follows:

- You may be able to do some work or live in another country which will prepare you for your course or give you an insight into its application.
- You may become more highly motivated towards your studies.
- You may have an opportunity for wider experience of life and travel.
- You should be more mature, and therefore likely to get more out of your course.
- You may avoid the staleness that some experience from several years of academic study.

The drawbacks may be listed as follows:

- You may lose the 'will to work' and there is a particular danger in some Science and Mathematics areas that you may lose the thread of the subject and deferring your entry may count against you.
- You may find disciplined study difficult after a year away from academic study.
- You may have personal reasons for wanting to begin your career as soon as possible.

Interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge or studying medicine



If you are interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge or studying medicine/dentistry/veterinary we can provide appropriate guidance and preparation. Applications to Oxford and Cambridge need to be completed much earlier than other UCAS applications and must be of the highest quality. All applicants are required to sit entrance examinations such as the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) and ELAT (English Literature admissions test) and you will receive support from your teachers on this. We also assist potential applicants with mini mock interviews (MMI) and there is the possibility of attending a range of seminars focusing on elements of the Oxbridge and Med/Vet process.

Why Higher Education?



- Chance to study a subject you are passionate about
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to your chosen career
- Gain confidence, independence and important life skills that will widen your prospects
- Making lifelong friends

With a degree you have...

- The opportunity to follow your career path
- Better job prospects
- Many employers target graduates
- Higher earning potential

Completing the application

You will have a maximum of five choices of university. Some subjects have choice restrictions:



- Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry – max four choices
- Oxford OR Cambridge (not both)

Cost of application is approximately £28.95 for up to 5 choices Application is entirely online

The personal statement



- The only section you have control over
 - Your only chance to market yourself individually
 - One personal statement for all choices
 - Must be max. 4,000 characters or 47 lines. Min. 1,000 characters.
- The site has no spelling/grammar check so you must check this yourself thoroughly**

Where to start

- Think about what makes you stand out in an exciting and positive way
- Show enthusiasm for the course you are applying for and list supporting evidence to back this up.
- Talk about extra-curricular activities and relevant work experience.
- Give skills you can use on the course e.g., leadership, communication, teamwork.
- Ask your parents for more ideas.
- Allow plenty of time.

Personal statement resources are available at:

www.ucas.com/personalstatement

The UCAS Checklist for Parents

Use this handy checklist to support your child through their application journey.



- **Register for the UCAS monthly parent newsletter** – it's free and gives you all the updates and information you need, along with timely explanations of the application process
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>
- **Familiarise yourself with the UCAS website** – www.ucas.com has all the information you and your son or daughter will need at every stage of the application journey.
- **Visit uni and college open days** – www.ucas.com/opendays
- **Sign up for university and college summer schools.**
- **Know when your child needs to send their application** – www.ucas.com/whentoapply
- **Check when they need to reply to their offers** – this varies depending on the course(s) they have applied to and when they receive decisions for each choice.
- **Find out what finance and support is available**
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/getting-student-support/undergraduate-student-finance-and-support>

Decisions and replies from universities



Decisions from the universities will either be:

- Unsuccessful
- Unconditional offer
- Conditional offer dependent on qualifications achieved in the summer examinations and/or UCAS Tariff points
- More information can be found on the UCAS website.

Once all decisions are received, you can hold up to two offers:

- One as your Firm Choice
- One as your Insurance Choice (if you want to)
- All other offers are declined

UCAS Track will show their reply date.

Other options after applying

- **UCAS Extra: 25th February 2027**

If all five choices have been used and you have no offers or have rejected all offers

- **Clearing: 2nd July 2027**

If there are no offers, or have applied after 2nd June deadline

- **Adjustment** (from A-level results day)

If you've gained better results than the conditional offer you hold, you could apply for a different course or university.

BTEC Qualification (QCF)				Tariff Points	GCE/VCE Qualifications	
Subsidiary Diploma	90-credit Diploma	Diploma	Extended Diploma		A-level/AVCE	A-level/AVCE Double Award
			D*D*D*	188		
			D*D*D*	160		
			D*DD	152		
			DDD	144		
				141		
			DDM	128		
		D*D*	DMM	112		A*A*
		D*D		104		A*A
		DD	MMM	96		AA
				88		AB
	D*D*			84		
		DM	MMP	80		BB
	D*D			78		
	DD			72		BC
		MM	MPP	64		CC
	DM			60		
D*				56	A*	CD
D	MM	MP	PPP	48	A	DD
				40	B	DE
	MP			36		
M		PP		32	C	EE
	PP			24	D	
				20		
P				16	E	

What should you be doing now?

- Conducting detailed research
- Undertaking work experience
- Focusing on this year's studies
- Volunteering in appropriate settings
- Finding people working in that industry to talk to
- Participating in Extra Curricular Activities
- Going beyond the syllabus
- Studying on a Future Learn Course
- Forming clubs of like-minded students
- Watching talks on TED.com related to what you want to study



What are Admissions Tutors looking for?

- Intellectual ability: can the candidate cope with the academic demands of the course?
- Motivation: is the applicant aware, purposeful and realistic. Has he/she thought about the reasons for applying
- Competitive courses: how well does he/she compare with others?
- A willingness to accept an offer.
- Students who will contribute to the life of the university as well as to seminars and tutorials.
- Applicants who are likely to get the grades required. **This is extremely important.** For A-level students, predicted grades i.e. the grades which will appear on the UCAS reference will be heavily influenced by your performance in the Year 12 end of year summer examinations in June 2025.

Do Universities discriminate against BTEC qualifications?

The vast majority of universities make offers based on grades achieved or equivalent UCAS points. In a very competitive subject at a Russell Group university the offer is usually AAA or AAB. The image shown is from Birmingham University and in this case BTECs are accepted. Why? Because the assessment methodology at universities is more akin to BTEC study than A-Level. Yes, there are examinations but there is also huge amount of independent work, dissertations and presentation tasks that are not like those needed to ace an examination. The assessment regime of 100% examination does not necessarily suit students who work conscientiously over a long period of time.

Qualification requirements		
UCAS Tariff	Not accepted	
A level	A A B	To include A level History, Medieval History or Ancient History at grade A.
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016)	DDM	BTEC Extended Diploma: DDM, plus an A at A-level in the required subject/s mentioned above. BTEC Diploma: DD, plus an A at A-level in the required subject/s mentioned above. BTEC Subsidiary Diploma: D, plus AB at A-level, including an A in the required A-level subject/s mentioned above.

Year 12/13 UCAS and Career Planning Schedule 2025-2026

Tuesday 27 January 2026	Research Project Launch assembly
Thursday 29 January 2026	Futures Fair
Tuesday 24 March 2026	UCAS Discovery Conference at London Excel
w/c 27 April 2026	Students complete the Post 18 Plans and the Student Information documentation
Tuesday 28 April 2026	<u>Enrichment: 2:10pm - 3:10pm in the Hall:</u> 'Looking to the Future'. The launch of the next phase of the Destinations Programme
Tuesday 5 May 2026	<u>Enrichment: 2:10pm – 3:10pm:</u> UCAS/Personal Statement planning Part 1 Students considering not applying to university will be working with LPGS Careers Advisors.
Tuesday 7 May 2026	<u>Enrichment: 2:10pm – 3:10pm:</u> UCAS/personal statement planning Part 2 Potential Oxbridge candidates prepare their applications to Oxbridge. Practice interviews will be arranged. Students considering not applying to university will be working with LPGS Careers Advisors.
w/c 8 May 2026	End of Year 12 examinations. Normal timetable applies. (Results of these exams will be used to inform UCAS predicted grades).
w/c 15 June 2026	Senior Prefect Application Launch
w/c 15 June 2026	One to one appointments to take place with personal statement advisor until September 2025.
Friday 26 June 2026	UCAS Day – all students wfh to complete their UCAS forms
Friday 26 June 2026	Deadline for personal statement first draft to be handed to enrichment tutors and UCAS application completed up to and including 'Education' section.
Tuesday 23 June 2026	Trial exam resit day – for all those that achieved E/U grades OR those that want to improve their grade to A/A*s for medics and Oxbridge
Monday 13 – Friday 17 July 2026	Work experience for all Year 12 students.
Tuesday 1 September 2026	Undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS for 2026 entry.
Friday 18 September 2026	Internal Deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry.
Tuesday 13 October 2026	External deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry.
Friday 4 December 2026	Internal deadline for all UCAS applications.
Wednesday 14 January 2026	External deadline for all UCAS applications.