



Y13 Information Evening

Mr Taylor, Director of Sixth Form

Mrs. English, Head of Key Stage 5



Welcome Back!!

Aims of tonight:

1. To set clear expectations of what Y13 will require for success
2. To update parent/carers on Post-18 options
3. To highlight any upcoming events and answer any questions.



What makes a successful Y13 student & getting the most out of the 'year'

Key Ingredients of 'success':

- Transition from Y12 to Y13
 - Responsibility for OWN learning
 - Independent Learning – Super curricular
 - Academic Resilience
 - Knowing when to ask.....
 - And of course...working hard!!
- Getting involved – Student Leadership -Supporting charities
 - Wellbeing
 - Being focused on next steps.....



Key Activities this year

Assessments:

- Progress Review timings (Oct, Jan, March)
- Pre-Public Examinations (PPE – Feb Y13)
- Parents' Evenings (Dec & March)
- Public Examination sessions (TBC- usually early/mid May – Mid June)



Post 18 Options:



Higher
education



Apprenticeships/
traineeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job



Watch this video from the University of Sheffield
- <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/transition>

Why higher education?

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

With a degree, they'll have:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential



Things to consider...

There are a number of things for an applicant to consider when applying for higher education, such as:

- the subject they enjoy – investing time, money and effort
- suitable for future career path – have a look on [prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree) to find out degree career options - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>
- location – city/rural, transport links
- study style – does it suit them?
- finances – course fees, travel and living costs
- extra-curricular activities/cultural opportunities

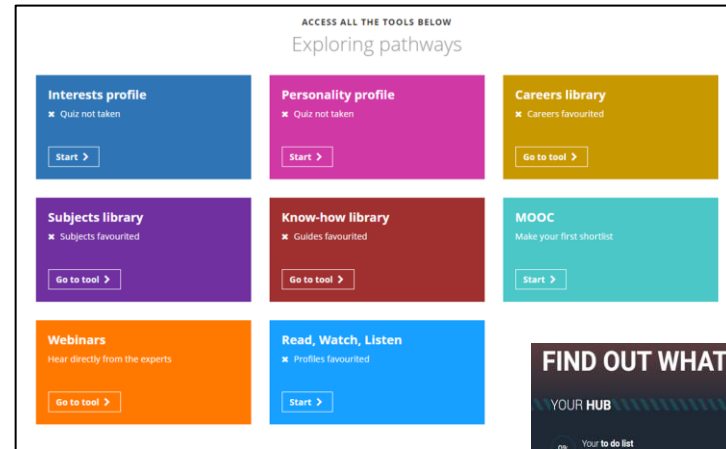


Which university? Which course?

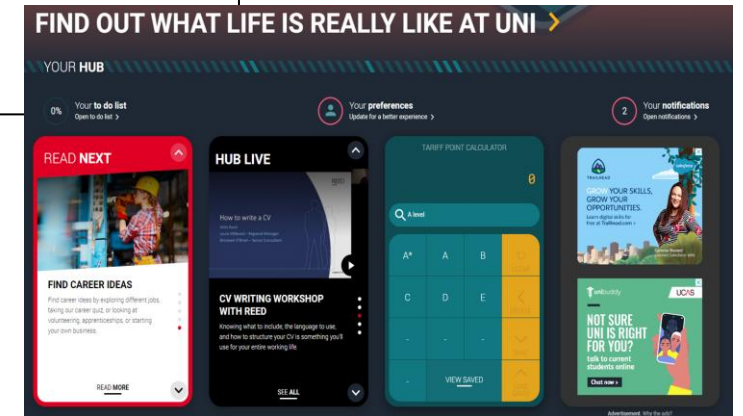
To help you compare university courses, have a look at:

The Complete University Guide (www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings),

Discover Uni (<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>)



[https:// www.unifrog.org](https://www.unifrog.org)



<https://www.ucas.com/students>

How do UCAS points work?

A levels and Highers

UCAS points

	A*	A	B	C	D	E
A levels	56	48	40	32	24	16
AS levels	20	16	12	10	6	
Highers	33	27	21	15		
Advanced Highers	56	48	40	32		

BTEC Nationals

UCAS points

Award

D	M	P
48	32	16

Certificate

DD	DM	MM	MP	PP
96	80	64	48	32

Diploma

DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP
144	128	112	96	80	64	48

UCAS points are a way of measuring the relative value of all post-16 qualifications in the UK. The UCAS Tariff assigns a numerical score to the possible grades that can be achieved in each type of qualification. The higher the grade you achieve, the higher the number of points.

Making an application:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Work experience
- Education
- Nationality details
- English language skills
- Supporting information
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion (for students with a UK home address)

Key information:

- Students can add up to **5 choices**, unless they're applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it is **4 choices**
- Students **can't** apply to **BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge
- Applying **costs** £34.50 for 1-5 choices (free for those on FSM + 16-19 Bursary)



The personal statement



The only section students have full control over



Students only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters (including spaces)



A minimum of 350 characters per section

There isn't a spelling or grammar check



Three sections with question prompts

**UCAS' similarity
detection service:**
every personal
statement is run
through software
to check for
plagiarism.



What are the questions?



Why do you want to study this course or subject?



How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Students will want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this could include:

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have they been inspired by a key role model or moment in their life?
- Is it a subject they love and want to pursue further?
- What is their drive?
- How has their path led them to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area they've researched?
- Something they can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked their interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do they already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might they use their studies to launch their career?
- What's important to them and their future, and how might the knowledge gained from their chosen course(s) help them to achieve this?



Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to the subject or course(s), examples could include:

How their studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be current or previous studies.
- From any form of formal education – think school, college, training provider, or short online university course.

What relevant or transferable skills they have that make them a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped develop a core set of relevant skills required for their chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped them understand where their interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see grades on their application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.

Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for the subject or course(s), this could include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to their chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities:

- Is there a situation they've personally overcome that has influenced their decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped them develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why they'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications they've attained outside of the classroom.

Examples of evidence

In person work experience	Blogs & vlogs	Positions of responsibility	Projects or essays	Mentoring
Virtual work experience	Documentaries	Awards	Books	Tutoring
Work shadowing	Podcasts	Challenges	Influencers	Online subject courses
Paid employment	TED Talks	Personal life experiences	Hobbies	Trips or visits
Volunteering	Articles	Work based learning / training	Clubs	Competitions



How do I write a personal statement?

There is lots of advice available about how to write an excellent personal statement:

- <https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/2026-personal-statement-guides> - UCAS
- <https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/study/ucas-personal-statement-changes> – University of Lancashire
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply/writing-a-personal-statement/ucas-personal-statement-2026/> – Durham University



University of Oxford and University of Cambridge Entries

There are a couple of extra things that you will need to know about if you are applying to Oxford and Cambridge. We will discuss these separately later, but for now, these links might be useful:

- <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/how/ucas-personal-statement>
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/admissions-timeline>



Key deadlines:

NOW!! 28th September 2026 - **Oxbridge/Early Entry Applicants** must have completed their applications, including their Personal Statement.

27th November 2026 – **All other university students** must have completed their applications, including their Personal Statement.
All applications will be sent off by Christmas

18th December 2026 – **Apprenticeship/Employment/Gap Year students** must have completed their applications, including their Personal Statement.

What happens next?

Students should head to ucas.com to track their application.

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a 'firm' acceptance – their first choice
- the other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don't get into their 'firm' choice

They must then decline any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren't holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



personal statement



qualifications



reference



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition



Other options:

Extra (Feb – Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from early July, and add a Clearing choice to their application.



Student Finance: How much does it cost to go to university?

- The cost for university is called a **tuition fee**.
- The current fee for a standard full-time course is £9790.... This rises to £10 050 for 27/28
- You don't pay tuition fees upfront, instead, you apply for a student loan and this is paid to the university directly by the Student Loans Company.
- You apply for your loan through student finance on the government website. Tuition fee loans go directly to your university or college.



- **Living costs** are different because how much a student is entitled to is based on household income. Therefore, students may need to look at other ways to cover living costs, e.g. getting a part time job, applying for a scholarship etc.
- You can check how much maintenance loan a student would be eligible for on the government website now: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>
- For courses starting on or after 1 January 2027, you will need to apply for student finance through the **new student finance system**. **The new system is called your Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)**. It replaces previous higher education and some further education funding.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

<https://www.ucas.com/sfe>

After university...

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/student-finance#how-much-does-university-or-college-cost>

- Students only start paying it back in the April after they've graduated, and only when they start earning over a certain level of income. The threshold is currently **£25,000** (this may change each year).
- Interest is applied to your loan at RPI plus 3% per year but you will still pay the same amount back each month – it'll just take longer. You pay 9% of your income over the threshold.
- Many graduates will never pay the full amount back. If you earn under £25,000 you'll never pay it back and after 40 years the debt is wiped.
- Taking out a student loan does not affect your credit rating. You can still apply for other loans like a mortgage for buying a house.



Studying abroad

5 reasons to Study Abroad

- 1 - See (more of) the world
- 2 - Enhance your career opportunities
- 3 - Experience more cultures and lifestyles
- 4 - Improve your language, communication and life skills
- 5 - Meet new people and make new friends.

**Please speak to Mr Sully if you are thinking about applying to study abroad
- nsully7nrq@nsix.org.uk**



Gap Year

It is up to the student to plan what they will do with their time.

If a student is thinking about going to university after their gap year, we would advise them to apply now and defer their entry.

Most people choose to:

- Travel the world
- Volunteer abroad
- Earn a bit of money
- Boost your CV with an internship abroad

<https://www.gvi.co.uk/gap-year/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year>

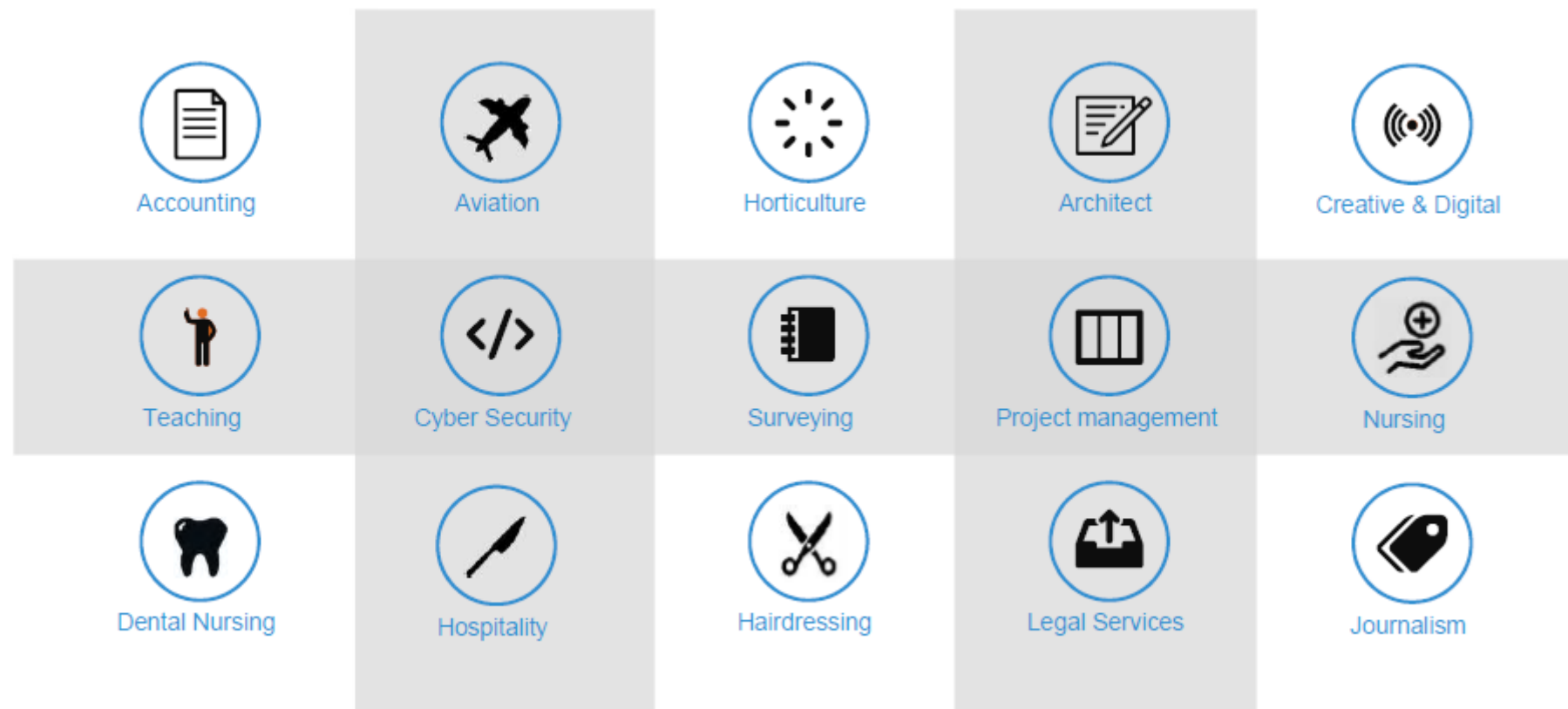
Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is a job where you learn, gain experience and get paid.
- You're an employee with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.
- It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience.
- It's funded from contributions made by the government and your employer.

The types of apprenticeship are:

- [Intermediate apprenticeships](#) (Level 2)
- [Advanced apprenticeships](#) (Level 3)
- [Higher apprenticeships](#) (Level 4 and above)
- [Degree apprenticeships](#) (Levels 5 — 7)

Possible sectors...



Here are just a few employers who have offered apprenticeships in recent years...





How hard is it to get an apprenticeship?

- This really depends on which area/industry you are looking to go into, and what is available in the local area. Lots of advice from Personal Tutors
- You need to ensure that you have an excellent application to make you stand out from other candidates – make sure you make the most of any virtual opportunities.
- Student still complete a Personal Statement that can then be 'tweaked' to specific applications.



February 2027

National Apprenticeship Week

March 2027

National Careers Week

Where will I find apprenticeship vacancies?

The following websites would be the best places to go to start your search:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

<https://careerfinderucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/#browsing>

Opportunities will also be posted on the Y13 Conference Classroom.

How do I find out more information?

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>

<https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>



<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job>

<https://uk.indeed.com>

Employment:

- There will be a number of careers events for students to attend (either in person or virtually) in Spring 2026.
- Students should also register for the main job search websites so that can be alerted when new jobs become available. They may also wish to download a job search app.
- Opportunities will be shared on the *Y13 Conference Classroom*.





Still struggling?

- Students should visit the *Unifrog* website there are a number of videos about how to use Unifrog if a student is struggling with their post 18 choices.
- Students should speak to their teachers, Personal Tutor, or Head of Year
- It is natural for students to feel anxious. The main thing that we can do to support students is to offer guidance and advice, and ultimately, reassurance that everything will be ok in the end, even if they choose a pathway that is slightly different to their friends.

How can you support son/daughter Post-16?

Research/Sign up

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for parent updates or register for the Parents' and Carers' Pack at Amazing Apprenticeships.

Open days/Work Experience

Attend virtual/in-person events and open days – you may have a different perspective. Encourage your son/daughter to complete work experience in their chosen field or industry.

Be proactive

Please make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them (and that they are regularly checking the Post 18 Drive and Y13 Conference Classroom for updates, and try to avoid booking holidays at key times).



If you have any further questions please contact –

venglish9brq@nsix.org.uk