Three Spires | SIXTH FORM

'Life in all its fullness'

# Aspire Evening

**March 2025**

# Destinations
## 2024

Three Spires | SIXTH FORM

**Industry**

- Armed Forces - Royal Navy
- Military Prep School - Wolverhampton Barracks
- Chemical Laboratory Technician Degree Apprenticeship - Thomas Howse
- Vehicle Technician/Engineer - Mercedes
- Nuclear Engineering Apprenticeship - Rolls Royce at Manchester Met University
- Civic Centre Business Apprenticeship
- Employment - Adult Care
- High Apprenticeship
- Employment - NHS
- Degree Apprenticeship - Nuclear Engineering

**Lancaster University**
- Earth & Environmental Science Placement Year
- Physics & Astrophysics

**Manchester Metropolitan University**
- English with Modern Language

**Keele University**
- Business Management
- Pharmacology with Foundation Year
- Forensic Psychology
- Computer Science
- Forensic Science with Foundation Year
- Social Work with Foundation Year
- Paramedical Science including Masters
- Immunology
- English
- History

**University of Salford**
- Pharmaceutical Science with Foundation Year
- Geography with Foundation Year

**Liverpool John Moors University**
- Psychology
- Marketing
- Criminology
- Business Management with Foundation Year

**Newcastle University**
- Economics & Business Management

**University of Derby**
- Journalism
- Sound, Light & Live Event Engineering with Foundation Year
- Sport Therapy & Rehabilitation

**Liverpool Hope University**
- Education & Tourism with Foundation Year

**Nottingham Trent University**
- Economics with International Finance & Banking
- Broadcast Journalism
- Architectural Technology
- Pharmacology with Foundation Year

**Harper Adams University**
- Veterinary Nursing with Placement
- Veterinary Bioscience with Foundation Year & Placement

**Chester University**
- Criminology & Psychology

**Leeds Beckett University**
- Project Management

**Sheffield Hallam University**
- Automotive Engineering
- Physiotherapy

**Aston University, Birmingham**
- Finance
- Psychology
- Engineering & Applied Science Foundation Programme
- Cyber Crime
- Accounting & Finance
- Law LLB
- Business & Social Science Foundation Programme
- Economics
- English Language & Literature
- Business & Management
- Mechanical Engineering
- Quantity Surveying
- Biochemistry
- Nursing Studies

**University of Wolverhampton**
- Animal Behaviour & Wildlife Conservation
- Social Work
- Education Studies with Foundation Year
- Adult Nursing
- Aerospace Engineering with Foundation Year
- Psychology
- Real Estate & Property Management
- Accounting & Finance
- Pharmacy

**University of Hull**
- Music

**Loughborough College**
- Applied Sports Science

**Loughborough University**
- Physics
- Computer Science & AI with Placement Year

**Aberystwyth University**
- Animal Behaviour with Integrated Year in Industry

**University of Leicester**
- Accounting & Finance

**De Montfort University**
- Pharmacy
- Architecture

**Birmingham City University**
- Criminology
- Law
- Computer Science with AI
- Mechanical Engineering with Foundation Year
- Psychology
- Early Childhood Studies with Graduate Practitioner Competencies
- Accounting & Finance
- Marketing with Advertising & Public Solutions
- Computer Science with Foundation Year
- Business Management
- Civil Engineering with Foundation Year
- Economics
- Business Finance
- Accounting & Finance with Foundation Year
- Psychology with Criminology
- Business Management with Foundation Year
- Sociology & Criminology with Foundation Year
- Adult Nursing
- Architecture with Foundation Year
- Social Work
- Psychology with Counselling
- Real Estate

**University of Staffordshire**
- Social Work
- Childhood & Education Studies
- Paramedic Science

**University of Birmingham**
- Geography
- Biomedical Science
- Mathematics & Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Theoretical Physics & Applied Mathematics
- Digital Media & Communications
- Pharmacy
- Sport, Exercise & Health Sciences
- Accounting & Finance

**Coventry University**
- Psychology
- Forensic Psychology with Foundation Year
- Biomedical Science with Foundation Year
- Applied Biosciences with Foundation Year
- Politics & International Relations

**University of Northampton**
- Law

**Cardiff Metropolitan University**
- Sport & Exercise Science

**University of Essex**
- Politics & International Relations including Year Abroad

**City University of London**
- Finance Economics

**University of Worcester**
- Biomedical Science
- Psychology
- Fine Art
- Physiotherapy with Foundation Year
- International Business Management Placement Year
- Sociology

**Royal Holloway, University of London**
- Law with Integrated Foundation Year

**University of Plymouth**
- Biomedical Science

**University of the West of England**
- Psychology

**University of Reading**
- Law

**Buckinghamshire New University**
- Physiotherapy

**Kingston University**
- Aviation Operations with Commercial Pilot Training with Sandwich Year

**University of Bristol**
- Gateway to Dentistry

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# Why are we starting the process early?

- Listen to Student voice  -  Ensuring that applications do not clash with mocks/ year 13 assessments
- All applications are becoming more competitive. We want to get our students applications into Universities and Employers earlier to give them the best advantage
- We want to guide students and parents through the possess, with expertise from staff, careers advisor and our links with universities and employers.

# Overview of Post 18 Pathways

- University Degree

- Degree Apprenticeship

- Higher Education Study eg Conservatoire

- Apprenticeship

- Employment (not linked to apprenticeship)

- Gap year travel / volunteering

# University Route

- Typically 3 - 4 year programs
- Vet/Med/Dentistry are longer
- Sandwich
- Placement
- Foundation (4 year program)
- Usually September start

Signpost: UCAS Hub

Look out for graduate employment figures for progression

Harper Adams University

Lancaster University

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

1872 PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Keele UNIVERSITY

# Apprenticeship

- 80% on the job
- 20% Training

Can appear anytime of the year.

Signpost: UCAS Apprenticeship



| Intermediate | Advanced | Higher | Degree |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Levels 4 & 5** | **Levels 6 & 7** |
| Equivalent to 5 GCSE's Grade 9-4 / A*-C | Equivalent to 2 A-Levels | Equivalent to a Foundation Degree | Equivalent to a Bachelor's or Masters Degree |

# The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship then to list all that do. Here are just a few...

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master

- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal

- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

# Degree Apprenticeship

- Mix between apprenticeship and degree
- Very competitive
- Usually technical, however new sectors such as healthcare.

Signpost: Degree Apprenticeships

# Conservatoire

Conservatoires provide performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses

Can apply for university and conservatoire

Signpost: UCAS Conservatoire

- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Leeds Conservatoire
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
- LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)

# Employment

Students can go straight into employment.

Hays - WEX placements

Reed - Online Courses

Y12 Enterprise Event - March

Signpost:Hays Birmingham

# Gap Year

Volunteering

Travel

Designated Programme:

Gap year programme

Signpost: Gap Year

## Pros

✓ An opportunity to have a break from studying and return refreshed. You can volunteer, get valuable work experience, and travel the world.

✓ A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV.

✓ You could relate the experience and activities to the subject area you plan to study.

✓ You can earn and save money towards your higher education costs or future plans.

✓ You will develop maturity if you don't yet feel ready for higher education or work life. For some careers, it can be an advantage to be slightly older and have some life experience.

## Cons

✗ Some people find a year out becomes a distraction from their longer term plans.

✗ An unstructured year out may not add much value to your future – careful thought and planning are essential.

✗ It can be harder to return to study or work after a year-long break.

✗ It can be expensive and you could find yourself in a worse financial position at the end.

✗ If you don't get organised, you may end up spending your gap year just 'thinking about it'.

# UCAS

# ucas - your journey

Last updated March 2025

# Your email

It's important your contact details are kept up to date throughout your application.

We **recommend using a personal email address** as your primary email, rather than a school/college one, so that you have access to it throughout your application journey.

To update your email address, go to 'Edit your account' from drop-down, where you can change your email.
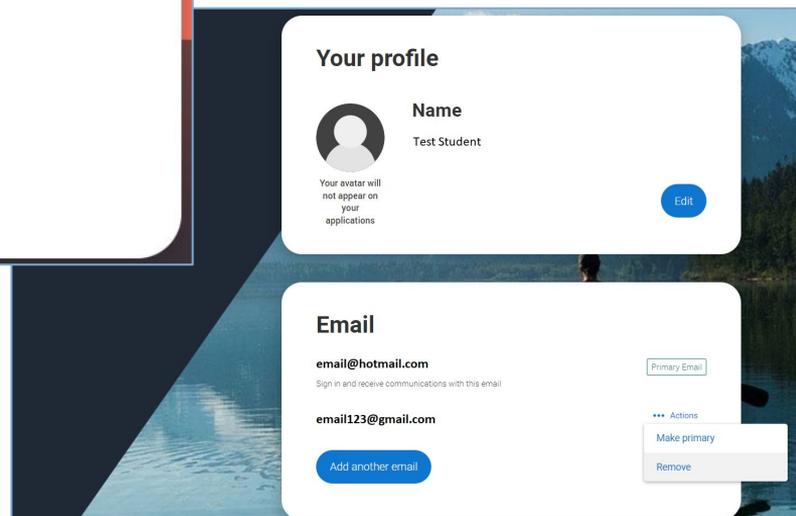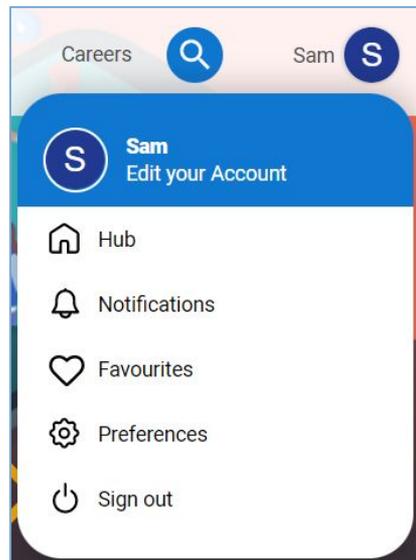
# **Discover options**

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**APPRENTICESHIPS**

**STUDYING ABROAD**

**GAP YEAR**

**GETTING A JOB**

Head to UCAS to understand all your options and make the right choices for you.

# Tools for success

- Explore the Careers Quiz, What to Study Next, Subject Spotlights and Virtual Work Experiences for **career and course inspiration**.

- Use the Tariff Calculator, Personal Statement Builder, and CV Builder to stay on track and **plan your path**.

- Search for events, open days, videos to get expert help and **questions answered**.
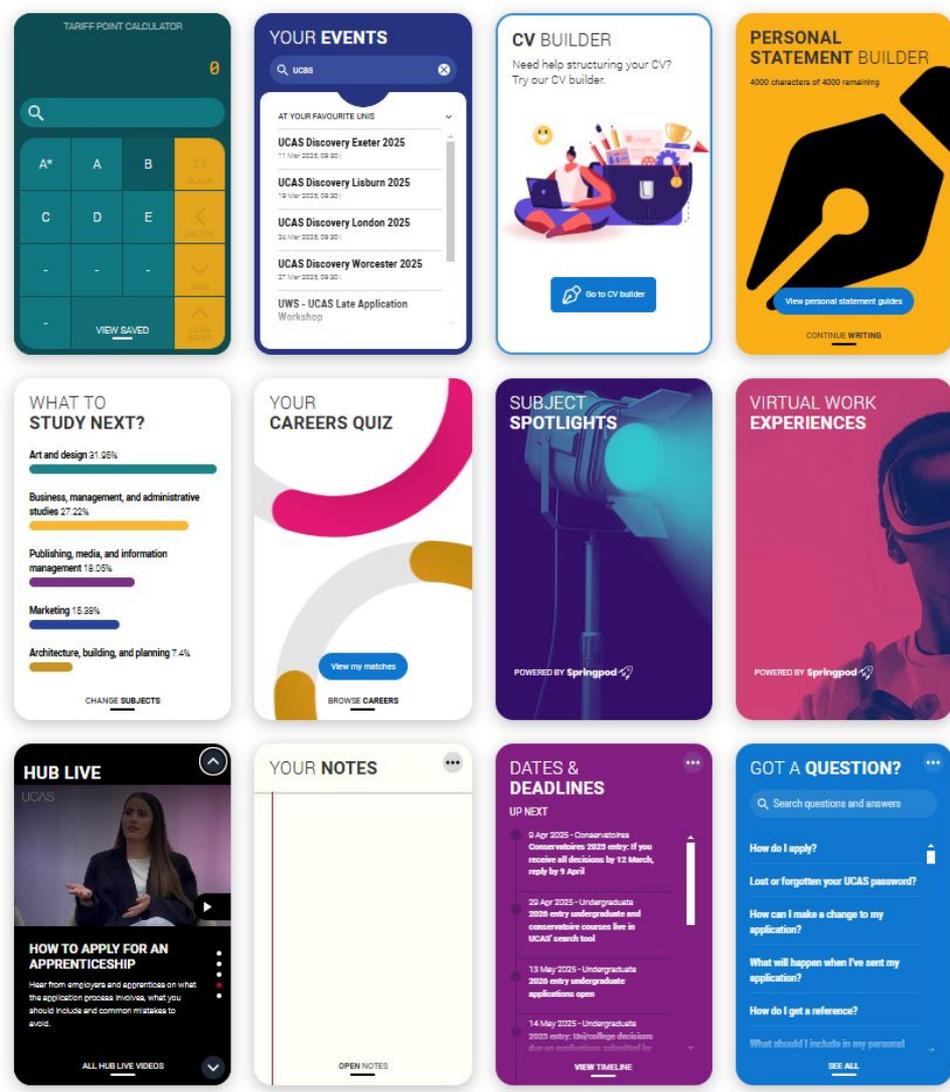
# options Side by side

Compare all your options side-by-side. Take a closer look at apprenticeships, courses, and job opportunities - all in one place.

Build your personalised UCAS Hub profile and find your best fit!



Public

# Completing your UCAS University Application

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start an application. | Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college. | Teacher or Adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades. | Applications are sent to UCAS by the school of college on behalf of the student. | Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application. |

You are not alone !
We will help you through the process at every stage.

# Application KEY FACTS

Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices

Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.

**Five choices**, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).

**Research** is key to a successful application.

Public

**Applying** costs £28.95 Or Free if students are FSM

# the course Entry Requirements

✔ Check A level & GCSE

✔ Predicted grades will be taken from end of year 12 assessment which is under full exam conditions

✔ Predicted grades will be signed off by subject teachers & Sixth form staff

✔ Speak to your staff now to understand where you are currently working & what you can do before your year 12 assessments

UCAS

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: **This course**                    Date range: **2019–2023**

**Grades held by accepted students** ❓

**BCC** Most common

**ABB** Highest grades

**CCC** Lowest grades

**Rate of offers for UK school leavers**

9 in 10

Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

**How do you compare?**

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

**UK A-Level grades**

B          B          C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. **It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.**

Accept & show results          Cancel

# The PERSONAL STATEMENT

🔨 Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.

⭐ Three separate sections with question prompts.

🃏 A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.

👪 The same for all your choices.

❌ There isn't a spelling or grammar check.

🔺 No formatting allowed.

🔍 Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

**Why do you want to study this course or subject?** *
This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?** *
This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

**What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?** *
This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

# 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?

# **Build** a **PERSONAL STATEMENT**
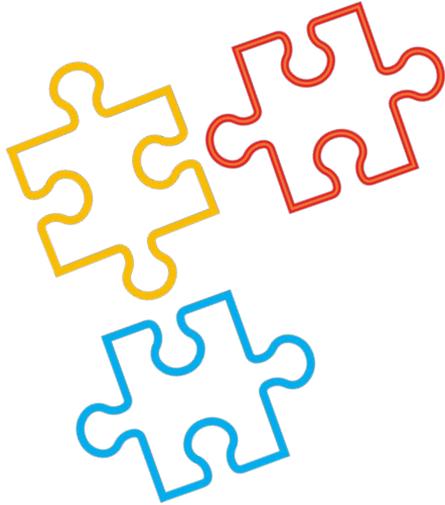
Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is reflective evidence.

# Personal statement **support**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT** BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining

View personal statement guides

CONTINUE **WRITING**

What to include in your achitecture, planning or building personal statement

What to include in your animal science personal statement

What to include in your art and design personal statement

What to include in your biology personal statement

What to include in your business management personal statement

What to include in your chemistry personal statement

What to include in your computer science personal statement

What to include in your dance personal statement

What to include in your dentistry personal statement

What to include in your drama personal statement

What to include in your economics personal statement

What to include in your engineering personal statement

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# key dates for 2026

**29 April 2025**
UCAS search displays courses

**13 May 2025**
Application opens 2026 entry

**2 September 2025**
First day we can receive a completed application

**15 October 2025***
Deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary, dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge

**14 January 2026***
UCAS equal consideration date

**26 February 2026**
UCAS Extra opens

**30 June 2026***
Last date to send an application

**5 July 2026**
Clearing opens

* 18.00 UK time

# Internal Deadlines

**Early Entry applications including medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge:**

6 PM 22nd September 2025

**All other applications:**

6 PM 22nd October 2025

*Compton Campus - All applications will need to be processed and send before the christmas holiday, this is earlier than the UCAS external deadline due to transitioning into the new build*

# When can I **apply**?

- Advertised throughout the year; with no single application deadline.

- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations.

- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year.

Public
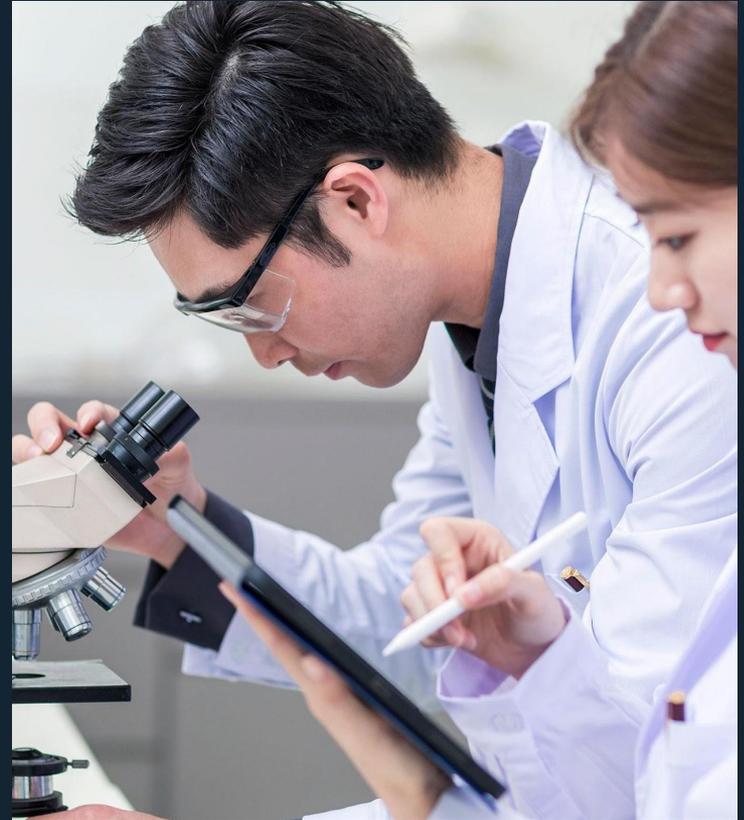
www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

# How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or training provider.

- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.

- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:

  - CV and Covering Letter

  - Application Form

  - In App/Site application

- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!

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# How can ucas help?

**Apprenticeship** Application Guides

Get to grips with what to expect when applying for specific industries.

**Live studio apprenticeship** podcast

Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to apprentices and experts about what you need to know.

Public **UCAS** CV builder

Create a professional CV in minutes.

**Find it all and more** ucas.com/apprenticeships

UCAS

# Smart alerts

There are a few questions to answer to make sure the information you're sent is useful.

You can update this at any time in your 'Preferences'.

These are the same as the government Apprenticeship database

**UCAS**

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**How far would you want to travel for an apprenticeship role?**

This will help us match you to employers in your geographical area based on how far you want to travel.

Select an option ▼

**From (Home postcode):**

UCAS will use your postcode to establish your location and to determine other socio-economic criteria that employers may wish to target.

**Would you be willing to relocate?**

○ Yes   ○ No

**When can you start an apprenticeship?**

[          ▼] / [          ▼]

What level of apprenticeship study are you interested in?

☐ Intermediate apprenticeships (Level 2)

☑ Advanced apprenticeships (Level 3)

☑ Higher apprenticeships (Level 4 - 7)

☑ Degree apprenticeships (Levels 6 – 7)

Find out more about apprenticeship levels in England.

What apprenticeship areas of work are you interested in? (select all that apply)

☐ Agriculture, environmental, and animal care

☐ Business and administration

☐ Care services

# Aspire Fortnight: 7th-18th July

| One Week WEX | 1:2:1 Time with Form Tutor | Dedicated Application support |
|---|---|---|
| University Guest speakers | Apprenticeship & Pathways workshops | Careers Meetings |
| Personal Statement & CV Support | Incentives to Complete Applications | Application Checklist |

# WEX Experience Week: 7th -11th July

- Students are responsible to organise work experience in an area of their choice.
- This can be in person or virtual depending on their career pathway
- We do have a list of businesses that worked with us last year.

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# VIRTUAL work experiences

# Unifrog Placement tool

- Student check with employer and enter information
- Parents Approval
- School Approval
- Safeguarding checks
- Employer Approval

Exploring pathways

**Careers library**
✔ Careers favourited

Go to tool ›

**Subjects library**
✖ Subjects favourited

Go to tool ›

**Know-how library**
✖ Guides favourited

Go to tool ›

**MOOC**
Make your first shortlist

Start ›

**Webinars**
Hear directly from the experts

Go to tool ›

**Read, Watch, Listen**
✖ Profiles favourited

Start ›

**Placements**
✖ No placements added

Go to tool ›

# Aspire Week: 14th-18th July

- How to Choose a HE course
- Finance & Budgeting
- Accommodation & Student Life
- Personal Statement Talk
- CV Sessions
- Oxbridge Session
- Medicine Workshop
- Interview Preparation
- Time to reflected on WEX
- Work with Form tutor around personal statement & reference

| Check list | Tick when complete | Form Tutor Signed to check it has been completed |
|---|---|---|
| Complete Write up from your work experience in Unifrog | | |
| Complete and send Thank you letter/Email to your work experience placement | | |
| Complete all basic Details in your UCAS application and ensure all details are correct | | |
| A Level Subjects (with results pending) completed in UCAS. Take care with BTEC's. | | |
| GSCE grades and other results completed in UCAS. (including those at other schools) | | |
| Completed Course research and Identified what courses you would like to study | | |
| Chosen 3-5 university which deliver the course you would like to study | | |
| Complete research of when the university open days are for your chosen course and universities | | |
| First Draft of Personal Statement is complete in Unifrog and has been reviewed by Form Tutor | / | |
| Had a 1:1 meeting with Form Tutor | | |

# How can you support as a Parents?

- Sign up for UCAS parent Newsletter & Podcasts

  https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers

- Log on to Unifrog & Explore Pathways with your Child

  https://www.unifrog.org/

- Support with organising & Approving Work Experience

- Encourage your child to **Research** https://www.ucas.com/

- Plan to go to open days & Events together

- Encourage your child to work on their CV/ Personal Statement.

# Support Available

- Sixth Form Campus teams
- School Careers Leads
- Form Tutor 1:2:1 Mentoring support
- 1:2:1 Independent careers Advisor Meetings

ANY Questions?