

Parents evening Post -18 & UCAS 2026



Ursuline High School



SANCTA FAMILIA CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Agenda: Post-18 options

# UCAS2026

International Universities
Apprenticeships
Gap Year







#### UCAS 2026

#### UCAS 2026 timeline

# 13<sup>th</sup> May applications open (Buzzword Ursuline26)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September applications can be submitted to UCAS
- ▶ 15<sup>th</sup> October Early Entry deadline
- ► 14<sup>th</sup> January application deadline





#### UCAS 2026 internal deadlines

- 13<sup>th</sup> May applications open, create account
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June complete basic information in your application
- ▶ 10<sup>th</sup> June first draft of personal statement
- 26<sup>th</sup> June trip to Southampton University
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> July predicted grades will be available
- 8<sup>th</sup> September second draft of personal statement
- 29<sup>th</sup> September application deadline for Early Entry
- 13<sup>th</sup> October Final version of personal statement
- ► 17<sup>th</sup> November application deadline



#### Students' "to-do" list

June/July

- 1. Explore courses & universities (UCAS, Unifrog, University websites, attend Open days).
- 2. Complete basic information section of UCAS application.
- ▶ 3. Complete as much Extra-curricular as possible: MOOCS, wider reading...
- ▶ 4. Complete first draft of Personal statement by 10<sup>th</sup> June.
- ▶ 5. In July, make a shortlist of courses

#### September/October

1. Prepare for admission tests, if applicable.

2. Finalise personal statement (13<sup>th</sup> October) and make the 5 choices. Submit application asap



# Choosing courses / tariff

- Most courses ask for grades:
- AAB / ABB / BBB / BBC / BCC... for A Level subjects
- Dist\* / Distinction / Merit... for T Level courses
- Courses don't ask for ABC / BCD etc so it is important to have all subjects around the same grade. However, some courses will enable grade differences by asking for a total point score e.g. **112 points, 96 points...**
- A T Level grade is worth triple one A Level.
- UCAS points calculator :

A Level: A\* = 56 points A = 48 B = 40 C= 32...

T Level: D\* = 168 points D = 144 M = 120 Pass A\*-C = 96

# After completing UCAS application form

- Before submission to UCAS, the application goes to the Careers team for checks.
- Predicted grades and references are entered by the school.
- The application is submitted to UCAS by Careers team.
- After submission, students have two weeks to adjust their courses





# Deadlines after submission to UCAS

- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Deadline for universities to provide a decision to offer or reject an application
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Deadline for students to submit an application for Student Finance (loan)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026: Deadline for students to decide their Firm Choice and Insurance Choice on ucas.com

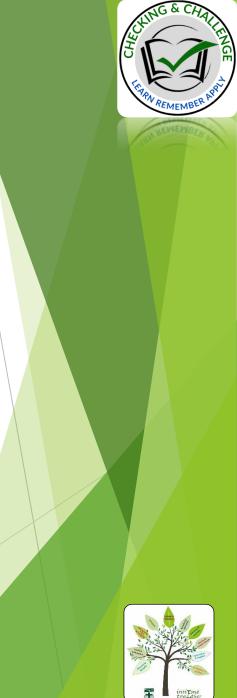
## Choosing Uni / courses

- Students can choose up to 5 courses.
- Usually, we recommend a mixture of aspirational courses and others below PGs.
- Students should have 2 courses with entry requirements below their PGs.
- Contextual offers can be made by Uni.
- Do not select only very competitive universities, especially for the most competitive courses. It could result in not getting any offers.



#### Firm and Insurance choices

- Students have to make one of their offers a Firm choice and one of them an Insurance choice.
- Internal deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- ► UCAS deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.
- The Insurance offer must always be lower than the Firm choice, and below PGs.
- The Insurance choice disappears on Results' day as soon as the Firm choice has been confirmed.



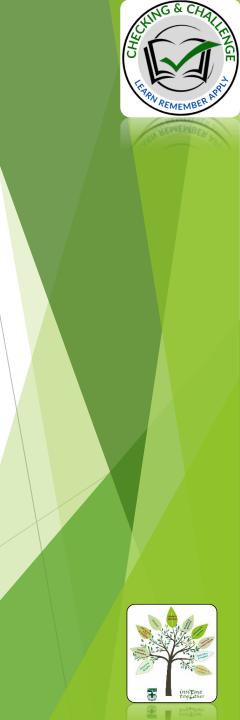
# **Clearing and Extra Choice**

- If students don't receive any offers, they are eligible to use Extra Choice. Extra choice deadline 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, clearing opens on 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- Extra choice is also available for those who changed their mind about courses during the year. It is an emergency option only before results' day.
- On results' day, if students don't meet their firm/insurance offer requirement, they go into Clearing, where it is possible to choose courses from available choices.
- Clearing is for everyone, those who did better than expected can also try to get into a better university.



# Student Finance

- 2 types of loans: tuition fee and maintenance loan
- Tuition fee loan: everyone gets full amount regardless of household income.
- Maintenance loan is means tested, and the amount will vary depending on the household income. For London universities, the amount is usually higher due to the cost of living.
- Applications usually open around April-May.
- Students from low-income families will also be eligible for bursaries from universities.
- SEND students might be eligible for some financial support.
- Students can and should apply for scholarships (applications open around January time)



#### **Student Finance**

- Tuition fee loan amount £9,535 (2025-26)
- Maintenance Loan up to £13,762\*
- Average amount of maintenance loan £6,116
- Keep in mind maintenance loan is not enough to cover all costs.
- Students are encouraged to get part-time job while studying (universities will have some options on campus, they're highly competitive)
- If considering universities outside London, keep in mind the cost of travelling and travel time.



#### Student accommodation

- All first-year students would usually have on-campus accommodation (outside London).
- Most universities requires to make them as Firm / Insurance choice before booking accommodation.
- From Year 2, students have to find accommodation outside campus (except Oxford & Cambridge)
- Cost varies from university to university and depending on the type of accommodation.



#### Useful websites

- Ucas.com to explore courses and universities.
- Unifrog.org to explore courses and universities, save courses & universities you liked, keep record of your super curriculum activities, write drafts of personal statement.
- University websites to find out more details about courses and universities.
- Legue table: universities and courses
- Student forums and chatrooms.
- Student Finance Maintenance Loans
- ► <u>Student finance</u>





#### International Universities





#### **International Universities**

- Alternative option to study abroad (EU, North America, Australia, Asia)
- European universities are less expensive and sometimes free of charge.
- Separate application for each university.
- Smaller number of English-taught degrees.
- ▶ US universities are more expensive.



#### Apprenticeships



#### What is an Apprenticeship?

- Mixture of work and studies: often 4 days at work, 1 day in education.
- Usually, lasts between 1-6 years, depending on the level of apprenticeship. Degree apprenticeships usually 3-6 years.
- Students get paid. Although it varies depending on the company, the minimum is £10 if you are 18-20 years-old. The higher the level, the higher the pay.
- Employers do not guarantee employment after apprenticeship, but graduates will most likely receive a full-time offer after their apprenticeship.



Levels of Apprenticeships :

Name Equivalent Level Intermediate GCSE worth 2 A-levels Advanced 3 Higher 4-5 Degree level Degree BSc/BA/MSc/MA Apprenticeship 6-7





#### **Degree Apprenticeships**

- Blended learning through work in a company and studying at university.
- Usually lasts anywhere between 3-6 years (most common is 3 years).
- Students get paid; this can range between £22k and £32K.
- University cost is covered by the sponsor company.





#### **Degree Apprenticeships**

- Applications usually start in January (some may have Autumn application dates)
- Use Gov.uk to search for apprenticeships.
- Unifrog also lists apprenticeships.
- Apply for as many as possible (20-30 is not uncommon)
- Multiple stage process (with usually 4 interviews)
- Extremely competitive, but worth it.







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#### Gap Year

- Travelling
- Working
- Volunteering
- Completing entry tests
- Reapplying to university





# Support for parents and students

Mr Vvedenskiy - Head of Careers (1:1 support)
Email: Evgeny.Vvedenskiy@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

- Ms Hoban (Wednesdays & Thursdays only)
- Tutors and subject teachers (support with personal statement)





#### THANK YOU



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