



December 2020

UCAS and Careers News

Key University Dates

Year 12

November

- Assembly on preparing portfolios

March

- Launch Higher Education to Year 12s
- Higher Education Evening at Tring School for parents and students (tbc)
- Oxford and Cambridge student conference (virtual)

April

- Students to start researching universities and courses and to attend open days

May

- Higher Education Convention for Y12 students (tbc)
- References opened for Subject Teachers and Tutors to start work on

June

- Student one to ones with Tutors for references

June/July

- Students start UCAS application
- Students start Personal Statements
- July - Results Day (Internal exam results) - These grades are the best predictors of the final A Level/ BTEC grade you are likely to achieve and therefore a good guidance as to the university courses you should apply to.

Year 13

February

- Student Finance presentation
- Log on to www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk to start student finance application.
- UCAS Extra opens

March

- UCAS Extra/Clearing/Replying to offers presentation

May

- 31 May - Student Finance application deadline

June

- 10 June - Make Firm and Insurance choices and notify UCAS

August

- Results
- Clearing opens

Final deadline for UCAS to receive Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentists/Vets applications - October 15

Final deadline for UCAS to receive all other applications – January 15 2021

University Advice

Year 12

It is never too early in Year 12 to start looking at future options. We have already been talking to all the students about opportunities available to them. Many universities run taster courses on some subjects for Year 12 students and details of these can be found on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university>

Our programme of university support for Year 12 students will begin in March 2021 with a Higher Education Evening for students and parents on Monday 8 March. However, students can begin their research now! The school has made available a fantastic tool called Unifrog.

Unifrog helps students choose the best universities and apprenticeships, pulling data from many sources including UCAS, DiscoverUni, HEFCE and HESA.

Year 12

The Year 12 students recently had a COOL session on what they need to do to build a portfolio. This portfolio of activities can then be used to enhance their university Personal Statement, CV and school reference.

All of the students have been actively encouraged to complete a portfolio of extra curricular activities and to keep a record of the skills and attributes that they have gained as a result. These could be activities such as:

- Wider reading
- Online courses and pod casts
- Online seminars, lectures and taster courses
- Positions of responsibility
- Online work experience and paid work
- Drama, music, sport
- Visits to museums, theatres, galleries, historical places of interest etc

With a portfolio compiled throughout the students' time in Sixth Form they will have an invaluable reminder of all the experiences that they have had and the skills that they have accumulated as a result. For many it will also be evidence of a passion for the subject that they may choose to study at university.

All of this can then be used when they come to write their Personal Statement or CV next year as well as when their Subject teachers and Tutors start writing their references.

The full presentation, along with other presentations and resources, can be found on the university advice page in the Sixth Form area of the school [website](#).

Year 12—Virtual Work Experience

In the current climate it is difficult for students to attend face to face work experience. The good news is that there are now lots of virtual work experience opportunities available. These are a great way for students to explore different careers and build their knowledge in the comfort of their own home. It also looks great on their University application.

Unifrog has added over 110 virtual work experience placements to the '*Special opportunities tool*.' Some of the FREE opportunities include:

Virtual Work Experience—continued

- **JPMorgan Chase** Investment Banking Virtual Experience
- **Accenture** Virtual Experience Programmes
- **Clifford Chance** Business and Human Rights Global Virtual Internship
- **HM Government** Cyber Discovery Virtual Work Experience

Students can also find paid-for programmes such as InvestIN's Future Doctor Programme. Click on the link below for further details of how to find these opportunities in Unifrog:

<https://mailchi.mp/c92da301708a/virtual-work-experience-live-on-the-platform?e=216e6b1490>

University Advice

Year 13

This has been a vital and sometimes stressful term for our Year 13 students who have applied to university (and probably for their parents too). We began work on this process in March of Year 12, and the support continues until the students receive their exam results in the August of Year 13.

Our internal school deadlines were during September/October and November, ensuring Tring School applications are all in to UCAS before Christmas, to give our students the best possible opportunity to have their applications given the full attention of universities. To put this into context - approximately 250,000 applications are submitted before Christmas and over 500,000 between Christmas and 15 January, so whilst all students should be given fair consideration if their application is in by the UCAS deadline, Admissions Tutors will have more time before Christmas.

We are delighted that so many of our students have already secured offers from university choices. Once offers are made they cannot be retracted by universities so we strongly advise students to take their time considering which will eventually be their Firm choice and which will be their Insurance choice. Firm and Insurance choices do not need to be made until the 10 June 2021, so we recommend that students make their choices in April/May when they have had time to review how they are doing in their subjects and potentially attend visit days and further open days. Mrs Beck will be delivering a presentation in the Spring term on Replying to offers, UCAS Extra and UCAS Clearing. There will also be a session on Student Finance which will open for applications early in 2021.

Student Destinations 2020

We are delighted to report that 83% of students who left this summer secured their Firm choice of university and course and 4% their Insurance choice, the remaining 13% withdrew applications/turned down offers or applied on results day. We were able to provide comprehensive support for the very small number of students who were placed in Clearing or elected to be placed in Clearing along with those who referred themselves for Adjustment, and are pleased that they all secured a place on their preferred courses.

58% of the students who left our Sixth Form this summer took up places at University this term, with a further 19% having secured places at University for September 2021.

2% have entered further education, e.g. Art Foundation courses.

7% have started full time work, 2% have embarked upon apprenticeships.

The remaining are taking a gap year—working, travelling and volunteering. Many of these students are looking to apply for a place at university in 2021.

For more information visit the school [website](#)

Unifrog

What is it?

Unifrog is a complete destinations platform that offers students, and their parents, a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next step after school.

Unifrog brings into one place every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as school leaver programmes, online courses and work experience opportunities.



Students can:

- Explore how interests lead to different education and training pathways
- See what steps need to be ticked off to stand the best chance of application success
- Study expert guides explaining how to navigate each step in the application process
- Use free online courses to try out different subject areas
- Compare every undergraduate course in the UK
- Compare every undergraduate programme taught in English in Europe, as well as opportunities in Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand
- Compare every UK degree apprenticeship and School Leaver Programme
- Look at every Oxbridge college and FE college course
- Watch higher education subject webinars

It is a fantastic platform and we are delighted to be able to offer this tool to all our students within Sixth Form and at Tring School.

All Sixth Form students have a log on for Unifrog and have received training on the tool.

Parents can also log on to see the platform as a student by going to unifrog.org/code and using **TringParents** as the code to sign up.

Careers and Apprenticeships

UCAS

UCAS Apprenticeship Information



Not all students are interested in higher education. In fact, a growing number of 16-18 year olds are looking for more vocational opportunities, which is one of the main reasons that UCAS' support for apprenticeships is growing.

UCAS have launched an [Apprenticeship](#) Section which gives invaluable information about the types of apprenticeships, and what is involved. They also have a dedicated search tool, which lists opportunities for both higher and degree apprenticeships – a helpful resource for students to see what's available.

Employers and education providers are also driving demand: they want to recruit the best talent out there as early as possible. And it's not just small companies – large organisations like Ernst and Young (EY) are taking on apprentices too.

Unifrog also has lots of useful information about Apprenticeships in their 'know-how library' and students can also use Unifrog to search for Apprenticeship vacancies.

Careers and Apprenticeships



Careers and Apprenticeships

Our Careers and Apprenticeships students are supported by Miss Moore and David Ritchie and Associates Careers Advisors. During COOL sessions, students have worked on their CVs, practised video interviews and online testing and explored the apprenticeship application processes. We looked at what companies such as Tesco and Nestle use to find the right candidates for their advanced apprenticeships - from the initial written application through (virtual!) test centres to interviews. Every placement has a different process and different expectations so it is really important that students come and ask for the support they need when they do find opportunities that interest them.

There will be further sessions throughout the academic year which will provide guidance and support on careers, apprenticeships and further education – great opportunities which we very much hope will arm our students with the right tools for life after Sixth Form.

If any student would like support in thinking about their careers, they can make an appointment with Sailesh Devani, our independent careers advisor, at any point. He can offer help with planning routes into a particular field, CV writing, interview practise as well as exploring possible areas of interest. Please see Mrs White in Connexions to make an appointment.