



Tring School

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Mortimer Hill Tring Herts HP23 5JD



2 July 2021

Re: University Applications

Dear Parents/Carers,

For those students who are planning to apply to university this year, we would like to update parents and carers on the activities that students should be focusing on over the next few months in order to ensure they are fully prepared for their university applications in the autumn term:

1. University Research

Students should be continuing with their university research in readiness for their UCAS applications. There are lots of resources available to help with this including Unifrog, the UCAS course search, university websites, and the school's [Your Future](#) site.

We also encourage students to attend open days in order to ensure they make informed course choices. There are also a variety of taster sessions, webinars and summer schools on offer to help students in their decision making. Whilst most of these events are still virtual, some universities are starting to offer a mix of in person and virtual events. We recommend that students attend as many of these events as possible prior to the summer holidays as, once they return in September, the university process will speed up considerably alongside their A level, and BTEC studies.

The [UK University and Apprenticeship Fair](#) is taking place on 14 July and will feature universities and colleges from across the UK, as well as ten live webinars on topics such as UCAS personal statements and student finance. Students who are still unsure about their course choices are encouraged to attend this event.

Other useful resources:

The following websites are a good starting point to search for University events :

[UCAS Search Tool](#)

[Uni Taster Days](#)

[Unibuddy](#) is an excellent online tool that gives students access to students at their preferred university, so they can chat about their first hand experiences.

Students can also refer to the helpful guide below to help with their research:

[How to research University courses](#)

[Your Future: Higher Education](#)

2. Online UCAS Applications

Tel: 01442 822303 Email: tringschool@tringschool.org www.tring.herts.sch.uk



The UCAS online application system is now live. Students should be working on their UCAS application now and over the summer holidays with a view to having 90% of it completed on their return to school in September. Students started working on the online application on 27 May within their COOL session. Full instructions on how to apply are [here](#), along with the [slides](#) from the presentation. Students also have access to the recording of the presentation if they need a reminder of what to do.

3. Personal Statements

We recommend that students should aim to produce a first draft of their personal statement before the end of term, which will allow them access to prompt feedback from their teachers, form tutors and Mrs Beck. Once September term starts, students will be busy with their studies, so now is the perfect time to work on it.

Students have received lots of support to help them with their personal statements. We gave guidance on this essential task on 29 April in their COOL session. The presentation the students received can be found [here](#). In addition, the University of Hertfordshire delivered a presentation on personal statements during the recent ELD days. Students applying to Oxford or Cambridge also attended a virtual workshop recently on personal statement writing, delivered by Balliol College, Oxford.

Students can email their personal statement to Mrs Beck for feedback up until 18 September, after which time she starts working on the applications. Students are also encouraged to seek feedback from their subject teachers and form tutors. For further inspiration, students can refer to the booklet and guide below, as well as the Future Website.

[Guide to Writing a Winning Personal Statement](#)

[Writing your Personal Statement Booklet](#)

[Your Future: Personal Statements](#)

4. School References

Over the next few weeks we will continue the important process of writing a school reference for our Year 12 students. All students applying to university will require a school reference but students may also require a reference for job/apprenticeship applications. We therefore hold a reference for all Year 12 students, not just those planning to apply to University.

Students should have completed the reference collection form below which they are then asked to share with their tutor before their 1:1 meeting:

[Reference Data Collection Form](#)

References will be completed by the end of term, but there will be an amendment period of two weeks in September for tutors to update the reference with anything the students may have done over the summer. Please note that it is the responsibility of the students to make sure that their tutors have all the information they need for the reference.

5. UCAS Application Deadlines

In order to manage the flow of applications, students will be required to meet one of four deadlines as set out below. We strongly encourage students to aim for one of the earlier deadlines so they can then focus on their studies without any distraction.

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| 21 September | Deadline for UCAS applications for students applying to Oxbridge/Dentistry/Medicine/Veterinary and other early applications (applications to be processed by 15 October) |
| 5 October | 2 nd deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 2 Nov) |
| 19 October | 3 rd deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 16 Nov) |

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| 9 November | Final deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 3 Dec) |
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UCAS Conservatoires:

Students interested in preparing for a professional career in music, theatre or dance may consider studying at a conservatoire. UCAS Conservatoires open for applications on 15 July 2021. Please note that students who wish to apply for a music course at a conservatoire have a 1 October application deadline and should see Mrs Beck to discuss this.

For more information visit <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires>.
<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/managing-applications/application-deadlines>

6. UCAS Support for Parents/Carers

The presentations we have delivered to students this year can be found on the [Your Future](#) site. The UCAS site has lots of resources and information dedicated to helping parents and carers support students applying to university and you are encouraged to sign up to the UCAS Parent Monthly Newsletter. Further resources for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

We will continue to keep students up to date with relevant information and timelines on the UCAS process. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cait Beck, UCAS Coordinator.

Yours faithfully

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