



Tring School

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2 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Students who are applying to University this year have been busy over the last six months researching courses, starting their applications and writing their personal statements. The next month is a crucial time for students as they finalise their applications and send them off to UCAS. We are grateful for the ongoing support that you have given your child in making such important decisions.

Below you will find some useful information for parents/carers, as well as an update on the upcoming UCAS timelines and what students need to be doing now to ensure they meet these deadlines:

UCAS deadlines

In order to manage the flow of applications, students are 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.

4 - 18 September	Personal statement feedback from Mrs Beck
27 September	Deadline for UCAS applications for students applying to Oxbridge/Dentistry/Medicine/Veterinary and other early applications (applications to be processed by 15 October)
11 October	2 nd deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 3 Nov)
18 October	3 rd deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 10 Nov)
8 November	Final deadline for UCAS applications (applications will be processed by 24 Nov)

Personal statements

We have given lots of guidance to students over the last few months on how to write their personal statement. The first presentation that was delivered in June can be found here for your information: [Personal statement presentation](#)

The deadline for students to receive feedback from Mrs Beck on their personal statements has now passed. She has enjoyed reviewing the large number of statements she has received over the last few weeks, but her attention now needs to focus on the student

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applications and references. Students can still seek feedback from their tutor and teachers and are encouraged to do so. We have also reminded students of the value of seeking input from parents, particularly in relation to editing and spelling/grammar checks.

There are still a number of students who haven't started or completed their personal statement. Students have been asked to prioritise this over the next couple of weeks. Most students will produce several drafts before it is ready to send to UCAS, so it is important that they leave adequate time to get feedback and work on their revisions. We would very much appreciate your support in encouraging your child to focus on their personal statement, and application over the next couple of weeks.

University applications

Students who intend to apply this year should have started their application by now using the UCAS portal. Full instructions and guidance have been given to students on how to apply using the UCAS site.

It is worth noting that we check all UCAS applications and references thoroughly; this process can take up to three weeks. Therefore, when a student pays (this fee goes to UCAS) and presses the 'send' button, they are sending it to the Sixth Form Team and need to factor in that it could take up to three weeks for their application to reach UCAS. We will process all applications as quickly as possible. If any errors are picked up on applications, we cannot change them and we have to send the application back to the student for them to make any amendments. It is, therefore, essential that students regularly check both their UCAS account and their email accounts.

Please note, if your child is not intending to apply to University this year, but does intend to apply in the future, they should still be drafting personal statements at this time. It is a very difficult process to go through once they have left the school without the support of teachers.

Predicted grades

The Autumn Tracker will be available next week on Go for Schools. The latest grades on this tracker will provide two predicted grades, one that is specifically sent to UCAS which will be the most aspirational prediction, and a second completely realistic target. Students have been asked to speak to their teachers during the last two weeks to discuss their progress and predicted grades, so they should already be aware of what these grades are likely to be. These grades will take into account all assessments over the last year and are a holistic prediction for the students; they are not solely based on Year 12 exams as we know these were taken during the challenging lockdown situation.

Mock interviews

We advise students to book a 'mock interview' with Connexions should they be applying to a course that is likely to offer an interview. These commence from the end of September, running throughout October. Students should see Mrs Griffiths in Connexions along with their Personal Statement/CV to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. This opportunity is available to all students—both those looking to go to university and all alternative pathways. If you are able to assist in interviewing students for university or job applications, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please email: dgriffiths@tringschool.org

UCAS advice for parents and guardians

Many of the presentations we have delivered to students can be found on the Sixth Form area of the school website, under 'University Advice': [Tring School University advice](#)
UCAS also produce a parent newsletter with lots of useful information and updates: [UCAS newsletter sign up](#)

Virtual University Fairs

Almost all universities are now offering virtual events. The following websites are a good starting point if you are interested in attending one: [UCAS events](#), [Uni Taster Days](#). It is also possible for students to visit universities independently in order to get a taster for the city and campus.

UCAS are also running a number of online subject-specific exhibitions during October/November. To register click on this link: [UCAS exhibitions](#)

The UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair takes place in November, and will host over 90 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers, as well as a live timetable of webinars. To register click here: [UK University Virtual Fair](#)

Should you have any questions about the university process, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cait Beck, UCAS Coordinator (cbeck@tringschool.org)

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Belony
Head of Year 13

Mrs C Beck
UCAS Coordinator