

Wolfreton
SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Y13 Information Evening



Staffing

Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form: Lynsey Taylor

Learning Manager: Helen Wilkinson

Sixth Form Student Services Manager: Ian Robinson

Planning for the future

- A2 courses have already commenced.
- Next steps should be considered.
- Be pro-active in researching all opportunities available to you.
- Those students who put the time and effort into carefully considering all of their options will find planning and finalising their next steps easier when we return in September.

Gateway to a successful future

This is probably the most important year for students as many will want to go to university and places will be dependent on grades achieved primarily in A2 exams / vocational courses.

Even with the changes to the cost of university, there are still many good reasons for going on to Higher Education:

- For greater academic study
- To provide the basis for a career or vocation
- To broaden experience
- To foster independence
- To achieve potential

Where to study?

There are more than 100 universities / Higher Education Institutions.

24 of these are called the Russell Group Universities and are seen as the 'elite' universities.
These are:

University of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff University, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial College London, King's College London, University of Leeds, Liverpool, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Manchester, Newcastle University, University of Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, Queen's University Belfast, University of Sheffield, Southampton, University College London, University of Warwick and University of York.

Where to study?

What makes these 'elite'?

They would say that they have the highest academic rigour and also specialise in research. They will usually make higher offers for places than other universities. Also, some such as Oxford and Cambridge will also set their own 'aptitude' tests and you are more likely to be called for interviews at these institutions.

Does this mean the other Universities are not worth going to?

No, but the driver should be what is to be studied. By far the most popular university with our students this year is Newcastle / St Johns York.

The process

The UCAS process began in June when students returned after AS examinations.

They should have completed log-in and password sections as well as personal details (address etc).

They will be working on personal statements with their academic tutor after the holidays.

All the student sections need to be completed at the latest by the end of November as forms including references need to be sent to UCAS before Christmas. The exception to this is applications for Cambridge, Oxford and medical institutions which need to be sent to UCAS by mid October (15th October)

Past experience would indicate that the earlier the form is sent off, the more offers a student receives and we usually have the majority gone by mid November.

Courses

The search for courses has been simplified (or complicated!) by the internet.

www.ukcoursefinder.com allows searches by subject or associated subjects, by regions and by institutions. The other key site for all things university related is www.UCAS.com

Students need to check entry requirements carefully. If a course wants an A2 in Maths and you are not doing this, there is no point in applying there. Equally, it will give an indication of their entry requirements, if you are predicted 3 Cs and an institution wants AAB, look for an institution that is nearer your grades. Students offer themselves up to rejections if they do not meet the criteria.

Also be prepared to look at courses that you may not have done as subjects this year. For instance, rather than a straight History course look for variations such as International History and Politics. Students have had a sheet with a raft of useful internet sites to help their research including Unifrog which enables them to make comparisons between institutions.

Applications per place (2015)

Subject	Applications for each place
Medicine	11
Dentistry	9.7
Nursing	9.2
Veterinary	9.2
Astronomy	7.7
Economics	6.6
Mechanical Engineering	6.2
Architecture	6.2
Drama	6.2
Law	5.4

How do universities select students?

In 80+ applications this year all students had at least one offer.

As seen for many courses there are far more applicants than places.

Universities rely hugely on the personal application. There are two key parts to this:

- The student's personal statement
- The reference and predicted grades

How do universities select students?

Common (boring) opening statements on the personal statements:

I am currently studying a BTEC National Diploma in..464

From a young age I have always been interested in..309

From an early age I have always been interested in..292

Nursing is a very challenging and demanding career..275

For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated with...196

How do universities select students?

The story of being inspired to become a doctor after burning holes in pyjamas with a chemistry set received as a birthday present at age 8 or 9 turned up in over 250 'personal' statements in 2006!!!

UCAS run all applications through their own computer programme looking for duplications.

The reference is put together by the tutor. They put together subject staff comments and predicted grades. Also included is attendance data as well as a summary of the student and their skills. On the application form, the student will also have to put their AS grades on and their pending A2 exams.

Once the form is completed, they need to pay £24 by card and send it – it then comes to Mrs Wilkinson who checks it before it is sent to UCAS.

Offers

If the university likes what it reads it will make a conditional offer. This will be in one of the following ways:

A graded conditional offer such as AAB – they may stipulate that an A is needed in the subject to be studied.

A points offer such as needing 120 points.

It may be a combination of both so 112 points including a B in the subject to be studied.

A points offer is generally easier to achieve as ASs dropped have points as do other courses such as EPQ (if accepted by the university).

Tariffs

EPQ	AS level	A level	New Tariff points	BTEC Extended Diploma	BTEC Diploma	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC Certificate
			168	D*D*D*			
			160	D*D*D			
			152	D*DD			
			144	DDD			
			128	DDM			
			112	DMM	D*D*		
			104		D*D		
			96	MMM	DD		
			80	MMP	DM		
			64	MPP	MM		
		A*	56			D*	
		A	48	PPP	MP	D	
		B	40				
		C	32		PP	M	
A*			28				D*
A		D	24				D
B	A		20				
C	B	E	16			P	M
D	C		12				
	D		10				
E			8				P
	E		6				

Being realistic

Students have 5 choices (4 if medicine)

Universities do not know a candidate's other choices when the form is sent.

When a student has heard from each institution, he/she chooses a firm first choice.

They also choose an 'insurance' course. This should require lower grades or points than the first choice. It is pointless having an insurance choice which requires the same grades or points.

Where can I get more information?

www.ucas.com

This has a large section for parents, including an option to register for an e-newsletter.

The students section is also found here.

Post-16 Bursary Scheme

What is it?

Financial support offered to some students between the ages of 16 and 19.

Either in weekly payments of £25 or £30

or

Single discretionary payments to cover the cost of educational purchases.

To receive the bursary, students must come from eligible households and maintain full attendance in all Sixth Form lessons.

Introducing Student Finance

- **Student Loans**
- **Other Financial Support**
- **Repayment**
- **Advice and Guidance**

Student Loans

Two loans for students under 19:

Tuition fee loan:

Non-means tested and available to all UK students (both full- and part-time) to cover course costs

Maintenance loan:

Means-tested loan available to full-time UK students to help with all other living expenses

Tuition Fee Loan in Detail

Eligibility: basically everyone!

- Must be studying in Higher Education for the first time
- Must be under 60
- Not for students studying full-time distance learning

Payment: directly from the Student Loans Company to the University

Amount: £9,250 per year maximum

- Few institutions or courses charge significantly less
- Around 76% charged full amount for 2015-16

Maintenance Loan in Detail

Means-tested:

- based on household income
- also where the student lives and studies

Living and studying?	Maximum available?
Living with parents	Up to £7,097
Away from home, outside London	Up to £8,430
Away from home, in London	Up to £11,002

Maintenance Loan - example

Household income	Maintenance loan
£25,000 or less	£8,430
£30,000	£7,825
£35,000	£7,220
£40,000	£6,615
£45,000	£6,009
£50,000	£5,404
£55,000	£4,799
£60,000	£4,193
£62,187 or above	£3,928

These figures are based on what an English student, studying outside of London, could expect to receive. Source: University of Sheffield

Other financial support

Many Higher Education providers offer financial support to students through bursary funds and scholarships - terms often used interchangeably:

Bursaries:

- Linked to personal circumstances, often household income or particular demographic factors
- Awards can include fee waivers or cash, paid in instalments or as lump sums
- Often non-competitive, automatic and based on financial need (i.e. the higher the maintenance loan entitlement, the more likely you are to qualify)

Scholarships:

- Competitive, based on particular academic or other merit (e.g. sports, music)
- Limited in number, may be faculty- or department-specific

Additional funding for some students

Fee Waivers:

-May cover a percentage of fees and be given alongside a bursary as a single package of support. Students do not receive a cash sum but a reduction on the tuition fee, reducing student loan repayments

Hardship funds ('Access to Learning Fund'):

-Provides help for students in financial difficulty – may be before or during studies
-Award of funding is dependent upon individual circumstances and different institutions will have different procedures

Other grants and financial support available:

-Students with children or dependent adults
-Students with disabilities
-Medicine, social work or teacher training
-Studying abroad

Paying back loans

Begin the April after finishing course if earnings exceed £21,000 pa

If earnings fall below £21,000 or the student ceases working, repayment automatically stops

Student loan repayments are automatically deducted from monthly earnings alongside tax – 9% of the income above £21K

Any debt remaining after 30 years is written off

Interest is applied to loans (based on the Retail Price Index)



Early repayments can be made at any time (with no penalty) if a student wants to reduce their loan balance early.

Student loan repayments

Income each year before tax	9% will be deducted from	Monthly repayment (Approx)
£21,000	£0	£0
£30,000	£9,000	£67
£40,000	£19,000	£142
£50,000	£29,000	£217
£60,000	£39,000	£292



Interest is applied at a maximum rate of RPI +3%

More info can be found on: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

General advice

- Applying: deadlines depend on where you live rather than where you study (typically mid-April to June).
- Apply as early as possible! You don't need to have all offers back to start the process
- Make sure that you supply correct details and consent to Student Finance sharing your information with the universities
- Research, research and research some more – the earlier the better!
- Note that not all funding sources are clearly advertised through Student Finance, e.g. departmental schemes – it is always worth contacting the university to find out exactly what is available for the coming year

Resources

Student Finance England: to make an application
www.gov.uk/student-finance

Customer Helpline: 0845 300 5090
Open Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat & Sun 9am- 5.30pm)

Student Loans Repayment: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

Which? University Guide to Student Finance: <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-finance>

UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/undergraduate-finance-and-support>

General advice on finance & budgeting: www.moneysavingexpert.com/

Re-enrolment for Year 13

All students need to re-enrol for the Sixth Form confirming the subjects that they want to study in Year 13.

17th August (A2/AS Level results day) from 10.30 am as well as 24th and 25th August 9.30am - 3pm in the Sixth Form Centre.

Please also note that there are no January exams and therefore there are no re-sits until Summer 2017.

Wolfreton
SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

