



Wisdom Service Hope

15th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Post 18 options: The UCAS process

Over the past few weeks your child has been working on the first of a series of Higher Education sessions, applying to university.

Further to the workshops and sessions students received in school, an abundance of resources about university, admissions, funding and the application process can be found on the google classroom: **s7zhzms**.

Under the University section you will find the following:

- Virtual University open days -students can sign up for virtual tours of the universities
- Videos of what life is like as a University student
- UCAS links to support you with application process
- Gameplan-Free website allowing children and parents and carers to explore university
- University podcast

With so many courses available, the first challenge of the university application process is deciding which university to apply to.

To help work through the process your child was asked to research and prepare a list of university choices.

This is a critical part of the process as it is imperative your child applies for the courses that are right for them. The UCAS application allows your child to choose up to five universities and it is recommended that they do the following:

- Choose one aspirational university (may achieve this choice if they get higher than predicted grades)
- Choose three achievable (will get the grades)
- Choose one as insurance (may not get the grades)

Your child's UCAS application and choices will be contingent on their predicted grades. These will be awarded by the school, based on students' classwork to date and mock examinations. To date students have completed one set of mocks in January 2020. Ordinarily, students would be completing another set of mocks in the summer term. However, due to schools being closed we must await further government guidance on the reopening and logistics of this.

It is therefore important that both you and your child discuss their university options and are as realistic as possible. I have already spoken to many of you and your children and will continue to contact you and your child to support them with their UCAS choices.

Some students wish to apply to the Russell group universities. These universities are highly selective and many require students to achieve three A levels at the top grade. I have attached the link to give you further information on these universities and their entry criteria.

<https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

Neale House Campus, Prothero Gardens, Hendon, NW4 3SL
Bennett House Campus, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, NW4 4QR
Stamford Raffles Campus, Downage, Hendon, NW4 1AB



For further information about university rankings you may wish to look at the link below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2019/jun/07/university-league-tables-2020>

Admission Tests

Some universities will require your child to sit additional tests as part of the selection process. These will test your child's capabilities and academic knowledge.

Oxford and Cambridge

In addition to their application, most applicants are required to take a subject-specific written admission assessment, either pre-interview or at interview.

These are designed to supplement the information in your application, and provide an assessment of relevant skills and, where appropriate, students' levels of knowledge and understanding for the course applied for.

In addition, some Colleges ask applicants for some courses to submit examples of their written work (one or two school/college essays) which may then be discussed at the interview.

For further information about the tests please go to the following links:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/thinking-skills-assessment/tsa-cambridge/about-tsa-cambridge/>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests?wssl=1>

Further information for prospective oxbridge applicants can be found on the google classroom: **s7zhzms**

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your child to apply to Oxbridge, please get in contact with me.

Medicine

If your child is thinking about medicine, they will need to sit either the BMAT or UCAT exams.

Entry for these exams will be based on your child's predicted grades which should be a minimum of three A levels at grade A.

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your child to apply for medicine, please get in contact with me.

What is the BMAT?

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is an aptitude test used as part of the admissions process for Medicine, Biomedical Sciences and Dentistry in some universities in the United Kingdom,

Universities that require the BMAT can be found in the link below:

<https://www.uniadmissions.co.uk/bmat-universities-how-is-the-bmat-used>

What is the UCAT?

The UCAT is a compulsory entry requirement for our UK Consortium Universities and our non-UK Associate Member Universities. You are required to sit the test by (date to be advised) if you are intending to apply for entry in 2021 (or deferred entry in 2022) to a relevant course listed below:

UCAT universities:

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/universities>

Law

If your child is considering Law and considering applying to the universities identified in the following link

<https://www.uniadmissions.co.uk/lmat-universities-list>

They will need to sit the LNAT exam.

What is the LNAT

The LNAT is used by universities to help them select people for their undergraduate law courses. The test doesn't test your knowledge of law or any other subject. It is a two-part test: multiple choice questions based on passages of text, and an essay. Section A: The first part is a computer-based multiple choice exam.

If your child is not applying to an LNAT university they will **NOT** require the LNAT exam.

If your child is considering the LNAT exams they should be looking to achieve at least three A levels at the top grade.

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your child to apply to Oxbridge, please get in contact with me.

Finally the UCAS top tips will help you and your child to be better prepared for their UCAS application

1. Start research early – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
2. Know the deadlines – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
3. Browse through courses – so they can work out what they would enjoy or be interested in.
4. Go to UCAS events and course provider open days – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
5. Check entry requirements – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
6. Redraft their personal statement – get plenty of feedback and refine it until they're happy

Virtual Open days

For many students visiting a university is a vital part of making their final decision. Over the next few months this will not be possible so I have included the following information to help you and your child through this process

Here is a list of various university virtual open days coming up this term.

This is not ALL the universities, just a selection so please do look online for more!

UCAS is compiling virtual dates here and you can get further information by looking at the UCAS website.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/virtual-and-digital?keywords=>

Please do use the university websites to find out more course specific information.

For many of these events you need to register online beforehand. Many universities are also holding open days in the Autumn term – you can already register your interest for these.

- LSE ALL Online now Experience LSE from home: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/meet-visit-and-discover-LSE/experience-lse>
- Sheffield MANY Various dates May-June Lots of online taster days. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/taster-days> for details and to register
- Brunel ALL 15th May <https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/open-days/experience-days>
- Exeter ALL 26th May <https://www.ucas.com/events/university-exeter-all-campuses-online-open-day-events-362401>
- Dundee Medicine 12th June <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/visitus/opendays/medicine-june2020/>
- UCL ALL 19th & 20th June <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/open-days/node/7> Need to register to get info
- Queen Mary ALL 26th & 27th June <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/openday/> Need to sign up using the registration form

- Bristol ALL 26th June Virtual Open Day <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/>
- Manchester ALL Various dates 21st April – Student Life 23rd April – University of Manchester 28th April – Why Manchester 25th June – UCAS application and process
<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/aspiring-students/manchester-live/>
- UEA Medicine 20th June Pre-register online <http://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visit/open-day>
- Cambridge ALL 2nd and 3rd July Virtual Open Day Need to register on this page:
<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days>
- Cardiff ALL 3rd July Register: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/open-days-visits>
- UEA ALL 4th July Pre-registeer online <http://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visit/open-day>
- Oxford ALL TBC They suggest signing up here for news:
http://newsletter.admin.ox.ac.uk/k/Ouc/undergraduate_admissions_and_outre
- St Andrews ALL TBC Email visitingdays@st-andrews.ac.uk for more info
- London ALL TBC Sign up for more info: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/contact-us>
- Warwick ALL TBC June Register interest: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/opendays/>
- York ALL TBC Register for updates: <https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/email-updates/>
- Southampton ALL TBC Register interest: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/visit/open-days.page>
- Edinburgh ALL TBC No open day this term, two next term. Sign up to mailing list for more information on virtual events: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/open-days-events-visits/mailling-list-signup>

The following universities Bath, Birmingham, Durham, Imperial, Leeds say on their websites that they will post more information about virtual open days soon.

If you are interested in applying to these universities, please go onto their website for further information.

If you require more information about the BMAT, UCAT Oxbridge or LNAT tests or if you want to know if your child is eligible please let me know.

This link will provide you with additional information that will help you support your child through this process.
www.futurequest.org.uk/parents-and-carers/higher-education-explained

I know this is a daunting process and am happy to discuss any questions you may have.

We would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure your child's successful progression to start thinking about Post A level options. Should you require any more information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact me at mphillips@smsj.london

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. Phillips
Careers and Aspirations Manager