



Colchester County High School for Girls Sixth Form

Applying to Higher Education



When school is open our impartial Careers Adviser, Mrs Kee, is available for students to see. Appointments can be requested by students signing up on the list on the Upper School Pastoral Office door, next to F11.

Whilst the school remains closed Mrs Kee is available each Wednesday during term time for a telephone consultation. Parents can request an appointment for their daughter by emailing Mrs Mandal via smandal@cchsg.com providing a telephone number that Mrs Kee can contact the student on. By providing a telephone number we would acknowledge that parents have provided permission for us to pass this information to Mrs Kee.

The UCAS website, www.ucas.com is full of information.
UCAS information for parents: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>
Students can sign up for free to the UCAS Hub now via ucas.com/hub.

<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/> is a useful site for comparing different courses.

Procedure

During the course of the year students have been given advice as to how to:

- choose a university
- write a Personal Statement
- investigate courses through work experience and/or reading around the subject.

Now

Students should be putting in work that they can write about in their personal statement and preparation for requirements specific to the course or University to which they are thinking of applying.

Examples:

- Arrange Work Experience
- Read relevant books/journals/articles
- Speak to students studying the subject
- Check the requirements for admissions tests
- Speak to subject staff for subject specific support

Wherever possible University visits should be at the weekend. When this is not possible we will authorise two one day visits per academic year to attend University Open days. Many Universities are currently offering virtual experiences and a list of these can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>. All planned absence needs to be applied for in the usual way by completing a leave of absence request form, available from the office.

June/July 2020 – UCAS preparation

Students will register online with UCAS and be informed how to fill out the application form. The UCAS application form permits up to five choices of university or college. Students who apply to medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses can apply for up to four universities with this course with a 5th option of a different course. We recommend all five choices are used to enable access to UCAS Extra later in the year (for courses that only permit four choices we recommend applying for a fifth related course). During this time students are advised to continue their research into courses and finalise their Personal Statement. The deadline to hand a good quality draft of the Personal Statement to their tutor is 3 July 2020.

We recommend that students read outside of the course specifications to demonstrate a passion for the subject.

September 2020 – UCAS application, interviews and finance

A review of internal assessment grades, current Working at Grades and UCAS application will be undertaken with their tutor. During PSHCE students will review their Personal Statement with a subject specialist. We will advise on interview techniques. An application for financial support from the government can be made via <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance> once a UCAS application has been submitted.

Internal deadlines for the UCAS form to be submitted to the school for checks and references:

End of the Summer Term - Organ/Choral Scholarships

14 September 2020 – Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge (UCAS deadline 15 October 2020). *All forms meeting our internal deadline will be sent out by the end of Monday 5 October 2020.*

5 October 2020 – all remaining courses (UCAS deadline 15 January 2021)

October/November 2020 – Preparation, interviews and offers

During PSHCE students will have mock interviews, advice on writing covering letters and advice on living on a budget. Students are offered a minimum of two mock interviews, the first interview will be a general interview and the second will be with a subject specialist. At this time of year students may be called for interview by the university, we require students to complete a leave of absence request form for all interviews and will authorise the absence for each day of interview.

February/March 2021 – Information on accepting offers

We will give advice on accepting offers and making first and second choices. UCAS Extra opens for students that do not hold any offers – this is a process of being able to make further applications to universities. UCAS Extra closes at the end of June.

May/August 2021 – Results

We will give advice and outline the procedure for results day. We strongly recommend that students are able to pick up A Level results in person. The date for next year is yet to be confirmed.

Admissions tests

Students will need to check if they will need to take admission test(s) and are responsible for organising their registration (including ensuring they have confirmation of their registration) and sitting the test. The costs associated with the tests will need to be met by the candidates. There are bursaries available.

The following list contains some of the admissions tests:

- University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) – Medicine and Dentistry
- Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) – Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
- National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT)

- Oxbridge Tests:
 - History Aptitude Test (HAT)
 - Classics Admissions Test (CAT)
 - Modern & Medieval Languages Test (MML)
 - Physics and Mathematics Aptitude Test (PAT)
 - English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)
- Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) also used by UCL
- Mathematics Sixth Term Examination Papers (STEP) – also used by Warwick
- Cambridge Tests

Websites for the further information:

- UCAT – www.ucat.ac.uk
- Law National Admissions Test – [LNAT | The Law National Aptitude Test](http://www.lnat.ac.uk)

- Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA), BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), Classics Admissions Test (CAT), English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT), Mathematics Sixth Term Examination Papers (STEP), Physics Aptitude Test (PAT), Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT), Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT), Classics Admissions Test (CAT) - <http://www.admissionstesting.org/>

Oxford and Cambridge tests:

- Cambridge admissions tests and written work requirements by each college for each course – www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admissions-assessments

- Oxford admissions tests -

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests?wssl=1

Post A Level applications

Students not intending to submit an application during Year 13 will go through the process of registration onto the UCAS site, start to complete the UCAS form and to complete a draft Personal Statement. There is no cost associated with the process until the form is submitted to UCAS. Students will then be able to draw upon this experience if an application is made at a later date. Please note students intending to make an application after leaving CCHSG are advised to apply via the school rather than as an independent applicant.

The deadlines for submitting UCAS application forms are the same each year and it will be the student's responsibility to ensure they meet the deadline. We will be unable to chase any applications. Students intending to make an application should notify the school via email for the attention of the Head of Sixth Form at office@cchsg.com.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine work, training, and study, letting students 'earn while they learn'. There is a wide range of apprenticeships for over 1,500 job roles —giving students the opportunity to enter careers in anything from engineering and boat building, to veterinary nursing and accountancy.

- Applicants need to be over 16 years old, and are able to demonstrate they have the ability to complete the programme.
- An apprenticeship usually takes one to three years to complete, and is usually made up of three parts – all completed on the job, online, or in a classroom.

Depending on an individual's skills and qualifications, there are four different levels available:

- **intermediate** (Level 2) —generally considered to be the same level as five GCSE passes
- **advanced** (Level 3) — generally considered to be the same level as two A levels/Highers
- **higher/technical** (Levels 4 to 7) — can lead to NVQ Level 4 and above, or a foundation degree
- **degree/graduate-level** (Levels 6 and 7) — these are new and enable apprentices to achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship

Useful websites

www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university

Employment

Students considering applying for employment are requested to inform the Head of Sixth Form so we can ensure we are providing tailored support.