



12th October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

YEAR 13 INFORMATION LETTER

Please find to follow information regarding what is coming for Year 13 in this busy final year.

Parents Evening will be on Thursday 1st February 2024. A letter will be sent out closer to the time with booking details.

Year 13 assessments will begin on Monday 20th November 2023 for two weeks, with a second set of assessments will begin on Monday 4th March 2024, again for two weeks. You will already have received a letter regarding the November assessments, along with a timetable.

We have had several UCAS events at School already at the end of last term, which Mr Cunningham led on. Please note, due to a change in roles, going forward I will be the UCAS lead and point of contact.

Currently, we have dedicated time in tutorials for Year 13 students to write their personal statements with the support of their tutor. Tutors will also be writing student references.

This is a link to the UCAS site and their information about personal statements.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement>. It covers all aspects of how to construct and write a personal statement, such as:

- In the first section – writing about the course – there are prompts like: Why are you applying for the chosen course(s)? Why does the subject interest you?
- The second section, about skills and achievements, will ask you to include things about the skills you have that'll help you, and any supporting evidence to back up why you're so excited about the course(s) you have chosen – alongside other achievements you're proud of and/or positions of responsibility you've held.
- The final section will give you prompts to help you think about any work or volunteer experience you have and how you can relate that – or the abilities you gained – to the course(s) you want to study.

There is also a video explaining how to build a personal statement:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/introducing-personal-statement-tool>

This is our timeline for UCAS 2024 entry applications:

- 2nd May 2023: 2024 entry courses
- 16th May 2023: Begin undergraduate applications for 2024 entry courses, but you cannot submit it to UCAS until 5th September 2023.
- 9th October 2023: Reference sheets to Curriculum Leaders on UniFrog (this is an internal process)
- 23rd October 2023: Reference sheets completed on Unifrog (this is an internal process)
- 31st October 2023: Student Personal statements to be completed

- 16 October 2023: 18:00 UK time, deadline for application submission for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge for 2024 entry for courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine/Science and Dentistry. You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.
- 20th November 2023: Tutor References completed
- 4th December 2023: All other university applications completed. Applications after the 30th June will be entered into clearing
- 31 January 2024 18:00 UK time, deadline for application submission for 2024 entry for the majority of all other courses.

If your child wishes to speak to someone about careers, please ask them to speak to Miss Shanahan, or email cshanahan@buckinghamsschool.org

If your child does not want to apply for a degree course, there are degree apprenticeships available which they may wish to consider:

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/england/level-3-advanced#:~:text=How%20do%20I%20apply%20for,be%20invited%20to%20an%20interview>.

I have included some links below which you and your child may find of use.

National Apprenticeship Helpline:

nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

Graduates entering the world of work after university:

<https://www.brightnetwork.co.uk/graduate-career-advice/world-of-work/>

Entering the world of work at 18+:

<https://www.findyourfuture.org.uk/choices-at-18-19>

I hope you find this information useful to both you and your child in securing their future and onward journey from The Buckingham School Sixth Form.

If you have any other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Gibson-Smith

Head of Sixth Form

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