

## Year 12 – applying for university (2015 entry)



1. It's time to start thinking about which university courses you are interested in. You can already start searching for 2015 courses on the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)). It's important to
  - Check entry requirements – what A level grades/tariff points will you need? Do they accept the Welsh Bacc? Do you need a specific grade in GCSE Maths or English? Be realistic about your expected A level grades and choose at least one course which provides a back-up should you not do as well as you hope
  - Check the Unistats website to get useful information plus an objective, independent opinion on the universities and courses you are interested in (<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>)
  - Look through the bookshelf in the study room, there's a prospectus library and various guides for the university application process
  - Use your learning coaches! Ask them any questions you may have about your plans after Sixth Form. They have guided pupils through this process many, many times and are there to help and support you through your application process too
2. Start early
  - University applications begin from mid-September so the sooner you get started the better
  - Deadlines for **Oxford and Cambridge** or courses in **medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science** are in **early October**
3. Writing your Personal Statement
  - This is one of the most time-consuming parts of the application process so don't leave it until the last minute!
  - If it's a competitive course to get onto then you'll need to make yourself stand out from the crowd. You need to emphasise why you want to study that subject, evidence of your interest in it, your personal qualities and experience, your suitability, your skills etc. (*"The strongest applicants are those who can link their extra-curricular activities to their proposed course of study."* UG Admissions, University of Warwick.)
  - Get as much input and advice as you can from your learning coach, you'll need to write a few drafts and ask them to check it for you
  - Spelling, grammar and punctuation are very important too. Don't stand out for the wrong reasons!

4. Go to Open Days and University events
  - This is the best way to choose which university you'll put as your first choice once your offers start to come in
  - Meet staff and students and get to know whether that course/university really is for you or not
5. Use the UCAS website
  - It has lots of resources about courses, gap year options and short, helpful videos to help with the application process
6. Have a plan!
  - Even if you're not sure about whether you want to go to university or not you should still apply (we all need a Plan B!)
  - It's important to keep your options open and to put yourself in the best possible position while you can, that way you'll have more choices after Sixth Form
  - A plan will help you stay focused and give you something to aim for, this is key during Year 13
  - Make yourself responsible for your studies and for your decisions – welcome to the real world!