

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS SIXTH FORM



**Towards
Higher
Education**

THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

- **April – July 2016**
 - Reflect on choices; research universities & courses; make firm decisions.
- **July – September 2016**
 - Make visits to universities; complete a draft personal statement
- **September – November 2016**
 - Complete and submit a UCAS application
- **November 2016– April 2017**
 - Interviews and responses from universities
- **December 2016**
 - Information evening on grants & finance



UCAS

- University &
- Colleges
- Admissions
- Service

www.ucas.com

CAN YOU GUESS THE FOLLOWING...?

UCAS 2014

Dentistry Law Medicine
Veterinary Sciences

Course	Applications	Acceptances
	9,029	1,020
	82,489	7,805
	98,545	18,026
	11,704	1,195

AND THE ANSWERS...

Course	Applications	Acceptances
Veterinary Sciences	9,029	1,020
Medicine	82,489	7,805
Law	98,545	18,026
Dentistry	11,704	1,195

WHEN CHOOSING A COURSE

- ...they should gauge their **proven ability**...
 - GCSE grades
 - Current AS performance
- ...against their **potential**.
 - Predicted grades
 - Is their 'learning ceiling' high enough?

WHEN CHOOSING A COURSE

- ...evaluate their ambitions
(or decide what they are!)
- ...research courses
 - look beyond the familiar subject titles
- ...make use of school careers, the Connexions service & other guidance.

Don't aim for pie in the sky
- be realistic!

PREDICTED GRADES

- The students make their own predicted grades.... They need to make this year count!!
- Generated in the first week of Year 13
 - Using AS performance.
 - **Predicted grades are the same as AS Level grades**

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

- We allow each student up to **three** pre-application visits in school time.
- Advance permission must be sought from their Head of Year via an open day/interview request form, available in the Sixth Form office.

WWW.OPENDAYS.COM

opendays.com
university and college open days

Former students
include Katy B and
James Blake

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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UEA University of East Anglia

[5-Jul Open Day](#)

UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON

[20-Apr Open Day](#)

University of Roehampton
London
[13-Jul Open Day](#)

Plumpton College
[11-May Open Day](#)

UEA University of East Anglia

[22-Jun Open Day](#)



Opendays.com - the university and college open day directory

> search

Search to find out all that you need to know about open days at the university or college of your choice

enter institution name

Search

> calendar

Alternatively, browse the [university and college open day calendar](#)

> advice

Want to know what goes on at open days? Check out the [advice](#) section for helpful tips and advice

> top question



What About Fees & Financing?
[Click here to find out...](#)

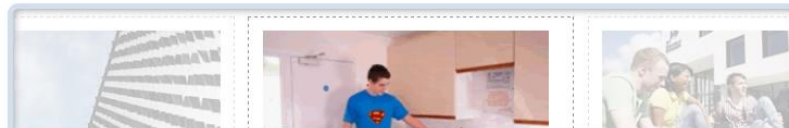
University of Glasgow

13-Jun Open Day

If you are thinking about studying at the University of Glasgow, coming to our Open Day offers a unique and exciting opportunity to absorb the atmosphere at one of the UK's top universities whilst experiencing a taste of student life in Scotland's largest and most vibrant city.

Explore our award winning campus and facilities, meet current students and academic staff, find out all about student life and our excellent student services and facilities, participate in a wide range of talks, tours and activities, and gather information on all our courses and degree options.

To find out more and to register, check our



Browse the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days

BROWSE CALENDAR: [JAN](#) [FEB](#) [MAR](#) [APR](#) [MAY](#) [JUN](#) [JUL](#) [AUG](#) [SEP](#) [OCT](#) [NOV](#) [DEC](#)

April 2013							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
1	Regents College London	Edge Hill University University of St Andrews		Richmond, the American International University		7	
8 Calendar	City University London	Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College Buckinghamshire New University Kingston University University of St Andrews Writtle College	Kingston University University of Cambridge - Churchill College	University of Cambridge - Churchill College	Buckinghamshire New University University of Derby University of Greenwich	14	
15	Capel Manor College Coventry University London Campus	Capel Manor College Institute of Education, University of London Norton Radstock College Plymouth University University of Cambridge - Trinity Hall	Camberwell College of Arts Capel Manor College De Montfort University  Leeds City College London South Bank University Richmond, the American International University	18 Askham Bryan College Capel Manor College University of Brighton	19	20 London Metropolitan University Norton Radstock College Plymouth University Reaseheath College University Campus Suffolk University of Bolton University of Cambridge - Corpus Christi College	21

PRE-UCAS FORM

- GCSE grades
- AS/A Level target & predicted grades
- Five university courses
- Comments on stated intentions from subject staff, tutor and careers staff
- Parental signature

PRE-UCAS FORM

Complete the form in order as printed.

Ask your teachers to discuss their views with you and provide written comments.
Unfavourable comments may mean that you should be prepared to start afresh.

Name

Tutor
Group

Tutor

GCSE GRADES

Mathematics

English Language

English Literature

A LEVEL SUBJECTS

including AS Level grade (G) & status (S) - i.e. whether continuing (✓ or X) or resitting (R)

SUBJECT

G

S

(iii)

(i)

(iv)

(ii)

(v)

DEGREE
COURSE
CHOICES

UNIVERSITY /
INSTITUTION

COURSE
TITLE

COURSE
CODE

POINTS / GRADES
REQUIRED

1

with likely

2

PRE-UCAS FORM

- Once choices are made, the Pre-UCAS form is discussed with teachers, Mr Peek and form tutor to ensure that the proposed applications are appropriate.
- Must be completed and handed to Sixth Form Admin office by October half term at the latest (21st October 2016)
- Applications are then made via the UCAS online 'Apply' website

UCAS 'APPLY'

- UCAS 'Apply' enables students to compile their applications online. The school then tracks the application process and adds the school reference.
- Once each application is completed, the school forwards it directly to UCAS at the click of a mouse.

UCAS APPLICATION

- Investigate courses carefully
- Register with UCAS online
- Prepare the personal statement
- Meanwhile the school reference material is compiled
- Complete the online application

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- The opportunity they have to sell themselves to their prospective university
- A statement of their suitability for and interest in the course
- What can they do now to prepare?
 - Engage in wider reading (including watching online lectures, listening to podcasts, taking short online courses - MOOCs)
 - Relevant visits e.g. museums/exhibitions
 - Work experience (necessary for vocational courses)
 - Go beyond their current learning – is there something they're interested in that they'd like to find out more about? Then they should do it!

THE REFERENCE

- The opportunity the school has to sell the student to their prospective university – but we can't lie!
- All subject tutors contribute to the reference (including AS tutors) and their form tutor or Miss Kelleway compiles it into a finished piece.
- What do we comment on?
 - Academic suitability
 - The interest they have shown in their chosen subject
 - The range of study skills they have shown us
 - Personal qualities that make them suitable for university study and wider life

UCAS APPLICATION

- Choose **five** universities
- Make sure one or two choices have significantly lower grade requirements than others.
- Once all offers are in from universities, UCAS asks you to narrow the choice down to **two**.

UCAS APPLICATION

These should comprise

- One **FIRM** choice
 - the one the student really wants;
- One **INSURANCE** choice
 - a lower offer, just in case the grades don't work out.

INFORMATION ABOUT OFFERS

- Many leading universities use A Level grades when making their offers. Others use UCAS points.
- The UCAS website records every available university course in the UK.

THE UCAS TARIFF

- **A Level**

- A* = 56 pts
- A = 48 pts
- B = 40 pts
- C = 32 pts
- D = 24pts
- E = 16 pts

- **AS Level**

- A = 29 pts
- B = 16 pts
- C = 12 pts
- D = 10 pts
- E = 6 pts

- **EPQ**

- A* = 28 pts
- A = 24 pts
- B = 20 pts
- C = 16 pts
- D = 12 pts
- E = 8 pts

ONLINE AT UCAS: EVERY VERSION OF EVERY COURSE AT EVERY UNIVERSITY!

all Engineering courses

or Engineering on its own as a single subject

or see more specific subject areas choose from the list below :

Acoustics Engineering
Aeromechanical Systems Engineering
Aeronautical Engineering
Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace Engineering Technology
Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering
Aerospace Systems Engineering
Agricultural Engineering
Air Transport Engineering
Air Transport Engineering Management
Architectural Engineering
Audio Engineering
Audio Systems Engineering
Audiotechnology
Automotive Electronic Engineering
Automotive Engineering
Automotive Engineering Design
Automotive Systems Engineering
Avionics Systems Engineering
Biochemical Engineering
Biology Process Engineering
Biomechanical Engineering Studies
Biomechanical Engineering Technology
Biomedical Engineering
Bioprocessing Engineering
Broadcast Engineering
Building Engineering
Building Environmental Engineering
Building Services Engineering
Business Engineering
Business Systems Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Chemical Process Engineering
Chemistry Systems Engineering
Civil Engineering
Civil Engineering Commercial Management
Civil Engineering Construction
Civil Engineering Design
Civil Engineering Geology
Civil Engineering Management
Civil Engineering Studies
Civil Engineering Surveying
Civil Engineering Systems
Clinical Engineering
Clothing Engineering
Coastal Engineering
Combined Engineering Studies
Communications Engineering
Communications Engineering Systems
Communications Systems Engineering
Composite Materials Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Integrated Engineering
Computer Systems Engineering
Computer-aided Engineering
Computer-aided Engineering Design
Computing Software Engineering

Computing Software Engineering
Construction Engineering
Construction Engineering Management
Control Engineering
Control Systems Engineering
Design Engineering
Digital Broadcasting Engineering
Digital Systems Engineering
Earth Resource Engineering
Electromechanical Engineering
Electronic / Electrical
Electronic / Electrical Engineering
Electronic Communications Engineering
Electronic Engineering Management
Electronic Engineering Systems
Electronic Power Engineering
Electronic Product Engineering
Electronic Systems Engineering
Embedded Electronic Systems Engineering
Energy Engineering
Energy Resource Engineering
Engineering Design
Engineering Geology
Engineering Management
Engineering Manufacturing
Engineering Mathematics
Engineering Physics
Engineering Product Design
Engineering Product Development
Engineering Science
Engineering Systems
Engineering Technology
Environmental Chemical Engineering
Environmental Civil Engineering
Environmental Energy Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Environmental Engineering Design
Environmental Engineering Technology
Environmental Materials Engineering
Environmental Systems Engineering
Ergonomics
European Engineering Studies
Fire Engineering
Fire Safety Engineering
Forensic Engineering
General Engineering
Geology Engineering
Geotechnical Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Information Engineering
Information Systems Engineering
Information Technology Engineering
Instrumentation Engineering
Integrated Circuit Engineering

Information Systems Engineering
Information Technology Engineering
Instrumentation Engineering
Integrated Circuit Engineering
Integrated Electronic Systems Engineering
Integrated Engineering
Internet Engineering
Internet Systems Engineering
Management Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering Management
Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Manufacturing Systems Engineering
Marine Engineering
Maritime Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mathematical Engineering
Mechanical Design Engineering
Mechanical Electronic Systems Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering Design
Mechanical Systems Engineering
Mechatronics Engineering
Media Engineering
Medical Electronics
Medical Engineering
Medical Systems Engineering
Microelectronic Engineering
Microelectronic Systems Engineering
Minerals Engineering
Mining Engineering
Motor Vehicle Engineering
Motorcycle Engineering
Motorsports Engineering
Music Systems Engineering
Networks Engineering
Ocean Engineering
Offshore Engineering
Optoelectronic Engineering
Performance Engineering
Petroleum Engineering
Photonic Engineering
Plant Engineering
Polymer Engineering
Power Engineering
Process Engineering
Product Design Engineering
Product Engineering
Production Engineering
Project Engineering
Quarry Engineering
Radio Engineering

Radio Engineering
Railway Infrastructure Engineering
Robot Engineering
Satellite Engineering
Small Crafts Engineering
Software Engineering
Software Engineering Management
Software Engineering Optical
Sound Engineering
Sport Engineering
Structural Engineering
Systems Engineering
Technology
Telecommunications Engineering
Transport Engineering

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THEY NEED TO GET ON WITH IT!

- We process more than 175 applications each year.
- Once the student's job is done we'll need 2-3 weeks to complete our bit.
- **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!**
- **School Deadline:**

30th November

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE (‘OXBRIDGE’)

- Not for everybody. Needs careful reflection and investigation.
- Top-notch GCSEs? Estimated grades AAAA at AS / A*AA at A2?

Then maybe.

- Regular support tutorials
- Mock interviews

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CANDIDATE?

- Proven academic ability:

Student	GCSE profile	AS profile
1 (Oxf)	A*x8, Ax4, Bx1	Ax5
2 (Oxf)	A*x12, Ax1	Ax5
3 (Cam)	A*x10, Ax4	Ax5
4 (Cam)	A*x10, Ax1	Ax5
5 (Cam)	A*x12, Ax1	Ax4, Bx1
6 (Cam)	A*x5, Ax8	Ax5

- Genuine interest in their subject and thirst for knowledge
- 'Teachability' – are they prepared to see things differently?

OFFERS AND REJECTIONS

- Pass grades: **A*** (A Level only) **ABCDE**
- Fail grade: **U** (= 'unclassified')
- Offers may be conditional (something the student has to do to be accepted) or unconditional

OFFERS AND REJECTIONS

Conditional offer

- **Either minimum grades (e.g. **AAB**, **BCC**)**
- **Or minimum UCAS points score (e.g. **140 UCAS points**)**

Unconditional offer

- **Very rare but they do happen! The student has to make their application as attractive as possible...**



MORE...

- **The GAP year**
- **Interviews**
 - Student conferences
 - Formal interviews
 - Post-offer interviews
- **The art of being thick-skinned**



THE FINANCIAL BURDEN

**The Student Loan covers both
tuition fees**

and

living costs

(More on this next December)

DON'T FORGET TO USE FRONTER...

The screenshot shows the Fronter website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'fronter' and menu items: 'Rooms', 'Personal tools', 'Today', 'SHSB Entrance.', 'SET', 'LA', 'Events', 'Year 12 Subjects...', and 'UCAS'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'You are here: UCAS > Teacher Resources'. A left-hand sidebar contains icons for 'Frontpage', 'Room', 'Members', 'Teacher Resources', 'Student Resources', 'Forum', 'Hand-in', 'Test', and 'Portfolio'. The main content area features a large green banner with the text 'The UCAS Room'. Below the banner is a 'Useful links' section with the following items:

- UCAS.com** - The homepage for all your application needs!
- Unistats** - The government-funded website with all the latest data regarding each course at every UK-based university. Definitely worth a look as you explore your options
- Student Finance England** - information on student finance options
- Student Finance Application** - register for student finance here
- What Uni?: Open Day Calendar** - a comprehensive calendar of all the university open days, in one place
- Prospects: Student Life** - tips and guides to find out more about the city you're studying in, how to approach student life, budgeting...etc
- Suggested Reading** - Although this is produced by the University of Oxford, it is an excellent resource for ANYONE looking to boost their wider reading in preparation for their application.

Below the links section are three purple boxes with text:

- Student Finance for 2013/14 - It's time for new students to apply!!**
New students starting a full-time course at university or college in 2013/14 can **apply now** for their student finance.
You don't have to have a confirmed place - you can use your first choice of course and change it online at a later date if you need to.
The deadline for completed applications is 31 May 2013.
- CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS or BURSARIES?**
An increasing number of universities, companies and organisations are offering scholarships to widen access to university and yet many applicants are not made aware of these until after they have made their choices.
A new online resource - The Scholarship Hub - aims to provide a comprehensive database of scholarships, grants and bursaries available to UK undergraduates. The site is updated weekly and focuses solely on funding for UK students. You can register for updates in your preferred subject or at your preferred university.
- Confused by Student Finance?**
Is the **cost** of university putting you off applying?
Watch **this useful video** which will explain the ins-and-outs of the costs of universities, and how it IS still affordable.



THEIR FUTURE IS AT STAKE

A good UCAS application is the most important piece of homework any student will do in 2016.

**Your encouragement is vital –
thank you!**