

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS SIXTH FORM



**Towards
Higher
Education**

THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

- **April – July 2017**
 - Reflect on choices; research universities & courses; make firm decisions.
- **July – September 2017**
 - Make visits to universities; complete a draft personal statement
- **September – November 2017**
 - Complete and submit a UCAS application
- **November 2017– April 2018**
 - Interviews and responses from universities
- **January 2018**
 - Information evening on grants & finance



UCAS

- University &
- Colleges
- Admissions
- Service

www.ucas.com

UCAS APPLICATION

- **All students apply via UCAS to every university course in the country, exceptions being private colleges and conservatoires**
- **Students who wish to study abroad do not use UCAS**
- **They are allowed to apply for up to 5 courses**
- **They will be expected to firmly accept 1 offer, and have another offer as their “insurance” choice**
- **They should ensure their choices reflect their predicted grades and allow for some flexibility**

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

- Is this the right university for them and their aspirations?
- Do they want to live at home/away from home?
- Do they want to live on a campus?
- Does the university offer the course they want?
- What are the employability rates of that university post degree?
- How is the teaching quality rated?
- RESEARCH USING WEBSITES SUCH AS :
- <http://university.which.co.uk>
- www.ucas.com

RUSSELL GROUP

- The Russell Group is made up of 24 world-class universities which receive the majority of the research funding in the UK. These institutions share a strong reputation for teaching and learning and attract staff and students from around the world
- For many students, a Russell Group institution will be the right option, but assuming that it is the only option worth considering can be limiting.

The UK university landscape is diverse, ranging from tiny, specialist colleges to sprawling city campuses; from universities known for academic excellence to those known for impressive employer links. There should be something for everyone, but it is a question of finding the right fit.

RUSSELL GROUP OR NOT?

RUSSELL GROUP

Strong reputation

Well funded

High status

Found at the top of league tables

NON RUSSELL GROUP

Can have better “customer satisfaction” ratings

May be more emphasis on work experience and building industry contacts

May be better for creative courses/healthcare

The Times University of the Year 2016 (University of Surrey) is not from the Russell Group

CHOOSING A COURSE

consider **proven ability**...

- GCSE grades
- Current AS performance

• ...as well as their **potential**.

- Predicted grades
- Is their 'learning ceiling' high enough?

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!

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

OPEN DAYS

- **Would you live for 3 years somewhere you had never visited?**
- **Fantastic way to see how the university works and to get a “feel” for it**
- **A chance to take part in subject lectures, hear speakers talk about life at their university, take tours of the college, speak to current students and view accommodation**

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

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

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

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

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

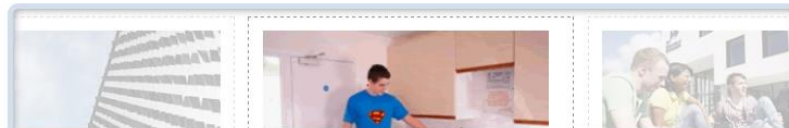
University of Glasgow

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



THE PROCESS

- In September we will issue predicted grades and a Pre- UCAS form.
- The students make their own predicted grades.... They need to make this year count!!
- Predicted grades are the SAME as AS Level grades

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

2

with likely

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 Mrs Hamilton by October half term at the latest (20th October 2017)
- Choices can then be added to the online UCAS application

UCAS 'APPLY'

- All students will start their online UCAS application in school during June 2017 with their personal details and GCSE results.
- Once their Pre-UCAS form has been completed, they will be able to add their 5 choices, as well as their AS Level results.
- They need to write their personal statement which once complete is added to the online application

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- The opportunity they have to sell themselves to their prospective university within 4000 characters!
- 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 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

COMPLETING THE PROCESS

- **Once all details are complete on the online form (including personal statement), the student pays their fee to UCAS (currently £23) and sends their application.**
- **This application is then received by the school, where we double check it for errors, add our reference and send it off to UCAS on the students behalf.**
- **The student will then get an email confirming receipt of the application, and from then on UCAS will keep in touch with them via email concerning correspondence from the universities.**

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

- We process more than 180 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:**

27th November

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE (‘OXBRIDGE’), MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY

- **Not for everybody. Needs careful reflection and investigation.**
- **Early deadline date of 15th October**
- **Pre-admission tests for Oxbridge**
- **We will offer regular support tutorials, lunchtime preparation sessions, mock interviews.**

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OXBRIDGE CANDIDATE?

- **Academic ability and potential**
- **GCSE'S at A* and A, and AS Levels at A**
- **Genuine interest in their subject and thirst for knowledge**
- **'Teachability' – are they prepared to see things differently?**

TYPES OF REPLY

Universities will make their replies via UCAS.
These could be:

Conditional- where you have to achieve something to meet requirements (ie AAB or 136 UCAS points)

Unconditional- where the university will accept you without you having to fulfil any requirements. These are rare, and given to students whose application has impressed.

TYPES OF REPLY

- **Withdrawn-** a course choice has been removed, either by the university or the student
- **Unsuccessful-** You have not been offered a place on this course

ACCEPTING OFFERS

Once all offers have been received, students will need to accept one as their:

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



FUNDING

**Student Finance England
offers loans to cover both
tuition fees**

and

living costs

(More on this next January)

THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

A good UCAS application is the most important piece of homework any student will do in 2017.

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