



# Ballakermeen Sixth Form

Applying to university for 2024

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# Why apply to university in 2023-24?

- Increase their knowledge
- Gain independence and freedom
- Gain an internationally recognised qualification
- Develop essential skills for career and working life
- Increased earning potential
  - The starting salary for graduates employed by big businesses and graduate schemes in 2022 was **£30,921**, the mean salary for graduates is reported as **£24,979**.
  - Statistics from the Department of Education show that the median annual salary for graduates over their lifetime is **£34,000**. The corresponding figure for non-graduates is **£25,000**.
- Impact of the pandemic on the employment market





# Common dilemmas

And how to deal with them





# I am not certain if I want to go...

- They need to think seriously about whether to go at all. They have to be even more committed than they are to A-Levels. University is not the right choice for everyone, nor is it a necessity.
- Students could apply anyway, this would get them into the system. If they decide they wish to apply after January 31st 2024 (6pm) it is more difficult.
- Deferred entry – a good idea?





# I don't really know what I want to study.....

- This is fine! There are a lot of courses and options. It can be overwhelming.
- Plan of action:
  1. Decide on the general subject area
  2. Start to look at the specifics of the courses
  3. Make sure they meet the entrance requirements





# I don't know what career I want to pursue...

- Again, this is fine!
- Are they certain that university is for them?
- Like before, they should look at strengths and favourite subjects and research the different combinations of subjects that they can combine.
- Is there an employment-related training route?
- They should not 'fall into' the idea of university





# I don't understand what any of the terms mean!

- Honours or Ordinary?
- The classification of degree you are awarded:
  - First-Class, Upper Second-Class, Lower Second-Class, Third-Class
- In Scotland Students will study for four years and gain a Masters degree, but this is still an undergraduate degree and is equivalent to an English BA.
- Degrees with foundation years – be careful





# I don't understand the terms used!

- Single Honours – one subject, possibly with a subsidiary/elective subject
- Joint Honours – two subjects, French and Spanish or French with Spanish
- Combined Honours – usually three subjects that becomes two in Year 2 – leads to Joint Honours.

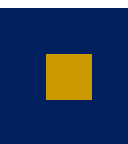






# I still don't get it!!!

- BA – Bachelor of Arts
- BSc – Bachelor of Science (some courses can be both)
- BEng – Bachelor of Engineering
- BMus – Bachelor of Music
- LLB – Bachelor of Laws
- MSc
- Sandwich





# I don't know where I want to go!

- Try to think wider than 'closer to home' as the initial focus
- City universities (Liverpool, LJMU, Hope Manchester, MMU, Leeds, Leeds Beckett)
- Campus universities (York, Keele)
- Smaller towns (Lancaster, Lincoln, Preston)
- Consider accommodation possibilities at each place
- They will know if it suits them when you get there – visit if possible





# Where is the best place to go??

- There's no single answer.
- 'Russell Group' universities pay into a research group – this does not mean that they are the 'best'.
- Each young person will be looking for particular attributes in an institution – that is what matters.
- Perceptions of universities change yearly, and each university has its own strengths.





# What to do, and by when...

- **July 21<sup>st</sup>** Personal Statement draft to tutor
- **September 5<sup>th</sup>** applications open for 2024
- **October 16<sup>th</sup>** for Oxbridge and Medicine/Dentistry/Vet. Sciences
- **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** Internal deadline applications through school
- ***September onwards: Receive offers (Conditional or Unconditional)***
  - *Go to Visit/Open Days or interviews*
- **April – June 2024:** Make two final choices: Conditional Firm and Conditional Insurance. It is essential that you discuss this with Mrs Boyd
- **April onwards:** Fill in forms requesting accommodation
- **April/May:** Student Awards talk for parents and students
- **April onwards:** Fill in forms requesting finance from Department of Education
- **C.17th August:** Results Day: places finalised. Please do not be on holiday.





# The application process

- Applications are made via UCAS, at a cost of £27.50 per applicant
- Students can apply for 5 courses (4 for medicine/dentistry)
- We use UCAS Apply, students apply online and can work on the application from anywhere
- The form contains student's personal details and course choices
- There is also a personal statement. This is by far the most important part of the form.
- We then add a reference, giving predicted grades and our comments on the student's suitability for the course.





# Predicted grades and the academic reference

Points to consider





# Changes to the academic reference

- Section 2: If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.
  - *Individual circumstances*
  - *Context*
  - *Factors affecting the study load*
  - *Support suggestions to help students thrive at university*
- We have to declare whether any of the circumstances outlined in have already been considered by the student's examination boards or awarding organisations for the qualifications taken.
- Still have 4000 characters





# Predicted grades – what are they?

- A UCAS Predicted Grade is the grade of qualification that Ballakermeen High School believes a student is likely to achieve in positive circumstances.
  - These grades are used by students to identify suitable courses and institution that they wish to apply to.
  - Once students submit their application form, the predicted grades are then used by universities and colleges, as part of the admissions process, to help them understand an applicant's potential.
- 
- **Professional judgement**
  - **Data driven**
  - **Objective**
  - **Disregard external factors i.e. what a students 'needs' for a course**







# Predicted grades – figures from UCAS

- This year, 35.6% of all 18-year-olds in the UK have been accepted into universities - the lowest proportion since 2019.
- The UCAS data on 18-year-old applicants from the UK also shows:
  - 204,730 got into their first choice of university, down from 217,380 in 2022
  - 26,160 were accepted into their insurance choice, up from 22,520 last year
  - 38,140 were accepted on to a course through clearing, up from 33,280 in 2022 - and more than 15% higher than before the pandemic
- On average, 18 year old UK students studying A levels are predicted 2.35 A level grades above their achieved grades. Using UCAS data across all applicants -79% of individuals had predicted grades which were overpredicted, and 8% were underpredicted





# Predicted grades – risks of ‘appealing’

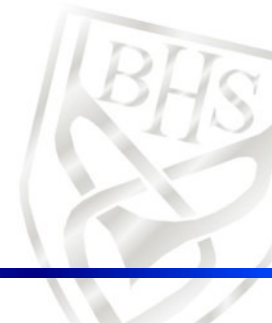
- An applicant may receive an offer(s) they are unlikely to meet, leading to disappointment on results day.
- Applicants might gain admission to a course which they cannot succeed in – choosing the right course is a very important decision as they will be investing a lot of time, money, and effort, and it can be difficult to change.
- If a university or college has reason to believe that a predicted grade is grossly inaccurate, they retain the right to withdraw any offers





**37 STUDENTS DIDN'T GET  
MORE THAN 80 UCAS  
POINTS  
(equivalent of CDD)**

**25% of the Year**





# Post application





# How are offers made?

- In grades: 'Subject to achieving ABB at A Level'
- There may be a specification about a grade you must achieve in a certain subject e.g. 'including at least 40 points from A2 Biology'
- In 'UCAS points' (based upon potential A Level/BTEC results).
  - A\*/D\* = 56 points
  - A/D = 48 points
  - B = 40 points
  - C/M = 32 points
  - D = 24 points
  - E/P = 16 points
- AS grades have 40% of A Level value, the Extended Project Qualification has 50% of A Level value

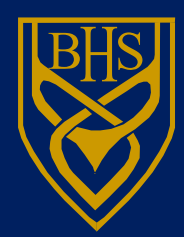




# Visiting Universities.....

- Open days
- Visit Days
- Visit if you are in the area, bearing in mind that you may not get the true flavour of the place if it is out of term time





# Where to find information

- UCAS.com
- Universities' websites
- Prospectuses
- Virgin Alternative Guide, newspapers' 'League Tables'
- Brian Heap's 'Degree Course Offers'
- Sites such as 'unistats'
- Get in touch with admissions tutors by email or telephone





# How much does it all cost?

*All subject to change*

- Must get 80 UCAS tariff points
- Means tested maintenance grants available, but few qualify.
- Student borrows £2500 PA from the Government to pay towards fees.
- If parents'/carers' joint income is in excess of £112,000, you will pay an additional contribution towards your fees up to £6750 per student
- Look at accommodation costs
- Courses available on Island? Will you be restricted to studying here? – University of Chester year or transfer later?
- Part time jobs - SAVE MONEY NOW.







# What will be paid for?

- Fees up to £9,250, at any UK public institution
- Private institutions/institutions abroad at the DESC's discretion, up to £9,250
- 'Certain courses, such as clinical medicine, clinical dentistry, veterinary science and some conservatoire music courses will be eligible for support in excess of the normal upper limit as these courses have higher tuition fees. College fees will also be funded in addition to the maximum tuition fees limit but, for the purposes of calculating the means-tested contribution, these will be included with the tuition fees' – Student Award 2023
- [studentawards@gov.im](mailto:studentawards@gov.im)





# How can you help us?

- Discuss the application, but let your young person make the ultimate decisions about where and what.
- Please avoid judging the course or institution
- Teach them to cook simple meals and how to use a washing machine.
- Be prepared to deal with some homesickness.
- Support your young person in making appropriate selections of FIRM and INSURANCE institutions

