

## Year 12 Future Planning

This booklet has been designed to help you with your choices after Sixth Form. Please aim to have completed as much research as you can by the end of the Easter holidays, as the summer term will be focused on helping you prepare your university and apprenticeship applications and you will need to know what you are applying for. Although you don't need to do everything suggested here, the more you do, the better prepared you will be.

*Although this booklet gives you a good overview of the key opportunities available, it is really important to regularly check your school emails, as new opportunities arise all the time.*

### Step 1: Figuring out what to do

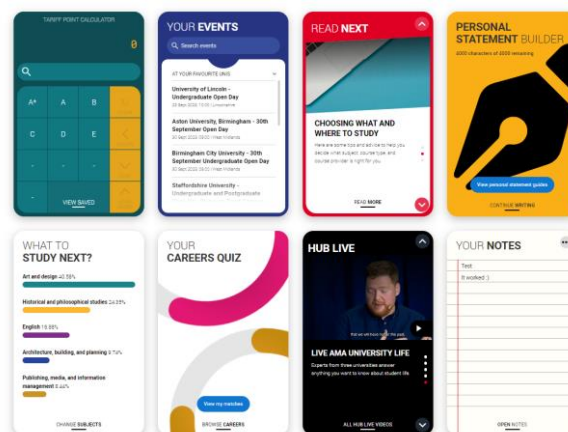


A great tool that everyone can use to explore their options is the [UCAS Hub](https://ucas.com/hub).

This is suitable for those considering university and apprenticeships too. Everyone should create an account and start using the UCAS Hub now.





The Hub allows you to:

- take a careers quiz
- search apprenticeships
- explore courses and apprenticeships related to your interests
  - keep updated with key dates and deadlines
- get invites to virtual workshops and Q and A sessions with expert advice
  - delve into guides on different universities and locations
  - chat to students
- complete your UCAS application



## What else can I do to help me decide on my pathway after Sixth Form?

If you have a firm career aspiration in mind already, then you can skip this stage and move onto Step 3. For everyone else, please take a look at some of the suggestions below to help you research your career options.

| General   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Use the school's <a href="#">Careers Website</a> for lots of general career advice or to <a href="#">explore careers related to your interests</a></p>   | <p>Completely lost?<br/>Try a quiz that matches your skills and interests to suitable careers.</p> <p><a href="#">What job would suit me?</a></p> <p><a href="#">Skills Assessment</a><br/>(this one takes a while but gives detailed results)</p> | <p>Unsure whether to go to University or to pursue an Apprenticeship?</p> <p><a href="#">Uni vs Apprenticeships</a><br/><a href="#">UCAS Advice</a></p>                                     | <p>Interested in a <a href="#">gap year</a>?</p>  |
| <p>Log into your <a href="#">Start Profile</a> account (ask Miss Killick if you need your log-in details).</p> <p>Use the 'Explore Careers' section for detailed information on a range of different jobs/industries.</p> <p>You can also use 'My Profile' to rate your interests and skills and find careers related to these.</p>  |  | <p>Need to know more about a specific career you have in mind?</p> <p>The <a href="#">Prospects</a> and <a href="#">National Careers Service</a> websites have job profiles to explore.</p> |  |
| University  |  |   |  |
| <p>Get <a href="#">university course suggestions</a> based on the A levels/BTECS you are currently studying.</p>  | <p><a href="#">Explore different careers and courses</a> in broad subject areas on the UCAS website.</p>   |   |  |
| <p>Still unsure what to study? Try a <a href="#">university taster lecture</a> to see what it might be like studying that subject at Degree level.</p>  | <p>Once you know what you might want to study, look at which UK universities offer it using the <a href="#">UCAS Course Search tool</a>. You can filter by different things such as location and predicted grades.</p>                             |   |  |
| Apprenticeships   |  |   |  |
| <p>Get <a href="#">apprenticeship suggestions</a> based on the A levels/BTECS you are currently studying.</p>   | <p>Explore apprenticeship advice from the official <a href="#">government website</a>.</p>   | <p>Take a look at the support from <a href="#">Not Going to Uni</a></p>   |  |
| <div><p>Take part in vital opportunities, including <a href="#">webinars and work experience</a>, to learn more about working for some of the biggest employers in the country with the Young Professionals website.</p></div>   |  |   |  |

**Still unsure? Request a careers interview by emailing Miss Killick.**

### **Step 3: Narrowing down your options**

When you know what type of course you wish to study or what type of apprenticeship you wish to pursue, it is then time to start narrowing down your options.

#### **University**

If you are applying to university, you can only make one application but you can choose up to 5 different university courses. There is a set deadline to send off your application in October.

Open days are a great way to choose which university is for you. You can use the [UCAS Website](#) to search for Open Days or this [Open Day Calendar](#). Most of these will take place in the summer, but there are [virtual tours](#) in the meantime.

*Many of these will take place at the weekend, but if not, please ensure you submit an absence request form, with plenty of notice.*

When you are searching for courses you like on the [UCAS website](#), scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the 'visit our course page' link. This will take you to the university website where there will be lots more information, including a summary of the topics and modules you will be studying.



#### **Apprenticeships**

For apprenticeships, you will need to regularly check for opportunities, as there aren't set dates like there will be with the university application process. You can however apply to as many apprenticeships as you want. And of course, you can apply for both university and apprenticeships.

Most employers will advertise their apprenticeship vacancies [here](#). It is a good idea to create an account. Always check the start date of the apprenticeship, as this must be for after you have graduated from the Sixth Form. Filter by 'Higher' or 'Degree' level.

You can also search for vacancies on the [Not Going to Uni website](#), which allows you to search by sector.

For degree level apprenticeships, it gets a bit trickier. For most opportunities you apply directly through the employer; for a limited number you have to apply to the university and make it one of your 5 chosen courses on your university application. This is why research is so vital. Opportunities will be advertised through the National Apprenticeship website (above) but also on the [UCAS website](#).

If you are interested in top apprenticeship opportunities at some of the biggest companies in the UK, along with excellent advice on the application process, sign up to [Young Professionals](#).

## Step 4: Build up your Super-Curricular activities

Now that you know what you want to do, you need to take steps to really sell yourself in your application.

**Super-Curricular activities** are anything you do beyond your studies that directly relate to the course you are applying for e.g. if you are applying to university for a physics course then, in your personal statement, you should talk about the physics taster lecture you attended and what you learnt from it, or the wider reading you enjoyed.

**Extra-Curricular activities** are anything extra to your studies that don't relate directly your course, such as being a Prefect or DoF. Employers and apprenticeship providers will value the extra-curricular activities more than universities will. These are still important for the end of your university statement, but universities are more interested in your subject knowledge. With that in mind, try to complete at least three of the options below.



| Super-Curricular Activities  |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Wider Reading                | Books or articles  |
| Wider Watching               | <a href="#">University taster lectures</a> , documentaries or <a href="#">TED Talks</a> .  |
| Wider Listening              | Educational Podcasts   |
| <a href="#">MOOC Courses</a> | These are mini online university courses, of differing lengths, that you can work around your studies. It may be a good idea for the summer holidays when you have a little more time to explore them.<br><i>You don't have to pay for the certificate at the end, just take a screen shot of the final screen, where it says the course is complete, as evidence.</i> |
| Digital Resource Hub         | The <a href="#">Oxford Digital Resource Hub</a> has lots more super-curricular ideas.  |

## Work Experience

**Year 12 Work Experience Week takes place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

Work Experience is vital for every student to take part in (even if you can't secure something in the industry of your choice) as you get a taste of the workplace and can develop transferable skills that will help you in any future career.

If you haven't yet secured a placement, please ask your tutor for advice or drop into the Sixth Form Office. Remember it takes a lot of time and effort, so you will need to apply to multiple places, emailing, calling and sometimes even visiting in person.

There are also lots of virtual work experience placements available online. These often give you better access to your chosen industry, however you must still try to arrange a real work experience placement too. The following websites have lots of opportunities:



[Speakers for Schools](#)  
[Springpod](#)  
[Uptree](#)

*Please also keep checking your emails for more opportunities.*



## Step 5: Reflect on your experiences



It is important that you make brief notes when you take part in a super-curricular activity. In your personal statement you will need to reflect back on something interesting you learnt, and it needs to be something specific. Use the reflection templates below to make notes about your experiences that will support your applications.

| Reflecting on a super-curricular experience |  |
|---|--|
| What did you do?                            | <i>I read Robert Harris' Fatherland.</i>   |
| What did you learn?                         | <i>It hypothetically described the world if Axis powers had won World War Two.</i>   |
| Why did you find that interesting?          | <i>It led me to speculate the outcome if other historical events were changed; what if Khrushchev didn't back down from placing missiles in Cuba? What if the stock markets didn't collapse in 1929? The hypothetical outcomes are inconceivable but highly fascinating.</i> |

| Reflecting on work experience. Use the ABC Method. |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Activity   | What did you do?   | <i>I watched a doctor take blood from a patient who was scared of needles.</i>   |
| Benefit  | What did you learn?                                      | <i>I learnt the importance of patience, a smile and a calm, reassuring tone to your voice. The doctor stopped and took the time to explain the procedure carefully, which set the patient at ease.</i>   |
| Course   | Why is that relevant to the course you are applying for? | <i>As a future doctor, it is important that I am aware of how to interact with patients. Through observing this doctor on my virtual work placement, I decided I needed to practice some of these skills myself. In my role as Progress Mentor, I support younger pupils who are struggling with their workload and have applied the same tactics as the doctor when speaking with them, so they are comfortable sharing their concerns with me.</i> |

| Reflecting on an extra-curricular experience (more useful for apprenticeships or the end of your university personal statement). Use the PEER method |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Point  | What point are you trying to make.                           | <i>I have good communication skills.</i>   |
| Evidence   | Prove it with a specific example.                            | <i>I have developed my communication skills through Debate Club.</i>   |
| Expand   | Give more detail.  | <i>Being an avid member of the school's debate club, I have not only developed good communication skills by presenting my views in front of a large audience, but I have also listened to the opinions of others and learned how to respond thoughtfully and respectfully.</i> |
| Relevance  | How is this relevant to the job/course you are applying for? | <i>This skill will be invaluable as a nurse when interacting with patients who may be rude when feeling vulnerable.</i>  |



**If you need help or support, please send an email to Miss Killick.**