



# Stanborough School

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# Year 12 UCAS Information for Parents

The UCAS logo, consisting of the letters "UCAS" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is red, while the other letters are black. The logo is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

UCAS



## Parental Support

- The following UCAS guide has been sent to your son/daughter today.
- Our programme of support and guidance would normally be in full effect in school by now. We have delayed the dissemination of this information this year until now to allow students to adjust/cope with working from home and to allow them to fully prepare for their 'Open Book Assessments'.
- We are fully aware that parents/carers will be hugely invested in supporting your son/daughter throughout the process. We recognise that it is imperative that you are as appraised of the procedures as they are.
- On the following slides is the information that has been sent to them. Please see the next slide for links that provide specific guidance for parents/carers.
- We appreciate that the advice and guidance that you will provide will be invaluable; if school and home can work collaboratively, your son/daughter will be assured of making wise and judicious choices.



## **Parental Support**

[UCAS Parents' Evening presentation 2021](#)

[UCAS Advice for Parents/Carers](#)



## Post 18 Choices

- Throughout Year 12, students have been considering their Post 18 choices and one of those choices may be University.
- We have stressed to students that when selecting potential courses, they must consider predicted grades and their current performance in modules. Their predicted grades will be given based on all of the work that they have produced this year – they will be reviewed in September.
- It is imperative that students make realistic applications based on their predicted grades – it is likely that due to the events of this year, university entry will be much more competitive for the 2020-21 entry.
- A student is able to apply for 5 different degree courses, and this is undertaken directly through the UCAS website.



## Post 18 Choices – Open Days

- As you would expect, traditional Open Days are not being offered at present however many institutions are offering Virtual Open Days for those looking to join them in September 2021. We have encouraged students to search for Virtual Open Days on the UCAS website and register to join these events online.
- These will be useful in that both parents and students will be able to ask questions of admissions teams and subject specialists at universities and some may also offer the chance to join in talks and seminars of their own.
- All universities have websites and will also post a copy of their prospectus should students or parents require one.



## University Offers

- Once students have submitted their application, their 5 selected institutions will consider their application based on a variety of factors (GCSE results, A-level predictions, personal statement, school reference etc)
- Universities then will then make the following decisions – conditional offer, unconditional offer, contextual offer or rejection. Some universities or courses may have an additional stage of interview.
- Universities will make conditional offers in two ways : specific subject grades eg BCC, AAB or Tariff points eg. 112, 136 points.

*Tariff Points - 56 A\* 48 A 40 B 32 C 24 D 16 E*



## University Offers

- Once students have received decisions from all five of their choices, they will be asked to reply to your offers:
  - **Firm** acceptance of their first choice university: if that is an unconditional offer – the place is secured. If it is conditional - the place is theirs providing that they achieve the required grades. Thus, students will need a ‘back up’ choice should they not achieve their grades.
  - **Insurance** acceptance of their second choice university: they should choose an institution with a lower offer, albeit somewhere that they would still be happy to attend. If their results are lower than expected, they may still meet the conditions of the lower insurance choice.
- Decline any other – or all – offers. If they decide that they don’t want to take up any of their offers, or if they don’t receive any offers, they can apply to more courses one-by-one through UCAS Extra.
- Students may achieve more highly than expected and be curious about courses with higher entry requirements. They can see what is available through the Adjustment process.



## University Offers

- If students are holding conditional offers for university, they will have their places confirmed on A Level results day in mid-August.
- If students miss out on the exam grades that they needed to meet their conditional offer:
  - They may be offered a place on either their firm or their insurance choice following a review of their application by the universities.
  - They may be offered an alternative course by the university.
  - They may not secure a place at either their firm or insurance choice, but can search through Clearing to see which courses still have vacancies. Over 80,000 students were placed through Clearing in the 2019 cycle.





## UCAS

- UCAS is the electronic application system used by all universities in the UK.
- We have advised that all students should register with UCAS, even if they feel, at this stage, that they will pursue a different Post 18 option. It may be that during the Autumn term –they may change their mind.
- Apply 2021 has already gone live.
- They will need to input the school ‘buzzword’ to ensure that their application is linked to the school and we can track and support them throughout the process
- The school buzzword is ‘lemsfordlaneAL8’



## Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

- If students have a strong academic profile (GCSE grades / predicted A level grades) to apply for Oxbridge or other highly competitive universities – we would encourage them do so.
- If students are desirous of studying at a highly competitive university, it is imperative that they undertake significant additional reading beyond the scope of their A level programmes of study.
- Entrance examinations: for many subjects, Oxbridge applicants will have to sit tests as part of their application. Some tests can be taken in school, once a student is registered; others are taken at regional examination centres or on the day of interview. Though, it is the responsibility of the applicant to know which tests are required – we will support them.



## Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

- Clearly, these are highly competitive institutions thus will be applying very strict criteria for entry.
- Students will need a very strong exam record – they will expect virtually perfect GCSE scores. They seek students whose academic record places them in approximately the top 3% of the ability range nationally.
- They will need an exceptional school reference.
- They will need to exhibit an outstanding test performance and/or exceptional submitted written work.
- In both their Personal Statement and interview – students must demonstrate undoubted academic potential that encompasses an exceptional clarity of thought, imagination and intellectual flexibility.
- The deadline for Oxbridge applications is **15th October 2021**. Our internal deadline is **8<sup>th</sup> October**.



## Student Finance

- Certainly, no-one should be discouraged from attending university by the cost. A system of tuition fee loans means that students do not need to pay their tuition fees upfront. Means-tested maintenance loans are also available to cover some of their living costs whilst at university. All loans are only repaid when and if students are employed and earning a certain amount.

[Student Finance England support](#)

[Gov.uk-student finance](#)

[NUS Advice on Budgeting](#)