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# Rushcliffe Sixth Form UCAS Information Evening for Parents and Carers

Mr B Roberts – Tuesday 12 July 2022

WELCOME



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# UK higher education



- 350+ Higher Education Providers (HEPs) recruiting via UCAS
- 37,000+ courses
- 700,000 anticipated applicants

Everyone at Rushcliffe will be given the chance to shine brightly



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## Choices after Sixth Form?

There are basically 5 choices after here - only 12 months away...

1. University
  2. Apprenticeships
  3. Job
  4. Foundation Course
  5. Gap Year
- About 90% of our pupils go to Uni (+ 50% of rest)
  - The school's position is students should apply unless they are CERTAIN you are not going to Uni and have CONFIRMED alternative plan



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## Why is 'all apply to Uni' the school's position?

1. Students change their mind
2. It's a great fall back option
3. Half of those who don't apply this year will next, so a completed application is helpful to you and easier for us!
4. There is a defer option
5. Easier to apply now than from on a beach in Thailand!
6. The process might make minds up, either definitely YES or definitely NO
7. There is a cut off date when its too late
8. We are supporting students now
9. Transferable skills, e/g. CV, letter of application, research skills, careers knowledge



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## General Overview – UCAS process

- Students research which Unis and courses to go to on Unifrog and UCAS and Net6thform (p/w RS40)
- Students apply through UCAS – Cost £26.50
- Students should apply for 5 courses (can all be at same Uni)
- UCAS is all done on-line, students track their application through the UCAS App
- Rushcliffe deadline for Early Entry Students 30/9, everyone else Oct half term break
- What do we mean by Early Entry? – (also known as Competitive Courses - Medics, Vets, Dentists, Oxbridge)



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# General Overview – UCAS process

- Students can defer – so apply now for 2024 entry
- Included in the UCAS application is a Personal Statement (PS) – this is a 1 side summary about the student and why they want to study that course
- Once students have completed their application they pay and send to UCAS... but it actually goes to HoY to check, then we add a Tutor Reference (TR) and predicted grades...
- Then we send to UCAS – AT THIS POINT, IT CAN'T COME BACK!



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# How to choose which Uni and courses to apply for?

- Careers
- Likes / strengths
- Open Days
- Reputation / quality of Uni (see Unifrog)
- Details of specific course – (see Uni websites and Unifrog)
- Location, e.g. where in UK, where in the city, a campus
- Cost
- Points / entry requirements...



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# Entry Requirements - UCAS Points

A-level grades	UCAS points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

EPQ = half  
these, so A\*  
= 28 etc...

Some of the 'top' Unis  
don't offer points they  
only offer grades, e.g.  
Econ at Durham A\*AA

D\* – 56 Ucas points (equivalent to A\* at A-level)  
D – 48 Ucas points (equivalent to A at A-level)  
M – 32 Ucas points (equivalent to C at A-level)  
P – 16 Ucas points (equivalent to E at A-level)





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## **Q) How do students know what their grades will be so they only apply for appropriate courses and Unis?**

A) UCAS predicted grades (these are generated by subject teachers and recorded on Unifrog). They are very similar to the schools final predicted grades, but may in some instances be a grade higher.

How do we generate predicted grades?

- End of year assessments
- Homework
- Class work / assessments
- Professional judgment

In the first instance use AP4 data due out w/c 18/7



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## So the trick is...

- Students to apply for courses with entry requirements that are in line with their predicted grades
- So, of a students' 5 Uni choices, UCAS suggest...
  - 1-2 'aspirational' – apply to Unis around 1 grade above UCAS current predicted grades
  - 1-2 in line with current predicted grades
  - 1-2 insurance – at least a grade below in each subject

NB – schools UCAS predicted grades are usually already on the 'positive' side so be careful



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# What to start doing now?

- Students to research Unis on Unifrog and UCAS
- The school will support, e.g. Bright Days and form time learning will be dedicated to this process
- Students should have begun filling out personal section of UCAS – we have lots of resources here to help you with this, e.g. UCAS booklet
- Students can begin drafting Personal Statements (PS) – we have LOADS of exemplars. School Deadline – 1<sup>st</sup> draft to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> day back
- Attend Uni Open Days



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## Q) What happens after applications have been submitted?

Once applications have been submitted – Unis can respond at any time – they do this by e-mail and via the UCAS App. There are 3 outcomes:

- 1) Conditional Offer, e.g. 120 points or BBB grades... in affect they are saying, *you can come and study at our Uni IF you meet these entry requirements* (this is most common outcome), or
- 2) Unconditional Offer, *'you can come and study here no matter what you're a-Level grades are'*. Sounds great but only certain types of Unis tend to use this model or...
- 3) Rejection – *Sorry, we cant offer you a place*

(X person recently for Pysiotherapy = 2 A\* and an A predictions, but 5 rejections!)



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## So I know the outcomes of my 5 applications, what then?

- Students formally choose 2 courses out of their offers, 1<sup>st</sup> = 'Firm choice' and 2<sup>nd</sup> = 'Insurance choice' (Insurance – 1 grade below predicted grades in EVERY subject)
- At this point technically students have a contract, so if they get results to go to 1<sup>st</sup> choice – they go, if they miss that but get results to go to insurance choice – they go there
- If they get no offers – they can go through clearing. OR they can reject all offers and go through clearing



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# What is Clearing?

A mechanism for pairing vacant Uni places with would-be students who don't currently have a Uni place

In the past it was viewed a bit negatively, i.e. for students who didn't get 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> insurance offer grades but still wanted to go to Uni – this is still true, but...

It's now also for students who 'over-achieved' against entry requirements



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# Results Day

- Students come into school – if students receive grades (or offer) for 1<sup>st</sup> choice Uni – they go to that Uni
- If they receive grades for 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (insurance Uni) they go to that Uni
- If neither, go through clearing... we are here to support



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## Recap –Main Points

- Start research and completing application now on UCAS – Uni open days, internet, Uni websites, Unifrog and UCAS can help
- Apply for 5 courses – make entry requirements in line with predicted grades (with at least 1 aspirational and 1 insurance choice) – see AP4 for current predicted grades
- Have 1<sup>st</sup> draft of personal statement completed by 1<sup>st</sup> day day back after summer hols
- Apply unless certain not going / have confirmed alternative plan
- School deadline for Early Entry is end Sept, everyone else Oct half term
- Other post Sixth form options, e.g. Apprenticeships are available, Unifrog and UCAS can help with that too
- All form time learning geared towards this now
- Lots of advice and helpful websites etc... on UCAS help booklet

THANK YOU





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