

A large, solid yellow rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the background. It contains a white horizontal line at the top and the text 'Parents' Evening presentation' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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# Parents' Evening presentation

***Please note that a  
copy of this  
presentation will be  
posted on the Sixth  
Form website***

# WHY UNIVERSITY?

Apart from allowing students to immerse themselves in subjects and activities that interest them, university can lead to:

- ▶ a better paid job
- ▶ a greater choice of job
- ▶ higher future earnings

# WHAT COURSE?

- ▶ Academic degree?
- ▶ A more vocational course?
- ▶ Does the choice of subject really matter?
- ▶ Is the choice realistic?
- ▶ Don't ignore new subjects
- ▶ Look carefully at the course **CONTENT**

# UCAS – an independent charity

## UCAS does:

- ✓ process applications
- ✓ provide information, advice, and training
- ✓ have a Fraud and Verification Team
- ✓ take part in education sector engagement

## UCAS doesn't:

- suggest courses or universities
- make decisions or offers
- advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals

# What is UCAS?

**350+** universities and colleges:

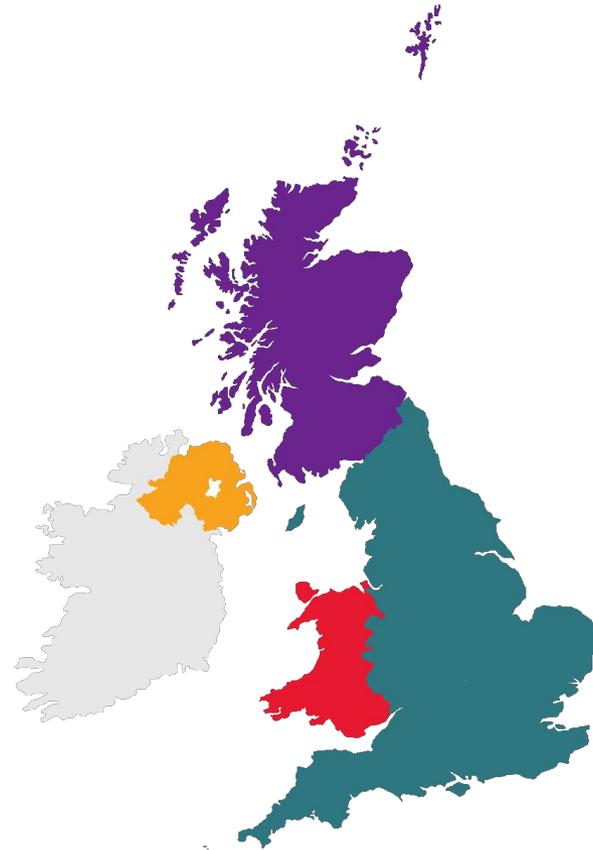
**4** in Northern Ireland

**15** in Wales

**19** in Scotland

**324** in England

**35,000+** courses available



# Choices available



Higher  
education



Apprenticeships/  
traineeships



Studying  
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Understand the options available: [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)

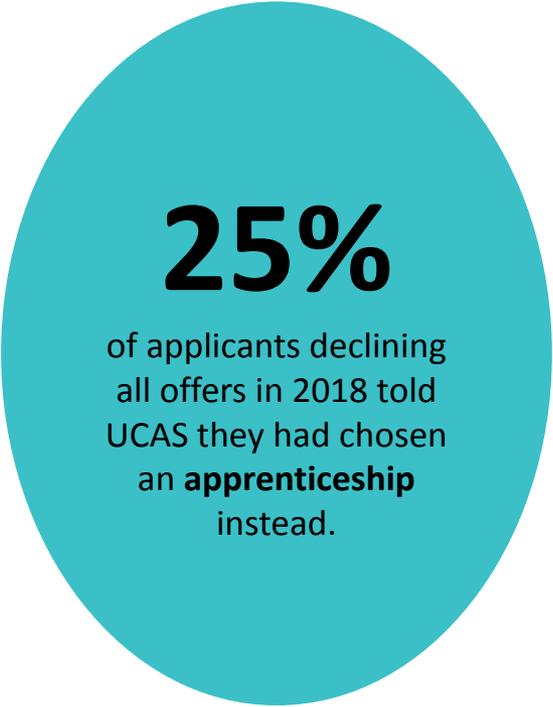
# Apprenticeship advice

UCAS has [apprenticeship advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

Go to [ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships).



**25%**

of applicants declining all offers in 2018 told UCAS they had chosen an **apprenticeship** instead.

# Why higher education?

## Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

## With a degree, they'll have:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential

# Choosing the right university for you

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

# Choosing the right course for you

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught - structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

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# Research resources



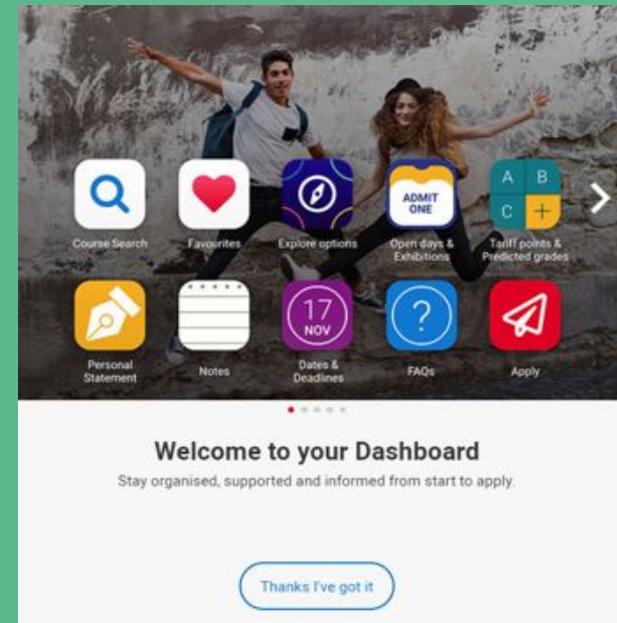
# INITIAL DECISIONS

- ▶ Why university?
- ▶ What course?
- ▶ Which university?
- ▶ What research needs to be done?

# Before you apply...

Register in the UCAS Hub to explore your options, such as:

- explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)



# 'I'm overwhelmed by all the choice...'

## Get organised:

Tools to search, favourite, shortlist, reflect, diary, and build application.

## Define what's important:

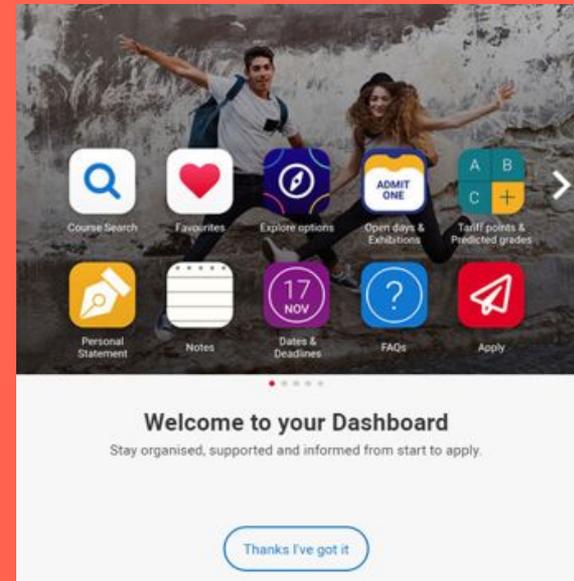
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

## Make it yours:

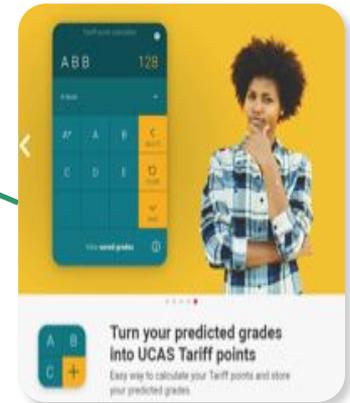
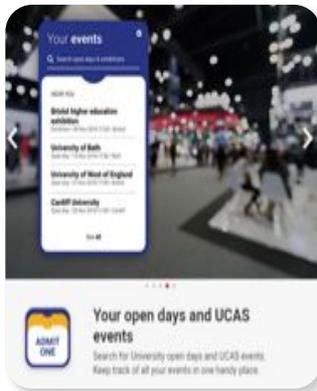
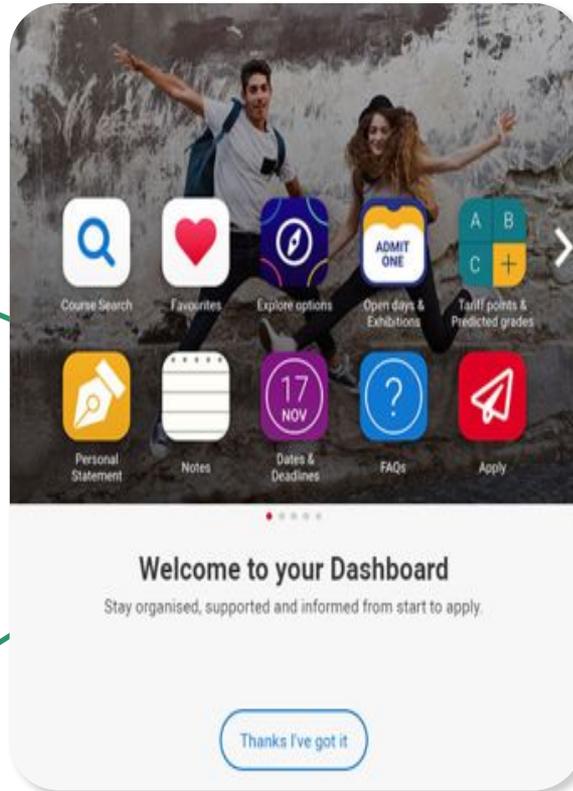
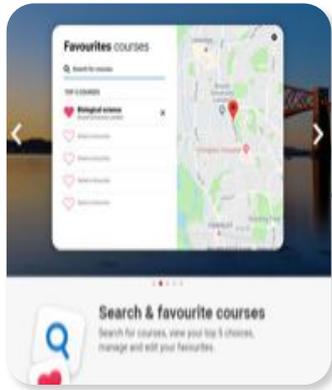
Organise tools, remove the ones they don't need, and tick off their to do list. It's their space, and their future.

## You might not have thought of...

Expand horizons by pushing options they might not have considered.



# UCAS Hub



# WHICH UNIVERSITY?

Students can apply for up to 5 courses

- ▶ Home or away?
- ▶ City/campus/rural setting?
- ▶ Large or small?
- ▶ Cost?
- ▶ Facilities?
- ▶ Reputation?
- ▶ **RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL!**

# Research - it's free!



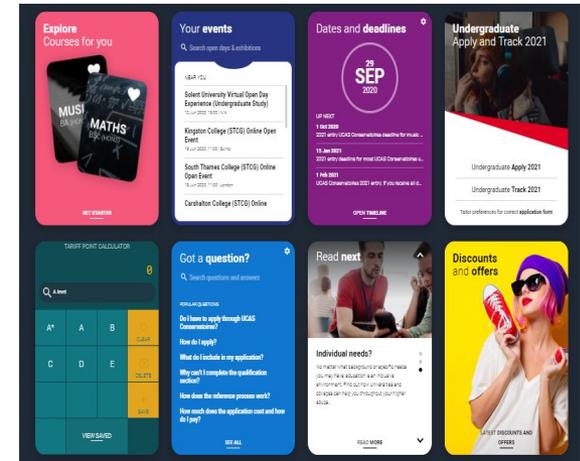
**New - Accommodation Search** - accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



**Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives** - each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.



**UCAS Futures** - a chance to explore courses you're interested in and speak to universities and colleges from around the UK. You can talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more.



UCAS



## How to find the right student accommodation for you

This is it. Life is good. You're going to uni. Is it going to be the party paradise of on-campus halls, or a flat-share right in the middle of town? Maybe the cost of rent will decide, what supports on hand, or whether there's a bus stop...

[read more](#)

# Research - it's free!



- Learning from others - [chat to](#) uni students [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) - use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways.
- Take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

# Apply key facts



It's an online application



Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

- medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry (maximum of four)
- Oxford or Cambridge



Simple application cost:

- one choice - £22.50
- two to five choices - £27



Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'

# When to apply for 2023 entry

- **17 May** UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2023 entry.
- **6 September** First day for receipt of completed applications.
- **15 October\*** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.
- **25 January\*** Equal consideration application deadline.
- **23 February** UCAS Extra opens.
- **30 June\*** Can add further choice(s) up until this date.
- **5 July** UCAS Clearing opens.

# Completing the UCAS application

A student registers at:  
[ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply)

- Sections to complete:
1. Personal details
  2. Additional information
  3. Student finance
  4. Choices
  5. Education
  6. Employment
  7. Personal statement
  8. Referee details

Teacher/  
adviser adds  
their  
reference

Applications  
are sent to  
UCAS

Universities/  
colleges make  
their decisions

# OUR INTERNAL DEADLINES

- ▶ First draft of personal statement to tutor by Friday 20 May
- ▶ Second draft of personal statement to tutor by Monday 27 June
- ▶ Oxbridge/medicine/dentistry/veterinary applications complete by Friday 23 September
- ▶ Where possible, all other applications complete by Friday 21 October
- ▶ FINAL deadline Friday 11 November

# Making a UCAS application

Begin at [ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply).

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Choices - make up to five
- Education
- Employment
- Personal statement
- Reference



# The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:  
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:



**Admissions test**



**Interview**



**Portfolio/audition**

And make one of three decisions:

**Unconditional offer**

**Conditional offer**

**Unsuccessful**

# Tracking applications

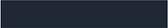
Track allows applicants to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** - if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** -if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.





# Other options



## Extra (23 Feb - 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

## Clearing (5 Jul - 18 Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from July, and add one choice in Track.
- If exam results exceed conditions of conditional offer, the student can decline their place and apply through Clearing.
- They can use Clearing Plus, which will signpost relevant universities with spaces whose entry requirements match their results.

# What should your child be doing now?

- research
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- go beyond the syllabus
- focus on this year's studies



# How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents).

Sign up

Sign up for updates from UCAS, and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open days

Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

Be proactive

Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book family holidays at key times!

# BASIC INFORMATION

- ▶ All applications are completed online
- ▶ Cost is £27 per application (£22.50 for single choice) - pay online
- ▶ Can be completed at home or at school
- ▶ All students receive an introductory training session plus comprehensive guidance pack
- ▶ Most tutor times are dedicated to working on UCAS applications

# THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ▶ A critical piece of writing
- ▶ First paragraph must be convincing
- ▶ Should be 4-5 paragraphs in length (max 4000 characters/47 lines, about 500 words)
- ▶ Careful proof reading is essential
- ▶ First draft to tutors by Friday 20 May
- ▶ Second draft to tutors by Monday 27 June
- ▶ 15 minutes 1-2-1 advice appointment with subject specialist to take place in July (*if meets deadline!*)

# THE REFERENCE/ PREDICTED GRADES

- ▶ Teachers complete subject paragraphs
- ▶ Tutor edits collated version, providing opening and closing paragraphs
- ▶ The Sixth Form office completes final editing
- ▶ Predicted grades may be amended once AS results are known
- ▶ Students may ask to see final reference

# OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Competitive courses
- ▶ Work experience
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Pre-admission tests
- ▶ Receiving offers
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Results Day

# COMPETITIVE COURSES

- ▶ Be realistic
- ▶ Research carefully - what are admissions tutors looking for?
  - Academic ability
  - Genuine interest in the subject
  - Independent thought
  - Commitment to study

# WORK EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Where appropriate, planning of this should already be underway
- ▶ Students are expected to be proactive
- ▶ For certain courses, for example Physiotherapy and Medicine, some form of work experience is usually deemed essential
- ▶ If in doubt, students should contact university admissions tutors or consult prospectuses

# INTERVIEWS

- ▶ Most universities do not call students for interview
- ▶ Students applying to Oxbridge will be called for interview
- ▶ Those wishing to study highly competitive courses are likely to be called for interview and possibly aptitude tests
- ▶ We can provide mock interviews: students must be proactive and ask for them!

# PRE-ADMISSION TESTS

- ▶ Students must be proactive in researching individual university requirements: BMAT, LNAT, UKCAT, TSA plus others
- ▶ Online registration is necessary for some aptitude tests
- ▶ Websites are available to help students

# OXBRIDGE

- ▶ Preparation must be well underway before the end of this term
- ▶ Essays may need to be submitted: students must be proactive
- ▶ Students who are called for interview will be allocated a Bay House staff ‘mentor’

# RECEIVING OFFERS

- ▶ Students will receive either an unconditional offer, a conditional offer or a rejection
- ▶ Offers may be based on grades (BCC) or points (104) where  $A^* = 56$ ,  $A = 48$ ,  $B = 40$ ,  $C = 32$  etc
- ▶ When all universities have responded, students select a first choice - CF (conditional *firm*) and a second - CI (conditional *insurance*)

# FINANCE *(currently under review)*

Students need to pay for:

- ▶ Tuition fees\* (up to £9,250 per year)  
**for which a 'Tuition Fee Loan' is available**
- ▶ Day-to-day living expenses (including accommodation)  
**for which a 'Maintenance Loan' is available**

*\*some Medicine/Dentistry related courses are fully funded by NHS*

# TUITION FEES

- ▶ Universities and colleges charge up to £9,250 per year
- ▶ All are eligible for a 'Tuition Fee Loan' - repayments do not begin until students are earning £25,000 per year
- ▶ Repayments are 9% of earnings above £25,000: a graduate earning £30,000 per year would pay back £37.50 per month.

Debts are 'wiped' after 30 years: only 40% of graduates will pay the full amount back!

# DAY-TO-DAY LIVING EXPENSES

- ▶ All students can apply for a 'Maintenance Loan' (also known as a 'living cost loan')
- ▶ The amount students can get depends on household income\*, but can be up to £8,944 per year, or more for study in London
- ▶ Repayment system is the same as with tuition fees

*\*reduced loan available for courses fully funded by NHS*

# EXTRA FUNDING

- ▶ Bursaries and scholarships
- ▶ Disabled Students Allowance
- ▶ Caring responsibilities
- ▶ Financial Hardship
- ▶ NHS/Social Work/Teaching Courses

*Check university websites for more information*

**These don't usually have to be paid back!**

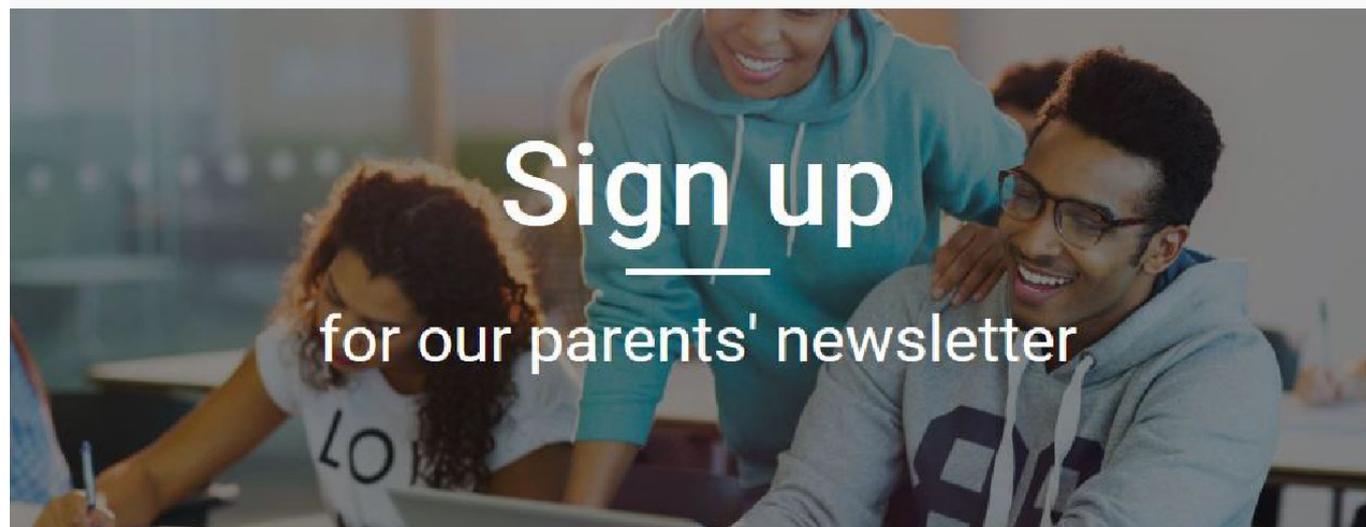
# A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

- ▶ Students should not be on holiday at this time
- ▶ Team of staff available for support
- ▶ It is the student, not the parent, who is expected to deal with any required negotiations with universities

# REGISTER FOR PARENTAL UPDATES ON UCAS WEBSITE:

<http://web.ucas.com/parents-signup>

UCAS



By completing this registration, you will receive regular UCAS parents' email newsletters. These contain advice and information from UCAS and other directly relevant organisations, which will enable you to help your son or daughter with their higher education options. We may also send you information by post.

# 'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK!

[www.facebook.com/  
bayhousesixthformofficial](http://www.facebook.com/bayhousesixthformofficial)



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SIXTH FORM  
@bayhousesixthformofficial

Home  
About

Liked Following Share ...

Send Message

...and encourage your son/daughter  
to do so too!

# AND FINALLY....

- ▶ Encourage your son/daughter to be proactive in seeking help
- ▶ Contact us if you have any concerns or questions

**A copy of this presentation will be posted on the  
Sixth Form website asap**

**THANK YOU FOR COMING!**



# Thank you

[ucas.com/parents-signup](https://ucas.com/parents-signup)

