



The Sixth Form

May 2025

Dear 6th Form Students, Parents and Carers

UCAS Information Evening, Colfox, Tuesday 20th May, 5.30pm

As the end of Year 12 is fast approaching we are focusing our efforts on helping students to make decisions and plans for their next steps after A Levels, be it higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

One option is applying for university. UCAS stands for the **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service** and is the centralised application system for undergraduate programs at UK universities and colleges. It acts as an intermediary, facilitating the application process for students by providing a single platform to apply to multiple institutions.

UCAS is now open for registration, and most students will have registered this week during our Tutor period. I have shared a website with students and Tutors to help them with the process:

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/filling-in-your-ucas-undergraduate-application>

It is Joint Sixth Form policy for ALL students to register for UCAS even if it is not their intention to progress on to higher education.

This means that students will go through the process of researching higher education opportunities, helping them to make informed choices. They have access to information about apprenticeships and other non-university pathways whilst at school, and they will also write a detailed personal statement, which is useful for other applications including apprenticeships, and covering letters for potential employers. Finally, plans do change and registering and completing this process early is better than rushing the process later on.

Key Dates

13th May	New UCAS cycle opens
30th June	UCAS Exhibition Fair, Bournemouth University. A letter will be sent home shortly with details

Summer Term	Year 12 students write personal statements
October – December	Year 13 references written and applications finalised

15th October	Deadline for Oxbridge, veterinary and medicine courses
1st December	Internal deadline for students submitting their applications
January 2026	UCAS cycle closes

The Process

1. Students research and decide on courses and institutions. Students are encouraged to research and go to some Open Days.
2. Each week we share information with students during tutor period outlining a whole host of opportunities available to them e.g. virtual work experience, podcasts about careers, essay competitions, university access courses and open days. Further events are displayed on noticeboards in the Sixth Form and also shared as ClassCharts announcements.
3. Students set up UCAS accounts (they are responsible for their own usernames and passwords).
4. Students write their personal statement. We provide guidance on this.
5. Applications are made to up to 5 institutions.
6. References are written by subject teachers and Sixth Form staff.
7. Payment of **£28.50** (by card only). UCAS waive the application fee for any students who have been eligible for Free School Meals at some point during their secondary education.

8. Application sent to UCAS.
9. UCAS processes application.
10. Offers made by universities / interviews held.
11. Decisions made by students for 'firm' and 'insurance' offers.

Key Information for UCAS Registration

Website: <https://www.ucas.com>

Click on 'Sign In' (top right hand corner), choose 'Students'

Select **undergraduate** and choose **2026 entry**

Choose 'through school / college' when asked how you are applying

Buzzword = Beaminster2026

The most important element is deciding where to study and what to study.

95% of students in their first year of university say they wish they'd researched their courses in greater detail. The more research you do, the more focused the personal statement is. Key considerations are:

- Distance from the family home. UCAS helps you search within a 'distance from home'.
- Whether to go for a campus or city university. Each has a different 'feel' and accommodation differs.
- Entry requirements. I encourage students to apply for at least one 'high tariff' institution and one course that has a low requirement. This is spreading the risk.
- Availability of halls of residence (very helpful in the first year of university).
- Level of tuition fee. Tuition fees for most courses are currently £9,535 for each year. Local offers from Yeovil College University Centre (for example) are considerably cheaper.
- Feedback from current / previous students about the quality of teaching / value for money, etc. (See www.whatuni.com)
- The average salary of graduates one year from completing courses.

We are holding a **UCAS information evening at Colfox on Tuesday 20th May from 5.30pm – 6.30pm**, giving students, parents and carers all the information you need to make informed decisions about higher education, apprenticeships and next steps, along with the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Please be aware that students are now expected to be making decisions, registering on UCAS and writing their personal statements. The Joint Sixth Form expects all personal statements to be completed (in first draft form) over the summer holidays.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions: Swalters@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Walters

Director of Learning and Achievement: Key Stage 5