



The Sixth Form

May 2026

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

UCAS Information Evening, Colfox, Tuesday 12th May, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

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/BTECs, 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 allowing them to apply to multiple institutions.

UCAS will be open for registration next week, and we will be showing students how to access and complete this during our Tuesday tutor periods.

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 they may make, 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

12th May 2026	New UCAS cycle opens and students register
12th May 2026	UCAS Information Evening at Colfox 5.30pm
June – July 2026	Students write personal statements
October - December	References written and applications finalised
15th October 2026	Deadline for Oxbridge, veterinary and medicine courses
1st December 2026	Internal deadline for students submitting their applications for all other courses
13th January 2027	UCAS cycle closes, with the deadline for 'equal consideration.'

The Process

1. Students research and decide on courses and institutions. Students are encouraged to research and attend 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 **£34.50** (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 **2027 entry**

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

Buzzword = Beaminster2027

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 fees. 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.

To help provide more information we are holding a **UCAS information evening at Colfox on Tuesday 12th May from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.**

This will give 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.

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