



AVANTI HOUSE
SIXTH FORM

Let's talk about our

Sixth Form UCAS Program



Introduction

What is Early Entry?

Early entry refers to the process where applicants to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge must submit their UCAS applications by the 15th of October each year. This deadline is notably earlier than the standard January deadline for most university courses.

Who is Involved?

Mr. Domine	Senior Deputy Principal
Mr R Moynihan	Deputy Principal
Mr R Gopal	Head of Sixth Form
Ms D Parshotam	Progress Lead
Mr R Lewis	Progress Lead
Ms D Ungureanu	Careers Administrator

Who Do We Work With?

We work with students throughout the school who have the potential and ambition to apply to Oxford, Cambridge, and other early entry programs such as Medicine and Dentistry.



Typical Requirements for Early Entry Applications

Oxford/Cambridge:

Specific requirements vary by course and relevant college, however typically starts at A*AA.

Medicine:

Chemistry/Biology/Maths or Physics (AAA)

Most would require Mathematics but varies with Universities

Veterinary Science:

Biology and two other subjects, usually AAA

Dentistry:

Biology and two other subjects, usually AAA

*Achieving an A or B in the EPQ can lead to a lower university offer.



Seven Steps to Success

The Sixth Form staff team will assist you with every decision and stage of the UCAS application process. However, to maximise your chances of getting into an exciting course at a university where you'll enjoy spending 3 to 5 years, here are some steps you should take:

Ensure Consistent Effort: Attend all lessons, complete homework, and revise for tests/mock exams diligently to achieve your highest potential grades. Higher grades expand your options when applying for degree courses. Use Directed Study wisely and manage your distractions, every hour counts!

Explore Your Options: Utilise school and online career guides/guidance, prospectuses, notice boards, and emails for information. Attend virtual careers and university events, open days, and visit Higher Education websites and UCAS pages for guidance, including Unifrog.

Seek Guidance: Seek advice from your form tutor, the Sixth Form team, subject staff, and former students during Alumni-Talks to discuss your aspirations.

Visit Universities: Open days are held from May to November. Check university websites or www.opendays.com for dates. Popular dates fill up quickly, so book weekend visits well in advance to minimise school absences. If unable to visit, thoroughly explore the university's website, including virtual tours and videos.

Diversify Your Options: Everyone can have an off day during exams, so consider visiting universities that would serve as a strong insurance choice if you don't quite meet your target grades. Look into universities that might offer you an unconditional offer or lower their entry requirements if you achieve a high grade in your EPQ.

Maintain Your Extracurricular Activities: Engaging in extracurricular activities will help you stand out. Continually reflect on the skills and personal qualities you are developing and showcase these in your personal statement and interviews. Make sure to make this a priority in Year 12.

Stay Open-Minded: If your plans don't unfold as expected, seek advice and be prepared to explore alternative pathways. Have a Plan B and C.



Year 12 Calendar for UCAS

January:

- Begin comprehensive guidance sessions for UCAS applications, ensuring thorough preparation.
- Initiate the search for suitable work experience placements relevant to your chosen field of study.
- Continue focused preparation for UCAT/BMAT enrichment courses, essential for competitive courses.

February:

- Engage in a diverse range of extracurricular activities and extensive reading to bolster your higher education or apprenticeship applications.
- Participate in the Compulsory UCAS Fair to gain valuable insights into university life and application processes.

March:

- Start booking university open days and taster courses to explore potential institutions and programs. Early booking is advisable due to limited availability.

April:

- Arrange summer work placements, volunteer opportunities, or participation in the National Citizen Service to enhance your CV and gain practical experience.
- Explore relevant courses, including MOOCs on platforms like Unifrog, to supplement your academic qualifications.

May:

- Maintain high academic standards and focus on preparation for internal exams in September, which will influence your university choices.

- Assess your academic progress and seek support from mentors or teachers as needed.
- Keep your portfolio updated with achievements and experiences relevant to your UCAS application.
- Participate in a virtual workshop on writing your UCAS personal statement, led by experts such as from University of Bath.
- Register on UCAS Apply and initiate completion of your UCAS application form to meet upcoming deadlines.

June:

- Continue attending virtual visits to university open days to gather comprehensive information about courses and campus life.
- Consult subject teachers for predicted A-Level grades, crucial for finalising your university choices. Medicine and Dentistry applicants should register for the UCAT exam.
- Commence drafting your personal statement and complete your reference information sheet. Arrange meetings with your tutor or Oxbridge mentor for personalised application guidance and ongoing support.

July:

- Collaborate with your tutor or Oxbridge mentor to review and refine the initial draft of your personal statement during the summer break.
- Attend Harrow Collegiate Events to support Oxbridge, Cambridge and other University Students.

August:

- Medics should schedule their UCAT exam for this month, a pivotal requirement for medical school applications.

Year 13 Calendar for UCAS

September:

- Register for admissions tests such as Oxbridge and LNAT. Students preparing for these tests will receive personalised guidance from their mentors.
- Early entry applicants should aim to have a draft of their personal statement ready by the first week of term for review by their mentor
- Attend Interview Preparation Workshops to practice and refine your interview skills, crucial for competitive courses.
- The school's deadline for completing UCAS forms for Early Applicants is at the end of September, ensuring timely submission.

October:

- Mid-October marks the deadline for submitting applications to Oxbridge, Veterinary Science, Medicine, and Dentistry through UCAS.
- Cambridge applicants complete the Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ), an additional step in the application process.
- By the end of October, some students take Oxbridge Admissions Tests conducted at school. These tests are pivotal for certain course admissions.
- It's advisable to finalise your UCAS application by the end of October half-term to meet standard deadlines, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

November:

- Expect offers for places at universities that do not require interviews to start arriving, providing early indicators of acceptance.

December:

- Prepare for Oxbridge interviews, a significant step for candidates aiming for prestigious universities
- Invitations to interviews for Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Science are typically extended during this month, marking a critical stage in the application process.

January:

- Any adjustments to your UCAS Choices must be made by mid-January, ensuring all preferences are accurately reflected.

February:

- UCAS Extra becomes available for students who have exhausted their initial five choices without securing offers or are considering a change in course preferences.

March:

- Student Finance opens its online applications, initiating the financial aid process crucial for funding your higher education journey
- Maintain a diligent approach to academic studies, as upcoming exam results will influence final university offers. Some institutions may still be conducting interviews.

April:

- Aim to complete Student Finance applications by the deadline to ensure financial arrangements are in place well before the start of your course.

May:

- Finalise decisions on Firm and Insurance course choices, seeking advice from mentors or counselors as needed to align with your career aspirations.
- As study leave begins, prioritise attendance in revision classes to optimise preparation for upcoming exams.

June:

- Engage in external examinations, applying the knowledge and skills acquired throughout your academic journey.

July:

- Explore Clearing options available through the UCAS website, providing opportunities to secure university places based on remaining vacancies.

August:

- A Level results are released in mid-August, marking a crucial milestone in your academic journey.
- The Clearing and Adjustment process begins promptly after results are published, offering flexibility in course selection based on actual achievements.

September/October:

- Embark on your university journey, celebrating your accomplishment and readiness to pursue higher education. School staff are available to provide support during this transition period.



Support offered by our Sixth Form Team

- Individual Guidance Interviews with Tutors and the Sixth Form Team
- Establish your course and career intentions.
- Receive advice on course selection and the application process.
- Discuss your examination results and predicted grades.

Interview Skills

We offer a comprehensive programme of Interview Preparation Workshops led by employers and staff. These workshops are designed for all students expecting interviews for their chosen degree courses. In these sessions, you'll learn effective interview strategies and gain experience through mock interviews with subject specialists from outside the school. Their feedback is invaluable, often highly encouraging, and always objective.

Additional practice sessions are available with subject teachers and other colleagues. You may even find that interviews can be an enjoyable experience!

We offer students the opportunity to come in and speak to Alumni about Interview Skills they are usually matched to your courses and/or University.

Assistance with Completing Applications and Proofing Personal Statements

During your 6 Weeks of UCAS Program in June/July a Personal Statement presentation from a leading university if given. Additionally, the PSHE programme includes UCAS preparation and guidance, with a dedicated Personal Statement Workshop. Form tutors, subject teachers, Oxbridge mentors, and the Sixth Form team are all available to assist students in crafting competitive personal statements.

Final checks on all applications are conducted by the Sixth Form Team and Senior Leadership.

Additional Support for Early Entry Courses

- **March/June:** Attend the Oxbridge Applications Evening for students and parents to gain insights and guidance.
- **June/July:** Students book to go on Oxford and Cambridge. Students should book visits to the colleges they are most interested in.
- **Oxbridge Mentoring:** Each student will receive support from the most appropriate teacher for admissions test preparation and interview practice.
- **Medicine and Dentistry Applicants:** Students needing to take the UCAT and/or Examinations are supported via Medic Mentor and receive support sessions starting in September.
- **LNAT Support:** Assistance is provided for students preparing for the LNAT.
- **UCAS Clinics:** Need help with your UCAS application? You can attend UCAS clinics with Mr. D. Meggi at any time! Simply email him to book a slot and time that works for you, and you'll get 10 minutes to talk and get personalised advice.
- **Super-Curricular Enrichment:** Working Alongside EPQs, we will ensure you have a program to ensure you have completed wider reading and research needed for EPQ and also UCAS Applications for your personal statements.
- **Speakers and/or Events:** Lectures on admissions, presentations from current Oxbridge students, or academic lectures.
- **Teacher Support:** Collaborate with subject teachers to provide personalised support for each student's chosen course.
- **Oxbridge Elite Program:** This exclusive program offers students the opportunity to develop crucial skills and participate in specialized workshops aimed at enhancing their candidacy for admission to top-tier universities like Oxford and Cambridge. With expert guidance and targeted training, the program provides personalized support to navigate the competitive application process, helping students maximize their academic potential and build a compelling profile for their university applications.
- **Avanti Alumni Network:** A unique initiative led by Avanti House, the Alumni Network connects current students with past Avanti graduates and accomplished professionals across various fields. Through engaging networking events, students gain insights into diverse career paths, receive mentorship, and build valuable connections with alumni who share their academic journey, providing a foundation of support and inspiration as they plan their future.
- **Careers and Accelerated Leadership Retreat:** Set in the inspiring location of Lincoln, this retreat immerses students in a focused career development environment. Participants have the chance to interact with prominent industry leaders from companies such as HSBC and hear firsthand about pathways to success in today's job market. The retreat fosters a practical understanding of professional skills, from interview techniques to leadership training, empowering students to set clear goals and take decisive steps toward their career aspirations.



Factors to Maximise your Chances

GCSE and EPQ Results. These results indicate your potential and ability to achieve high standards. Strong grades demonstrate your capacity for sustained effort and higher-level achievement. Competitive courses often use these results as an initial filter for applicants.

Predicted A Level Grades. These grades are crucial as they reflect your teachers' assessment of your abilities. Mr Domine leads on Predicted Grades as Curriculum Lead. To secure good predictions:

- Maintain excellent school attendance and actively participate in lessons.
- Achieve strong results in homework, class tests, and mock exams.
- Extend your understanding of subjects through additional reading and involvement in relevant projects.
- Consistent hard work will help you reach your full potential and show your readiness for higher-level study.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular Activities. Your school reference and personal statement should include examples of extracurricular activities (non-academic pursuits that develop skills and personal qualities) and super-curricular activities (efforts to build subject knowledge beyond A Level requirements). Examples include wider reading, EPQ research, online courses, taster lectures, academic competitions, and educational podcasts.

Written Work for Oxbridge Applications. Colleges may request essays written during your A Levels. Maintaining consistently high standards in your coursework ensures you have strong pieces to submit.

Admissions Tests. Preparation support is provided in school, but you should also familiarise yourself with sample papers available on relevant website.

Supplementary Questionnaires

- **Cambridge SAQ:** For many years, Cambridge has required applicants to complete the Supplementary Admissions Questionnaire (SAQ). This questionnaire provides additional information about the applicant that is not covered in the UCAS form.
- **Other Universities:** Recently, other universities have adopted similar supplementary questionnaires. For example, University College London (UCL) uses them for their Management course. Additionally, some medical and veterinary schools request detailed information about applicants' work experience.

Interviews

- **Preparation:** Engage in discussions during lessons, participate in debates, and attend programmes like #Now's the Time and Interview Workshops. These activities help you become comfortable with thinking aloud and articulating your ideas clearly.
- **Focus:** Interviewers will assess your motivation and aptitude for studying a particular subject. Demonstrating genuine interest through activities and experiences outside of your A Level syllabus is crucial. However, ensure you are also up-to-date with your academic work at the time of the interview.

A Level Grades

- **Offers:** A strong UCAS application may result in unconditional offers or reduced offers based on your achieved or predicted EPQ results. However, most offers will be conditional, requiring specific A Level grades.
- **Achieving Grades:** To meet these grade requirements, attend all your lessons, work consistently hard, and seek additional support through subject clinics if needed. This dedication will help you achieve your full potential and secure a place at your first-choice university.





Amending your application on UCAS

Updating Personal Information

Address, Phone Number, Email: You can update these details in UCAS Track. Additionally, notify your chosen universities of any changes.

Changing University or College Choices

Swapping Choices: Within 14 days of receiving your welcome email, you can swap a choice in UCAS Track. Note that each choice can only be swapped once.

Adding Additional Choices

Less than Five Choices: If you initially applied to fewer than five choices, you can add more until June 30th, provided you haven't chosen your firm and insurance offers yet.

After the Deadline: To add courses after the application deadline, contact university admissions tutors to check availability. You can then add these choices via UCAS Track.

Using UCAS Extra

Eligibility: Available from the end of February to early July for students without any offers or those who declined their original courses.

Application Process: Apply for courses one at a time in Extra. Contact universities advertising courses in Extra to see if they will consider your application before adding them through UCAS. If applying for a different subject, you may need to provide a new personal statement.



Changing Course, Year, or Point of Entry

Direct Contact: If you wish to change your course, defer entry, or alter your point of entry, contact the university directly. If they agree, they will inform UCAS and send you a new offer.

Changes to Qualifications

Engaging in extracurricular activities will help you stand out. Continually reflect on the skills and personal qualities you are developing and showcase these in your personal statement and interviews. Make sure to make this a priority in Year 12.

Personal Issues Affecting Exam Results

Inform the School: If an accident, illness, or personal problem may affect your results, inform the school immediately. Discuss with the Head of Sixth Form and Exams Officer about sending a supporting letter. For medical issues, get a letter from your doctor. Notify your chosen universities as soon as possible, and do not wait until results are released. The school can also inform your Exam Boards.

Tracking Progress

UCAS Track: Use the Track system on the UCAS website to monitor your offers and accept or decline them.

Withdrawing Applications

Individual Withdrawals: You can withdraw your application to individual universities via UCAS Track if you no longer wish to receive offers from them. This can be useful if you have received offers from your preferred universities and are ready to select your firm and insurance choices.

Changing Firm and Insurance Choices: If you change your mind after selecting your firm and insurance choices, you have 14 days to contact a UCAS adviser to make changes. Contact UCAS Advisers via their student helpline at 03714 680468.

Offer Acceptance

When you receive a response from an institution you have applied to, inform your form teacher about the following:

- The offer and its conditions.
- Any interview invitations and dates.
- Any rejections.

Making Your Choices. You cannot make your Firm and Insurance choices in UCAS Track until you have heard back from all the institutions you applied to. Please consult with us before making any decisions, especially regarding your Insurance choice.

Offer Holder's Day. Universities that make you an offer will often invite you to an 'Offer Holder's Day'. Attendance is optional but can be beneficial if you need more information about the course or university before making your decision. If the event is on a school day, seek permission from your tutor and ensure you catch up on any missed lessons.

Choosing Firm and Insurance Offers. From your five choices, you will need to select one Firm offer and one Insurance offer. Your Firm choice should be your preferred university/course. Your Insurance choice should ideally be lower than your predicted grades to provide a safety net in case of unexpected exam results.

No Immediate Offers? Don't Panic. Some universities, especially those requiring interviews, may take longer to make offers. Admissions tutors for certain courses may wait until after the official UCAS application closing date to make decisions. Replies for interview-based courses might not come until the Summer Term.

Decision Deadline. You do not need to decide on your offers until early May. This is a crucial decision, so take your time and seek advice from teachers, mentors, and career advisors.

Final Steps. Once you have made your decisions, you can accept or decline your offers via UCAS Track



The UCAS points tariff

UCAS has a Tariff calculator on their website (www.ucas.com), which you can use to calculate the points you are likely to earn based on your achievements in the subjects you are taking. You accumulate points through your A Levels, Maths AS, EPQ, and some other accredited high-level exams such as those in dance or music.

(Here, you would typically insert a table or list of the relevant UCAS Tariff points for various qualifications and grades.)

GCE A Level:

A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	18

EPQ:

A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8



Unifrog Portal

Unifrog is our careers portal we use in which students can easily explore their interests, find and successfully apply for their next best steps after school.

- Exploring Pathways into Careers Tool
- MOOCs - Massive Open Online Courses
- Personality Profile: Find your Personality Type
- Interests Profile: Find potential careers tailored towards your interests.
- Searching Tool: Search for UK, US, European Universities.
- Oxbridge Information and Guidance
- Apprenticeship Finder
- UCAS and Personal Statement Support
- Course information, videos and talks from students at university.
- Resume/CV builder and guidance



Applications to other courses

Degree/Higher Apprenticeships

Applications for degree and higher apprenticeships are made directly to employers or training providers rather than through UCAS. Ensure you check the specific application requirements and deadlines for each employer or provider. You can use a variety of websites such as Amazing Apprenticeships, Unifrog or even UCAS. They are very competitive and require students to have a strong application and usually have at least a three step process. You may even have two interview stages!

Other useful websites

Searching for Courses

- UCAS | ucas.com | The official site for everything related to your application.

Choosing Universities/Student Life

- Unistats | unistats.ac.uk | Provides information on university courses and student life.
- Studential | studential.com | Guides on choosing universities and insights into student life.
- WhatUni | whatuni.com | Helps you find and compare university courses.
- The Complete University Guide | thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk | Offers comprehensive course league tables.
- Open Days | opendays.com | Sign up for university open days.

Money

- Student Finance | gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance | Official site for applying for student finance.
- Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) | gov.uk/disabled-student

Year Out/Volunteering

- Year Out Group | yearoutgroup.org.uk | Resources for taking a gap year.
- Gap Year | gapyear.com | Information and ideas for gap years.
- International Voluntary Service | ivs.gb.org | Volunteering opportunities established in 1931.
- Camp America | campamerica.co.uk | Summer camp placements in the USA.
- Do-It | doit.org.uk | Voluntary work options in the UK.
- Year in Industry | yini.org.uk | Opportunities for industrial placements.
- Amazing Apprenticeships | amazingapprenticeships.com | Information and resources for apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships/Employment

- Find an Apprenticeship | findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk | Search for apprenticeships in your area.
- Student Ladder | studentladder.co.uk | Work experience and school leaver programmes.
- Not Going to Uni | notgoingtouni.co.uk | Alternatives to going to university.
- Prospects | prospects.ac.uk | Links degree subjects to specific careers.

Other Resources

- LNAT | lnat.ac.uk | Law Admissions Test.
- UKCAT | ukcat.ac.uk | UK Clinical Aptitude Test.
- Admissions Testing | admissionstesting.org | Example papers for Oxbridge admissions tests.
- FutureLearn | futurelearn.com | Free online courses.
- Unifrog | unifrog.org | Comprehensive platform for planning and applying to universities and apprenticeships, courses, MOOCS, Work Experience.



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