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Welcome to Year 12 Higher Education Evening

www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk



Objectives for tonight:

- Discuss different options after Year 13
- Consider next steps and decision making
- Share key dates
- Q and A



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Updates and Reminders

Louise Stanton – Assistant Head teacher | Head of Sixth Form



Jon Brown – Head of Year 13 and EPQ lead (Oxbridge/ Vet Med lead)



Emma Hall – Head of Year 12 (Oxbridge/ Vet Med lead)



Ziska Dodd – Academic Leader for Yr 12 and 13

Wider team:

Tom Saunderson – Personal Development: Advocacy Programme, Apprenticeships, WEX

Rachel Bird- Drop in support sessions/ ELSA for 6th form

Sarah Griffin- Careers Advisor



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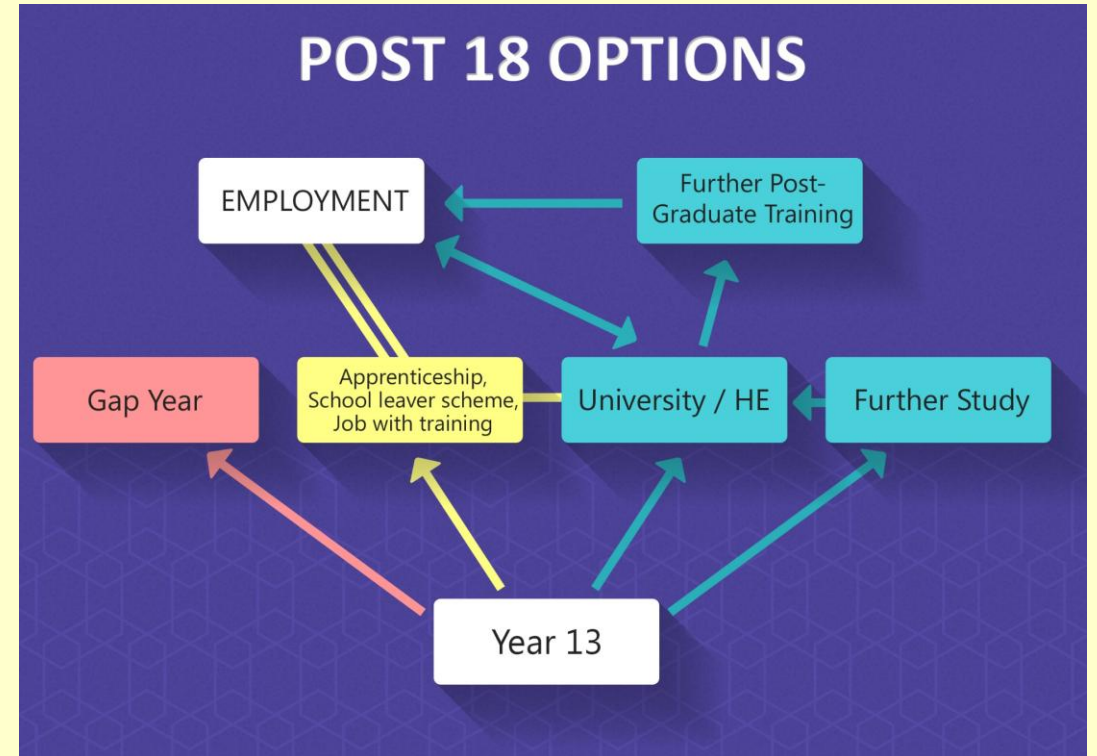
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Current Year 13 Destinations

- University (+ conservatoire)
- Art foundation course
- Apprenticeship
- Gap Year
- Work



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UCAS event in Newport

University and College stands

Speak directly with universities, colleges and conservatoires. Ask about specific courses, entry requirements, campus facilities, and student life. Get straight answers about everything from workload expectations to graduate employment rates.

Revision Zone

Introducing the brand-new Revision Zone at UCAS Discovery Newport 2026 – a space to revise, ask questions, and get support. Join dedicated talks on revision strategies, exam techniques, and wellbeing tips, all designed to help you feel prepared and ready to succeed.

UCAS expert advice

Our staff are on hand to help with everything from understanding UCAS points and grades to writing personal statements. We'll clarify the jargon and ensure you know exactly what you need to do next.

Apprenticeships and employment

Meet employers and training providers offering apprenticeships across various sectors. Find out what apprentices actually do day-to-day, how much they earn, and what qualifications they gain. Compare different apprenticeship levels and understand how they could lead to your chosen career.



Will I enjoy it?

91% satisfaction score from students.



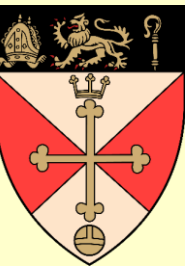
Is it popular?

135,000 people attended a UCAS Discovery Event in 2025.

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Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships



What are degree apprenticeships?

A degree apprenticeship enables you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.

You'll spend most of your time working and you'll also study part-time at university. For example, you might go to university one or two days per week, or in short blocks, such as a week at a time. Overall, you spend about 20% of your time studying vs. 80% of your time working.

Applying for a degree apprenticeship:

You apply for a degree apprenticeship in the same way you apply for a normal job. You'll need to submit an application, which usually includes a CV and cover letter. If you're also applying for university, you could use your personal statement as a starting point for your application.

Employers advertise degree apprenticeships throughout the year and there is no application cycle like there is with university. The vacancy will state when the application deadline is, and when the apprenticeship is due to start.

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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Apprenticeships



Support in school:

- Apprenticeship talk
- Apprenticeship workshop
- TEAMS- adverts uploaded
- Support with Mrs Griffin
- Careers fair in school
- Subject specific opportunities
- Networking events (see Event bright, work Wiltshire, Swindon and Wiltshire careers hub)

Start looking from Easter onwards

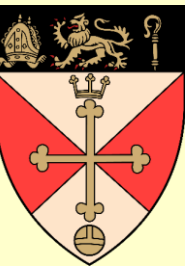
WEX is vital (including online/ virtual)

6th form TEAMS

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Art Foundation



What's an Art Foundation Diploma?

An Arts Foundation Diploma is a qualification that helps you develop your creative practice and progress to study art and design at degree level. It's a one-year intensive course that will give you specialist knowledge and skill that's not taught at secondary level.

Why take the Art Foundation Diploma course?

An Art foundation course gives you a chance to explore different specialisms like drawing, painting, fashion, textiles, installation art, printmaking, graphic illustration, 3D design and fine art. You'll build up a portfolio of work to show at interview and can make an informed decision on what you might study at a degree level. Many universities prefer you to complete an Art Foundation Diploma before applying for a degree.

Some of the most common courses of study that students pursue after completing a foundation degree in art are:

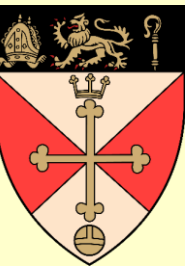
Architecture, Animation, Fashion, Film, Fine Art, Illustration, Interior Design, Product Design

Support: Mrs Gibbons (any art teacher)/ Mrs Griffin

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Conservatoire

Conservatoires provide performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses – both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Courses are based around individual tuition, practical training, and frequent opportunities to perform. For example, although all conservatoires offer music courses, only two offer drama courses, and some offer subjects like film and production. The conservatoires in the UCAS Conservatoires scheme are:

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (classical) (Non- traditional conservatoire BIMM)

Leeds Conservatoire

Royal Academy of Music

Royal College of Music

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Royal Northern College of Music

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance



Other conservatoires may operate outside the UCAS Conservatoire scheme. and you may have to apply to them direct or through the UCAS Undergraduate scheme. If the conservatoire is not listed above, check with them to find out more about their admissions process.

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Gap Years

A gap year offers you the opportunity to gain skills and experiences, save and earn money, while giving you time to reflect and focus on what you want to do next.

A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV – many employers value the experiences students have gained if they've actively managed their time, set themselves goals, and stretched themselves.

A gap year can also enhance your higher education studies – if you decide to apply for Uni, you could tailor your gap year to relate it to the subject area you plan to study.

Going to Uni? check about deferring or are you going to Oxbridge/ Law or VetMed- still some stigma around gap years.

Support- speak to ex students, travel on your own/ company?
Need help to enter world of work? Applying later to Uni (speak to us)



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Work

Things to think about...

Are suitable jobs available locally? Make sure you research the local job market. (LMI)

How will you find the adjustment to working life? It may take a while to get used to the hours and shorter holidays.

Are you sure about your career plans?

If you want to get straight into work you may want to consider the following.

Internship- An internship or work placement can give you the opportunity to work at a company with the intention of learning new skills and gaining experience in a particular industry. More and more companies are offering these types of positions to school leavers, as well as to graduates.*

Start a business- Becoming an entrepreneur can be exciting, but think carefully about your ideas and make a solid business plan.

The Princes Trust can help you with advice on setting up a business if you are aged 18-30 years old

The governments working for yourself website is a good place to start for a person of any age.

Searching for a Job- You will need a CV that stands out and a cover letter.

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

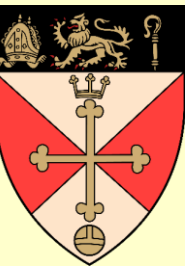
Support- 6th form team, Mrs Griffin, check out TEAMS and Work Wiltshire



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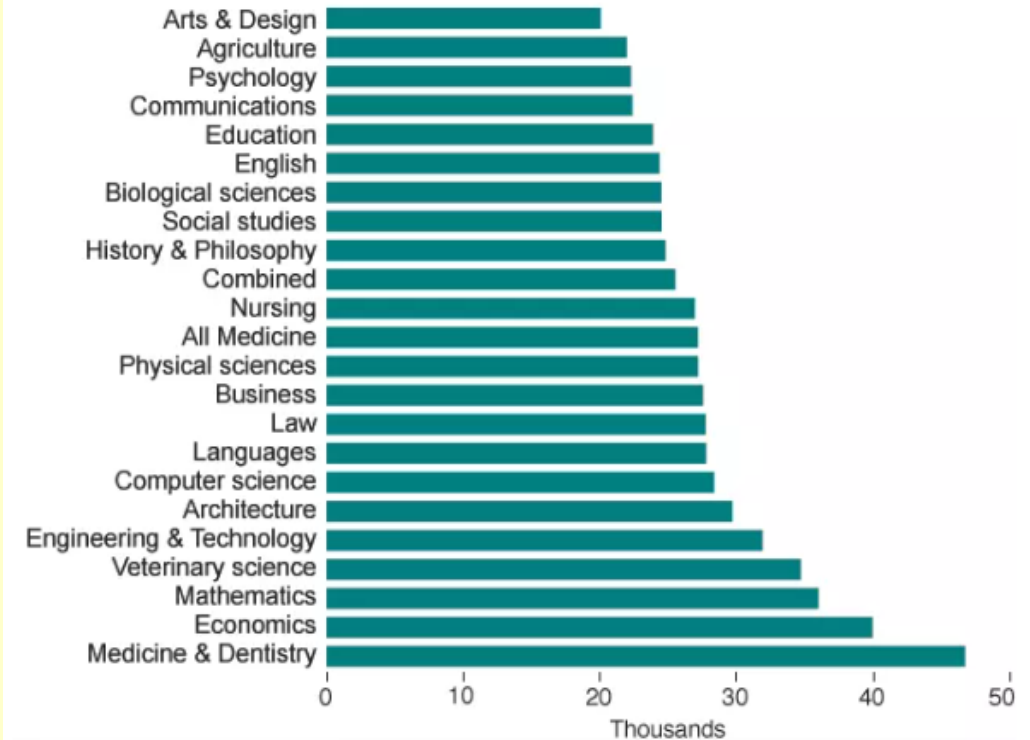
University



“Going to university offers career advantages like access to more jobs and higher earning potential, deeper knowledge in a subject, and crucial transferable skills. It also fosters significant personal growth, independence, diverse social networks, and a broader worldview through challenging academics, meeting people from different cultures, and exploring new interests via clubs and societies.”

Which graduates earn the most?

Median annual earnings (£) by subject, five years after graduating



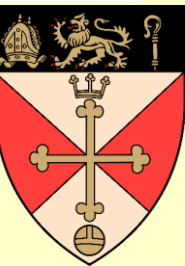
Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies



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University



1. Start research early – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
2. Register in the UCAS Hub and browse through courses
3. Know the deadlines – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
4. Go to UCAS events and course provider open days – speak to UCAS and higher education staff to get answers to questions.
5. Check entry requirements – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course. (SUPER CURRICULA/ WEX)
6. Draft and redraft the personal statement – get plenty of feedback and refine it
7. Understand student finance – so they can make the best arrangements to fund their studies.
8. Be prepared for results day – make sure they're prepared for all the possible outcomes.
9. Understand how Extra and Clearing work – different ways to apply for more courses.
10. Visit UCAS Socials regularly to get advice and ask questions.

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Applying to University



UCAS Tariff

Qualification and grade	Tariff points
A level grade A*	56
A level grade A	48
A level grade B	40
A level grade C	32
A level grade D	24
A level grade E	16

www.ucas.com/tariff-calculator

GRADE	UCAS POINTS
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

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Applying to University



English Literature Aberystwyth University



Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff	120 - 128 points	With B in any English-related A level.
A level	B B B - A B B	With B in any English-related A level.
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	DMM - DDM	With specified subject.
Access to HE Diploma		Pass in Access qualification in a relevant subject with Merit in 50% of units at level 3.
Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate		Aberystwyth University welcomes the Welsh Baccalaureate as a valuable qualification in its own right and considers completion of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate to be equivalent to an A level grade.
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme	30 points	With 6 points in any English-related subject at Higher Level.

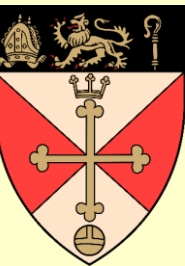
Russell Group Universities
Good University guide
City V Campus
Career Aspirations
Accommodation
Additional features of the course

Apply to universities that fit your academic profile.
Be realistic
Build in an insurance choice.
So maybe 2 Aspirational : 2 Safe : 1 Insurance
* Unconditional offer

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Applying to University- 2027 applications

Oxbridge and VetMed

These have their own application requirements and separate deadlines

Mrs Hall and Mr Brown lead on this.

Students will need a high grade profile at A Level (and GCSE)

Additional tests/ interviews and assessments

Research entrance exams e.g. BMAT, UKCAT, LNAT, ELAT, HAT, MAT and PAT, Cambridge SAQ – Supplementary Application Questionnaire

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Applying to University- 2027 applications

- April 28th

Courses for 2027 appear

- May 12th

Applications can start to be completed

- July 9th

Conservatoire applications open

- September 1st

Applications can go off to UCAS

- October 1st

UCAS Conservatoire application deadline

- October 15th

Oxbridge/ Vet Med inc Dentistry application deadline

- January 13th

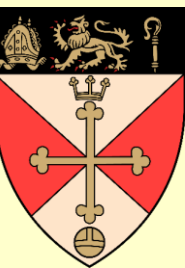
UCAS deadline

[Key dates timeline | UCAS](#)

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Applying to University

What needs to be done by these dates?

You'll need to leave enough time to complete your application, resolve any queries and make sure it reaches us by the deadline.

After you find courses and you're ready to apply, we'll explain everything in more detail, but here's a brief overview:

Fill in your details, qualifications and course choices.

Write a personal statement to demonstrate you'll be a good student.

Include your reference and pay your application fee.

£28.50. (students in receipt of the bursary can have this paid for)

Password- Penguin2027

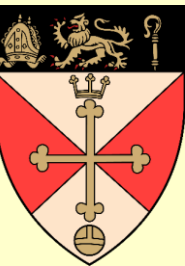
UCAS

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the UCAS application portal. The left screenshot is the 'SIGN IN' page, featuring a dark blue background with white text. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Sign in' (selected) and 'Register'. Below the tabs, the heading 'SIGN IN' is prominently displayed. The instructions 'Please sign in below.' are followed by two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password', both marked with a red asterisk. A blue link for 'Forgot your password?' is positioned below the password field. A blue 'Sign in' button is located at the bottom of the form. A small shield icon with a checkmark is visible in the bottom left corner, accompanied by the text 'We never share your data without permission. Our privacy and cookie policies'. The right screenshot is the 'REGISTER' page, also with a dark blue background. It has 'Sign in' and 'Register' tabs at the top, with 'Register' selected. The heading 'REGISTER' is in large white letters. The form includes five input fields: 'Email', 'First name', 'Last name', 'Password', and 'Confirm password', all with red asterisks. Below the password fields is a checkbox labeled 'I have read and understood the Terms and conditions'. A blue 'Register' button is at the bottom right.

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Applying to University-Personal statement

The new personal statement

Personal statements have changed from one longer piece of text to three separate sections, each with a different question to help shape the focus for students' answers. Each section will have a minimum character count of 350 characters, which is clearly labelled on the question boxes, along with an overall character counter, to ensure students know if they're on track. The new web page for submitting the personal statement will also feature helpful on-page guidance for each question.

The new questions are as follows:

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

The personal statement will still be 4000 characters in total; this includes spaces.

The content of the personal statement will remain broadly the same - it will just be split across three sections rather than one longer piece of text.

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Applying to University-Personal statement

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?

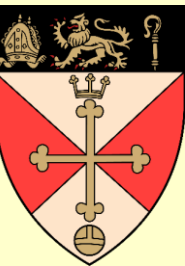


Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

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Applying to University- Personal statement

How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education – think school, college, training, or short online courses.

What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.

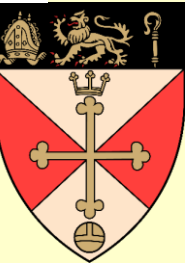


Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

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Applying to University-Personal statement

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you've attained outside of the classroom.



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

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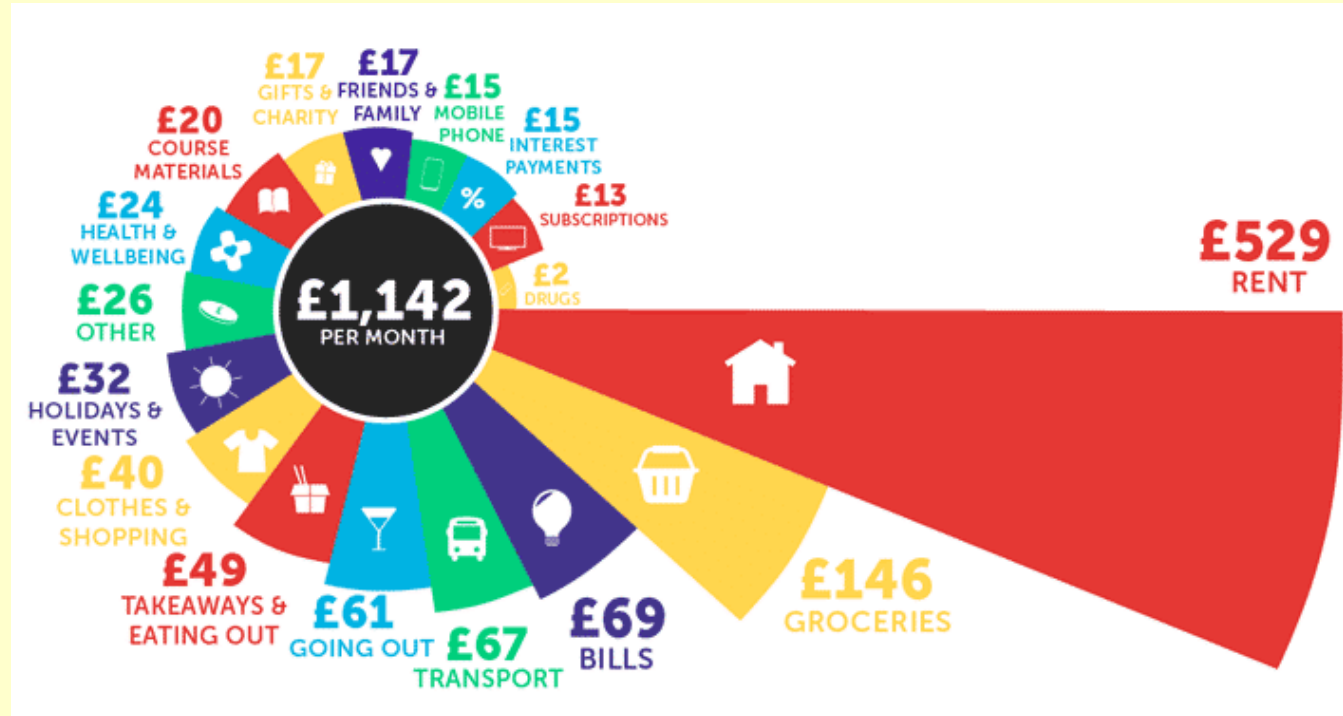
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Applying to University-Student Finance

Two main costs:

- Tuition fees - £10,050
- Living costs



How to pay for it all?

- Tuition fee loan
- Maintenance loan
- University Bursaries
- University Scholarships
- Part time work
- Family help!
- Gap year savings

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Applying to University-Student Finance

Financing your teen's undergraduate studies MyT

Student finance	Scholarships	Bursaries
Do they have to pay it back? Yes	Do they have to pay it back? No	Do they have to pay it back? No
Where do they apply? Government website.	Where do they apply? Usually through the uni.	Where do they apply? Usually through uni, but there are some gov bursaries too.
Who can get it? Any UK citizen or settled person (min 3 yrs of living here).	Who can get it? Usually high achieving students, or those with talents in a subject, or with a special skill set.	Who can get it? Students in financial need, refugee students, students who leave care, those who are caring for others.
How much can they get? Up to 9,250/year.	How much can they get? Depends. Can be an annual or one-off payment.	How much can they get? Depends. Some are annual payments, and others are one-off.

Student Maintenance Loan amounts 2025/26

Where you live and/or study	Maximum Maintenance Loan
Living with your parents/carers	£8,877
Living away from home, studying outside London	£10,544
Living away from home, studying in London	£13,762
Living and studying abroad	£12,076

[Student bursaries, scholarships, and financial support | UCAS](#)

[Get undergraduate student finance: step by step - GOV.UK](#)

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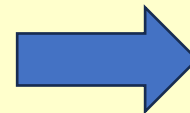
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Student Finance and Support for all options

- School bursary
- Warden and Freeman essay competition £1000
- Malmesbury area community trust- £250 grant for apprenticeship, support for moving out of home essentials
- Malmesbury league of friends
- Wiltshire community foundation




Wiltshire Community Foundation

WORRIED ABOUT THE COST OF UNI?

You could be eligible for our University Bursary programme:

- £1,600 per year of your degree
- Applicants must be aged between 17 and 24
- Applicants or their parents/guardians must be in receipt of two Means Tested Benefits or two elements of Universal Credit.

APPLY TODAY!
www.wiltshirecf.org.uk
Deadline 11 April 2025

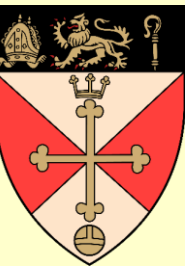


Tel: 01380 738985 Registered Charity Number: 1123126

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Key dates

- Year 12 reports + tutor report 12/3
 - Higher Education evening – Monday 9th March 5.30-6.30 Hall
 - UCAS trip –Tues 28th April
 - Year 12 Progress evening- Thursday 7th May
 - UCAS opens- April 2026- ongoing at home and tutor time
 - Head student applications- Easter
 - Mock exams- W/C Monday 22nd June
 - WEX- W/C Monday 29th June (inset day)
 - Uni summer schools and open days- sign up!
- *UCAS grades published 10/7 on reports along with mock grades
- End of Sept- Year 13 interim 1, last chance for UCAS grades to change*



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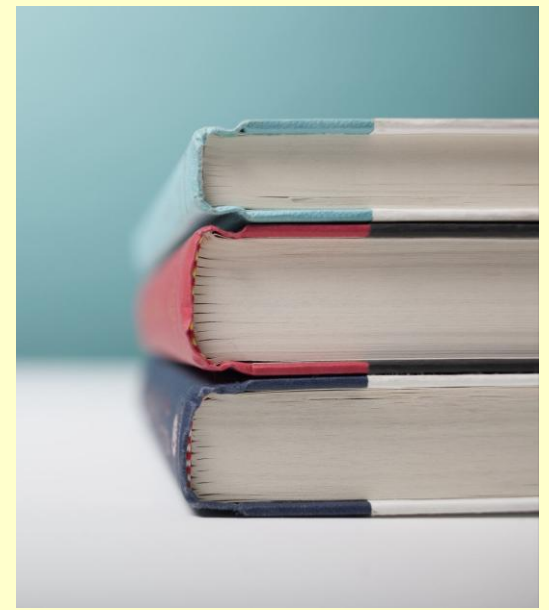
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Independent study

- 5 hours per subject taught/ matched with 5 hours of personal study
- 2 hours of supervised study per week*
- Managing 'free time'
- Study rooms available
- Study V Social time V Work*
- Reading/ Pre reading/ Podcasts/ Revision/Documentaries/
Practice questions/ Improving work



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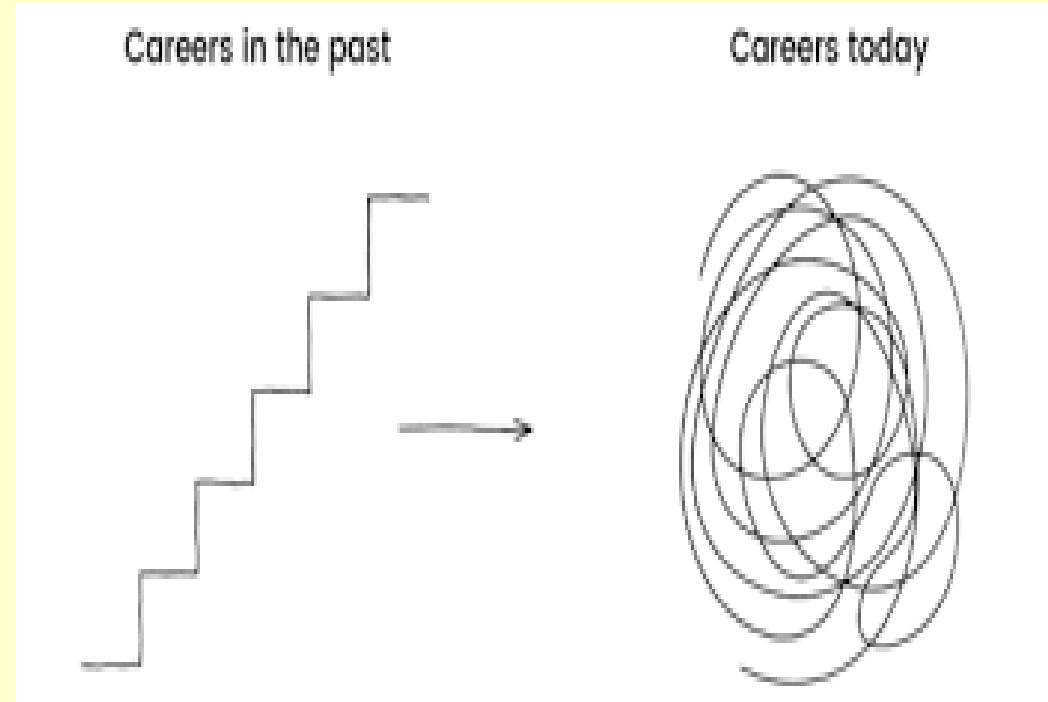
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Finally:

- Lots to think about and discuss- Big decisions
- This power point with all the links will be on the website for you to reference
- Please do stay behind to ask any questions
- Do keep in touch- we are all here to help
- Squiggly careers path: “In squiggly careers, there's no one size fits all version of success. Success is as individual as you are.”



Thank you for coming

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