

The Crypt School Sixth Form

UCAS information

2027 entry



School support...

Careers programme that includes...

- Talk on writing effective personal statements
– University Bath
- Unifrog website - access to lots of resources
- UCAS fair to Newport (was in April)
- Careers fair in school - October 2025 and 2026
- Careers interviews - Mrs Mikulak

School support...

- Enrichment afternoon talks – Term 5 and 6 of Y12
- Students permitted to attend Open Days and Departmental visits
- Oxbridge trip September 2026
- Tutors 1-2-1 support
- Work Experience week
- Assemblies and Career discussions and time dedicated in 'PeD' lessons - on going

School support...

2 days off timetable (this week):

- Registration to UCAS
- Personal statement support- Draft version to be completed.
- Apprenticeship CV and application writing skills

Interview skills and Mock interviews- Oct '26

What Is UCAS?

- Rather than apply direct to a university, all university applications are made online through UCAS: the *Universities and College Admissions Service*.
- UCAS is a government agency that processes all university applications in the UK.
- UCAS are not involved with the actual selection process – they simply facilitate it.
- A charge of £28.95 for 2027 (payable by student unless in receipt of bursary)
- UCAS processes the applications and copies are sent to each university applied to.

How Students will use UCAS

- The online service is easy to use. Here are the basic steps:
- Visit www.ucas.com
- Follow the links to the information on Apply and complete the free online Registration.
- After registering, UCAS will provide a USERNAME. Students must choose a PASSWORD.
- Use the school's BUZZWORD (Crypt2027).
- Students will use the Username and Password to complete the application itself, and later when they want to TRACK how applications are progressing.
- Only students have access to their individual password, so make a note of it!

Applying

UCAS form has 4 main sections for students to complete:

- 1. Personal Details**
- 2. Institution and Course Choices**
- 3. Qualifications**
- 4. Personal Statement.**

Plus...

The School Reference (the school completes this)

1. Personal Details

- It sounds silly, but CHECK these are correct.
- If a university wants to contact you, it is very important you include an up to date address and phone number.
- Include both your main home telephone number AND your mobile number.
- Most universities will contact you by email, so make sure you include the address at which they can reach you.
- Choose an appropriate email address – think of the first impression you give if yours sounds silly or inappropriate!

2. Institutions / Courses

- This is a simple list of where and what you wish to study.
- You need to include the institution codes and course codes for each course/place to which you are applying.
- Your university choices are listed ALPHABETICALLY, NOT in order of preference.
- A university cannot ask you to tell them where else you have applied, or which course/university you most want to attend.
- Select an aspirational and realistic set of courses based on your expected A Level grades

Grade	AS points	A2 Points
A*		56
A	20	48
B	16	40
C	12	32
D	10	24
E	6	16

How Many Courses?

- Students can apply for **up to 5 courses**.
- They can apply for a mixture of different subjects – e.g. applying to 3 Geography courses and 2 Mathematics courses.
- BUT this is NOT usually a good idea: universities want to be sure students have thought carefully about, and are committed to studying, their subject.
- It is also difficult to write a convincing personal statement about 2 very different subjects.

How Many Universities?

- Students can apply to up to 5 different universities (one course at each university).
- Or they can apply to multiple courses at the same university e.g. three courses at one university, and two other courses at two further universities.
- Really worth applying for more than one course at each university if the ENTRY REQUIREMENTS/OFFERS for those courses differ significantly.
- e.g. a university may require students to achieve 120 points for a place on a Human Geography degree, but only 104 points for a place on a Physical Geography degree.
- If they do not differ significantly it is sensible to spread the courses between different universities.

Which University?

- Find out about the course content and the standard offer for that course, by visiting the university website.
- Download a brochure / prospectus for that course / department / university.
- Look at various on-line guides and league tables to see how each course/university measures up. Try:
 - www.ucas.ac.uk › ... › Step 1: Choosing courseswww.ucas.ac.uk › ... › Step 1: Choosing courses › Choosing a course
 - www.bestcourse4me.com
 - www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/
 - www.direct.gov.uk/.../UniversityAndHigherEducation
 - www.direct.gov.uk/unistats

Which University?

- Visit the department / university BEFORE you apply.
- Open Days - excellent way to find out more about the university and particular courses, and get a feel for the place and the location.
- Dates / how to visit will be listed on the website of each university.
- Talk to teachers about which universities are best for your subject, and which they think might suit you.
- Talk to friends or anyone you may know who has (quite recently) been to your chosen universities.
- Only apply for courses for which you are likely to achieve the standard offer.
- NO POINT in applying to study at Cambridge if you are predicted CCC.

3. Qualifications

- Fill in this part very carefully!
- There are separate parts of the form for the qualifications you already have, and for those you are about to take.
- Make sure you put the right ones in the appropriate box!
- Make sure you clearly list the TYPE of each qualification (i.e. GCSE, AS, or A Level).
- It is very frustrating for Admissions Tutors to have to try and work out precisely which A Levels you are taking.
- One of the most common mistakes is for students to forget to include the current A Level subjects that they are taking!

4. The Personal Statement

- This is changing this year.
- Now there will be 3 separate sections, each with a question to shape the focus for students' answers
- There is a minimum character count of 350 for each question.
- The overall character count is still 4000 characters (including spaces)
- The content remains broadly the same and expectations are mostly the same.

4. The Personal Statement

The 3 questions are:

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?

Targeting The Statement

- An opportunity to give information about yourself that cannot be found the other parts of the application.
- Don't repeat yourself - the universities will read the full statement as one (you write it as 3)
- With few universities now interviewing applicants, it may be the only chance you have to put these things across.
- Remember, you are writing not to a university, but to one person: an Admissions Tutor.
- The difficulty is that you are sending the same information to up to five people!

Targeting The Statement

- This means is that you cannot target the statement too closely to one particular course/university.
- e.g. if your statement says why you are so keen to study a course at a particular university, then it will not go down too well with Admissions Tutors at the other universities to which you have applied!
- This is one reason why it is also not a good idea to apply for more than one subject. If a Personal Statement is full of reasons why you want to study History, how will it be read by a Maths Admissions Tutor?

After the student part is finished...

- Once you have checked everything and you believe you have finished you then have to submit your application to the school (me!) for checking.
- Before we can send it off, you will also need to make payment to UCAS.
- If you are in receipt of a bursary you can claim this money back from the school.
- We then check everything and hopefully spot any errors. If we find them then we can return the application to you to amend (you won't be charged again).

The school's role

There are 3 sections for the school to complete:

- **Section 1:** General statement of the school (this is identical for all students and is written by the Headmaster)
- **Section 2:** Extenuating circumstances (we will ask you if you need to add anything here. It's written by the school, not the student)
- **Section 3:** references & grades
 - subject references
 - tutor reference
 - predicted grades.

What next...UCAS

- Once you have submitted your application to UCAS, you will receive a Welcome Message from UCAS, confirming the application, and providing an APPLICATION NUMBER.
- You will need this number when checking the progress of the application through TRACK over the coming months.

What next...Admissions Tutors

- The application will be sent to an Admissions Tutor in the relevant department at each university.
- Admissions Tutors read application forms very carefully. Usually they will be looking for 5 main things:
 1. What subjects is the student taking at A Level - are these suitable to the degree applied for?
 2. What grades is this person predicted (are they likely to achieve a standard offer)?
 3. How have they performed at GCSE and AS levels (if taken)?
 4. What does the referee say - how good are they at their subjects, are they conscientious and well organised, are they good natured / pleasant to work with?
 5. What has the student said in their Personal Statement - will they do well, will they offer something to the university and to the other students on the course?

When To Apply

- Students register with UCAS and start completing applications from the start of July.
- However, they will not be able to enter their on-line UCAS application until September.
- UCAS deadlines:
- 15th October 2026 Oxford, Cambridge and specific courses (medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies) of the academic year before the student wishes to begin studies.
- 13th January 2027 (6pm) other courses.
- Although these are the latest deadlines, most universities will start considering applications and offering places much earlier than this.

When to apply (cont'd)

The earlier you apply the better: very popular courses, or courses at highly regarded universities, soon fill-up.

Crypt set their own, much earlier, internal deadlines.

- For priority applications – student deadline = 25th September 2026
- For other applications – we recommend students send applications in Term 2, or sooner for more competitive courses like law.

Students need to make sure they complete their parts of the form - and submit it to the referee - in plenty of time.

What Happens Next...Offers

- It is a bit of a waiting game. Don't panic if friends have all their offers and you don't – universities work at different speeds.
- Universities make 2 kinds of offer:
 1. UNCONDITIONAL (made to people who already know their results and have listed these on their application).
 2. CONDITIONAL OFFER (the most common type) - usually made on the basis of the UCAS TARIFF.
- A typical offer for a degree at a 'good' university will be 112 - 128 UCAS TARIFF points.

- Hence an offer of 120 points is the equivalent of BBB

Grade	AS points	A2 Points
A*		56
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How Many Offers To Accept?

- Universities will confirm the offer to you personally in writing an email to let you know that they have made you an offer via UCAS.
- Students will not be able to accept or decline any offers received until ALL universities to which they have applied have confirmed offers with UCAS.
- Once UCAS have received details of all offers, students will need to decide which offers to accept.
- They must make a FIRM acceptance of one of the offers, an INSURANCE acceptance of one other offer, and REJECT any other offers that have been made.

Accepting Offers

- Most students choose the course they most want as their FIRM offer, and a slightly lower offer as their INSURANCE (in case they do not achieve their FIRM offer).
- If students achieve the points needed for the FIRM offer, UCAS automatically allocate a place on that course in August when the exam results are announced.
- If students are rejected by their firm offer because they did not achieve the offer, but DO make the offer for the Insurance place, UCAS will automatically allocate a place on the Insurance course after August results.
- It is advisable to have at least 16-24 points difference between the Firm choice and the Insurance choice when applying for courses.

How Can Parents Help?

- Take an interest in the whole process.
- Encourage your child to make an early application.
- Encourage your child to visit universities / go to open days – where possible avoid school days, as this could impinge on final results.
- Encourage your child to make choices of universities / locations they actually like!
- Encourage your child to distinguish between FIRM and INSURANCE offers, so they have a genuine insurance offer.

How Can Parents Help?

- Encourage your child to take it seriously - a good personal statement clearly takes many drafts.
- Read through the application and point out where they've undersold themselves or actually over-exaggerated: potential interview humiliation could await!
- Imagine you've read 26 other forms: would this one hold your interest? Tell them (tactfully) if they don't sound interesting enough!
- Check spelling, grammar and so on.
- For more information go to www.ucas.com/parents