



Post-Sixth Form Parent Information Evening

1st March 2017



Outline of the evening

- **Mrs Helen Cook – Head of Post-16 Guidance**
Range of post-18 options
- **Llinos Williams – the University of Bangor**
Student finance for parents
- **Mrs Elaine Morgan – Wilmslow High School**
Open days



WHS post-sixth form trends

- Many WHS students still see university as the only option.
- Numbers applying vary year on year. For the current Year 13, 80% have applied.
- We try to encourage all students to fully consider all options available to them. “Trying” university carries a cost from the minute students begin.

The new landscape

- There used to be 3 main options available to students at 18:

University Job Gap year

- Now the landscape is wider, especially due to:

Globalisation + higher tuition fees
+ growth in employer engagement
at 18



The new landscape

- Your son or daughter's future job may not have been invented yet!
- Student who studied History and then did a Masters in Holocaust Studies got a job as Social Media Champion for Innocent Smoothies! This job didn't exist when she started her degree.



Top 10 skills required by employers

– “A degree is not enough.”

- Verbal communication
- Teamwork
- Commercial awareness
- Analysing and investigating
- Initiative and self-motivation
- Drive
- Written communication
- Planning and organising
- Flexibility
- Time management

Julia King
Vice-Chancellor of Aston University



OPTION 1

FULL-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UK



HE application figures – 2016 entry

- Increased tuition fees led to a drop in HE applications in 2011 and 2012.
- However, this figure has been rising year on year.
- 392000 applicants in 2016, rising from 390000 in 2015 and 377000 in 2014.
- Acceptance rate of 85%.
- Medicine applications down 4% in 2016 but early applicants overall up 1%.
- Rise in numbers at higher tariff universities but lower tariff institutions are decreasing numbers.

Future predictions

- Decreasing number of 18 year olds.
- “In 2010, students chased places. Now the places chase them.”
- Impact of Brexit?
- Increased number of applicants with combination of A Levels and BTECs.
- Average debt now £44000 and rising, with UK costs higher than anywhere else in the world.
- “Clearing is not a dirty word.” More places gained through clearing (12.1% of acceptances in 2016).



Why go to university?

- Are they seeking academic challenge?
- Do they want to study for a further three, or more, years? Does this *excite* them?
- Are they seeking to develop as a person?
- Do they want to develop independence?
- Is it their own decision or aspiration?
- Do they have a medium/long-term career plan?

This must be the right decision for the individual student, not for other people.

Post degree prospects...

- Degrees are no longer the “passport to guaranteed success”. However, according to recent figures from the **Office for National Statistics**, graduate employment rate stood at 87% which was higher than the employment rate for those educated to A level standard (83%), A* to C grade GCSE standard (76%) and the rates for those with other qualifications (70%) or no qualifications (47%).
- **So...**graduates still have the competitive edge overall BUT a degree is now more a “licence to hunt” as opposed to offering any guarantees for the future. Many graduates take non-graduate roles.
- **Students must try to differentiate themselves.** Some research suggests that around 85 graduates are competing for each graduate position.



Long term motivations?

- Money?
 - Non-financial rewards?
 - Intellectual challenge?
 - Active, hands-on career?
 - Working as a team?
 - Leading others?
 - Security?
-
- A degree is now vital in order to apply for many jobs in the labour market.

And the not so good reasons...

- *"Everyone else is going."*
- *"I don't know what else to do."*
- *"I'll earn a lot of money afterwards."*
- *"My parents will be disappointed in me if I don't go to university."*
- *"I can't be bothered researching other options; it seems like a lot of work."*
- *"It'll be a laugh."*



Where to start?

- We do not want students who aimlessly drift along and then submit a university application because they haven't thought of anything else. This is not a good idea...
- Taking **proactive and decisive action** will help them to make the right decisions.

The process so far...

- **Tutor time use of tutor time and Wider Curriculum lessons to introduce Unifrog**
- **External speakers:** university, alumni, employment, gap year
- **Wider Curriculum lessons in March:** a presentation on decision to go to university from Llinos Williams and Mrs Morgan's presentation on open days
- **UCAS fair 15th March:** Manchester
- **20th March:** Oxbridge conference at Haydock
- **"Post-Sixth Form" support booklet** to be covered during tutor time
- **Unifrog** access ongoing
- **Individual appointments ongoing:** Dr Rowe, Mrs Cook, Miss Evetts and discussions with form tutors during monitoring

What is Unifrog?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.unifrog.org>. The browser's address bar shows the site is secure. The website's navigation menu includes links for FEATURES, FAQ, BLOG, CONTACT, and a SIGN IN button. The main content area features a large orange banner with the text: "The Complete Destinations Platform" and "Make it easy for your students to find and apply for the best courses and apprenticeships for them." Below this banner, the text "WHAT IS UNIFROG?" is followed by "A one-stop-shop for getting in." Four circular icons represent different educational paths: APPRENTICESHIPS (a purple character with a hard hat), FURTHER EDUCATION (an orange character with a graduation cap), UNIVERSITY (a blue character with a graduation cap), and + LOTS MORE! (a green frog character holding a sword). The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 14:25 on 01/03/2017.

Secure Key Mater x SAMS 2 - INSERT x SAMS 2 - QP(870 x UCAS Search tool x School of Applie x BTEC Level 3 Nat x Unifrog - Finding x

Secure | <https://www.unifrog.org>

unifrog

FEATURES FAQ BLOG CONTACT SIGN IN

The Complete Destinations Platform

Make it easy for your students to find and apply for the best courses and apprenticeships for them.

WHAT IS UNIFROG?

A one-stop-shop for getting in.

APPRENTICESHIPS FURTHER EDUCATION UNIVERSITY + LOTS MORE!

14:25 01/03/2017



What is Unifrog?

- Endorsed by the Department for Education, Unifrog is an online platform to support students through their post-16 and 18 choices.
- University and apprenticeship choices can be searched and shortlists created.
- Students use it to build evidence of key competencies and produce their personal statements.
- Staff will use it to write references.



The changing landscape

- Students and parents need a 21st century mindset - creative industries, digital skills and social enterprise.
- Demand amongst employers for “brain workers” with transferrable skills.
- Employers want people who can write really well and use computer code. Liberal arts/liberal arts and science degrees allow broader background.



What does this mean for our students?

- They should **not make assumptions** about their future post-sixth form.
- It is crucial that students are extremely **proactive**. They must take the time to fully research and explore their options to ensure that they have a **long-term strategy**.
- We must share the “**real world**” picture.
- They should focus not just on academic study but also on developing the **skills** that will help them in the future.

Choosing courses - all courses are not equal

- Research suggests a third of students regret their course choice.
- There are often huge variations in graduate and lifetime earnings depending on the degree subject studied.
- Our students often assume that “any degree” will be an advantage to them in the future; this is not necessarily the case.
- Research is key: www.unistats.com is very useful to help compare % of students securing graduate jobs from various degrees. This can also be done on Unifrog.



Researching university options

- Type of course?
- What subject to study?
- Course requirements in relation to predicted grades?
- Reputation of the university for a particular course? (E.g. use broadsheet league tables)
- Area of the country – stay near home or move far away? Cost implications of this?
- Open Days? (Be selective and sensible)



Mrs Elaine Morgan
Wilmslow High School

Open days



Outline of the rest of Year 12

- Complicated year due to linear and non-linear courses.
- Environment of linear exams which are designed to take the full academic year in Year 12.
- Personalised study plan for each Year 12 student, with IAG.
- No work experience during school time.

Predicted grades

- **EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS IN MAY/JUNE AND INTERNAL END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS IN JULY ARE CRUCIAL.**
- Choices **must** be in line with students' predicted grades.
- **All Year 12 students must declare all AS (and GCSE) grades** when applying to university. Therefore, predicted grades at A Level need to be in line with any AS grades already achieved.
- **Entry criteria** for courses is published in prospectuses and online. Calling / emailing to check is advised; entry requirements and selection criteria often change within the cycle.
New tariffs began in 2017.
- We advise choosing a **"spread" of choices** to be safe i.e. 2 at an aspirational grade level, 2 at a very realistic level and at least one at a lower level.

Predicted grades

- Subject teachers provide predicted grades submitted by the end of September based on **AS grades, internal end of Year 12 examinations, attitude and work to date.** It is important that students trust their judgement: there is no benefit to the teacher to either over-predict or under-predict.
- Students are encouraged to **discuss** predicted grades with their subject teachers in a mature manner. Sometimes, we encourage a delay in the application to give the student time to demonstrate a higher attainment level.
- **Please note:** entry requirements do not necessarily indicate the calibre of the course or university.

Course demand and grade requirements

- Courses with **core subject / traditional names** will have higher entry requirements as they attract more applicants (mainly because they are “familiar” to students without requiring additional research)...

For example:

“English Language” compared with “Linguistics”.

“Dream every day of a course that no-one you know is applying for.” Mary Curnock-Cook



University Application Process

- All online via “**UCAS Apply**” (University & College Administration System).
- All students will register from May onwards to complete main details by July. Support sheets available.
- Students will receive sessions on how to apply and how to write a Personal Statement through tutorial time and use of the yellow booklet: **attendance is crucial**. Support on structure is available on Unifrog.
- Students must take responsibility for ensuring they know what to do and for when: **ultimately it is their application**.



Personal statement

- Students' chance to sell themselves.
- Takes time and effort: should not be left until the last minute.
- Form tutors will check personal statements and give advice. However, deadlines must be met.
- Should make clear reference to the chosen course and **why** they want to study this.
- **Must be their own work. UCAS software will pick up plagiarism.**

Other considerations

Increasingly, institutions are using additional measures, other than the application, to select students, such as:

- **Interviews:** gauge how serious students are about the course.
- **Admission tests:** will be flagged on the UCAS application and the admissions criteria.
- **Submission of work:** such as portfolios.
- **Applicant days and “interviews”**

Therefore...

- With over 50,000 courses on offer, requirements vary.
- Students must check: this is **their responsibility.**

Key deadlines

- Students submit subject forms to their subject teachers and detailed reference request forms to their form tutors in May/June.
- Completion of main body of UCAS form by end of term in July.
- Pay UCAS fee by 22nd September: £24 tbc payable via Parentpay.
- Internal early applications deadline is 22nd September (UCAS deadline is 15th October).
- All applications must be received by school for first checking by Friday 10th November.
- Final UCAS applications deadline 15th January.

“Early Applicants”

- Applications for Oxford / Cambridge and medicine / dentistry / veterinary science have an **early application deadline of 15th October**: this is non-negotiable. The internal deadline to submit these applications is **22nd September**.
- Meetings provide further information for these students to be prepared as they submit applications so **much earlier**.
- These students must be extra **proactive and prepared**; the deadline will come around very quickly.

NB: there is nothing to stop others applying early if they so wish.

“Early Applicants”

It is crucial that aspirations are realistic for such highly competitive courses.

- For Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary Science a **significant** amount of regular and varied work experience is crucial.
- Early applicants must have a strong GCSE grade profile.
- Oxford and Cambridge applicants need to be demonstrating a real passion for learning and going beyond the curriculum.

Financial considerations

**Llinos Williams:
University of Bangor**

Student finance for parents

http://prezi.com/tntqqabattml/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share



OPTION 2

VARIATIONS ON A THEME OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UK

We will support students with any of the following alternatives to university.

1. Sponsorships/scholarships during study

Examples:

Royal Navy & Royal Marines, RAF, The Army: *any academic discipline*

BP: £5,000 for Year 1 of *STEM degrees* @ **Bath, Birmingham, Cambridge, Durham, Imperial, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Strathclyde**

Whitworth Scholarships: £5,000pa for *any Engineering discipline*

Balfour Beatty: *Construction, Civil Engineering or Quantity Surveying* @ **Loughborough, Salford, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Surrey, Durham, Northumbria, Nottingham Trent, Liverpool John Moores**

Defence Engineering & Science Group (DESG): *Engineering and science disciplines;* sponsorship can be obtained during the first year or mid-course

Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS): similar scheme @ **Aston, Loughborough, Newcastle, Northumbria or Southampton**

- + **Sports or Music Scholarships:** at numerous unis
- + **Achievement Scholarships** for applicants achieving high grades
- + **NHS Bursaries** for many healthcare degrees
- + **Social Work Bursaries** for degrees in Social Work

Useful source of info = www.thescholarshipuk.org

2. Degree with a year in industry

Some unis offer this across a wide range of courses
(like **Aston, Bath, Brunel, Loughborough, Surrey**)

Placement year is usually paid (but not always)
e.g. Loughborough average = £15,000...

Tuition fee for the placement year = £1,800
maximum

Employers like it and may lead directly to
employment – **Aston moving towards 100% of
students taking a placement year.**

3. 'Private sector' degrees

Cost differentials now less prohibitive than in past; all in UCAS (except NCH)

Examples:

University of Law (Birmingham/Bristol/Chester/Guildford/London/Manchester/York)

UCFB (Wembley Stadium/Burnley) - degrees for the football & sports Industries

Academy of Contemporary Music (Guildford) / **Tech Music School** (London) / **BIMM** (Brighton/Bristol /Dublin) / **Institute of Contemporary Music** (London)

BPP University - Law/Business degrees
(Birmingham/Bristol/Cambridge/Leeds/Liverpool/London/Manchester)

Norland College - BA Early Childhood Studies (**Bath**)

University of Buckingham – 2 year degrees (+ new degree in Medicine @ £36K)

SAE Institute (London, Oxford, Liverpool, Glasgow + worldwide)

- 2-year intensive degrees that *'reflect the high-octane nature of the creative industries'*

Edge Hotel School (2-year degree at country house hotel on **Essex University** campus)

New College for the Humanities (NCH) (London)



OPTION 3

**EMPLOYER/UNIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIPS,
EMPLOYMENT AND
APPRENTICESHIPS**

1. University/Employer Partnership Degrees

Most are paid/salaried + **some pay all university fees as well as a salary.** Examples:

Airbus @ Bristol UWE (Engineering) £13,000pa

Barclays @ Anglia Ruskin/Nottingham Trent (Retail Banking) £16,000pa

CGI @ Winchester (Business Management) £13,000pa

Environment Agency @ Bristol UWE (River & Coastal Engineering)

Experian @ Nottingham Trent (Management & Leadership)

EY @ Lancaster (Accountancy)

George at Asda @ Manchester Metropolitan/Leicester HQ (The George Degree, Retail)

Harrods @ Anglia Ruskin (Retail School Leaver programme, London)

KPMG @ Birmingham/Durham/Exeter (6 year Audit programme) £21,000pa + all fees

Merchant Navy Cadetships @ Warsash / Fleetwood / South Tyneside

National Grid @ Aston (Electrical Power Engineering) £24,000pa + car!

Nestlé @ Sheffield Hallam (Gatwick/York; HR/Sales/Marketing/Buying) £17,000 + all fees

PwC @ Reading/Newcastle (Accounting/Business) £20,000pa offsets tuition fees

All are competitive, some need high grades, but KPMG don't get ENOUGH good applicants...

2. Other salaried school leaver programmes

Examples (with **approx starting salary** if known):

BDO: *Audit/Tax/Advisory; locations include Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Epsom, Gatwick, Hatfield, London, Reading, Southampton;*

Baker Tilly: *AAT Accountancy training, 28 branches in England & Scotland*

Deloitte: *5-year BrightStart scheme, Audit/Tax/Corporate Finance;*

Grant Thornton: *Accelerate programme; Audit/Tax /Business Advisory;*

Henderson Global Investors: *Trainee Prog, London; 1 year's work experience*

National Audit Office: *5 year Accountancy programme, London; **£21,000pa***

RSM Tenon: *Accounts/Outsourcing/Tax/Forensic Accounting;*

Tesco: *Trainee Management programme nationwide;*

Tesco: *Commercial Development programme (Buying/Merchandising) at Welwyn; **£18,000pa;***

Entry requirements are BBB or lower for all of the above.

3. Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Accredited & salaried work-based programmes with p/t university level study - examples:

BBC Technology Apprenticeships: Broadcast Technology;
London/Salford/Birmingham

Boots: 2-year Future Leaders programme; Nottingham; **£15,000pa;**

Capgemini: Software Engineering; 5 years; numerous locations

Civil Service Fast Track: Business Admin/IT/Finance; London/20 other locations

Ford: Finance; based at Warley/Dunton (Essex); study at BPP (London);

GCHQ/MI5/MI6: Intelligence HA's in IT/Software/Internet/Telecommunications

GlaxoSmithKline: Design/IT/Laboratory/Engineering/Supply Chain; 12 locations

Jaguar Land Rover: Engineering, leads to Production/Manufacturing/Finance/Buying

PwC: Assurance/Consulting/Deals/Tax; numerous locations

Rolls-Royce: Engineering/Supply Chain/Project Management; **£11,500pa**

Transport for London: Finance; **£16,500**

Unilever: R&D on tea, ice-cream, Lynx deodorant, washing powder capsules!

Chemistry /Food Sci/Biomed Sci/Chem or Mech Engineering;

Bedfordshire/Humberside/Wirral



MMU

**Degree Apprenticeship Open
Evening**

Tuesday 7th March

Employment

18 year-old school/college leavers **DO** sometimes set up their own businesses or operate in a freelance capacity. Some students do this while at university or 6th form. Financial assistance is available:

Shell Livewire

The Prince's Trust

Government StartUp Scheme

O2

Santander

Some of our leavers also choose to go into full-time employment. Local recruitment consultant Grazyna Moore provides sessions to support with cv and cover letter writing.



OPTION 4

GAP YEAR



Gap Years

- Can be useful for students who have not yet decided what they want to do.
- In the current climate, we advise that students do something useful with this time: “travelling” not viewed as favourably by future employers as it once was.
- If students do wish to travel, combine with useful work experience (e.g. volunteering in an overseas hospital).
- Takes time to plan – and can be expensive.
- Entry can be deferred until 2019 on UCAS application.

Gap year options

Paid gap year schemes (like Year in Industry, Deloitte Scholars, IBM Futures, Arup Pre-Uni Trainee)

Paid employment

Volunteering worldwide (gapyear.com)

Volunteering UK (www.do-it.org.uk)

Full or part-time study

Re-sits (try to avoid!)

'Paid' gap year schemes (like BUNAC, Camp America, Camp Counsellors)

Ski season or au pair agencies

Study schemes

Travelling



And finally...

How can you help?

- Encourage thorough **research** – all options. Use Unifrog/other sites with them.
- Encourage students to have an **open mind**.
- Encourage students to be **realistic**.
- Encourage development of **skills**.
- Encourage reading the **bulletin** for opportunities.
- Discuss **finances**.
- Assist writing **Personal Statement / CV**.
- Remind of **deadlines**.
- Support **revision** – highest possible grades crucial.
- Ensure part-time work / outside commitments are **minimised**.
- www.parentadviser.co.uk: a new independent website specifically aimed at supporting parents. Covers finance, league tables, the process, course choices...
- www.moneysavingexpert.co.uk: Martin Lewis' website
- **UCAS parent guide** and sign up with UCAS.
- Attend **open days** and taster days.



Useful websites

- www.ucas.com
- www.unistats.com
- www.parentadviser.co.uk
- www.applytouni.com
- www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.bestcourse4me.com
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- www.bis.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.findfoundationdegree.co.uk
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.opendays.com
- www.vinspired.com
- www.unifrog.co.uk