

## Year 12 Destinations Day

### Introduction

At UTC Reading we hold an annual Destinations Day for all Year 12 students in the summer term. The aims of this day are for you to learn about what your options are after the end of Year 13 and to begin exploring those options so that you can make an informed choice about your future destination. Many students choose to go onto University, Apprenticeship or Employment however we always recommend that you have a first choice and a backup option should your situation change over the course of Year 13.

Usually, we would be asking you to think about and make a start on these options now, so throughout this newsletter I will provide an insight into the information you would have received and how to utilise it whilst we remain in lockdown. It is a great time for you to do some research and really think about where you see yourself in the next 18 months, as well as what you need to do to get there.

As always, we will support you every step of the way with this, especially once we return to college, but for now it is good practice for you to begin to get the wheels in motion.

Should you require any additional support or have any further questions, please do contact either

**Stephanie Mitchell, Executive Director of Careers & Destinations**

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## University

### Key Dates

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May: Register with UCAS & Start your Application for 2021 Entry

*We recommend that all students register with UCAS and begin their applications now, to be working on it over the summer holidays in preparation for submission in the Autumn term.*

Submission to UCAS begins on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Applying to University

To find out more about applying: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university>

### Which University & What Grades?

Now is the time to be utilising the following websites to research universities of interest, courses of interest, entry requirements and so on. Some things to consider when choosing a university:

- Do you want to be close to home or further away?

- Do you want to be able to live at home or at the university?
- Would you rather a campus or city-based university?
- What course would you like to study? What are the entry requirements?

Here are some websites I recommend you have a look at:

Top things to consider for university courses: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/top-things-to-look-for-when-comparing-uni-courses>

University League tables by course or by university:  
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

Choosing what and where to study: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-where-study>

Whilst there are lots of websites available to help you make your choices, for many, the university website itself is one of the best places to look. It will be able to tell you about the type of university, the accommodation, the course in more detail, the entry requirements and so much more. Many universities also have a chat function meaning you will be able to ask any questions directly to someone who is already at or works at that university.

### Virtual Open Days

You should have already started to visit and look at universities throughout year 12. If you haven't started yet, now is a really good time to do so, because you need to make your choices and submit to UCAS throughout the Autumn term, therefore visiting in the Autumn may be leaving it too late. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, many Universities are now offering Virtual Open Days. Click this link below to see which universities are offering them and when:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/attend-virtual-open-day>

### Writing a Personal Statement

As you know, when submitting a UCAS application you are required to write a personal statement. But don't fear, there is so much help available out there! I would recommend that you start to make some notes on this now, and over the summer holidays, things like your achievements so far, what you enjoy doing. Here are some useful websites and videos to help you:

Jane Marshall from Optimising Futures is a fantastic help, she had videos on university applications as well as writing a personal statement: <https://www.optimisingfutures.co.uk/videos>

UCAS website provides worksheets & helpful information including what to write about:  
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

It is highly recommended that all students write a personal statement, regardless of your intended destination. Many Apprenticeship applications require you to write about your previous experiences, of which the personal statement can contribute too. Not only this, but when looking for Employment, you will need to have a personal profile at the top of your CV which could also come from your personal statement.

## Apprenticeships

Applications for apprenticeships usually open after Christmas 2020, and throughout the spring/summer terms in preparation for a September 2021 start. However, it is worth researching about apprenticeships now so that you know what you are looking for when the time comes.

Some suggested areas of research:

- What type of apprenticeship do you want? What area do you want to study?
- Where are you willing to travel for your apprenticeship? Local or further?
- What level of apprenticeship do you want? Intermediate or Degree?
- What entry requirements do you need for your desired apprenticeship?

If you are thinking of applying for an apprenticeship, we would always recommend that you have a back up option such as University or Employment. This is to ensure that you have many doors open to you when you need to make your final decision based on your results day in August 2021.

The government website is currently the central place where most live apprenticeships are listed and can be applied for. It is worth noting that there may not be many on there currently as most applications have already closed for this September 2020 (& including COVID-19 situation):

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Amazing Apprenticeships: UTC Reading uses the services of Amazing (ASK) Apprenticeships throughout many of their school events. Their website is fantastic for information and resources:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

They also have a vacancy snapshot so that you can explore many different companies that offer apprenticeships and what they might look like:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

UCAS also have a section available on their website to help you understand more about apprenticeships as well as a vacancy list too:

<https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>

As always, if there are specific companies that you want to work for, it is worth looking at their websites directly. Not all companies go through the government website to list their vacancies and some can be found directly in the careers/vacancy sections of a company website.

## Employment

Many students are already in employment throughout the course of their studies; however, you may want to consider what type of employment you would want to follow the end of Year 13.

Some things for you to consider:

- Do you want to stay in the same job you are currently in, or do you want a career change?
- What area of employment do you want to go into?

- What are the benefits to employment e.g. instead of an apprenticeship?
- Where can your choice of employment take you? Are there future career opportunities?
- Would you consider employment during time such as a gap year?

Employment is a very viable option for many students at the end of Year 13, particularly for those that want to start a specific career or perhaps take a gap year and work throughout this. Employment is also a good option for those students that may not know what they want to do and need further time to think about their destination choices. Although it seems a long way off, it is certainly worth thinking about what type of employment you would want to go into and why.

There are some things you can do to get yourself prepared for Employment such as writing a CV, researching job entry requirements, practicing interviews as well as thinking about setting up a LinkedIn profile. Some useful websites for you to explore:

My Kinda Future Build Your CV/Meet Employers/Find a Job: <https://www.mykindafuture.com/>

Youth Employment CV Writing Tips: <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/cv-writing-tips/>

Interview Advice: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/get-a-job/interview-advice> National

Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

## Parents & Carers Guidance & Support

Success at School helping your child begin their career journey: <https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=cdbb5ba1df&e=856108b8a9>

Career Map CareerMag for Parents: <https://careermap.co.uk/careermag-parents/>

UCAS Advice for parents and guardians: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

Amazing (ASK) Apprenticeships parent pack (monthly):  
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2020/03/Parent-Pack-March-2020.pdf>

## Additional Information

For further information or more websites, please visit the UTC Reading website where you will find this information under "About Us" > "Careers and Destinations":

<https://www.utcreading.co.uk/page/?title=Careers+and+destinations&pid=236>