

UCAS Information Evening

‘There is no short cut to achievement. Life requires thorough preparation – veneer isn’t worth anything’

George Washington Carver (US scientist)

Key People:

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- Miss Arscott UCAS Coordinator and Post 16 Learning Director
- Mr. Crush Post 16 Learning Director
- Miss Ballard Learning Mentor
- Mrs Chamberlain Careers Advisor
- Mrs Burbidge 6th Form Administrator
- 6th Form tutors

Things to think about:-

- Is university right for me?
- Which university?
- Which course?
- How do I produce a good application?

Is university right for me?

- 1. Not necessarily**
- 2. But statistically, it may well be! 69% of comprehensive school 6th form students go on to university**
- 3. WHY? - Your subject – other interests – financial rewards**
- 4. But make the right choice for you! (7% of students drop out)**

How do I apply? – Which university?

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- Work out your own priorities
- Research loads – university websites, general guides such as www.push.co.uk, prospectuses
- Go and visit!
- 37,000 undergraduate courses at over 370 providers in the UK!
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtS_Lt-4WQM

THROUGH FAITH AND LEARNING

How do I apply? Which course?

1. **Study what you are passionate about!**
2. Work out what that is – use www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch, other website, prospectuses
3. Think about future careers, but don't worry too much
4. You can't really apply for different subjects in different places – joint honours is fine
5. **If in doubt, stay general**

How do I apply? – offers & grades

- You apply to five universities
- Offers are made on the basis of exam results
- The school has to submit predicted grades
- You are allowed to accept 2 offers – firm and **insurance**
- Therefore it is **essential** that you choose appropriate universities at the application stage

The process – NB applications are online – access from June

- Already, and over summer – visit some universities
- Summer – keep working on statement, more importantly keep reading/gaining experience
- Early September – predicted grades and adjustment
- End of September – deadline for competitive courses
- End of October – deadline for other courses

Deferring/changing mind

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- If you know you want to defer (ie go to uni in 2021, having a gap year first) you can apply now or in a year – better to do it now
- Make sure you have gap year plans
- If you apply and decide you don't want to go – that's fine. Withdraw completely – or decline offers and wait until clearing, after results

How do I apply? – ‘the dreaded personal statement’

- **Why you want to do the course (45%)** 1 or 2 paragraphs.
- **Current A Levels/BTECs** – why you chose them and the skills they are giving you that will help you be good at this course (30%) 1 or 2 paragraphs.
- **Why you will be a good student for the university to have** – extra-curricular activities, work experience (25%) 2 paragraphs
- **Conclusion** – 1 or 2 sentences

Personal statement continued

- You need evidence for everything you say
- When talking about your experience, you explain what skills it shows or has given you
- You mustn't plagiarise
- You must be interesting!
- Your spelling and grammar must be flawless
- The best way to start writing it, is to start writing it...
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jQ3MJgdkJY> (3.5 minutes from about 7:30 mins)

Advice from former students – recent graduate

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- “I wish I had known how important it was to do extra curricular activities to add to your cover letter to make you stand out from the crowd.
- It think it is really important to have a look around the universities that you are considering applying to first taking in to account the distance and costs of travel.
- But most importantly - make the course the number one priority, I would advise reading in depth about the units that you are studying and how you are assessed. This can help you decide if the course is best suited to you and can affect how much you enjoy it.”

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Useful personal statement video – Jane Marshall at Imperial College London

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jQ3MJgdkJY>

THROUGH FAITH AND LEARNING

In conclusion... BISHOP JUSTUS Church of England School

- Choose appropriate universities
- Work with your tutor/the 6th form team
- Make sure you have relevant experience – even if it's just a day
- Prepare, prepare, prepare!

Questions...