

# Welcome

## Post-Sixth Form Information Evening

11th March 2024

Presentation will commence at 6pm



**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Overview

- Destinations
- Preparing for post-18 programme
- Applying to University, including information about 'Early Entry' and Student Finance
- Apprenticeships
- Gap Years
- Important dates / timeline.



# Destinations

Mrs O'Neill  
Head of Sixth Form



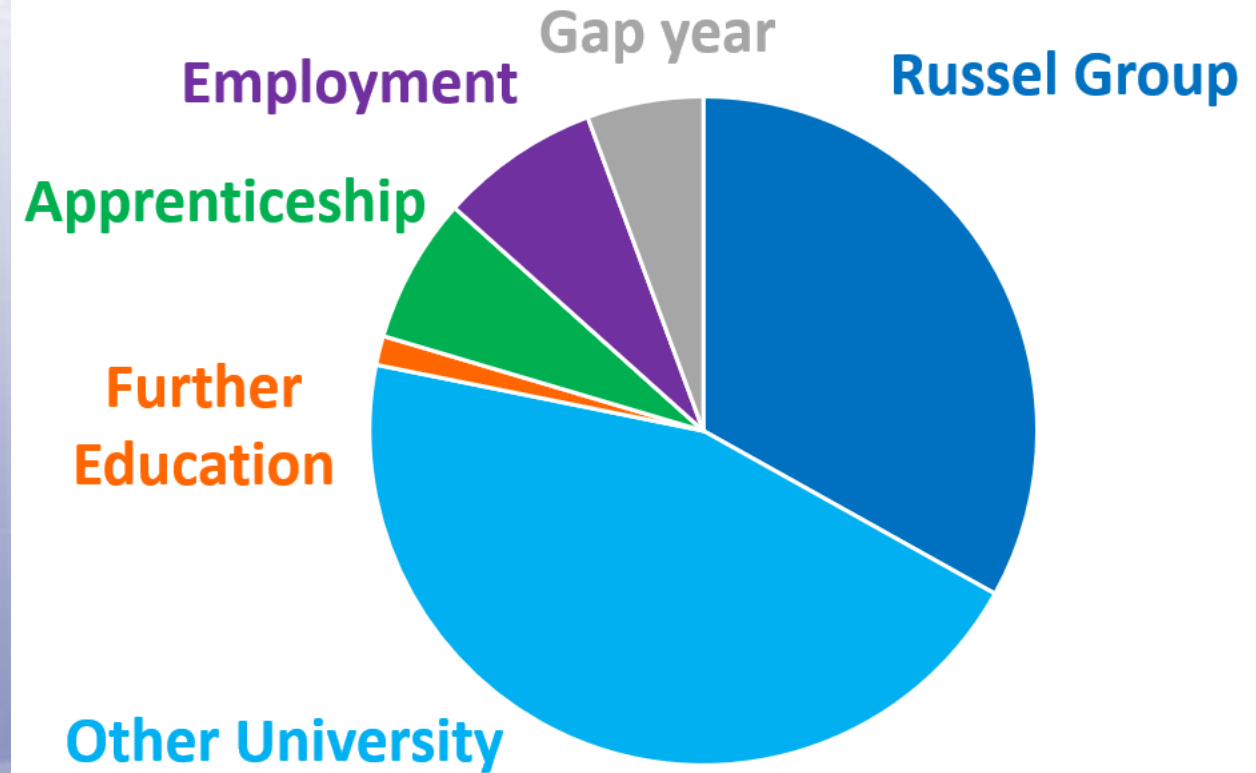
**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Destinations 2023

89% of students going to university went to their 'Firm Choice' university

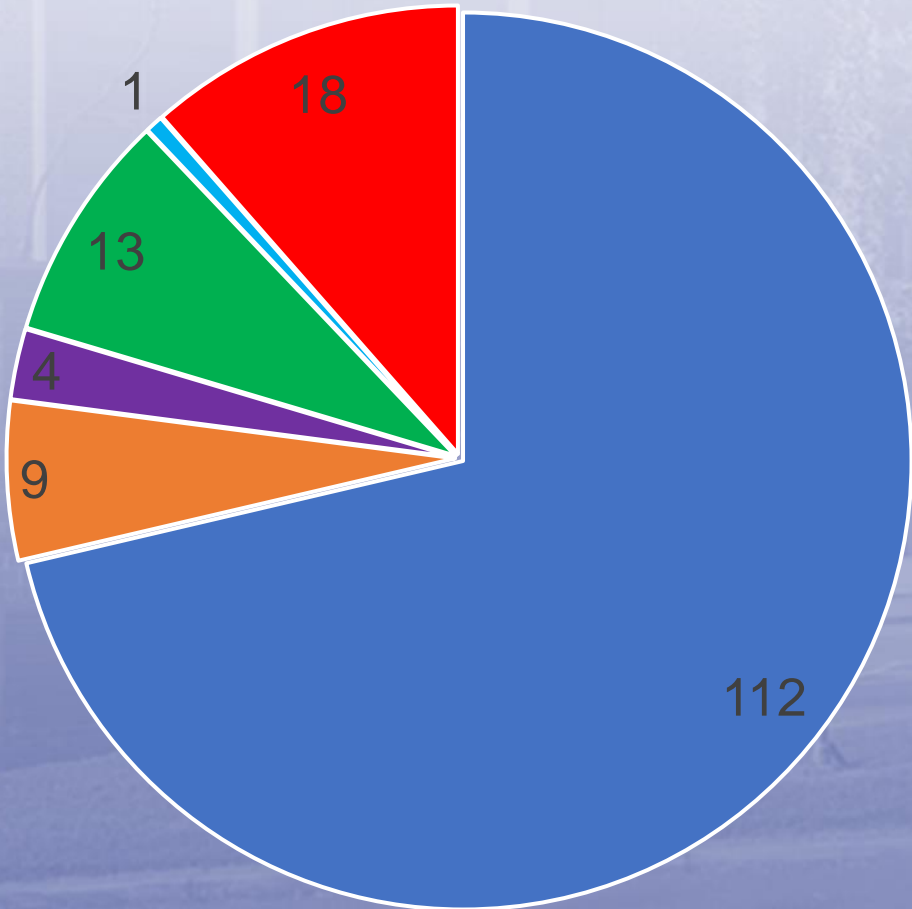
11% of students going to university went to their 'Insurance Choice' university

36% of students going to university went to '**Russell Group**' universities.



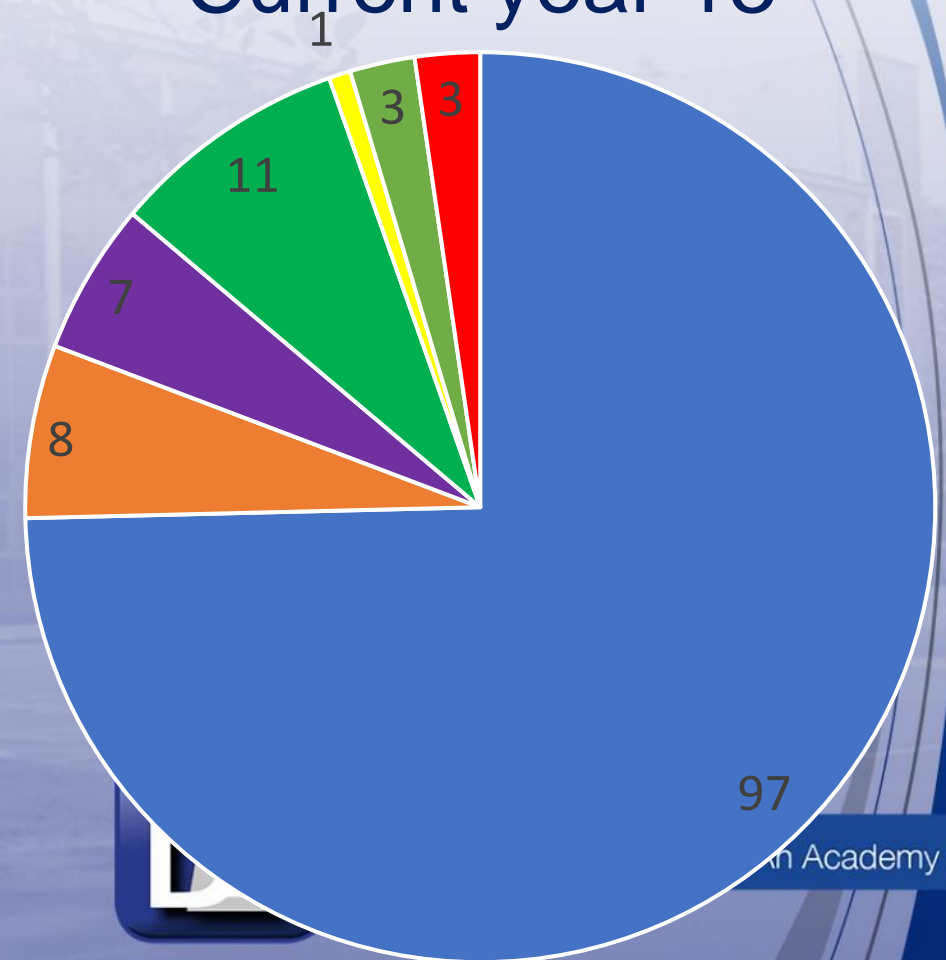
# Planned destinations

## Current year 12



## Current year 13

- University
- Gap year
- Employment
- Apprenticeship
- Scholarship/study abroad
- Don't Know
- Unknown



# Preparing for post-18 programme

Mrs O'Neill  
Head of Sixth Form



**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Preparation for post-18 programme

- Preparing for Future every Monday morning during registration
- Visits to UCAS Discovery, Manchester University and Keele University
- IAG
- Mock Interview
- Careers talks
- Work Experience
- Application support



Y12 Term 1  
Progress  
Report (DC1)

Y12 Term 2  
Progress  
Report (DC2)

Y12 Term 3  
Progress  
Report (DC3)

Y13 Term 1  
Progress  
Report (DC1)

Y13 Term 2  
Progress  
Report (DC2)

Y13 Term 3  
Progress  
Report (DC3)

**Now**  
Post-Sixth Form  
research!

**May / June**  
UCAS Registration  
and setup, UCAS  
Personal Details  
completed

**July**  
Subject References  
completed

Personal  
Statement Draft  
Deadline

Y12 Careers Talks

Work Experience  
Week

**September**  
UCAS Predicted  
Grades decided,  
Final student  
references  
completed,  
Appointments to  
send UCAS  
applications  
shared with  
students, Early  
Entry Deadline  
(Internal)

**October**  
Early Entry  
Deadline  
(External)

**November**  
EE Interviews,  
Admissions tests,  
UCAS Deadline  
(internal)

**January**  
UCAS deadline  
(External)

**February**  
Apprenticeships  
vacancies  
published

**March**  
Student Finance  
applications open

**May**  
University reply  
deadline

**June**  
Course acceptance  
deadline

**August**  
Results Day

Students have ongoing support available from Mrs Donald/ Careers and the Sixth Form team, throughout the two years.

Applications for non-university routes, can be at different times in the year. Support is always available to help with application writing / CVs etc.





# Support

Support is available for all students, including those considering a non-university pathway:

- Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator/Careers Advisor
- Personal statements / application forms
- Cover letters
- CVs
- Interview preparation

Biggest challenges can be communication from the students themselves.



# Work Experience

- A week-long block, week commencing **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**, has been allocated for Year 12 students to undertake an organised Work Experience placement.
- The work experience is self-organised by students, who should aim to seek a placement **relevant and appropriate** to their future plans.
- School support is available via Mrs Donald / Careers and the Sixth Form team; we recommend that students use their own contacts / family networks.
- Work experience cannot be undertaken with an existing employer, as part of existing paid employment.
- A link to electronic form will be emailed to parents for completion.
- Speakers for Schools <https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience-opportunities/>



# **The Armed Forces & Gap year**

**Mrs Donald  
Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator**



**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Armed Forces

- Competitive application process.
- Armed forces careers offices good source of further information.
- Can be a long process.
- Steps taken to support students with their applications.

## See:

<https://apply.army.mod.uk/>

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/find-your-role>

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers>



# Gap Year opportunities

- **Volunteering** – support a worthwhile cause and gain valuable experience. You could take part in a wildlife conservation project, teach children, or help build a school in a third world country.
- **Travel** – explore the world, discover new cultures, and develop your independent living skills at the same time! You could go backpacking across South East Asia, InterRail through Europe, or buy a round the world plane ticket!
- **Paid employment** – earn money and gain new skills at home or abroad. You could work on an outback farm in Australia, as a ski lift operator in Canada, or at a backpacker hostel in New Zealand.



# Taking a Gap Year

A gap year may be a beneficial choice for students who are uncertain of their future pathways or do not feel ready for their next step.

Benefits of taking a gap year:

- Develop transferable skills
- Raise cultural awareness
- Increase confidence and independence
- Learn a new craft
- Increase work experience
- Improve language skills

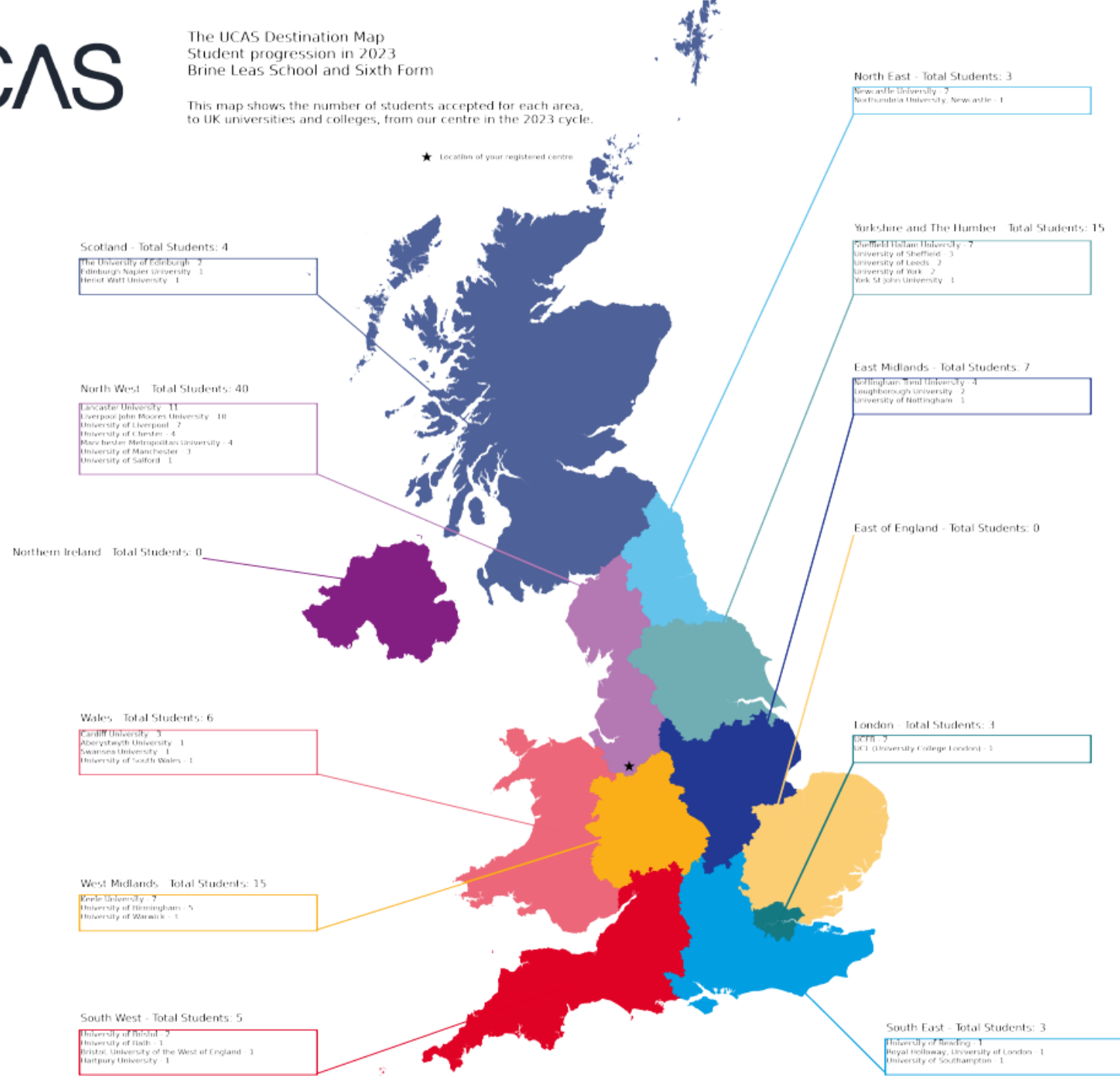


# University Destinations

# UCAS

The UCAS Destination Map  
Student progression in 2023  
Brine Leas School and Sixth Form

This map shows the number of students accepted for each area, to UK universities and colleges, from our centre in the 2023 cycle.



# Gap year: pros and cons

| <b>Pros</b>   | <b>Cons</b>  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An opportunity to have a break from studying and return refreshed.</li><li>• A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV.</li><li>• You could relate the experience and activities to the subject area you plan to study.</li><li>• You can earn and save money towards your higher education costs or future plans.</li><li>• You will develop maturity. For some careers, it can be an advantage to be slightly older and have some life experience.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some people find a year out becomes a distraction from their longer-term plans.</li><li>• An unstructured year out may not add much value to your future.</li><li>• It can be harder to return to study or work after a year-long break.</li><li>• It can be expensive and you could find yourself in a worse financial position at the end.</li><li>• If you don't get organised, you may end up spending your gap year just 'thinking about it'.</li></ul> |





# Do your research

- Start planning well in advance. Some gap year opportunities are popular and have strict deadlines.
- If your gap year involves travelling abroad, then before planning your trip travel check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.
- If you're using an agency or scheme, check out how long they have been running, if they are financially sound, and are members of a reputable organization, such as ABTA or Year Out Group, where they agree to follow a code of conduct.
- Checking forums and social media for tips and insight into other people's experience of gap years you're interested in, particularly if you are looking at going abroad.
- If you have any doubts, discuss your ideas further with parents/carers, siblings and teachers.



# External links

- [Year Out Group](#)
- [Real Gap Experience](#)
- [BUNAC](#)
- [Volunteering England](#)
- [Youth social action volunteering – #iwill](#)
- [International Citizen Service \(ICS\)](#) – government funded international volunteering placements for 18-25 year olds in the UK.
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/before-you-start/taking-a-gap-year>
- <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/before-you-start/gap-year-inspiration>



# Apprenticeships & Employment

Mrs Linde  
Associate Head of Year



**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Levels of Apprenticeship

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Level</b>     | <b>Equivalent educational level</b> |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Intermediate | 2                | 5 GCSE passes at grades 9 to 4      |
| Advanced     | 3                | 2 A level passes                    |
| Higher       | 4, 5, 6<br>and 7 | Foundation degree and above         |
| Degree       | 6 and 7          | Bachelor's or Master's degree       |



# Apprenticeships: Pros and cons

| Pros   | Cons   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You'll get paid.</li><li>• Tuition fees will be covered by your employer and the government.</li><li>• Real work experience that is industry specific.</li><li>• A strong CV with transferable skills.</li><li>• A position of employment.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A pro-active approach from students is required.</li><li>• Research is important.</li><li>• Not a traditional university experience.</li><li>• Impact of wider economic factors.</li><li>• Commitment to the employer and industry.</li><li>• The selection process.</li></ul> |



# Apprenticeship Destinations

- Degree Apprenticeship at UI in Digital & Technological Solutions
- Digital and Media Higher Apprenticeship with Escalla Training
- Degree Apprenticeship at Bentley in Sales and Marketing
- Degree Apprenticeship with United Utilities
- Higher Apprenticeship with Delta Balustrades in Sandbach
- A J Bell
- Higher Apprenticeship with Watts Mortgages
- Higher Apprenticeship with Banks Sheridan Accountancy
- Higher Apprenticeship with James Walker Engineering as a Solutions Consultant
- Higher Apprenticeship with Rolls Royce in Supply Chain Management
- Higher Apprenticeship in Accountancy with the County Group
- Higher Apprenticeship with Siemens



# Apprenticeships – Where to look

- UCAS <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships>
- Gov.uk <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- Prospects <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>
- Indeed [https://uk.indeed.com/Degree-Apprenticeship-jobs?aceid=&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIieGUn52z\\_QIVh-DtCh3gMwmqEAAYASAAEgLhYvD\\_BwE&vjk=8adb62e796276a84](https://uk.indeed.com/Degree-Apprenticeship-jobs?aceid=&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIieGUn52z_QIVh-DtCh3gMwmqEAAYASAAEgLhYvD_BwE&vjk=8adb62e796276a84)
- Employer websites



# University & UCAS

Mr Cooney  
Associate Head of Year



**Brine Leas School** An Academy



# UCAS Deadlines

*The following deadlines apply for the **majority\*** of undergraduate university courses:*

**Our Internal Deadline : November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.**

We endeavour to submit applications from mid-October onwards.

**External UCAS Deadline: January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

This is the last date for 'equal consideration' but applications *can* still be submitted after.

\*Early-entry courses and some Conservatoire deadlines are earlier.



# Application Deadlines

*Alternative deadlines apply for 'Early-entry' applications and for some courses at Conservatoire institutions.*

- Early-entry refers to applications for all courses at Oxford / Cambridge, and most Medicine / Veterinary Science / Dentistry courses.
- Conservatoires are specialist colleges for the performing arts.

**Early-entry Internal Deadline:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (External Deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024)

**Conservatoire Music courses:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

**Conservatoire Dance, Drama and Theatre courses:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

It is each students own responsibility to check course details for applicable deadlines and make BL6 staff aware if necessary.



# Early Entry Applicants

Early Entry applicants need evidence of high academic capability (via GCSEs and UCAS predicted grades)

## Oxbridge applicants need to

- 'Live and breathe' their chosen course area
- Be able to demonstrate their passion and dedication for the subject field.
- Achieve A\*AA for their A level qualifications (minimum).

## Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants need to

- Undertake applicable work experience
- Achieve specific grades:
  - Medicine: **AAA** including Chemistry and Biology. Many courses also require Maths or Physics.
  - Dentistry: **AAA - AAB** including Chemistry and normally Biology
  - Veterinary Science: **AAA – AAB** including Biology and 2 other courses from the sciences or Maths.



# Completing the UCAS application form

- All students will register with UCAS in May / June of Year 12 for 2025 entry or for a deferred entry in 2026.
- When registering, each students' application is 'linked' to our Sixth Form so staff can view progress, check and support. Buzzword: **honeydew**
- There are a three main parts of the online application form that must be completed:
  - **Personal Details**
  - **Personal Statement**
  - **Reference, including UCAS predicted grades**



# Course Choices

*Students can add up to 5 course choices (6 for Conservatoires)*

- **Do your research!** Use the UCAS and university websites to find out more about modules / course content.
- **Be realistic!** Don't apply for a course with A\*A\*A\* entry requirements if your predictions are BBC.
- **Go and visit!** Look round the place, attend open day events and visit prospective faculties to see if they are the right fit for you.
- **Help!** Speak to staff, current or former students, look at league tables, <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/> , <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/> , <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>
- **Additional requirements!** Specific entry-requirements (e.g. work experience / enrichment), interviews, portfolios, auditions, pre-admissions Tests



# Grades and Points

## Course Choices and Entry Requirements:

Tariff Points - <https://www.ucas.com/files/tariff-tables>

| <b>A level</b> | <b>Tariff points</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A*             | 56                   |
| A              | 48                   |
| B              | 40                   |
| C              | 32                   |
| D              | 24                   |
| E              | 16                   |

| <b>Btec National Extended Certificate</b> | <b>Tariff points</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| Distinction*                              | 56                   |
| Distinction                               | 48                   |
| Merit                                     | 32                   |
| Pass                                      | 16                   |
| D   | 24                   |
| E   | 16                   |

| <b>Extended Project Qualification</b> | <b>Tariff points</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| A                                     | 20                   |
| B                                     | 16                   |
| C                                     | 12                   |
| D                                     | 10                   |
| E                                     | 6                    |

| <b>Core Maths grade</b> | <b>Tariff points</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A                       | 20                   |
| B                       | 16                   |
| C                       | 12                   |
| D                       | 10                   |
| E                       | 6                    |



# Personal Statement

- Motivation for the course – Why do you want to study these courses?
- Preparedness for the course – How has your learning so far helped you to be ready to succeed on these courses?
- Preparation from other experiences – What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences useful?
- Extenuating circumstances – Is there anything the universities and colleges need to know about, to enable them to put their achievements and experiences into context?
- Preparedness for study – What have you done to prepare yourself for student life?
- Preferred learning styles – Which learning and assessment styles best suit you – how do your course choices match that?



# Ready to send?

- Appointments are allocated to students in October for sending their application in November.
- UCAS charge students £27.50 to process a UCAS application. Students will need access to debit/credit card to make this payment.
- Once the UCAS form is completed, students must 'Pay and Submit' your form which is when payment is taken, and the form is locked for approval (but **not** yet sent to UCAS/universities).
- Staff will then meet with each student to check their form, before making the submission to UCAS (with your permission).

Even after students 'Pay and Submit' their form, staff can still unlock the form to allow them to make changes before it is then sent on to UCAS/universities.





# Changes and correcting mistakes

- Don't panic! If you have made a mistake, you can fix it by:
  - Making changes in UCAS Track (depending on the changes needed)
  - Contacting UCAS directly.
  - Contacting individual universities directly.
- In the event that you need to update your personal details (e.g. address / email / phone number), this can be done via a system called **UCAS Track**, which you use to monitor your individual course applications, once you have submitted your form.



# Receiving replies

Universities will reply to your application at various intervals, and their responses will be updated in the UCAS Track dashboard.

- A **conditional offer** means you still need to meet the requirements – usually exam results.
- An **unconditional offer** means you've got a place for that course, although there might still be a few things to arrange.
- An **unsuccessful or withdrawn** choice removes that option, but you could add more.



# UCAS Extra and UCAS Clearing

- UCAS Extra is a service to allow students to add an 'extra' course choice, one at a time, after they have submitted their form if they have received 5 unsuccessful/withdrawn replies.
- Clearing is a directory listing of university courses with places still available. It is available to from early July through to September for:
  - Students who do not receive any offers,
  - Students who have not met the entry requirements for their offers
  - Students who have changed their mind about any offers they do hold
  - Students who achieve higher than their firm choice



# Conservatoires

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

Most applications are through UCAS (a slightly different application form) and you can choose up to six courses.

Candidates will need to audition / interview.



# Overseas Applications

An increasing number of students are interested in applying to university overseas, with Europe and North America popular destinations.

- 'Common App' is a UCAS equivalent for many North America colleges.
- The Fullbright Commission, <https://www.fulbright.org.uk/> is a great source of information about applications to the US.

Each institution / location may differ – BLS will offer advice and guidance to support.



# Useful information / links

- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – the UCAS website contains excellent information and advice on all aspects of the process of applying to university.
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>
- <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>



# **Student Finance**

**Mrs O'Neill  
Head of Sixth Form**



**Brine Leas School** An Academy

# Student Finance

- Student Finance England provide financial support on behalf of the UK government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.
- Student Finance England (SFE) have two different strands of funding available to students: The **Tuition Fee Loan** and the **Maintenance Loan**.
- The maximum tuition cost of an undergraduate course remains at £9250 per year. (up to £9000 in Wales). Students can receive a **Tuition Fee Loan** to cover the full cost of tuition fees. They are paid directly to the university in termly instalments.
- <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>





# The Maintenance Loan

- The Maintenance Loan is to help with living costs and other expenses incurred while at university. It is paid directly to the student into their bank account, usually in termly instalments. <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>
- The maximum yearly loan amounts available are detailed in the table below. Loan amounts are determined based on declared household income.

|  | 2022 to 2023<br>academic year | 2023 to 2024<br>academic year |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Living with your parents</b>                            | Up to £8,171                  | Up to £8,400                  |
| <b>Living away from your parents,<br/>outside London</b>   | Up to £9,706                  | Up to £9,978                  |
| <b>Living away from your parents, in<br/>London</b>        | Up to £12,667                 | Up to £13,022                 |
| <b>You spend a year of a UK course<br/>studying abroad</b> | Up to £11,116                 | Up to £11,427                 |



# Student Loan Repayments

9% of income earned over the **threshold amount** (over £25,000 / £2,083 per month / £480 per week) . The threshold amounts change on 6 April every year.

For example, if you earn £2,750 a month (equiv. £33,000 per year), you would pay 9% on the amount above the £2,083 threshold ( $£667 \times 0.09 = £60$  per month).

The earliest you'll start repaying is either:

- the April after you leave your course
- the April 4 years after the course started, if you're studying part-time

Your repayments automatically stop if either:

- you stop working
- your income goes below the threshold



# Student Loan Repayments

- For example, if you earn £2,750 a month (equiv. £33,000 per year), you would pay 9% on the amount above the £2,083 threshold ( $£667 \times 0.09 = £60$  per month).
- If you are self-employed, student loan repayments will be deducted at 9% of your annual gross income above the threshold and paid via a self-assessment tax return.
- <https://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan/what-you-pay>



# Additional Financial Support

Further Financial Support is also available including:

- **Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)** which are to help with extra essential costs you might have as a direct result of a disability such as long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or a specific learning difficulty such as Dyspraxia or Dyslexia. <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>
- **University Bursaries and Scholarships** which are additional financial support schemes provided directly by institutions which can help pay towards living costs. Check university's own websites for more information.

These extra funding strands do not normally need to be paid back unless you leave your course early.



# How and when to apply

- Applications for student finance are completed online via: <https://www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan> (step by step guide)
- You can apply for student finance before you have a confirmed place at university but you do need to input a preferred choice of course (which can be changed at a later date if needed).
- The deadline for applications is the end of May each year. Applications can take 6 weeks to process.
- You will need: your passport / photo ID, details of your Uni / course, your bank details, your NI number.
- You may also need to send parent / carer's financial evidence if you apply for any of the SFE 'Extra' Maintenance Loan payments.



# Managing Money

- Students need to learn to budget and manage their money effectively. Consider all costs: rent, utilities, books, food, social.
- Brine Leas supports students with a PSHE lessons on personal money management skills during Year 13.
- Seeking paid work while at university is now common and allows students to supplement their loan income while also broadening their own life experiences.



# Links / Resources

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

[www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance)

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>

<https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/the-big-fat-guide-to-student-finance-2012.html#nutshell>



# Thank you

- Mrs O'Neill
- Mr Cooney
- Mrs Donald Escalla Training
- Afford Bond Accountants
- Edge Hill University
- Keele University

[admin@bl6.org.uk](mailto:admin@bl6.org.uk)



**Brine Leas School** An Academy