



Wales
HIGH SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM

Y12 Progression Evening



Thursday 12th June 2025



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Sixth Form Team

- **NINA LOCKYER** - Director of Sixth Form
- **MARK HOWARD** - Deputy Director of Sixth Form
- **CASSIE BLACKWELL** – Y12 Initiative Lead
- **LAUREN PEARSON** – Y13 Initiative Lead
- **LAURA FIRTH** - Post 16 Support and Guidance Counsellor
- **HAYLEY LUDLAM** - Sixth Form SLT link and Assistant Headteacher



Nina Lockyer



Mark Howard



Cassie Blackwell



Lauren Pearson



Laura Firth



Hayley Ludlum



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What are my options?

- University
- Apprenticeship
- Full time employment
- Gap year





UCAS and University | Student Timeline



Year 12

Overview of options and UCAS process for parents and students
Importance of personal statements for university and apprenticeships

Progression Event

Mar-June

June

June

HEX Sessions

A series of talks and workshops on the following topics:

- University & The UCAS Process
- Russell Group Universities & Competitive Courses
- Searching & Selecting Courses
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Personal Statements
- UCAS: Preparing to Apply



UCAS Discovery Exhibition Sheffield 2025

Held at the Sheffield Arena on Friday 7th June.

Opportunity to speak to a wide range of universities and collect prospectuses

Writing your personal statement

Entering qualifications and personal information in to your UCAS application

Super Learning Day 1

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

UCAS Early Entry Deadline: 15th October

Deadline for:

Medicine
Vet Med
Dentistry
Oxford
Cambridge

Making progress with UCAS applications

Super Learning Day 2

UCAS Application Deadline: 14th January 2026

Internal UCAS Application Deadline: Friday 05th December 2026



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UCAS Deadlines

Early Entry Applicants

Oxford & Cambridge
Medicine
Dentistry
Veterinary Medicine/Science

Deadline: 15th October 2025

Conservatoires

Performance-based courses in
music, dance, drama, musical
theatre, film, and production

Deadline: 02nd October 2025

Equal Consideration

All other courses

Deadline: 14th January 2026





Warwick
HIG
SIX

Scotland
University of St Andrews

North East
Durham University
Newcastle University
Northumbria University

North West
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
Manchester Met University
University of Lancashire

Yorkshire & The Humber
University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University
University of York
University of Leeds
Leeds Beckett University
University of Lincoln
University of Huddersfield
York St John University
University of Hull

West Midlands
University of Birmingham
University of Warwick
Staffordshire University

East Midlands
University of Nottingham
Nottingham Trent University
University of Derby
Loughborough University

South West
University of Bristol
University of Bath
University of Exeter

South East
University of Oxford
University of Reading



Degree Options

- **Foundation Degree** (1 year) - stepping stone onto a full degree
- **Traditional Degree** (3 years) - leading to BA/ BSc
- **Integrated Programmes** (4 years) - leading to BA/ BSc but combine an additional element e.g. 1 year in placement, study abroad
- **Alternative pathways** - E.g. teaching. 3 year degree & PGCE, or full Primary Teaching with QTS, or integrated teaching and subject degree (secondary)
- **Degree Apprenticeships** (3-6 years) - earn while you learn. No fees and salary



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Finding the right course/university

- **Research courses using UCAS.com and the university websites**
 - Draw up a shortlist of courses and locations
 - Attend open days
- **Understanding entry requirements**
 - Grades (AAA) or points (112 points)
 - Specific A-Level subject requirements (e.g. must study Chemistry and/or Biology)
 - Check GCSE entry requirements (e.g. must have 5 9-5 grades, or must have a 7 in Maths)
 - Making sure you have aspirational but realistic choices.
- **Contextual or widening participation offers**
 - Typically lower offers based on a set of specific criteria. E.g. First generation to attend uni, areas of "perceived" deprivation based on postcode, secondary school attended.



Contextual Offers & Access Schemes

Contextual offer schemes

- Usually automatically applied to eligible applicants
- Typically a 1 grade drop on the standard offer
- Often only looking for 1 or 2 characteristics in order to be eligible
- No additional work or participation required

Access schemes

- Usually need to be applied to separately
- Typically applied to and completed during year 12 or 13
- Often a bigger grade drop (min 2 grades) and financial support available
- Often looking for more socio-economic factors to be met for eligibility
- Usually requires participation/completion of activity during year 12/13

Foundation year programmes

- Usually a 1-year course completed after Year 13 (or equiv) and before starting a full undergraduate degree
- Applied to during Year 13, often through UCAS
- Often for students without specific subjects needed, e.g. no Maths A Level
- Not usually looking at specific socio-economic characteristics



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Work Experience

- Degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Teaching, Veterinary, Midwifery, Nursing and Paramedic will require **relevant** work experience.
- Year 10 work experience doesn't count! It needs to be recent/current.
- There's now a range of virtual work experiences available via Springpod and Speakers4schools.
- It is the students responsibility to arrange any work experience required around their timetable. Sixth Form will support where possible. There is dedicated work experience time at the end of year 12





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UCAS Application

- Students will receive support to set up a UCAS account
- You can make up to 5 choices on an application
- The 2025/26 applicant fee is **£28.95***
- Invisibility - universities cannot see where else students have applied.

**Students on Free School Meals have their application fee waived*





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Support/Opportunities – Y12



Year 12 Sessions | 2025

Degree Apprenticeships
Russell Group Universities
Searching Courses
Personal Statements

Activities Day (July) – Setting up UCAS account and entering personal information & qualifications. Personal Statement advice

UCAS Discovery Event – Sheffield Arena
(June)



 The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Trip to University of Sheffield
(February)



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Support – Y13

Super Learning Days

SLD1 – Progressing with application and qualifications, starting personal statement

SLD2 – Progressing with application, finishing personal statement

Progression Advisors

Each student is allocated a member of staff who will guide and assist them with their personal statement

Year Team

We write each students UCAS reference and check their application before it is sent to UCAS



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Student Finance



Student Loan – Covers the £9535 per year tuition fee

Maintenance Loan – Means based loan which covers accommodation and living costs

	Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2025/26 academic year	Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2024/25 academic year
Living with parents	Up to £8,877	Up to £8,610
Studying in London, and not living with parents	Up to £13,762	Up to £13,348
Studying outside London, and not living with parents	Up to £10,544	Up to £10,227
Living and studying abroad as part of your UK course	Up to £12,076	Up to £11,713

More information will be provided to students when Student Finance opens for the 2026/27 academic year



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What Next?

- Research league tables, course and university information
 - **Unitasterdays.com**
 - **Completeuniversityguide.co.uk**
 - **Whatuni** and **discoveruni**
- Attend open days
- Work experience
- Personal Statement!



Apprenticeships | Student Timeline



Year 12



next

SIEMENS

Confirm work placements to enhance application

Work Placements

Jan

June

July

Internships

Look for internship for the summer

Work Placements

Complete work placements & complete WRL log*

Join apprenticeship group email—vacancies and opportunities sent out via this communication

Greencore

*WRL = Work Related Learning



Big corporations start to release vacancies—must apply early as deadline is often December.

Potentially will be lots of stages to go through (assessments, group work, tests and interview)

Vacancy Release

Sept

Goldman Sachs

Year 13



Attend the workshop to ascertain how to apply via the government website

Ensure CV is up to date

Apprenticeship Workshop

Sept

Government website & UCAS website

Register with the give website

Set up reminders and check emails on a regular basis

Oct

IM irwinmitchell

HART SHAW

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

Nov/Dec

Deadlines

Deadline dates for big corporations approaching

Jan onwards



MUST look at vacancies twice a week (local organisations will release vacancies)
Check email and government website regularly
Send CV's to companies you want to work for—be bold!

Vacancy Release

EY



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What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprentices are for people aged 16 or over and combine working with studying to gain skills and knowledge in a specific job.

Apprentices can be new or current employees.

AMRC
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
RESEARCH CENTRE



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



CWFletcher
aerospace & nuclear manufacturing



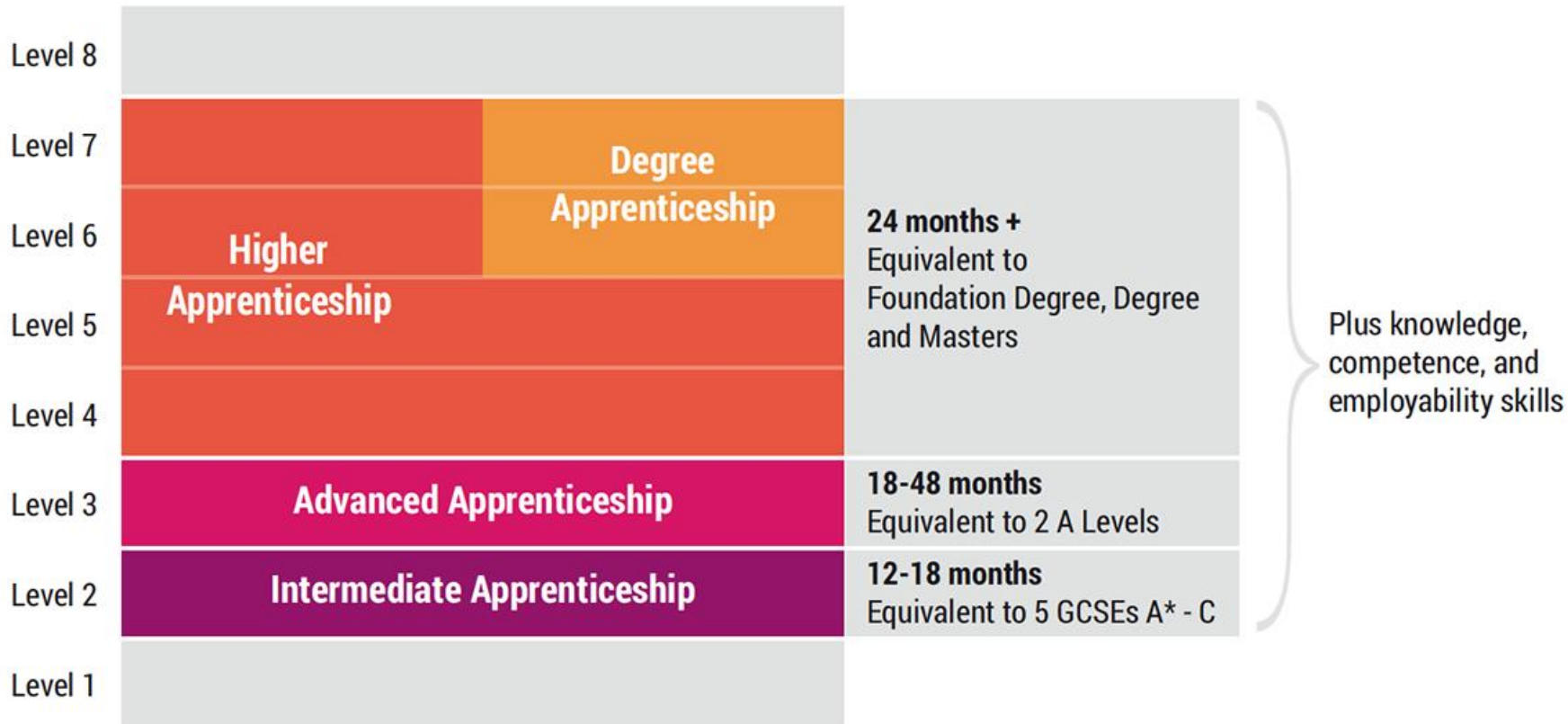
IM irwinmitchell
solicitors

greencore
group



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Types of Apprenticeships





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Where to look?

- UCAS website
- Government website
- Indeed
- Notgoingtouni
- Civil Service and local councils
- Companies may advertise directly
- Sending speculative CVs to companies you may want to work for



UCAS DISCOVER **APPRENTICESHIPS**

UCAS



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When to apply?

- Bigger companies might recruit at the same time as UCAS.
- Websites often let you sign up to email alerts for new positions.
- Don't always be put off by start date, they may be willing to wait for you.

**THE TIME
IS NOW**



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How to be prepared

- Make sure you have checked your CV.
- Have a covering letter ready in case you're asked for one.
- Research common interview questions and practise what you would say.
- Have a 'personal statement' prepared.
- Apply for as many as you can, don't apply for one and wait. But remember quality over quantity.
- Ensure you attend Mrs Lockyer's support sessions on CV writing, interview techniques and employer talks.
- Always be professional.





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Progression Advisors

- Each student will be assigned a member of staff to support them with their next steps after Sixth Form.
- The PA will **support** with UCAS applications, personal statements, apprenticeship/ job applications and interview techniques
- Students must meet with their PA before the end of year 12 to discuss initial plans and continue having regular meetings in year 13. **It is the students responsibility to arrange this.**





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Parent Support

An extremely valuable part of the application process!

Please encourage your child to be proactive in researching and then applying

If you have any queries then please contact the year team