

Parents information evening

UCAS and Apprenticeships



Salisbury 6th Form College
Aspiration • Excellence • Success

Welcome



Feedback form: <https://tinyurl.com/mvr2jwxm>

Programme for the evening

- Student finance and supporting young people to make decisions about higher education - Graham Waton, University of Bath
- How S6C supports students through their next steps, inc Apprenticeships - Ben Hillier & Rosie Roberts

S6C Destinations

University - Apprenticeships - Employment

Finding the right
pathway at the right
time, for every student.



Destinations at S6C:

Year 12: Careers tasks on Unifrog, Careers Classroom notices for all, Who Do You Want to Be? in Life Skills, visiting speakers throughout the year for all, 1:1 specialist appointments with Rosie (Careers Lead), Aspire Programme for most able students (open to all), wider engagement tracked in Unifrog Activities, UCAS fair, Apprenticeship Fair, Next Steps day programme, Work Experience.

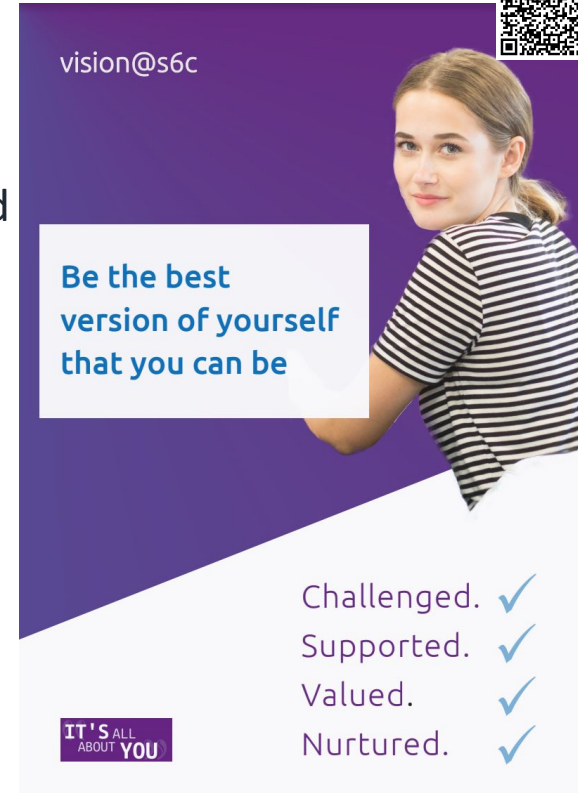
Year 13: time in Life Skills sessions to complete applications with tutor support, lots of resources shared on Google Classroom, tutor performance reviews 1:1, university led personal statement checking workshop, CV checking workshop, mock interviews, student finance workshop, plasma screen displays, open access to tutors and Rebecca and Rosie. Apprenticeship Fair.



**All resources shared on
Information Classroom
and Careers Classroom**

Choosing the right path

- **University, Apprenticeships, Employment**
- Core and optional course content? Placements, or study abroad opportunities? Structured teaching, or more independent research? Lectures, seminars or tutorials? Ongoing assessment or exams?
- Hours, pay, support, career progression prospects, for Apprenticeships or employment.
- Accomodation for uni or apprenticeships/employment? What about travel to and from? Local cost of living? (Extra student loan allowance given for London).
- Student Loans may not be ideal but they can be the gateway to transformational opportunities. But so can apprenticeships or work, for the right student at the right time.



vision@s6c

Be the best version of yourself that you can be

Challenged. ✓
Supported. ✓
Valued. ✓
Nurtured. ✓

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

IS IT WHAT THE STUDENT WANTS?!

Finance & Funding

- Annual student talk on Applying to Student Finance
- Wiltshire Community Foundation bursaries for uni, vocational courses, and entrepreneurship.

Our message to students is that, whilst a loan is not to be taken lightly, university is affordable for all who wish to attend.

- Student Finance repayment is designed to be manageable
- Additional Bursaries and Grants and Awards
- Range of accommodation
- Campus job offers
- Bursary help at S6C with application fees and open day transport
- Careful budgeting considerations



THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE UK ✓

INTERMEDIATE

Like 5 GCSEs, A* – C/4+

What qualifications
can I get?

Level 2 NVQ, Diploma,
National Certificate

ADVANCED

Like 2 A-levels

What qualifications
can I get?

Level 3 NVQ, National
Certificate, BTEC

HIGHER

Like a foundation degree
or above

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree,
Bachelor's degree, Master's
degree, Level 4–7 NVQ,
Higher National Diploma

DEGREE

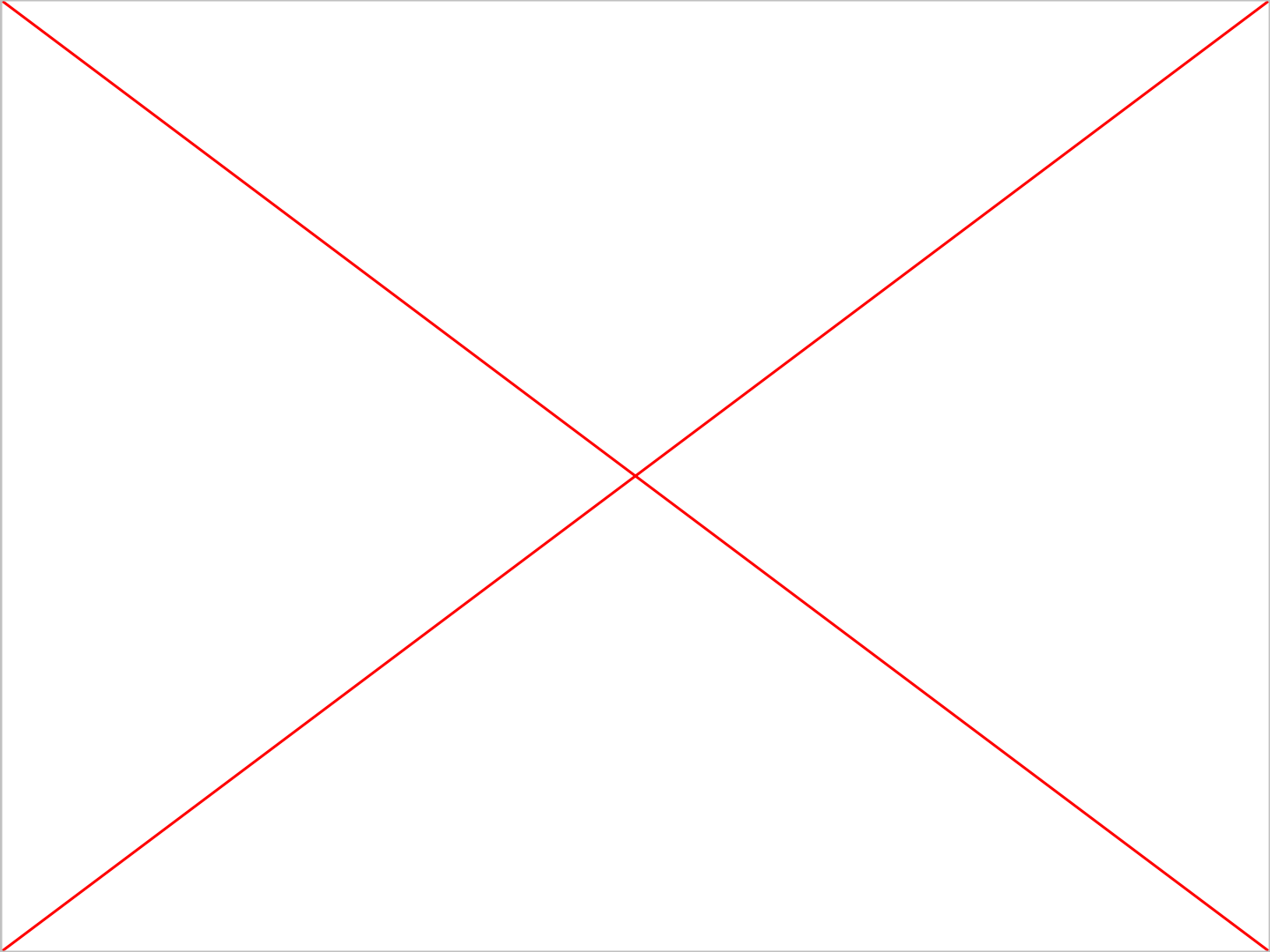
Like a Bachelor's/
Master's degree

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree,
Bachelor's degree, Master's
degree, Level 4–7 NVQ,
Higher National Diploma

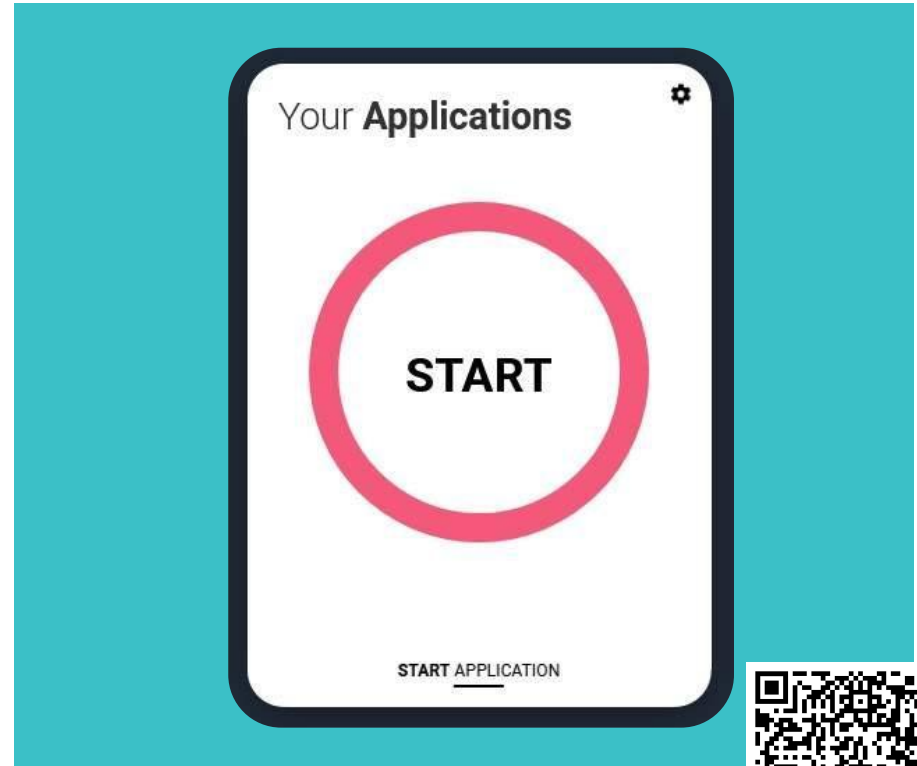
Please now watch this short video: <https://vimeo.com/1132491454?fl=pl&fe=v> (also
embedded on the next slide)





How to Apply on UCAS

- To start an application you need a **UCAS Hub account**. All S6C students registered for a hub account prior to the UCAS Fair. They can now start a university application for 2027 entry and will have time in Life Skills with tutors in Year 13 to complete the necessary sections.
- Accounts use personal email (not college email) but are linked to college using a buzzword so we can manage the application.
- You have up to **five choices**
- Applying **costs** £34.50. Reimbursed for low income.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



The personal statement

Students may need guidance and support but please remember that this is their application, not yours or a family member's or teacher's - if they get a place on a course using someone else's ideas, they may not end up on the right course for them!

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.

Learning from AI can benefit writing style - but students should not use AI to create something that does not reflect their character or ability.



UCAS Personal Statements

Have 3 questions:

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Include:

- knowledge of, and interest in, the subject area
- academic achievements, across all subjects
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of your independent study skills
- relevant work experience
- wider life experience and how it relates to area of study, general study skills, or a possible future career.



How to apply to apprenticeships

- To apply for an apprenticeship, students must apply direct to the employer.
- Vacancies can be found on Find an Apprenticeship, Indeed and other job boards, sometimes on the employers website or social media, and anywhere else jobs are advertised.
- Some employers will use the Find an Apprenticeship application form, others will have their own applications forms on their websites, and some will ask for a CV to be submitted.
- Students need to be prepared to regularly search for vacancies, turn on alerts for job boards, apply to multiple vacancies and be prepared for all recruitment methods including CVs, cover letters, application forms, interviews, assessment centres etc.



Apprenticeship personal statements

If you apply through the Find an Apprenticeship website then you may be asked the following questions:

- What are your skills and strengths?
- What interests you about this apprenticeship?
- Any other questions the employer sets about themselves

You will also need to provide an education history and work history.

Therefore we ask students on the apprenticeships pathway to produce a CV and draft answers to the questions above by the internal deadline of 23rd November 2026.



Students then need to keep a log of:

- apprenticeships they have applied for
- the deadlines
- the job descriptions
- interview dates

The College can track UCAS applications but there is no central application service for apprenticeships so students need to keep their own log.

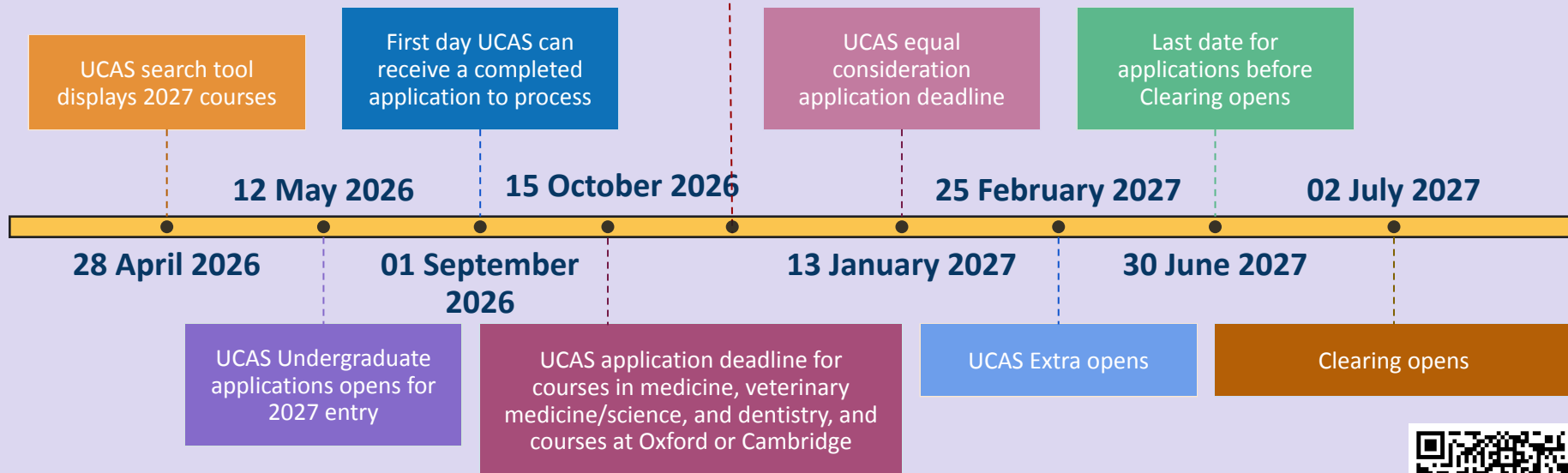
End of Year Grades

- TARGET GRADE
- WORKING GRADE
- PREDICTED GRADE
- PREDICTED GRADES for UCAS



When to apply for 2027 entry

23 November 2026 All S6C students must have completed and sent their UCAS application by this date to give tutors time to write the reference



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS RUN TO A SIMILAR TIMESCALE - OTHERS ARE MORE FLUID



Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on **all** your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

A word on UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS



Other options

Extra (Feb – Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time.

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.



**A closing word on Pastoral Support:
safeguarding, mental health support,
study support, life skills, referrals.**

**We are here for our students! It's all
about them!**



Top Tips

- Don't apply to a wide range of courses at university
- Do apply to lots of apprenticeships!
- Taking time to prepare for a strong UCAS application is better than putting in an early application
- Apprenticeship vacancies may close before the deadline so don't delay!
- Don't be tempted to totally hijack the personal statement, it needs to reflect the student
- Students tend to complete university courses they are personally committed to and excited about
- **The internal deadline is important** - we have to have time to write a reference that supports each specific application and, if applications get to us after the deadline, we can't guarantee we will be able to process them before the final closing date for equal application.
- A flexible and creative approach to apprenticeships is needed



HOW TO BOOST ANY APPLICATION

- Ongoing Academic Progress
- Work Experience
- Wider Engagement (note on Unifrog as an Activity)



Resources for University pathway

UCAS Hub - explore the 'Discover' tab

Open Days, Applicant Days, Online Tasters

Unifrog - students have accounts

Complete University Guide

Physical or Online Prospectus (so they can find courses they wouldn't think to search for, as they might never have heard of Anthropology etc. We have physical prospectuses in the Study Centre)



Resources for Apprenticeships pathway



[Find an Apprenticeship](#)

[UCAS apprenticeships](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[HIGHERiN](#)

[apprenticeshipsinsalisbury.co.uk](#)

[Indeed](#)

[mygreatfirstjob.com/](#) (sign up to mailing list for free webinars)

[kl-consults.com/](#) (Kerry sometimes runs excellent **free** webinars as well as offering a paid for service)

You need to be very proactive and sign up for a range of alerts on all these sites

**Thank you: please
ask questions
now, stay online
at the end, or get
in touch with us.**

