

# Future Pathways Day Parental Update

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020



# Opening Prayer

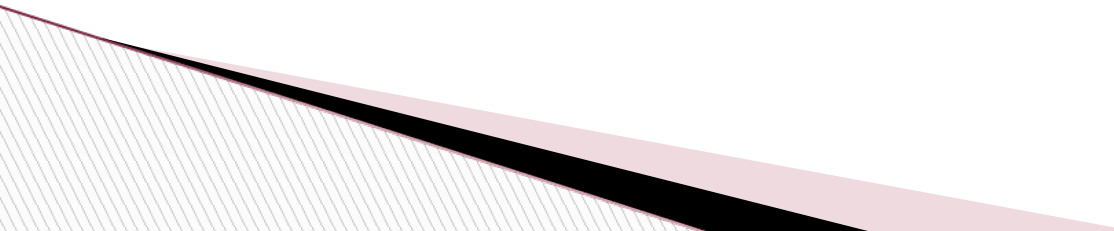


Loving Lord, there is so much happening in our lives at the moment. Changes seem to be taking place in every area: We have been separated from our friends, neighbours, and our loved ones. But our hope and trust is in You.

As we look to the future, bless young people, their parents and their teachers who all face challenges at this time. Give us good grace, humour and a sense of hope. Guide us, lead us and enlighten us.

In times of uncertainty you are our rock. You are with us in all the changing situations in our lives. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

# Aims of this Update

- Explain the Future Pathways post-18 which are available to students
  - Provide further information about each of these pathways
  - Share key dates with parents.
  - Highlight resources available to help students and their parents
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# Future Pathways July 2020

- Future Pathways Day forms part of a comprehensive programme of career support and guidance
- Students have already had sessions led by their tutors in relation to UCAS personal statements, CVs, and apprenticeships in Autumn Term B Week 3 and Week 4.
- Future Pathways Day links to the trips to the UCAS Convention in February, and the Apprenticeship Show in March
- Parents and carers have already attended the Future Pathways Evening on Monday 24th February. The presentation is available on the school website:  
[http://www.stphilssixthform.org.uk/images/2020-2021/Future\\_Pathway\\_Powerpoint\\_2020\\_02\\_24\\_Monday.pdf](http://www.stphilssixthform.org.uk/images/2020-2021/Future_Pathway_Powerpoint_2020_02_24_Monday.pdf)

# Pathways Available to Students Post-18

- University Degree, including an Oxbridge Application
- Art Foundation Course
- Apprenticeship Application
- Gap Year
- Employment

Students attended sessions on these Pathways throughout today and these sessions are available on the Google Classrooms to watch again



# Making a UCAS Application

Students make their university application through UCAS. The *Buzzword* will be given on Wednesday 2nd September to begin this process.

In essence, students need to

1. Fill in their details, qualifications and course choices,
2. Write a strong Personal Statement to demonstrate that they'll be an excellent student for their chosen course
3. Include their subject reference and pay their application fee\*.

\*The application fee is £20 if they're applying to just one course, or £26 for multiple courses and for late applications sent after 30 June 2021.

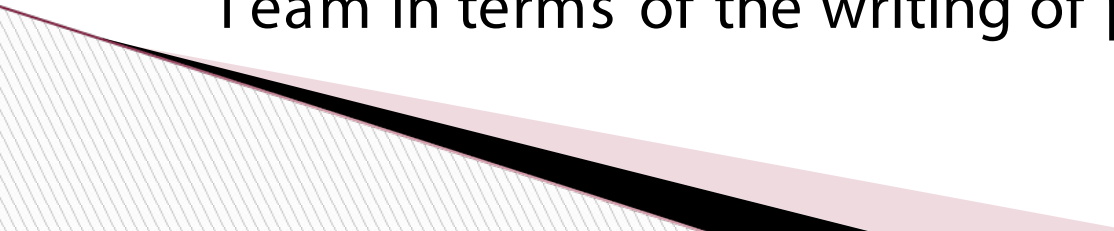
# UCAS Predicted Grades

## School Predicted Grade Policy:

- End of Year Exam. Grade +1,
- OR
- Minimum Target Grade, (*whichever is highest*)

Please note that this is a completely data driven process, where the predicted grades awarded without any teacher judgement. Therefore, the students' predicted grades are not subject to change to maintain integrity of the process and fairness for all.

# Personal Statements

- Students have already started writing their personal statements
  - Personal statements need to be 4,000 characters and 47 lines in length
  - Our advice is that students complete the writing of personal statements by early Autumn Term and by 28th September at the latest for Early Entry (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Science applicants) applicants and 12th October for all other entries
  - Students are supported and guided by the Sixth Form Team in terms of the writing of personal statements
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# Helpful Resources- 'Unifrog'

- **Unifrog** is the complete destinations platform – a one-stop-shop for students regardless of their interests or academic ability.
- It is the only place where they can all compare every university course, apprenticeship and Further Education (college, below university level) course in the UK as well as university in 30 other countries across the world.
- This is alongside getting access to labour market information and advice on careers and subjects for all routes.
- It helps them to record and evidence their key activities & competencies and prepare their CVs and personal statements

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

# Helpful Resources- 'Not Going to Uni'

- Provides information about jobs, opportunities and apprenticeships
- All pathways which do not relate to university

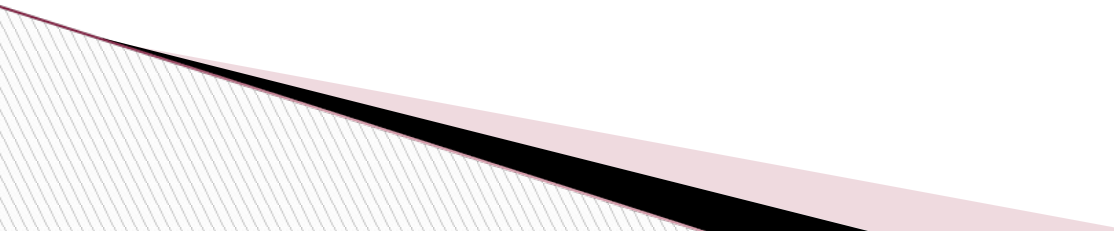
<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

# Helpful Resources- 'MOOCs' (Massive Open Online Courses)

- Can be personalised for different subjects
- Help to refine study skills
- Offer opportunities for future study outside of the curriculum which may relate to future degree courses

<https://www.mooc.org/>

# Reading

- Reading beyond the syllabus at Key Stage 5 is highly recommended
  - Demonstrates to University Admissions Tutors real interest in potential courses
  - Teachers can help with suggestions for wider reading
  - University websites usually include examples of first-year undergraduate reading lists
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# Oxbridge/Early Entry

A number of courses are deemed 'Early Entry':

- All applications to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Medicine/Science

All of these applications have to be with ***UCAS by 15th October 2020 at 18:00hrs***

Early Entry students will have their EoY12 exams marked first for their UCAS predicted grades and a member of the Sixth Form Team will complete their references to meet the deadline. ***However, it is important that once the student has the Buzzword on 1st September the UCAS online application is completed ASAP and not later than 28th September.***

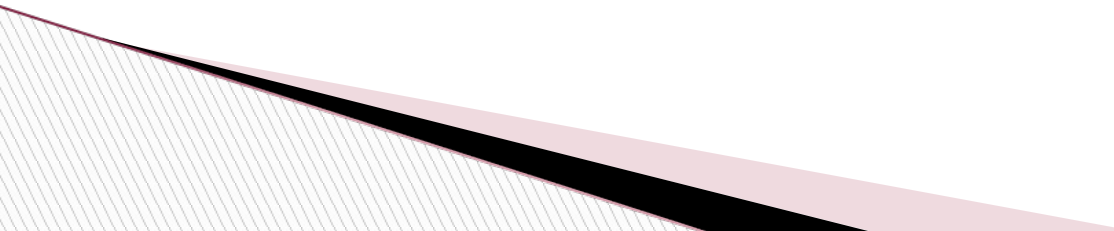
# Admissions Tests

- Many Early Entry courses involve Admissions Tests
- Other courses may also require an Admissions Test
- ***It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they know if the course for which they are applying requires an Admissions Test***
- The school facilitates some Admissions Tests by making arrangements for students to be able to sit these tests in school

# Admissions Tests (cont.d)

- If the Admissions Test can be taken in school, students should see the Exams Officer, Mr Antoniou, in the first week of the Autumn Term
- When they see the Exams Officer, they will be given a form which will need to be completed and returned with the Admissions Tests fee

# Application for Art Foundation Courses

- Applications for Art Foundation courses are not made through UCAS, but instead to individual institutions
  - Students can apply to a range of institutions at the same time
  - They still need to write a personal statement (each institution will have different requirements)
  - Every institution has a different type of application form, and varying deadlines (usually between the end of the Autumn Term and the end of the Spring Term), depending on the institution
  - Once students have made an application, they are invited to provide a portfolio submission, and some institutions may also interview
  - The Art and Textiles Department are very experienced in supporting students with applications for Art Foundation courses
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# Virtual Open Days

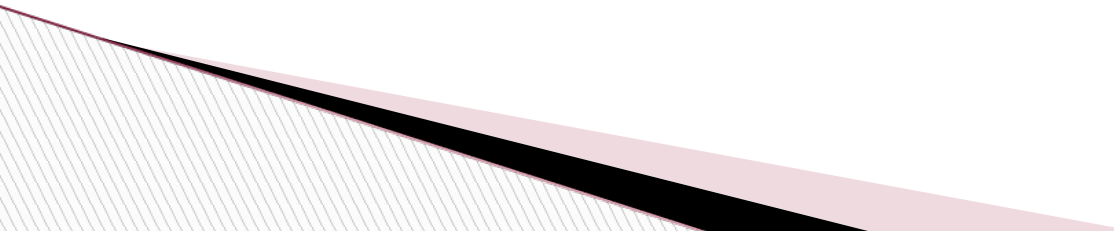
- Many universities are offering Virtual Open Days
- If the Virtual Open Day falls on a day when students have lessons, they should contact the Sixth-Form Team via the [‘6thform@stphils.org.uk’](mailto:6thform@stphils.org.uk) e-mail address so that they can authorise their attendance

# Apprenticeship Application

- Students can apply for different kinds of apprenticeships
- Higher-Level Apprenticeships & Degree Apprenticeships
- There is no one central way of applying for apprenticeships
- Opportunities are advertised in the Sixth Form Future Pathways Bulletin

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

# Typical Process for Applying for an Apprenticeship

1. Online application
  2. Telephone interview
  3. Online game assessment
  4. Assessment centre
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# Gap Year

- A handful of students take a Gap Year on leaving St Philomena's
- Our advice is to make sure that there is a clear focus for the gap year should your daughter decide on this option

# Employment

- A handful of students go into employment every year
- We have provided advice and guidance to students as part of the Future Pathways Day about routes into employment

# What can parents do now to help?

1. Continue to discuss with your daughter what course she is most likely study. Help to organise virtual open days/ visits to the universities.
2. Support and encourage a good first draft of the Personal Statement to be completed for Wednesday 1st September.
3. Once UCAS *Buzzword* is shared, help and support the completion of the online details for UCAS.

# What can parents do now to help? (cont.d)

4. If there is any uncertainty, the Tutors, Sixth Form Team and Careers Team are here to help so please do contact us in the following ways:

- Tutors can be contacted via the Google Classroom,
- Sixth Form Team via the '[6thform@stphils.org.uk](mailto:6thform@stphils.org.uk)' e-mail address, and
- the Careers Team via [careers@stphils.org.uk](mailto:careers@stphils.org.uk)

5. If considering an apprenticeship, explore the websites provided and keep up to date with the Future Pathways Bulletin published each week via Google Classrooms.

# Summary of Key Dates (Currently)

**Thursday 2nd July:** Future Pathways Day 2

**Friday 10th July:** Initial draft of personal statement to tutor

**Summer Holidays:** Revision for Exams and Working on the draft of Personal Statements

**First Day Back (September):** Spent with tutors working on 'How to' complete UCAS and Personal Statements. *Buzzword* released.

**Saturday 19th September:** Early Entry Oxbridge Day

**Monday 28th September:** Internal Deadline for Early Entry UCAS completion and Personal Statements.

**W/B 28th September:** Meetings for Year 13 students who may need to be recoursed

**W/B 5th October:** Exam Results Published (students to review university choices based on outcomes)

**Thursday 15th October:** External deadline for Early Entry

**Monday 12th October:** Internal deadline for UCAS Application and Personal Statements to be completed.

**Friday 15th January:** External UCAS Deadline



# Summary of Key Websites

UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/>

UNIFROG: <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Not Going to Uni: <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

MOOC: <https://www.mooc.org/>

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

*St Philomena's Careers Email: [careers@stphils.org.uk](mailto:careers@stphils.org.uk)*

*Sixth Form Administrator Email: [6thform@stphils.org.uk](mailto:6thform@stphils.org.uk)*

# Any Questions

If you have any questions following this presentation, please contact the Sixth Form Team via the email address:

[6thform@stphils.org.uk](mailto:6thform@stphils.org.uk)

Thank you all for your continued support, God bless. The Sixth Form Team.

