

March 2025

Higher Education and Alternatives – information evening



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Higher Education and Alternatives - Information Evening

Rob Rattray – Leeds Beckett University:

The UCAS application process

Claire Willis – Assistant Headteacher – Post-16

PHGS support for UCAS applications and student finance

Sophie Hewitson – Leeds City Council Employment and Skills

Apprenticeships



Key dates

Event	Date
Summer Schools – various Universities	July 2025
Higher Education and Careers Day	18 th June 2025
UCAS Information Evening Part 2	September 2025
Y13 Parents' Evening	November 2025
Early UCAS Deadline	2 nd (Music) or 15 th October 2025
Practice Interviews as required	November 2025– March 2026
Internal Deadline for submission	14 th November 2025
Final Internal deadline	5 th January 2026
UCAS Deadline	14 th January 2026
Student Finance Deadline	31 st May 2026 (tbc)
Results Day 2026	13 th August 2026 (tbc)

Support with applications

- Students have been updating their Unifrog with their competencies and activities all year, as well as researching opportunities
- UCAS support programme starts in earnest after the May half term
- Higher Education and Careers Day, PSHE lessons and form time after May half term dedicated to careers and UCAS support
- Students will be guided through the process of completing applications and writing personal statements by form tutors

School input

- Once a student has completed and submitted their UCAS application this will be checked by the Sixth Form team
- **Pay and submit** means that you pay and submit the form *to us for checking!* So don't panic
- We add a brief reference giving school context and any important circumstances universities should know about
- We also add predicted grades
- **We do this for 150 or so students each year. This is why we have earlier deadlines for this than the external UCAS deadline!**

UCAS predicted grades

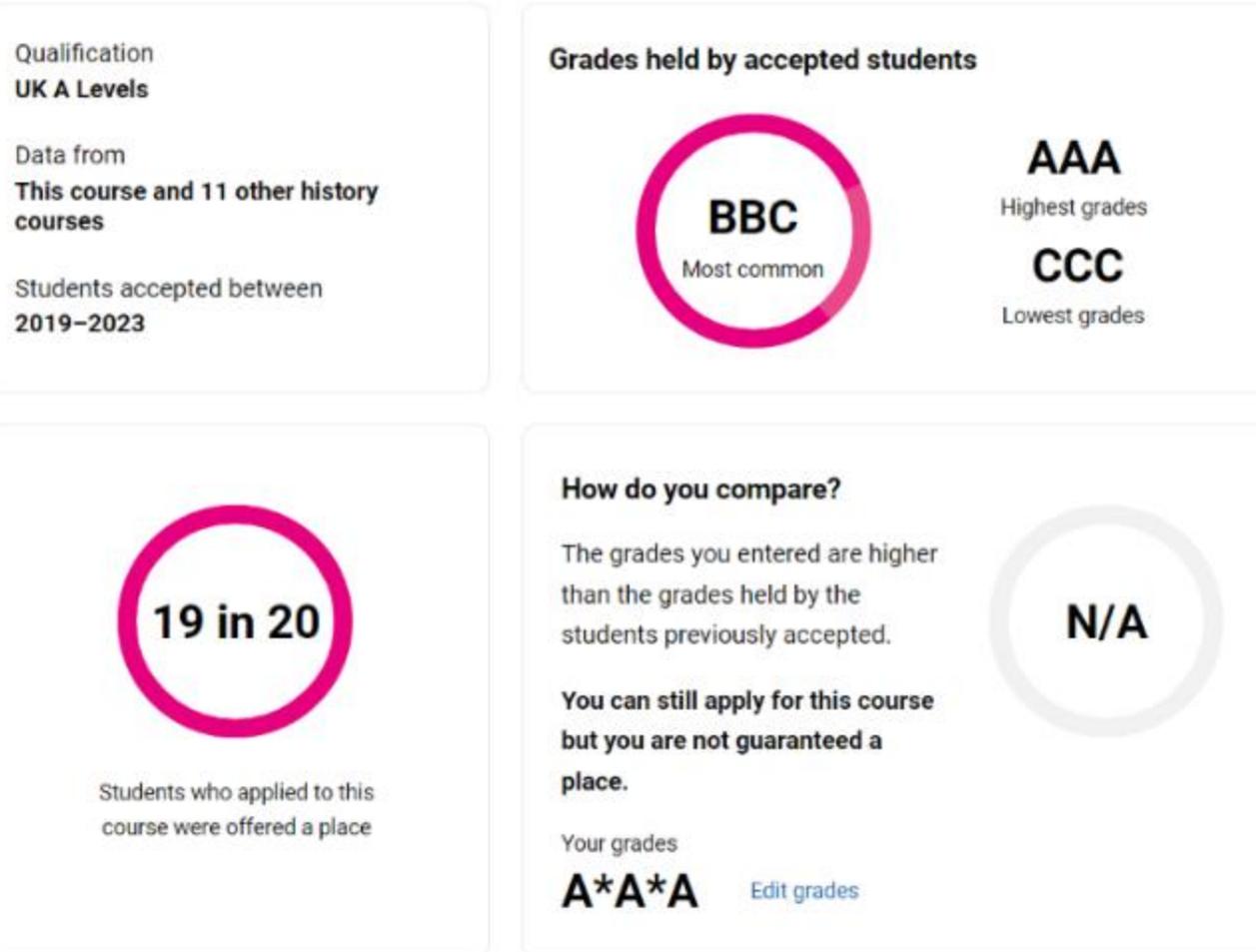
Not always the same as the MEA grades or predicted grades on the progress report

Predictions based on a combination of performance across the year, Y12 exam results and any NEA units completed

Optimistic but realistic and designed to support students in getting offers

However, little point in being overly optimistic as this may result in university offers which are not realistic for the student.

UCAS has useful data about historical entry grades so you can see the differences between their published offer and the grades students actually start courses with



Next steps

The Sixth Form team submit applications to the universities and students usually start to receive acknowledgements and offers fairly quickly

Some universities take longer to consider, particularly for competitive courses

Once offers are in, students can make decisions about preferred courses – one Firm choice and one optional Insurance choice

Choice



Important messages for students:

There is no one choice of university, course or job for which you are 'destined'

There are probably lots of good options

There are certainly more good options than bad ones

UNIFROG search tool



Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.

Rank ▼ Filter ▼ Search ▼

Aspirational (95)

Top of your range

Law - 3FT LLB
Oxford Brookes University
A Level: BBC-BBB

Law with Criminology - 3FT LLB
St Mary's University, Twickenham
UCAS Points: 112

European Law with French - 4FT +
Abroad LLB (Hons)
Bangor University
UCAS Points: 112

Law with Criminology - 3FT LLB
(Hons)
Bangor University
UCAS Points: 112

Solid (113)

In the middle

Law - 4FT LLB (Hons)
Abertay University
A Level: BCC

Law - 3FT/5PT LLB (Hons)
Sheffield Hallam University
UCAS Points: 104

Law with Criminology - 3FT LLB
(Hons)
Sheffield Hallam University
UCAS Points: 104

Law with Criminology - 3FT LLB
(Hons)
University of Salford
UCAS Points: 104

Safe (169)

At the bottom

Economics - 4FT BA (Hons)
Manchester Metropolitan University
A Level: 200-180
Foundation year

Law - 4FT LLB (Hons)
Manchester Metropolitan University
A Level: BB
Foundation year

Law - 4FT BA (Hons)
University of Central Lancashire
Foundation year
UCAS Points: 80

Law - 4FT LLB (Hons)
University of Central Lancashire
UCAS Points: 80

next: 4 courses ▶ or go back



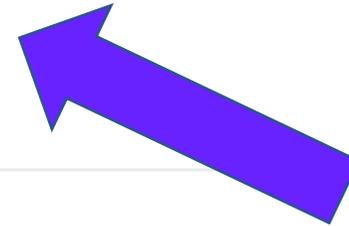
Smart ranking and filtering tools enable you to make informed choices

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.

Rank ▲ Filter ▼ Search ▼

Entry requirements	Average points	% Graduate jobs	Fees	Starting salary	Dropout rate	Hours of lectures	Hours of tutorials
% Assessed by exams	% Assessed by coursework	% Satisfaction	Applications per Place				
Guardian ranking	QS world ranking	Accommodation cost	Distance from home	Social life			



Aspirational (374)

Top of your range

Solid (116)

In the middle

Safe (166)

At the bottom

<p>Law - 3FT BA (Hons) University of Cambridge</p>	<p>Law - 4FT LLB (Hons) Abertay University</p>	<p>Economics - 4FT BA (Hons) Manchester Metropolitan University</p>
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Finance



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Types of Loan

Tuition fees currently max £9,535 –
Student loan paid directly to university
– **not means-tested**

Maintenance loans for living costs –
means-tested

Maintenance Loans

Household income	Maintenance Loan	Household contribution
Under £25,000	£10,544	Nil
£26,000 - £45,000	£10,544-£7,304	£0 - £2,923
£45,000 - £62,347	£7,304-£4,915	£2,923 - £5,629
£62,347 +	£4,915	£5,629

Figures are approximate based on the 2025-26 loan amounts and may be subject to change.
Amounts will be calculated on exact household income, not in bands.

Students eligible for the higher levels of loan are likely to be able to apply for bursaries or further support from their university.



Max maintenance loan £10544
Min maintenance loan £4915

Costs in Higher Education

	Likely living costs for a month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for a month	Likely living costs for 9 months
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range		
Food	£300	£470	£2700	£4230	£300	£4230
Accommodation	£715	£860	£6435	£7740	£715	£7740
Personal items	£180	£305	£1620	£2745	£180	£2745
Social activities	£40	£90	£360	£810	£40	£810
Study costs	£35	£80	£315	£720	£35	£720
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315	£20	£315
Total	£1290	£1840	£11610	£16560	£15480	£22080

More than 50% of university students work part time. Average earnings £5,000

Disabled Student Allowance also available for eligible students



What will your debt be?

- Repayment stops after 40 years if not complete
- Repayment starts at a £25,000 salary
- Interest is charged at RPI

Total amount borrowed:

£10544x3 = £31362

£9535x3 = £28605

Total = £60237 (plus interest)

Repayment = 9% of income over threshold – more like a tax than a loan

Earning per annum	Monthly repayment	Over 40 years
£25000	Nil	nil
£28000	£22.50	£10800
£40000	£112.50	£54000
£50000	£187.50	£90000

Student Finance Calculator

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

University websites for bursaries and extra support

E.g. University of Leeds bursary for students with income below £42000

Other Financial Assistance Available to Higher Education Students

- Scholarships
- Sponsorship
- Bursaries
- Access to Learning Fund
- Hardship Loans
- Career specific support

University bursaries and scholarships ?

The Scholarship Hub – basic registration gives free searches

Unifrog other opportunities search

Bursaries tend to be based on income, scholarships on all sorts including subject studied, musical or sporting talent, exam results, religious background, geographical location

Alternatives to Higher Education

**Sophie Hewitson
Employment and Skills Manager
Leeds City Council**

Key Dates

Event	Date
Summer careers programme	June 2025
Prepare CV	June 2025
Explore school leaver opportunities	PSHE September 2025
Year 13 Parents' evening	November 2025
Practice interviews as required	November 2025-March 2026
Apprenticeship support programme	Spring term 2026 onwards

School input

- Students applying for apprenticeships sometimes feel as if all the focus is on university applications
- This is usually because there is a clear application process for university which is communicated at set times in the year and a single point of application
- For apprenticeships, students do have to work harder individually completing different application forms in different formats, and searching in a range of areas
- Degree apprenticeships may be advertised from October onwards for September start date
- Advanced and Higher apprenticeships often not advertised until April or later

Support is available all year round for apprenticeship applications, but students do need to ask for this

There will be an emphasis at particular stages for university applications because there are common times where things need to be done.

Apprenticeship support needs to be more bespoke



School input

- Careers interviews – can point students in the right direction but can't make decisions for them. Will usually leave the student with research to complete
- Links to webinars and insight sessions from various companies offering apprenticeships
- Time to create CVs/Personal statements which can be tailored for each application
- Practice interviews
- Support with completing application forms
- Work shadowing/apprenticeship preparation sessions (part of PSHE lessons)
- Employer talks and meetings with current apprentices

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Any Questions?



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