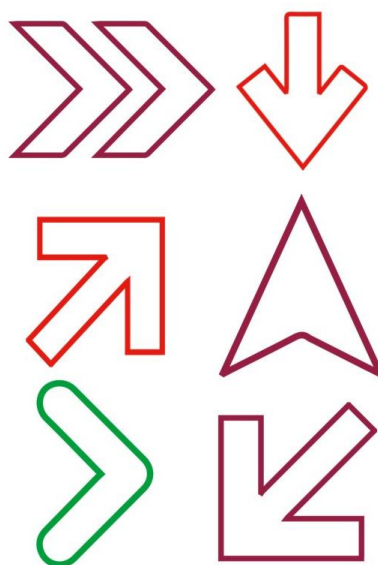


POST-18 INFORMATION HANDBOOK



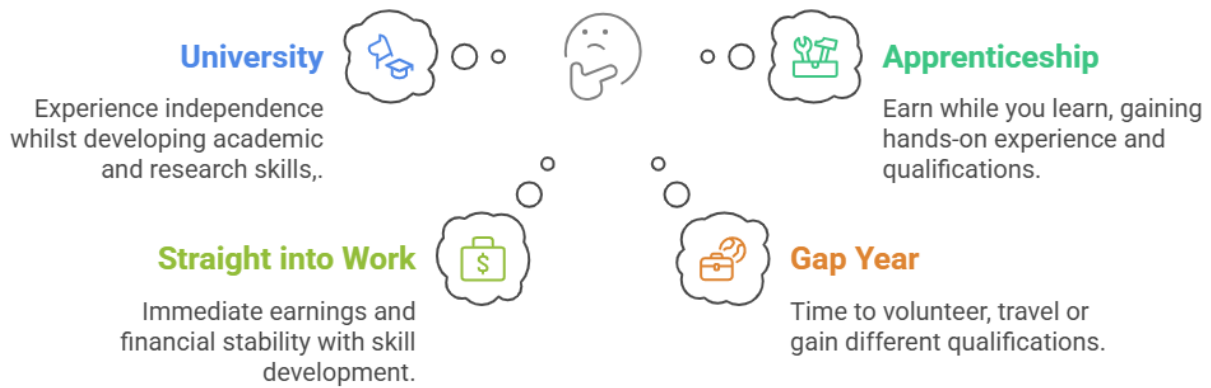
THE SIXTH FORM
AT WOODHOUSE GROVE

Explore
your
options



After A-levels and Sixth Form

What path should I choose after A-levels?



Choices, choices....

The next 12 months will be an exciting time as you start thinking about your future. Whether you're considering university, an apprenticeship, or jumping straight into work, there are plenty of possibilities to explore. Keep in mind that your first choice doesn't have to be your final one—many people take different paths before settling into their ideal career. So, stay open-minded and take the time to explore all your options!

You are about to begin an important journey of decision-making that will help shape your future. Over the next few years, where you study, train, or work will play a big role in your career and personal growth. This is your chance to think about what excites you and what kind of path you want to take next.

If you would like to make an appointment to discuss your options, then please contact:
Mrs Brennan (Pathways & Progressions Co-ordinator) - brennan.c@woodhousegrove.co.uk

Higher Education

Is University the Right Path for You?

University remains the most popular choice for our students after A-levels. While apprenticeships are becoming more attractive, university offers a chance to explore academic interests, gain valuable skills, and enhance career prospects.

Choosing Your Courses

You can apply for up to five courses, so research carefully! Use UCAS, prospectuses, open days, and advice from teachers, friends, and family to guide your decision. If you're unsure about your future career, a degree can give you time to explore options. You can also apply now and decide later; deferring or withdrawing is always an option.

Making the Right Choice

University isn't for everyone. Consider finances, your preferred learning style, and where you'd be happiest. Success isn't just about the course; it's about the environment and opportunities. There's no single "best" university; just the best one for **you**.

Research & Making the Right Decision

When applying to university, your application is reviewed by the subject department, not a computer or central admin team. Different universities—and even different departments—have their own admissions policies, so processes can vary.

Highly competitive courses like medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, law, and economics receive more applicants than they can accept. While most of our students receive offers for their chosen courses, some courses are oversubscribed. To boost your chances of success:

- ✓ Start your research early
- ✓ Check entry requirements carefully for GCSEs, A-Levels and BTECs
- ✓ Take responsibility for your decisions
- ✓ Choose courses wisely
- ✓ Listen to advice from teachers, family and friends

Which Subject?

Key Approaches to Choosing a Subject:

- ✓ **Vocational Courses** – Ideal if you have a specific career in mind (e.g., dentistry, midwifery). Ensure you understand what is involved and do work experience to confirm your interest.
- ✓ **Building on A-Levels** – If you enjoy a subject at A-level, continuing it at university could be a great choice. You can also explore joint or combined honours courses.
- ✓ **A New Subject** – Many degrees (e.g., zoology, sociology, anthropology, engineering) may be entirely new to you, so research them thoroughly.

Remember: Employers value skills like critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving more than the specific subject studied. However, some careers require specific degrees so check requirements early.

Which Course?

Courses differ significantly in content, teaching style, and assessment. Research individual university websites for the most up-to-date details.

Types of Degrees:

- **Single Honours** – Focus on one subject, often with specialisation in later years.
- **Joint Honours** – Two equal subjects, e.g., History and French.
- **Combined Honours** – A mix of subjects, narrowing as the course progresses.
- **Interdisciplinary Courses** – A blend of subjects (e.g., Environmental Studies).
- **Courses with a Placement Year** – Includes a year in industry.
- **Foundation Year** – A preparatory year before starting a degree.

Course Considerations:

- Theoretical vs. practical focus.
- Contact hours, teaching style (lectures, seminars, tutorials), and assessment methods.
- Specialisation opportunities and course flexibility.
- Employability and graduate outcomes – check <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

Which University?

Universities vary widely in environment, size, and teaching style. Choose based on personal preference and suitability for your course.

Factors to Consider:

- **Location** – City-based (Leeds), campus-based (Exeter), or rural (St. Andrews)?
- **Accommodation** – Halls, self-catering, university-managed flats?
- **Entry Requirements** – Check both general and course-specific grade requirements.
- **Facilities & Support** – Libraries, labs, extracurricular opportunities, support services.

Types of Universities:

- **Civic Universities** – Based in city centres (Manchester, Bristol).
- **City Campus Universities** – Near city centres but with a campus (Nottingham)
- **Greenfield Campus Universities** – Self-contained, often in rural areas (Warwick, York).
- **Collegiate Universities** – Oxford, Cambridge, Durham.
- **Russell Group Universities** – Research-intensive universities (UCL, Imperial, Oxford).
- **Specialist Universities** – Focus on niche subjects (e.g., conservatoires, art schools).

University Visits and Open Days

Open Days are a great way to explore a university. You can meet staff and students, learn more about courses, and experience campus life. Subject-specific Open Days often provide more detail than general ones, and some universities also offer taster days to give you a better idea of what studying a course is like.

However, it's important to balance visits with your studies. Missing too much school could affect your progress, so we recommend limiting school-time visits to three. Many universities also hold Open Days on Saturdays, which can be a good option to avoid missing lessons.

Advice

- ✔ Visit universities before applying to ensure they match your needs.
- ✔ Prioritise the **course** over the university - content and teaching styles vary.
- ✔ Research thoroughly using **DiscoverUni** and university websites.
- ✔ Choose a university where you have a realistic chance of securing a place.
- ✔ Taking time to make an informed choice will set you up for success.

What About Finance?

The most common way for students to cover university costs is through student finance, which can help pay for tuition fees and some living costs. From 2027, student finance will operate under the **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)**, giving students more flexibility. We will advise students when the online application process opens, which is usually in March.

There are two main types of loans that most students can apply for, although some exemptions exist for international students. Students apply for funding when they begin a course or period of study, and if studying a full degree they will apply each academic year. The LLE provides funding equivalent to four years of study, which students can use flexibly across their lifetime.

- **Tuition fee loans** - cover the cost of tuition and these are sent directly to your university to pay for lectures and seminars. (£9,790 per year for 2027 entry) You won't need to deal with tuition fee loans until after you graduate.
- **Maintenance loans** - will cover some of your living expenses as a student - the exact amount that you receive depends on factors such as household income, where you live and where you'll be studying.

Key Information

- ✔ You do not need to pay anything upfront.
- ✔ Loan repayments only begin after leaving your course and once you earn above the payment threshold (currently over £25,000 per year).
- ✔ Once you earn above this amount, you will repay 9% of anything earned above the threshold and repayments are automatically deducted from your salary.
- ✔ If your income drops below the repayment threshold, your payments pause until your income increases again.
- ✔ Interest is added to your loan from the moment the money is paid to you.

Extra Support Available

- ✔ **Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA)** - If you have extra study-related costs due to a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or learning difficulty, you may be able to apply for DSAs. This support does **not need to be repaid**. More details: gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa
- ✔ **NHS Learning Support Fund** - Students studying nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and other allied healthcare degrees in England may receive at least £5,000 per year to support their studies. This funding **does not need to be repaid**.

Studying Abroad

Students choose to study abroad for various reasons, including course options, cost, and gaining a unique experience that stands out to employers. There are two different ranking sites that may be of use in your research; QS World Rankings: <http://www.topuniversities.com> and

The Times <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/>

Short-Term Study Abroad

Many UK universities offer up to a year abroad, often at reduced tuition fees. Some integrate this into a three-year degree, while others extend to four years.

European Universities

Many European universities teach courses in English. Fees vary, but UK student loans don't cover international fees, so funding plans are essential. Popular destinations include:

- **The Netherlands** – The widest range of English-taught courses, with fees between €9,000–€25,000 per year (www.studielink.nl).
- **Germany** – Many tuition-free courses, but fewer English taught options
- **Medical/Dentistry Schools** – Offered in cities like Prague and Budapest. Applications are separate for each (www.medicaldoorway.com).
- Other options include **Ireland, Spain, Italy, Estonia, and Malta** (www.eunicas.co.uk)

Studying in the USA

US university fees are high (\$27,000–\$65,000 per year), but financial aid and **sports/academic scholarships** are available. The **SAT/ACT tests** are often required—start preparing in Year 12. The **Common App** (www.commonapp.org) is used for many applications, which include essays and The **Fulbright Commission** (www.fulbright.org.uk) holds helpful events.

Other International Destinations

Students have also studied in **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Hong Kong**. As with UK applications, pupils will be supported through the process of applying to non-UK universities.

Apprenticeships

How Do Apprenticeships Work?

- You'll be **employed by a company** and earn a wage while gaining hands-on experience.
- At the same time, you will study towards a **nationally recognised qualification**, with a college, university, or training provider.
- Apprenticeships take **one to five years** to complete, depending on the level

What Are the Different Levels?

- **Intermediate (Level 2)** – Equivalent to GCSEs
- **Advanced (Level 3)** – Equivalent to A-Levels
- **Higher (Level 4 & 5)** – Equivalent to a Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma
- **Degree (Level 6 & 7)** – Equivalent to a full Bachelor's or Master's Degree

What Are the Benefits?

- **Earn a salary** while you train.
- **No tuition fees**, so you avoid student debt.
- Gain **valuable work experience** that employers look for.
- Develop **practical skills** directly relevant to your chosen career.
- Many apprentices are offered **permanent jobs** at the end of their programme.

How Do You Find an Apprenticeship?

- Search vacancies on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- Check **company websites**, as many large employers run their own schemes.
- Vacancies start becoming available to apply for from September/October onwards of Year 13, with competitive schemes requiring applications in Year 12.
- Current vacancies are advertised on a Teams page for Year 13 students.
- Help and support is available from the Sixth Form Team

Apprenticeship or University – Which is Right for You?

University might be better suited if you're interested in more **theoretical study** or careers that require a specific degree, such as medicine or dentistry. Apprenticeships offer an exciting, debt-free route into a career, providing valuable skills and qualifications. Whether you're a hands-on learner or looking to get a head start in the working world, they are well worth considering!

Useful websites:

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Current higher apprenticeship recruiters include KPMG, Deloitte, Ernst and Young, PWC, Jaguar Land Rover, The National Grid, Rolls Royce, Unilever, BAE Systems, Asda, Marks and Spencer, Nestle, Boots, BAM Nuttall and Channel 4.

Gap Year

If you want to take a gap year, you can still apply to university during Year 13 for deferred entry (2028 entry) or you can apply during your gap year. There are a variety of companies that can help you find placements of differing lengths. These include:

<https://projecttrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/>

<https://www.workaway.info/>

UCAS Application

The personal statement format changed for 2026 entry and now consists of the following three questions:

1. Why do you want to study this course?

This is your chance to show your enthusiasm for the subject and explain why it's the right choice for you. Think about:

- ✓ What inspired you—was it a person, an experience, or simply your love for the subject?
- ✓ What excites you most about this subject? Have you read books, done research, or explored it outside of school?
- ✓ How does this course fit with your future career plans or goals?

2. How have your studies prepared you for this course?

Here, you should highlight the skills and knowledge you've gained from your education that will help you succeed. Think about:

- ✓ How your subjects relate to the course—have they developed key skills or sparked your interest?
- ✓ Any specific topics or projects that helped you understand your strengths.
- ✓ What super-curricular activities have you engaged in (articles, podcasts, journals etc)
- ✓ Any achievements, like competitions, leadership roles, or special projects, that show your commitment and abilities.

3. What have you done outside of school to prepare for this course?

This is your chance to showcase any extra activities or experiences that make you a great candidate. Think about:

- ✓ Work experience, volunteering, or jobs that gave you relevant skills.
- ✓ Personal challenges or responsibilities that helped you grow.
- ✓ Hobbies, sports, or clubs that demonstrate your skills, interests, and dedication.
- ✓ Any activities you've done since leaving school, like travel, courses, or work.

Things to remember:

- ✓ There is a maximum limit across all three questions of 4,000 characters (including spaces).
- ✓ Each section needs a minimum of 340 characters
- ✓ UCAS run all personal statements through a plagiarism tool; so, it must be your own work.
- ✓ You can only write one personal statement and so it needs to be relevant to all the courses you are applying for.
- ✓ There is a cost of £34.50 to submit an application to UCAS (UCAS is a charity).
- ✓ A member of the Sixth Form Team will check all applications before they are submitted.

UCAS Points Tariff for Entry Requirements

Grade	A-level	AS-level	EPQ
A*	56	-	28
A	48	20	24
B	40	16	20
C	32	12	16
D	24	10	12
E	16	6	8

	National Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A-level)
Distinction *	56
Distinction	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Sports Leaders Award	16
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University Entry Requirements – What You Need to Know

Each university sets its own entry requirements to make sure students are ready for the course. Checking these should be one of the **first things** you do when researching. By understanding entry requirements, you can make **smarter choices** about where to apply and boost your chances of getting into the right course for you!

Types of Entry Requirements

1. Qualifications & Grades

- ✓ Universities look at your A-levels, BTECs and GCSEs.
- ✓ Some courses require **specific subjects** or **minimum grades** in certain subjects.
- ✓ Retaken grades may not always be accepted, so check university policies.

2. UCAS Points

- ✓ Some universities use **UCAS points** instead of grades.
- ✓ Most universities accept up to three qualifications, but some universities that make points-based offers will accept up to five qualifications.

3. GCSE Requirements

- ✓ Most universities ask for at least a **grade 4 or 5 in English language and maths**.
- ✓ Some courses may require specific GCSE subjects or higher grades.
- ✓ Competitive courses will pay more attention to your GCSE results

Timeline of Key Dates for Applying to University

2026/2027

Thursday 23rd April 2026	Post Sixth Form event
Spring/Summer 2026	University open days – book in advance
Wednesday 17th June 2026	UCAS Fair – Leeds Beckett University
Wednesday 1st July 2026	Deadline for first draft of personal statements for those applying to Oxbridge, conservatoires, medicine, dentistry or veterinary science
Start of July 2026	Provisional UCAS Predicted Grades emailed to students and parents
July – September 2026	UCAT testing (medicine and dentistry applicants)
Thursday 3rd September 2026	Start of Year 13
September 2026 – January 2027	TMUA, LNAT, TARA and ESAT tests (deadlines are university and course dependant)
Thursday 1st October 2026	6pm deadline for applications to most conservatoire music courses
Friday 2nd October 2026	Deadline for first draft of all other personal statements
Thursday 15th October 2026	6pm deadline for UCAS applications to Oxbridge or for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science
October 2026	Students start receiving university offers
Wednesday 16th December 2026	WGS target for completion of all UCAS applications
Wednesday 13th January 2027	6pm UCAS deadline for applications to be given equal consideration
March 2027 – May 2027	Students must complete student finance application
May 2027	Students should have received all university offers
Wednesday 5th May 2027	Deadline to notify UCAS of firm and insurance offers
Thursday 12th August 2027	A-level results are published, and Clearing begins
September – October 2027	University courses begin

Useful websites

<https://new.myglobalbridge.com/> - you have already started building up a record of your interests and achievements on this website. Use these and the contacts available on the site to network and showcase your achievements. Having all this information in one place will help you to write your personal statement.

<https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/> to explore non-university routes beyond school.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/alternatives-to-university> - lots of useful information around alternatives to university, applying to university and general careers advice.

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/> - helps you to find out detailed information about courses and universities

[Match your A-levels to degree subjects - SACU - Career Cloud Quiz](#) - try the A-level explorer to get ideas of courses that may appeal to you, based on your A-levels

www.ucas.com - lots of information to explore in the UCAS Hub, including subject guides and direct links to all university websites.

<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/> - detailed statistical information, including entry requirements, student satisfaction and graduate employment

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/> gateway for information about studying in the USA.

[Careers — Woodhouse Grove School](#) – lots of up-to-date information can be found on Firefly.

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/student/> - everything you need to know about apprenticeships

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice/apply-for-an-apprenticeship> - search apprenticeships and sign up for job alerts

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

Leavers' Destinations 2025



Other UK Destinations 2025

Abertay University Forensic Sciences
University of the Arts, London Fashion Marketing, Fashion Marketing & Content Creation
Aston University Business Analytics
Bangor University Psychology
Bath University International Management, Sport Management & Coaching
Bradford University Physiotherapy
University of Gloucester Wildlife Conservation Biology
Harper Adams University Agriculture, Business Management
Laine Theatre Arts Musical Theatre
Lancaster Engineering, Geography, Law, Medicine & Surgery, Psychology, Sports & Exercise Science
Leeds Arts University Illustration
Leeds Beckett Accounting & Finance, Journalism, Real Estate & Property Management, Sport and Exercise Science, Sport Marketing
Leeds Conservatoire Music
University of Leicester Business & Management, Economics, Law with Social Science
University of London (Royal Holloway) Politics, Philosophy & Economics
Loughborough Accounting & Finance, Economics, Mechanical Engineering, Social Sciences & Humanities, Sport (Elite Athlete Pathway), Sport Management
Manchester Metropolitan Accounting & Finance, Business Management with Law, Digital Media and Communications
Northumbria Business Management, Business & Supply Chain Management, Law, Media & Communication, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Real Estate, Sport & Exercise Science
University of Salford Economics & Finance, Real Estate Development & Management
Sheffield Hallam Physiotherapy, Sport Business Management
St Marys University, Twickenham Law LLB with Business

International Destinations 2025

CEU San Pablo Medicine
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Marketing
Queensland University Zoology
VUB Belgium Business Economics
Universidad Politécnic de Madrid General Engineering

Apprenticeships 2025

British Gas Business Administration
 General Electric Business Leadership
 Gleeds Surveying Apprenticeship
 ITP Executive Search Consultant
 Tetra Tech Project Manager
 Shakespeare Martineau Solicitor Law Degree
 Wilman & Lodge Real Estates Sales & Marketing

Russell Group Destinations 2025

Newcastle
 Biomedical Sciences
 Computer Science
 Combined Honours
 Mechanical Engineering, Politics & History, Politics & International Relations.

★ **Durham**
 Chemistry
 Computer Science & Mathematics
 Engineering (Mechanical)
 General Engineering
 History, Natural Sciences.

★ **Leeds**
 East Asian Studies & International Relations

★ **Sheffield**
 Biological Sciences
 Civil Engineering
 International Relations & Politics
 Mechanical Engineering
 Psychology
 Physics & Astrophysics.

★ **Nottingham**
 Accountancy
 Architecture
 Economics

★ **Birmingham**
 Biological Sciences
 Politics & International Relations.

★ **Bristol**
 Criminology
 Computer Science
 Film & English
 Veterinary Science

★ **York**
 Accounting & Finance
 English

★ **Manchester**
 Business Accounting
 Chemistry
 Drama
 Medicine

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

Leavers' Destinations 2024



Other UK Destinations 2024

Bath University Economics, Health and Exercise Science

Bradford University Mechanical Engineering, Law, Clinical Sciences

University City of London Business Management

College of Estate Management Chartered Surveying

De Montford University Biomedical Sciences

University of Huddersfield Pharmacy, Creative Music Production, Music Performance, Health Foundation

Keele Pharmacy

Kent and Medway Medical School Medicine

Lancaster Business Management (2), Finance

Leeds Arts University Games Art

Leeds Beckett Creative Writing, Law, Real Estate & Property Management, Business Management with Marketing

Leicester University Medicine

Liverpool John Moores English, Media & Cultural Studies

Loughborough Commercial Management & Quantity Surveying

Manchester Metropolitan Psychology (2), Banking and Finance, Business Management, Events Management, Fashion Communication

Northumbria Geography and Environmental Science, Business (2), Architecture, History, Economics and Finance

Nottingham Trent Business Management & Marketing, Sociology

Portsmouth University Engineering & Technology

University of Salford Quantity Surveying

York St John Education, SEN and Mental Health

Apprenticeships

Police Constable Apprenticeship

Country Style Foods

JM Bentley

Employment

Aon

Belvoir Estate Agents

Russell Taylor

Bespoke Stairlift

International Destinations 2024

Hong Kong Universities (2 students)

Woosong University, South Korea (International Hotel Management)

St Thomas University, Miami, USA Sports Management)

Russell Group Destinations 2024

Newcastle

Accounting and Finance
History & Archaeology
Psychology
English Language and Literature
Film and Media
Mathematics and Economics
Geography and Urban Planning

Durham

History
Geography
Natural Sciences

Manchester

Finance
Architecture (2)
Planning & Real Estate
Economics and Finance
Accounting and Finance
Mathematics and Statistics
Sociology and Criminology
Geography

Leeds

Philosophy and Politics
International Development
Mathematics

York

English
Sociology with Criminology

Sheffield

Aerospace Engineering
Applied Social Sciences
Business and Economics



Liverpool

Criminology and Sociology
Business Economics



Nottingham

Veterinary Medicine (2)
Finance, Accounting & Management
Economics & Econometrics

Oxford

Law



Imperial College

Aeronautical Engineering
Design Engineering

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