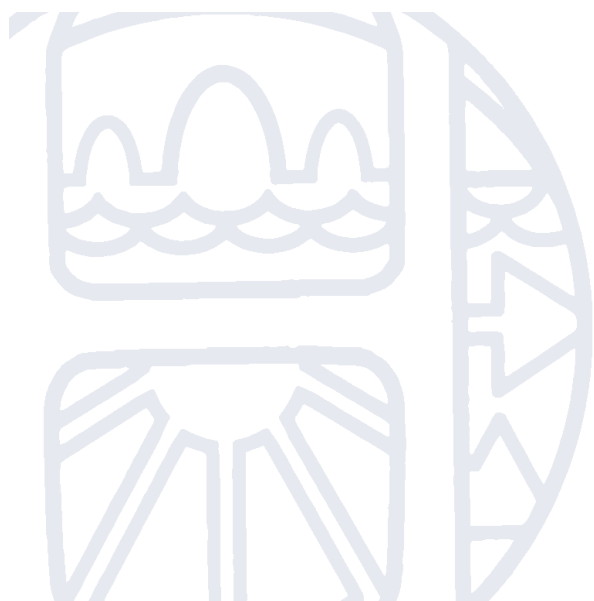


Highfields School

Key Information



Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

What support do students get for making applications to university?

There are several events which we put on after the exams in May. These include:

- An evening at school, for parents, students and carers, with admissions tutors from several universities who will answer your questions about choosing courses and universities, writing personal statements and what student finance is all about.
- Open Days which we will take students to, in order to get a taste for different universities. Last year we used the University of Birmingham and Nottingham Trent University. This is a cheap way of getting to places and having a good explore of what is on offer.
- UCAS day at school - where we help students to understand the UCAS process.
- Tutors and the Sixth Form Team will be on hand to guide students through the Personal Statement process.

Is there anything that can help students appear more attractive to competitive university courses? Or anything which can help them to make up their mind?

Students can gain access to University courses through visit days, taster courses and summer schools. One of our Year 13 students went on a summer school last year, and benefitted from it hugely. This is his direct quote:

'My summer school was a fantastic opportunity to experience what it's like to go to university. It gives you an insight into whether you really want to do that subject. You have to do a mini-application process which is good preparation for doing UCAS next year. You get a chance to meet other people who think like you and are interested in the same things as you, and you do come away feeling like you have learned a lot. As a Sixth Form student it is also nice to have an insight into the goal you are really working towards – which helped to motivate me for my exams. The summer school I went on was free. There was no payment – food and accommodation were free. And there were social activities which were free and good fun to be on.'

These are a selection of courses available:

Local outreach programmes from Sheffield and Nottingham Universities:

Local universities set up programmes where students go in to the universities for a few days over the course of a year, to experience university life, go to some lectures and talk with existing students. These are primarily targeted at students who come from families where parents have not been to university, or where household income is low, but some extend to comprehensive schools more generally. Over the last few years students have gone on to Medicine, Dentistry and Social Sciences courses, but others exist, for example in Engineering.

University of Sheffield

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/outreach/post16>

The Discover programme supports participants throughout Year 12 and 13 in raising aspirations and exploring Higher Education study. As well as general workshops and events, the programme is split into six subject and career pathways that offer a unique experience and specialist support.

Discover Arts and Humanities, Discover Law, Discover Social Sciences, Discover STEM, SOAMS (Sheffield's Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme). Applications open in October.

University of Nottingham - Ambition Nottingham

Applications open October 2019 and close early December 2019

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliason/services/ambition-post-16.aspx>

Ambition Nottingham is a free two year scheme for Y12 students and provides post-16 support as you progress through sixth form on to higher education.

The activities support progression and application to a university of your choice.

Examples of past activities: Course taster events, revision skills, subject masterclasses, workshops





UNIQ Spring and Summer Schools

Apply at: <http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/>

Applications open early December 2019

UNIQ is a programme of free residentials. The UNIQ Spring Courses run in April and the Summer Courses in July and August for Year 12 students. Students apply for a specific course that aims to give them a realistic view of Oxford student life. UNIQ participants live in an Oxford college for one week in July or August. They attend lectures and seminars in their chosen subject, and workshops about applying to Oxford. Participants can also take part in a variety of social activities each evening.

Subjects cover: Humanities, Languages, Medical Sciences, Maths and Sciences, Social Sciences



Nottingham University and Sutton Trust Pathways Programme

Applications now open and close in October.

<https://www.suttontrust.com/programmes/pathways-applications-2018/>



Applications for Pathways to Law, STEM, Medicine and Banking & Finance are now open for 2019/20. Build essential knowledge, skills and confidence required to go on to higher education and the world of work. All programmes offer work placements, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Sutton Trust Summer Schools

Apply at: www.suttontrust.com Applications open Early January 2020

Selective applications – based on background and achievement – Free places in July and August
Apply individually – school verify applications afterwards.

Based at Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh, Imperial College, Kings College St Andrews, UCL, Royal Veterinary College and Nottingham University

Wide subject range: English, Maths Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Music, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Law, Maths, Computer Science, Engineering, History, Geography.

London Taster Courses

Information and online applications at: <https://london.ac.uk/taster-course-search>

Run by **University of London** with 14 of its colleges along with 7 other London Universities
The Taster Course Programme provides year 12 students with a taste of what life at a university in London is like. Through your chosen taster course you will experience the different teaching methods used by university academics and gain an insight into the additional facilities available, whilst meeting students from across the UK. All the taster courses are free to attend and you can choose a course from a variety of subjects taking place at the numerous participating universities. Courses range from voice and drama, to medicine and nursing, to computing and business.

Half day to one week between October – July (**FREE**)

Applications now open.

York Subject conferences and Taster days

<https://www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/post-16/subject-conferences/>



Taster Days take place in March and have included: Discover History, Digital Age Technologies, 21st Century Science, Love Learning Languages, Crime and Politics.

Ambition Nottingham

Applications open October 2019 and close early December 2019

Ambition Nottingham is a free two year scheme for Y12 students and provides post-16 support as you progress through sixth form on to higher education.

The activities support progression and application to a university of your choice.

Examples of past activities: Course taster events, revision skills, subject masterclasses.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Courses run in June and July – (to pay for)

Apply at: www.etrust.org.uk/headstart/whatisheadstart

Opportunities available at a broad range of universities including; Liverpool, Durham, Manchester, Leicester, Loughborough, Sheffield, UCL, Oxford. Subjects include: Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Natural Sciences, Aeronautical Engineering.



Lancaster University Summer Schools

<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/summer-schools/>

The Summer School Programme aims to provide you with a full insight into life at Lancaster University, balancing skills development and experience of undergraduate level study with social and leisure activities. You will also gain expert information, advice and guidance about the options available to you at University. **Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Biochemistry and Biomedical Science, Business and Management, Medicine, Science and Technology, Politics and International Relations**

Manchester University Discover Days

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/aspiring-students/discover-days/>

An in-depth insight into the unique features and opportunities of degree courses that you might want to study at Manchester Biosciences, Chemistry, Criminology, Earth, Planetary and Environmental Sciences, Engineering, English, Drama and American Studies, Fashion Business, History and related subjects, Midwifery, Nursing, Philosophy, Psychology. Registration for our winter Discover Days will open in October.

My son or daughter does not intend to go to university, what support is on offer to them?

- Mock interviews with a national company in Year 13 to help prepare techniques and CVs.
- Advice on Apprenticeships, and if there is sufficient interest, we may take students on a trip to an Apprenticeship Fair.
- We can put you in touch with former students who have taken apprenticeships
- Careers appointments and work experience can be arranged
- Your own enquiries and investigations, and your own efforts to get good work experience are still crucial
- Encourage students to take part in Community Service opportunities these are invaluable to apprenticeship and job applications.
- References can be provided to support apprenticeship and job applications.

When are the next assessment profiles coming out?

The first Year 12 Progress Data Sheet will be issued on 15 November.

When should students start revising?

Now and on-going.

When will the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) start?

There will be introductory sessions during the next few weeks.

If you would like any further information or advice then please contact the Sixth Form Office on 01629 581888 ext.167 or email: pbumby@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

