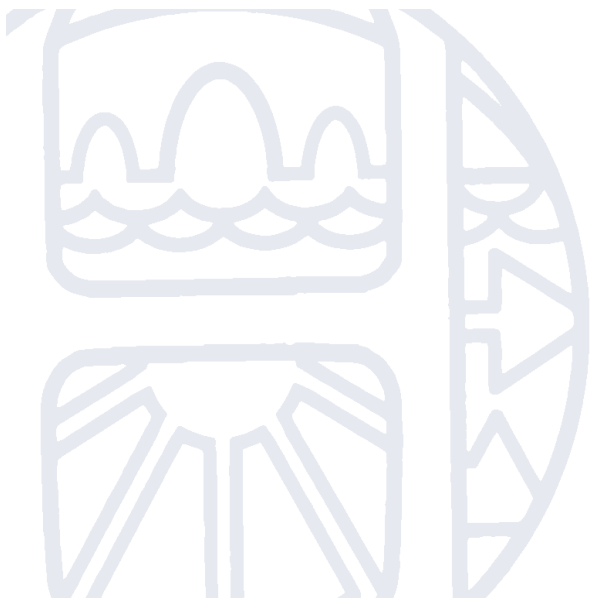


Highfields School

Key Information



Frequently
Asked
Questions



Welcome to Parents Evening

Welcome to Parents Evening

These are a few frequently asked questions. There is a much more comprehensive list of questions and answers on the websites for UCAS, Student Finance and individual university accommodation sites.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I need to apply for resits?

Resit forms will be available at Parents Evening and then from the Sixth Form Office. The application deadline for resit forms is Friday 19 January, payment is by cheque (payable to Highfields School) or cash and should be returned to the Exams Office.

Talk with your teachers about the merits of a resit. Looking at AS marks in individual units helps this decision. Your teachers will help you to understand if a re-sit will make it more likely that you can achieve a higher grade. It might be worth re-sitting one paper (therefore reducing the amount you need to revise) rather than re-sitting two - if you can increase your marks significantly in that paper. If you are concerned by the numbers of resits which you are taking, we would say that there were a significant number of students who did several resits last year, and they did tend to do well overall as a result. Of course over-stretching yourself is a factor to consider, but with the right work ethic resits often do pay off. There might be a difference between subjects – as a result of Year 13 work, you may be better at your AS exam in some subjects, but in others the material might be so different for the AS Level that you are having to re-learn a lot of material.

When is the deadline for confirming my acceptance of offers for university?

You do not need to confirm your choices until 2 May 2018. At that point you should give a Firm Acceptance for your favourite choice, and an Insurance Acceptance. Note that your Insurance Offer is there in case your grades are lower than expected, so you should normally choose your lowest offer for the Insurance Acceptance – talk with us if you are unsure.

Is there any point accepting before May?

The advantage to confirming before May is that once you have put a university as your confirmed first choice you can start applying for accommodation there. In some cases as you move past Easter the choice of accommodation can reduce, although there should always be some choice for you even at a later stage.

The priority is to be happy with your decision. So make sure you feel comfortable with your first choice and insurance offer. Once you are comfortable, it makes sense to confirm and then follow that university's procedures for applying for accommodation.

When do I apply for Student Finance?

Student Finance opens for you in February, and it is a good idea to apply fairly early on. You do **not** need to have confirmed your university choices before you apply. They ask you to put down the university you think you are most likely to put as your first choice, and you can always change it later.

What if I want to look for an apprenticeship or a job?

- In February we will start a mock interview and CV process where students can test themselves with a wide experience in business, and receive feedback on their applications. This can help focus the mind on what students want to do.
- Looking for relevant work experience from January onwards is important.
- Those looking for apprenticeships should really be looking for Higher Apprenticeships. We can put you in touch with former students who have gone on to Apprenticeships in Finance, Engineering and Administration.
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"This is a good school" Ofsted, May 2017
"A Good School with an Outstanding Sixth Form" Ofsted, October 2012



- If you are uncertain of what you'd like to do, please look at the school website (Sixth Form main page, Careers and the Future): the Careers Service is available to talk (you can make your own appointment by email); there are books that might help – please ask; and talk to people from different work backgrounds who know you well.
- Remember you can always put in a UCAS application in reserve.
- There are some volunteering and work experience opportunities coming up which would look impressive on any CV, especially if you are looking for work in the local area – please ask Mr Flett.

What key dates are coming up?

29 th January	Assessment Profile to Parents
19 th – 23 rd February	Half Term
28 th February	Geology Fieldwork (Castleton)
5 th – 9 th March	Music Performance Exams
26 th March – 6 th April	Easter Holiday
9 th April	Progress Data Sheet to Parents
7 th May	Bank Holiday
8 th – 10 th May	Art Exam
28th May	Study Leave Begins for A2 Exams
4th June - 25th June	A2 Exams
16 th August	A Level Results Day

For further information or advice on 01629 581888 ext.167 or email: mflett@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk or pbumby@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

