THE

SWEYNE PARK

SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

Key Dates: **Summer 1**

Wk commencing	**Year 12**	**Year 13**
13th April	Deadline for Unifrog digital paperwork to be completed for work experience Creative Media workshops	Revision Creative media workshops
21st April	Year 12 mock exams	Heads Achievement Time Yr 13
27th April	28th: Careers Fair p5 30th April: Health, Sexual Health and Wellbeing Day	A Level Art Exam 27th, 28th and 29th
4th May	Bank holiday	Bank Holiday Monday. 6th May:Celebration Assembly and shirt signing
11th May		A Level Exams start
18th May	12.3 reports published	
25th May	Half term holiday	

Key Dates Summer 2

1st June	Sign up to UCAS in tutor times	
8th June	10th June- UCAS Fair visit to Essex University 11th June- Yr 12 Parents Consultation Evening	
15th June	Work experience week	
22nd June	24th Personal Statement Writing Workshop (no curriculum enrichment) DofE Silver Assessment 24-17th June	
29th June	2nd July: Employability Day	
6th July	8/9th July: Sixth Form Induction for prospective students	9th July- Year 13 Prom
13th July	14th July Summer Concert 15th July: Oxford University Visit 16th July: Year 12 Celebration Evening	
20th July	21st July- end of term	

Post 18 Pathways Evening

- Degree and Higher Apprenticeships and Employment
- Higher Education and the UCAS process
- Gap Years

Sweyne Park Sixth Form Professional Destinations 2019 to 2025

What are apprenticeships?

Employed

Off the job

Intermediate - degree

Paid a salary

Typically 1-6 years

Real responsibilities

Contract

700+ standards

Not the easy option

THE ASK PROGRAMME
APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Range of apprenticeships

First Officer Pilot

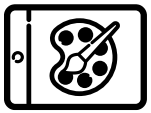
Paralegal

Quantity Surveyor

Dietician

Aerospace Engineer

Paramedic



Visual Effects Artist

Architect

Zookeeper

Ecologist

Business Administrator

Chef

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APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Levels of apprenticeships

Intermediate

Equivalent to:

5 GCSE passes at grade 9-4 (A*-C)

Level 2

Advanced

Equivalent to:

2 A levels / International Baccalaureate

Level 3

Higher

Equivalent to:

Foundation degree and above

Levels 4-7

Degree

Equivalent to:

Bachelors or masters degree

Levels 6 & 7

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Higher & Degree apprenticeships

- University fees paid by employer and/or Government
- No debt
- Experience
- 4-6 years
- 100+ universities (plus colleges, training providers)
- Employer selects University/provider

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Applying for Apprenticeships and Employment

•Degree apprenticeships worth about **£150,000**

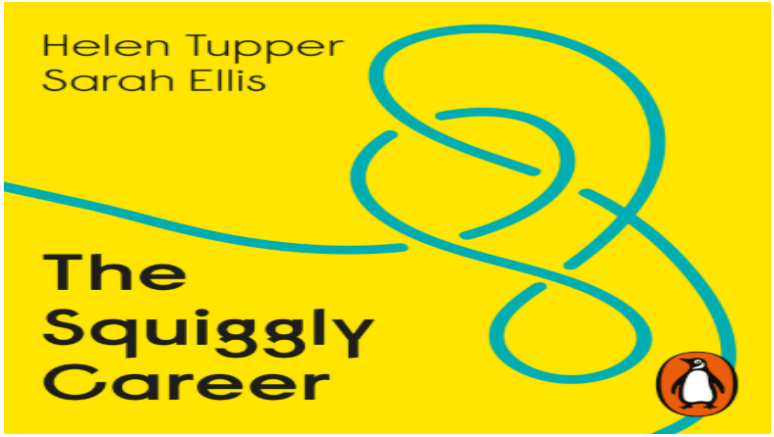
•Competition is intense – between **1-4%** of applicants succeed when applying for degree apprenticeships

•Strong applications rely on **tailored CVs**, **deep company research,** and **detailed, well-crafted responses** that align to each **Job Description**.

•Online tests, interviews and assessment days evaluate **resilience, communication, teamwork** and **workplace readiness**

Jaguar Landrover: 10,000 applicants for 50 places

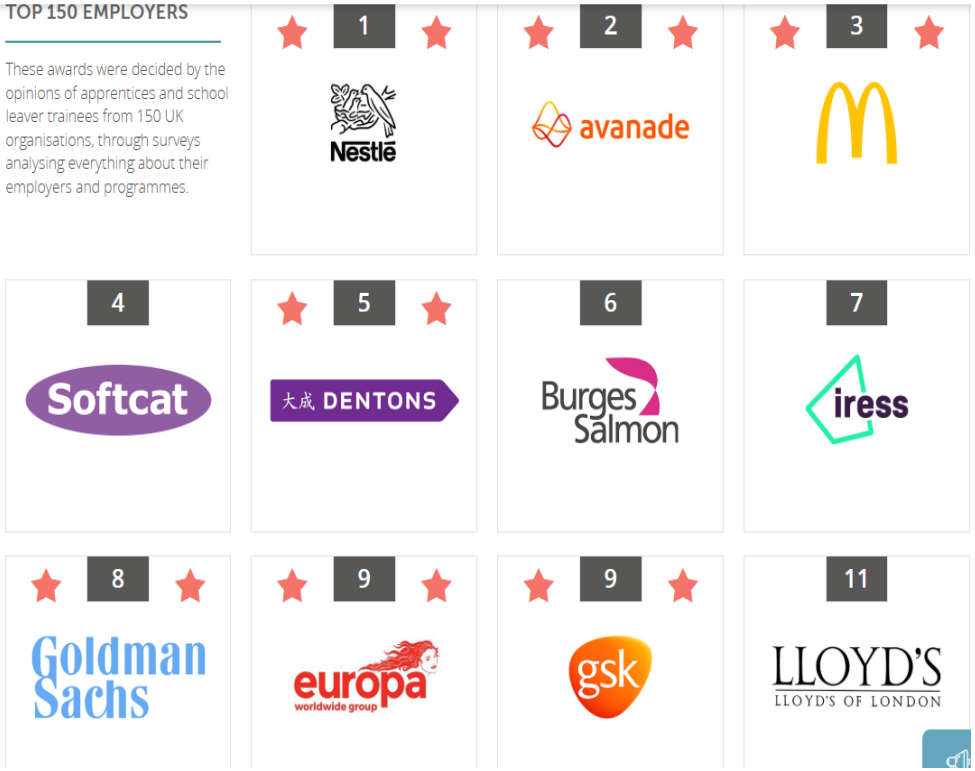
KPMG: 225000 applicants- 4% acceptance rate= 9000 places.



Research less famous companies or local companies

Consider level 3 and 4 apprenticeships as well- check they give further training?

[Top 150 School Leaver Employers | AllAboutSchoolLeavers]



Research the companies

Follow them on social media

Sign up for their insight programmes

Be ready for when the apprenticeships open

Local or international

Range of employers

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APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

How to find an apprenticeship and how to apply?

Step 1:

Explore the two padlets- online work experience, TED talks, apprenticeship search platforms, Unifrog job search, amazing apprenticeship live listings, student ladder, find an apprenticeship.gov.uk etc…..**every week!**

Step 2:

Set up your **linked in** profile and follow companies you are interested in working for. Sign up for alerts to their 'talent' or 'early career' or 'apprenticeship' sections on company websites.

Step 3:

Review your basic CV and opening cover letter (usually an email now or a section in the initial application form). Make it **outstanding** but truthful. SPAG must be perfect- get it checked

Step 4

Find roles you are interested in and match the job specification to your CV and strengths.

Step 5

Research the company- what do they say about themselves/their values/their brand. Save your notes as a separate word doc for every company. Keep a log of all applications.

Step 6

Explore the application form and draft your responses – checking it matches the job description and corporate identity

Look inside the company

- Logistics
- IT and Cyber Security
- Data Analytics
- Sales
- Business Development
- Marketing
- Human Resources (HR)
- Finance
- Legal
- Facilities Management
- Security
- Customer Service
- Training and Development

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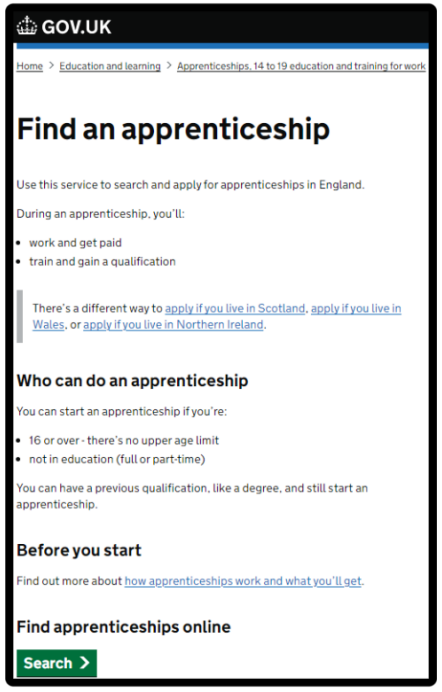
APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

How do you find apprenticeships?



GOV.UK

Home > Education and learning > Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work

Find an apprenticeship

Use this service to search and apply for apprenticeships in England.

During an apprenticeship, you'll:

- work and get paid
- train and gain a qualification

There's a different way to apply if you live in Scotland, apply if you live in Wales, or apply if you live in Northern Ireland.

Who can do an apprenticeship

You can start an apprenticeship if you're:

- 16 or over - there's no upper age limit
- not in education (full or part-time)

You can have a previous qualification, like a degree, and still start an apprenticeship.

Before you start

Find out more about how apprenticeships work and what you'll get.

Find apprenticeships online

Search >

WHAT IS FAA?

Showcasing live apprenticeship jobs

20,000+ vacancies over the year

FREE

Free to use

Secure site

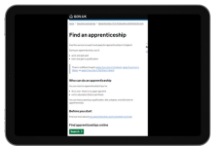
APPLY NOW

Apply quickly

THE ASK PROGRAMME

APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Where else to look



Find an apprenticeship

Unifrog

Company websites

Careers websites

Social media

Friends and family

Higher and Degree listing

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APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Useful websites & resources

Resources to support you in learning about apprenticeships

Application guides

Factsheets

Using Faa guide

Webinars

Employer profiles

Apprentice advice

Amazing Apprenticeships

www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Useful websites

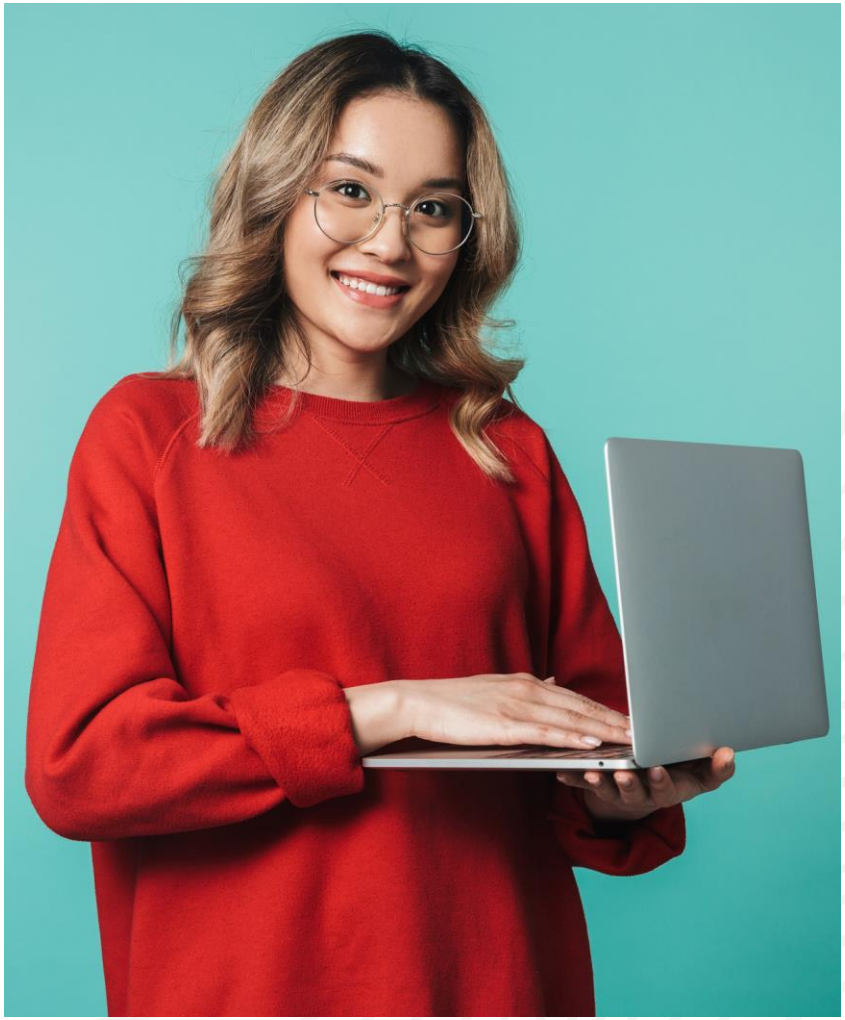
Apprenticeship information

CAREERS GUIDANCE

- www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/

The Apprenticeship Hub Padlet

Sixth Form Supra-curricular Opportunities



In summary

- Great alternative to university: apprenticeship = qualifications and salary
- Involves multiple applications and much more researching. Prepare at the end of year 12
- Supra-curricular and work-related learning really important

UK Higher Education in 2026: current context

- Sector faces financial and demographic shifts
- Increasing focus on skills, employability and flexibility
- Technology and regulation are reshaping how universities operate

UK Higher Education in 2026: current context

- Rising number of 18 year olds =more applications
- Institutions face budget cuts (potential for mergers)
- Value for money is a top concern and student support
- Students want more than a degree
- Expansion of apprenticeships and modular learning
- Digital transformation: reshaping how universities operate

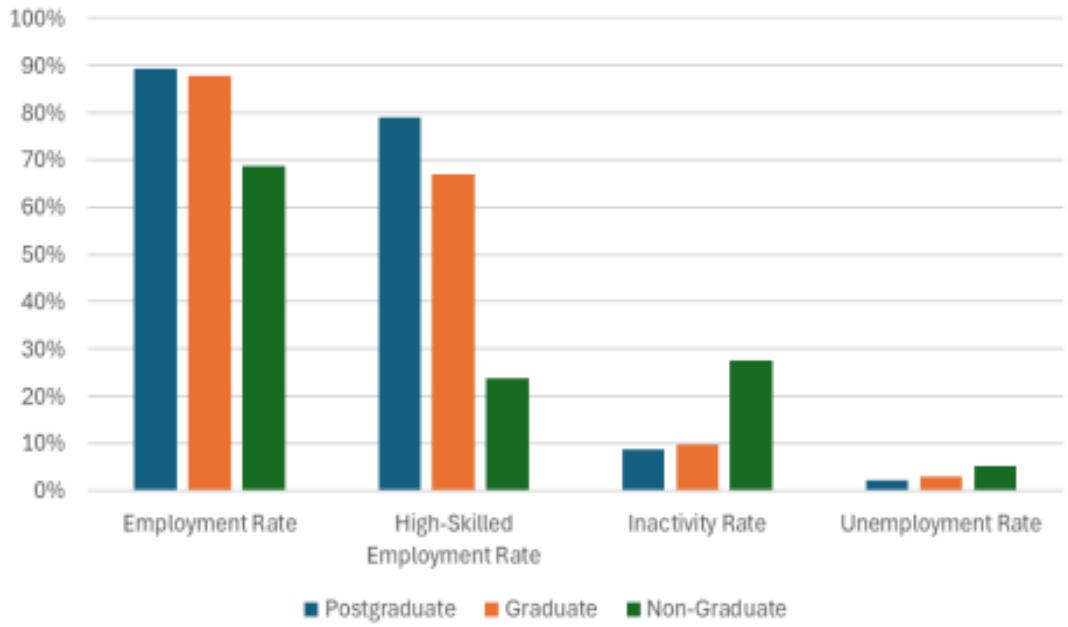
Source: Graduate labour market statistics, 2023

Graduates are more likely to be employed in high skill roles and less likely to be inactive than non-graduates

Recent government data shows that graduates are:

- nearly 3 times more likely to be in high-skilled employment than non-graduates
- nearly 3 times less likely to be economically inactive compared to non-graduates
- Just over 1.5 times less likely to be unemployed

Employment rates for 16–64-year-olds in England, 2023



https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/field/downloads/2024-11/uuk-graduate-employment-outcomes-regions-industries-analysis-pack.pdf

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT AND OUTCOMES ACROSS REGIONS AND INDUSTRIES

Title: Average earnings of non graduates (achieving level 3 or above) as % of average earnings of graduates – regions of school
Indicator: Average earnings of graduates and non-graduates (achieving level 3 or above) in employment for key stage 4 cohorts 2001/02 to 2006/07 over 15 years.
Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO): post-16 education and labour market activities and outcomes, Earnings trajectory

Graduate earnings overtake those of non-graduates soon after they leave university

Between ages 17 and 22, average earnings of non-graduates are higher across all regions of England as they enter the workforce **while graduates are in full-time study**.

From 23 years of age onwards, average earnings of graduates progressively overtake those of non-graduates.

By age 31, on average **graduates earn around a third more (32-37%) than non-graduates who could have gone to university across all regions of England.**

The earnings premium of graduates compared to non-graduates (achieving level 3 or above) by region of school attended and years after finishing GCSEs

Years of age	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
17	-29%	-32%	-33%	-32%	-29%	-27%	-24%	-25%	-29%
18	-40%	-45%	-47%	-48%	-44%	-48%	-39%	-44%	-45%
19	-52%	-56%	-58%	-60%	-57%	-65%	-56%	-64%	-63%
20	-57%	-61%	-63%	-65%	-62%	-70%	-63%	-70%	-70%
21	-48%	-50%	-52%	-54%	-52%	-58%	-56%	-60%	-61%
22	-19%	-20%	-20%	-20%	-20%	-22%	-30%	-26%	-29%
23	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	0%
24	14%	15%	15%	16%	17%	16%	16%	17%	15%
25	21%	23%	23%	22%	24%	22%	23%	23%	23%
26	26%	27%	27%	27%	29%	25%	25%	27%	28%
27	29%	31%	31%	30%	33%	28%	27%	30%	31%
28	33%	33%	33%	33%	35%	30%	29%	32%	33%
29	34%	35%	35%	34%	36%	32%	30%	34%	35%
30	34%	35%	35%	36%	36%	33%	32%	35%	36%
31	35%	36%	35%	37%	36%	32%	34%	35%	35%

Line shows typical age of graduation and entry into labour market for university graduates on a three-year first degree

Why University?

- Essential for some career paths
- Love of learning – developing expertise
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge
- Increase your confidence and independence
- Broaden your experiences (academic and personal)
- Invest in your future – working with acclaimed academics
- Give time to decide on your chosen career path

Choosing the Right University for you

- **Style** – traditional and subject based, modern universities, more vocational
- **Location** – cities or rural
- **Size** – more than 20,000 to 2,000.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors e.g age, nationality, interests including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – destinations after university
- **Course content**
- **Tuition fees** – can vary. Check for scholarships or bursaries.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Considerations

- ❑ You will commit a long time to your studies
- ❑ Employability skills alongside academic study
- ❑ Contact time
- ❑ Life changes
- ❑ You may earn less than an apprentice initially
- ❑ You will have an intense workload
- ❑ It requires high levels of self-discipline
- ❑ You won't be guaranteed a job

Russell Group

- The Russell Group is made up of 24 world-class universities
- The group receives the majority of the research funding in the UK.
- These institutions share a strong reputation for teaching and learning and attract staff and students from around the world.
- Popular with graduate recruiters and highly rated by many major UK firms.

The Russell Group defines themselves as:

> "A group committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector".

Support throughout

- ❑ Early Applicant Group
- ❑ Blue Acorns: workshops for students
- ❑ Mock interview(s)
- ❑ Conference opportunities
- ❑ Personal Statement Support
- ❑ Tutor Monitoring
- ❑ Permission to attend Open Days
- ❑ Art/Creative portfolio support

Early Applicant Group

Oxbridge, Medics, Vets, Dentists, Optometrists

Entrance exams.

Interviews / Portfolios

The personal statement

The school's reference

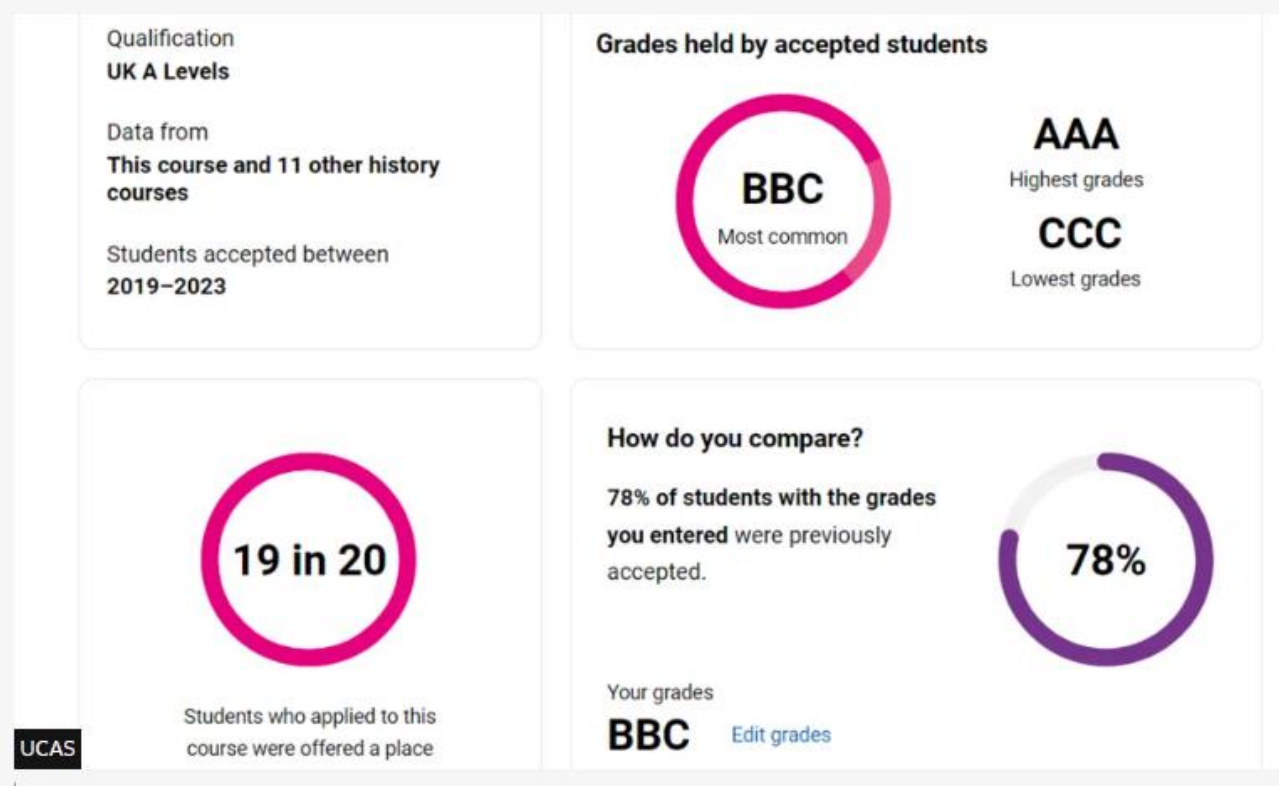
Dr Clements' support **now.**

UNIVERSITY WEBSITES

- www.ucas.com
- www.unifrog.org (parent code) PABZparents
- unistats.direct.gov.uk
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
- www.opendays.com

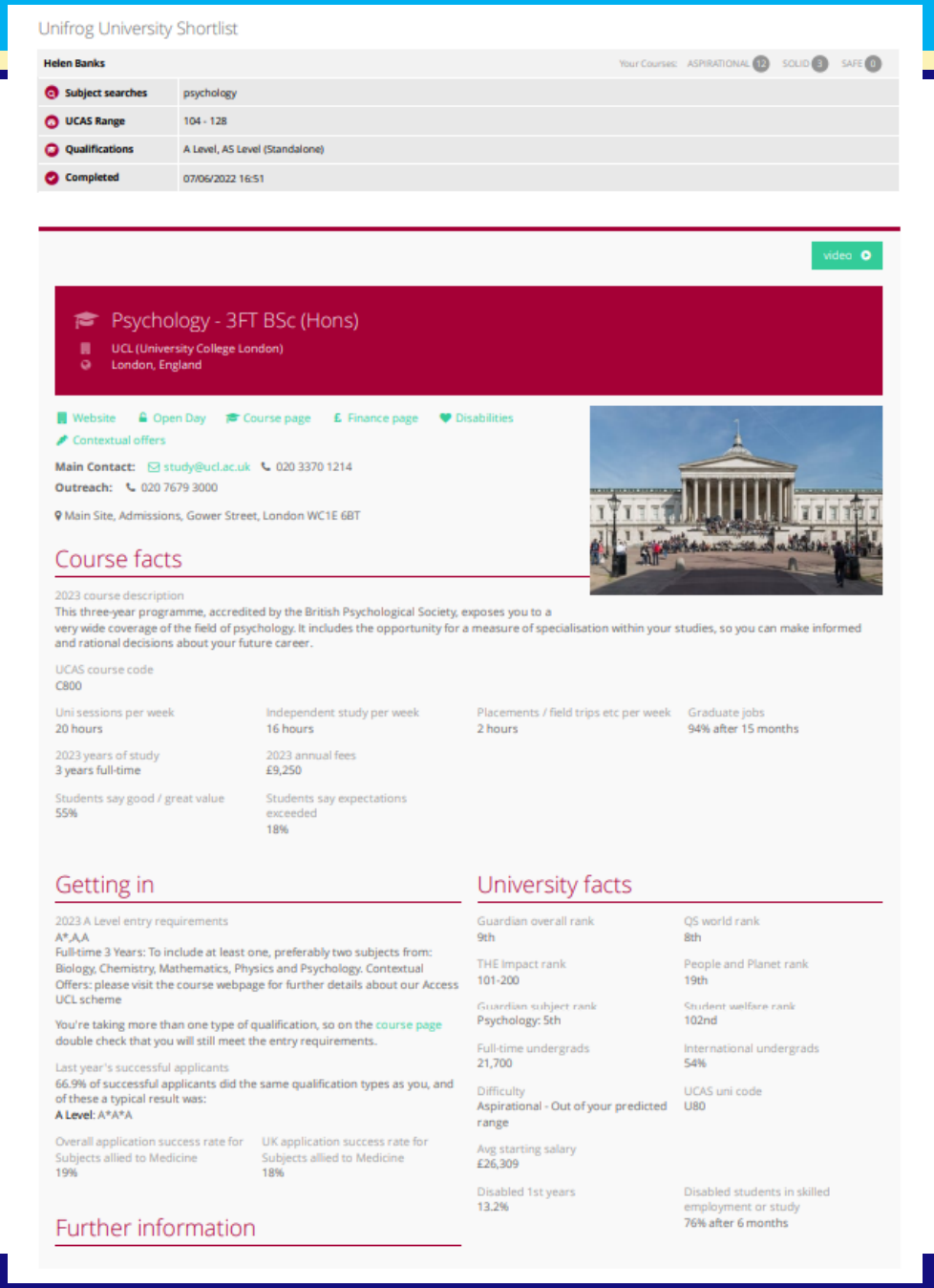
UCAS TOOLS

- https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers
- https://www.ucas.com/discover



UNIFROG

- **Students enter predicted grades and subject of interest.** (predicted grades are typically based on Year 12 mock performance)
- **Aspirational, solid and safe**
- **Filter by location, students satisfaction, hours of lectures, price of accommodation etc**
- **Direct links to university pages and open days**
- **Save shortlists and share with families and staff**



What if I'm interested in apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships

AAT Apprentice - Intermediate Level

Employer: Henson Motor Group
Learning Provider: Delivered by Newcastle College.

Key dates

Deadline	25 May
Interview	Check their site
Start	26 May

Qualification required

English and maths at GCSE level - 5 grade (or equivalent) or above.

Skills and personal qualities required

The successful candidate will be proficient in using Microsoft Excel and managing spreadsheets. They will be confident with numbers and have a high level of attention to detail.

- A passion for accountancy
- Professional attitude
- Well organised

Quick facts

Weekly Wage	Hours a week	Employer Vacancies	Duration	Distance from home
Competitive	Working 9-5.30 Minutes Breaks	1	12 months	1 miles

Job description

The apprentice will gain experience in a range of duties for which they will be responsible:

- Purchase Ledger
- Credit Control
- Invoice Processing
- Raising invoices
- Allocation of Payments
- Statement reconciliation
- Processing Transactions

Employer description

Henson Motor Group is one of the UK's largest car supermarkets. Established in 1996 Henson Motor Group were the first to pioneer the new and used car supermarket concept, not only in Newcastle but in the North East.

- Students can find live apprenticeship vacancies
- Vacancies are updated daily
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like distance from home, weekly wage and application deadlines
- Direct link to the 'apply' page
- Each apprenticeship vacancy includes practical information about the opportunity, employer and training
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

unifrog

Gap Year-transferable skills

- Extremely useful if used in the right way. Make it count!
- An opportunity to research future career paths.
- Build your personal profile.
- Maturity and Independence, soft skills, cultural capital
- Work Experience.
- High Quality Employment.
- Volunteering &/or Travel.
- Study an interest.
- Deferred Entry (UCAS).

Useful websites

- www.goabroad.com - Help with planning.
- www.internationalteflacademy.com - Dedicated to teaching English as a foreign language.
- www.projects-abroad.org - International volunteering projects.
- https://www.volunteerforever.com/article_post/best-volunteer-abroad-programs-organizations-projects/

Springpod

Create account | Si

Padlet

Slideshow | Share | Sign up for Padlet

H Banks • 1mo

Sixth Form Supra-curricular Opportunities

Key documents and presentations

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How to use Gale in Context

PPTX

Gale in Context 2025

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How to use SPS library

PPTX

Using AccessIT VI FORM Research

Virtual Work Experience and webinars

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Set up an account and apply for in person and virtual wk exp

springpod.com

It's time to take control of your future | Springpod

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Speakers for schools. Create an account and sign up for virtual and in person wk exp

Online or in-person Lectures and Talks

Pinned

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TED talks :Ideas worth Spreading

ted.com

TED: Ideas Worth Spreading

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Online or in person lectures. Based in London

MOOCS

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Udacity- short courses by universities

udacity.com

Learn the Latest Tech Skills; Advance Your Career | Udacity

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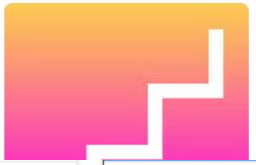
Free courses run by universities on a huge range of topics



Useful Platforms

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Unifrog- your goto platform for all career and university preparation

unifrog.org

The universal destinations platform.

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UCAS hub- for university and apprenticeships

ucas.com

UCAS Hub - Why should you sign-up?

Creative Opportunities

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Podcasts on design and creativity

clever CANDID CREATIVE HUMAN

cleverpodcast.com

Clever Podcast - Candid, Creative, Human

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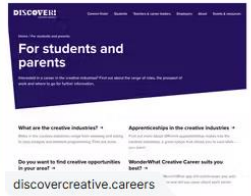
Creative Career discovery



discovercreative.careers

Students and parents - Creative Careers

♡ 0

University Outreach and Widening Participation

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Kings College ou programme. K+

kcl.ac.uk

K+ | King's College Lond

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HE + list of supra resources

myheplus.com

HE+

Cambridge University

BlueSky

Times Tables Rock Stars

Apprenticeship Hub Padlet 2025 Summer Leavers

Sixth Form Supra-Curricular Opportunities

Personal Statements: Cover letters
Three Sections

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

3. **What else have you done to** prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples of evidence

- Projects or essays
- Books or articles
- Work experience
- Hobbies or clubs
- Competitions
- Trips or visits
- Paid employment
- Positions of responsibility
- Mentoring or Tutoring
- Online subject courses
- Workplace training & learning
- Awards
- Podcasts or TED talks
- Documentaries
- Volunteering
- Personal life experiences

PADLETS

Sixth Form Supra-curricular Opportunities

Essex Opportunities Apprenticeship Padlet

Student Finance:

Link to Kent uni delivery on student finance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA7W6HmHNMw

University Living Costs Calculator – MoneySavingExpert

Student Finance - Save the Student