

CSG Higher Education Programme

Parents' Information Evening



Introductions

- Kateryna Law - Headteacher
- Pip Schofield - Deputy Head of Sixth Form
- Emma Smith - Head of Year 12
- Nicola Bayley - UCAS Coordinator

Aims

- The university application process
- The CSG provision

Where do our students go after CSG?

In 2025:

- 48 different universities and colleges in the UK
- 78% Russell Group universities
- 25 Oxford and Cambridge offers met
- 41% STEM subjects including
- 10 medicine, dentistry and veterinary
- 25 Art Foundation courses
- Music Conservatoire
- European universities

Some take a gap year and apply the following year with actual grades

Overview

Higher Education Preparation Programme

Year 12

- January - Unifrog launch
- January - Year 12 Higher Education Conference
- Super curricular Programme - Masterclasses, Societies (Debating, MedSoc), Talks, Clubs (Maths STEP Problem Solving)
- February - May - One to one meetings with UCAS advisor
- June - Oxbridge evening for students and parents
- July - Year 12 Careers Conference
- July - Parent information evening - focus on UCAS
- Personal Statement Support
- Admissions Test Support - in departments

Year 13

- September - Year 13 Higher Education support in induction week
- September - Year 13 Parent Recap Evening including Finance Talk
- September - Applying for Art Foundation talk
- September - October - Admissions Test Preparation continues
- November - Mock Interviews for Oxbridge and medics
- Spring Term - Support with offers decision making

Key dates

- 15th October 2026 - UCAS early applications deadline
- 14th January 2027 - UCAS all application deadline
- 31st January 2027 - Art Foundation deadline (individual variations)

Choosing where to go and what to study

UCAS

- Students can make up to 5 choices - these are not ranked by preference
- Research is key - there are over 300 universities and colleges where degrees can be studied in the UK so use Unifrog and UCAS Hub to search and make long and short lists
- Check out rankings - eg. Times, Guardian
- Talk to students - eg Unibuddy
- Consider basics like campus or city; joint or single honours.
- Check course requirements and choose courses with a range of grade requirements
- Go to open days

Choosing where to go and what to study

Art school

- Students can apply to as many as they want but the recommendation is around 3

Non UK courses

- Use Unifrog to check for up to date information including fees, bursaries etc.

Apprenticeships

- Use Unifrog to check for up to date information. Individual applications with a range of deadlines
- Contact our Connexions Advisor, Jessica Ahmed - jahmed@csg.school

The UCAS Application

Students register with UCAS and complete the online application on the UCAS Hub.

There are 13 sections to complete. The most time consuming sections for students are:

- **Education**
- **Personal Statement**
- **Choices**

The application is then submitted and comes to us for checking and adding in the following:

- **Reference**
- **Predicted grades**

The Personal Statement

Students have three questions to focus on:

- 1. Why do you want to study this course?**
- 2. How have your studies helped you prepare for the course?**
- 3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?**

- The combined length of the sections is 4000 characters maximum**
- Keep it personal, genuine and authentic - focus on who you are and what you are interested in**
- Write clearly, honestly and simply avoiding cliché and hyperbole**
- Be prepared to redraft and to respond to feedback**

Early Applicants

- Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and music conservatoire
- Early deadline - 15th October
- Internal school deadlines even earlier - September 30th
- Medicine, dentistry & veterinary - 4 plus one other choice, usually a related degree
- Conservatoire - application followed by audition

Special requirements

- University admissions tests (eg. UCAT, LNAT, MAT, PAT, TSA, TMUA, ESAT)
- All tests are at external test centres - students responsible for registering and booking (dates depend exam taken)
- Work samples / Auditions / Portfolios
- Interviews (often online)

The School Reference

We collect a statement from each subject and a summary comment from the form tutor. This is then put together to include:

- Any circumstances which may have disrupted a student's education.
- A statement which supports the student's application for the course they have chosen.

Predicted Grades

- These are made after the end of year exams (1st - 5th June 2026) and shared with students at the end of Year 12
- They will not automatically be the same as the grade achieved in the Y12 exams. Teachers will use their professional judgement
- They are non-negotiable but teachers may change them in the light of new evidence early in Year 13

Key considerations for each term

YEAR 12	
January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focus on exploring which subject you want to study at university● Engage with super curricular activities (subject based enrichment)● Study a lot
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focus on preparing for Year 12 exams (1st-5th June 2026)● Visit universities● Begin to fill in UCAS application forms
July - August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Draft personal statement● Continue to visit universities● Prepare for entrance exams if applicable
YEAR 13	
September - October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Early applicants submit final UCAS form● Sit entrance exams if applicable
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oxbridge interviews● Deadline (internal) for all UCAS applications

Questions