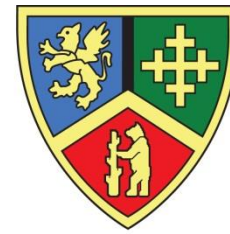


The Polesworth School  
Sixth Form



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@Tomlinson Hall

**Welcome To**  
**Tomlinson Hall's**  
**Higher Education Evening**

# Why Higher Education?

- Once in a life time opportunity to study a subject or subjects that you're passionate about
- A top level qualification
- Career prospects and long-term financial success
- Essential for some vocational courses eg – medicine, dentistry, architecture, chartered engineering
- The current economic climate
- Development of transferable skills that can give you an edge in the fast changing world of employment
- Increased life expectancy!



# What types of qualifications?

Honours Degrees – BA, BSc

- Foundation degrees
- Higher National Diplomas
- Post Graduate qualifications – MA, MSc, PhD, PGCE etc

Over a minimum of 2 years, usually 3 years

Some 4 year courses (eg sandwich courses / languages – year out)

Some courses offer 1 year abroad.

Some courses up to 7 years (eg architecture, veterinary science)



# UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)



All potential university students apply through UCAS  
– a few specialised courses outside the scheme

Around 325 universities, university colleges,  
colleges of HE and FE colleges offering HE courses  
in the UCAS scheme

Over 50,000 courses to choose from!

In 2011 more than 492,000 people were accepted  
onto degree courses



So, finding the right course at the right institution can be something of a challenge.

Research starts NOW!



# Will there be a place?

2011 – 669,956 applications (by June 30)

- 492,030 accepted onto courses (1.4% increase on 2009)

2012 – 618,247 applications (by June 30)

- 7.7% decrease – across all subjects

But still competitive!

# Key Dates

September 2012	UCAS application cycle for 2013 opens (usually around 20 <sup>th</sup> September)
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	Closing date for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science courses
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Closing date for all other courses *
Feb/March 2013	UCAS Extra – for students with no offers

\* Some specialist Art and Design courses operate under a slightly different timetable – refer to UCAS and Sixth form staff





# Additional Tests

- For Medicine, dentistry, veterinary:  
BMAT, UKCAT
- For some law degrees at some universities
- For some subjects at Oxford & Cambridge; Maths at Warwick



- All applications completed online
- Each student can apply for up to 5 courses, including more than one course at the same institution
- They can be 5 different courses – but be careful – only 1 personal statement to cover all
- Only Oxford *or* Cambridge
- Only 4 medical/dental/veterinary applications – 1 insurance choice
- Early application advisable, especially for popular subjects at popular universities



- Universities start making offers as soon as they identify good candidates.
- An early application also says a lot about you as a student.
- October half term is ideal; school deadline by end of December to guarantee January deadline.
- After a student completes his/her section of the form it is sent electronically to the UCAS co-ordinator (Mrs. Munn) for checking, attaching reference & sending to UCAS; check for returned forms.
- UCAS website has been known to “crash” 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January.



- Remember!
- Meeting deadlines is crucial
- Allow time for us to check form & add reference – can take couple of days
- Mrs. Munn ‘sends’ the application to UCAS – she goes to bed early on 15<sup>th</sup> January!



# So where do you start?

## Type of Course – what you want to study

- Traditional?
- A subject already studied at A Level?
- A new subject?
- A very specialised area of knowledge?
- A combined degree?
- Related to career aspirations?
- One that will offer ‘value for money’ & a progression route



# Think Widely!

Most popular subjects: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Architecture, Business, Computer sciences, English Literature, History, Law, Maths, Nursing, Performing Arts, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Sociology, Sports Science, Teaching – especially primary.

These courses will demand the highest grades and some subjects expect applicants to have relevant work experience – arranged by themselves



# So why not take up a new subject?

Advertising, Aeronautical Engineering, Anatomical Science, Ancient History and Archaeology, Applied Bioscience, Building, Conservation, Childhood Studies, Digital Communication, Criminology, History and International Relations, Multimedia Computing, Robotics, Urban planning, Zoology .....

... .. the list is almost endless!



# So where can you study?

- Over 325 Higher Education institutions across the country
- Traditional vs. newer universities
- Close to home or a chance to live elsewhere
- Fiercely competitive – supply and demand!





- Oxford and Cambridge – prestigious, difficult to get into, rigorous interview procedures, all Grade As expected, including 1X A\*, & what ‘extras’?. Not ‘right’ for all!
- Russell Group Universities – association of 20 major research intensive universities formed in 1994: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Imperial College, King’s College, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Queen’s Belfast, Oxford, Sheffield, Southampton, University of College London, Warwick.
- Also Durham, St Andrews, Loughborough, York, Lancaster, Bath, Exeter, Sheffield etc ...
- Newer universities e.g. Aston, De Montfort, Birmingham City, Oxford Brookes, Coventry .....
- Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) – reports on universities – [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)
- Rankings can differ depending on subject



# What to consider when choosing a university

- Course details – no 2 universities the same!
- Campus/non-campus
- City/rural location
- Accommodation & social life
- Number of students accepted each year onto a course
- How far away from home?
- Transport links
- Study facilities
- How large?
- A course that will get you somewhere



# Entry requirements

- Depend on university & course
- Supply & demand
- Some universities now making offers based on A\* achievement
- Typical entry requirements published on UCAS website
- Can be very specific, including GCSE requirements
- For some universities & some courses re-sit modules or staying on for 3<sup>rd</sup> year to make the grade are not permitted
- Look at AS results, talk to staff in September about A2 potential
- Be ambitious but realistic



# What you can be doing now

- Research
- Visiting
- Completing basic details on the online application form
- Wider reading / preparation work – especially for popular subjects at top universities – you are expected to demonstrate love of subject
- Arranging relevant work experience



# Application Process



- Register with UCAS, using buzzword: TOMLINSONHALL2013
- Personal details
- Education history including exam centre number(s)
- Qualifications: GCSE, AS, other qualifications; A2 subjects studied
- Course choices – alphabetical order – no preferences



# The Personal Statement

- Challenging!
- For most, only opportunity to 'sell yourself'!
- Plenty of support.
- Love of subject.
- At least half 'academic'.
- Skills developed.
- Outside interests & activities.
- The future.



# After you've applied

- Offers - some quick responses
- Some not until March 2013
- Keep a check on applications through UCAS 'TRACK'
- CONDITIONAL OFFERS made
- Be prepared for rejections – it's not personal!
- Keep 2 offers – one 'firm' & 1 'insurance' – reply by deadline
- A Level Results Day 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – we hope that places are confirmed – some leeway with grades possible – can often depend on General Studies result; don't book a holiday!
- Adjustment possible – especially for students with all A grades
- If grades not met & students not accepted at chosen institution, then students go into CLEARING





# UCAS Tariff Points

## At AS level

**A = 60 points**

**B = 50 points**

**C = 40 points**

**D = 30 points**

**E = 20 points**

## At A2 level

**A\* = 140 points**

**A = 120 points**

**B = 100 points**

**C = 80 points**

**D = 60 points**

**E = 40 points**



# Getting Your Information

- **UCAS website (students, parents and advisers)**
- **University websites & prospectuses**
- **Open days**
- **Visits**
- **Times/Guardian – university guides & education websites**
- **The UCAS Guide to Getting into University & College (available on Amazon)**
- **Informed Choices: A Russell Group guide to making decisions about post-16 education (internet)**
- **Pure Potential, apply2uni etc**
- **The websites of professional organisations**
- **School – Mrs Munn, Mrs Hockridge, tutors etc**



# How much will university cost from Sept 2013?

- Student Finance
- Tuition Fees
- Grants
- Loans
- Scholarships
- Repayment



# Student Finance

- Students should apply as early as possible, they don't need a confirmed place.
- Apply at [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)
- Go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studnetfinancecalculator](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studnetfinancecalculator) to work out projected costs and estimate their likely student financial support.
- The online application form is designed to make sure the student only sees the sections that they need to fill in, parents will be contacted if their household income is needed.
- One application to assess all their entitlement.



The screenshot shows the Directgov website interface. At the top, the Directgov logo is displayed with the tagline "Public services all in one place". Below the logo, the heading "Register and login to student finance online services" is visible. The page is divided into two main sections: "Already registered - login" and "New to Student Finance".

**Directgov**  
Public services all in one place

**Register and login to student finance online services**

**Already registered - login**

- apply for full-time student finance
- update your bank details
- view payments and correspondence
- change your course or loan details

**Continue to Login** →

**New to Student Finance**

- Full-time students**
  - ▶ Register and apply
- Parents & partners**
  - ▶ Register and supply

# TUITION FEES

## Tuition fees and loans

- Tuition fees are the amount universities or colleges charge you each year to study.
- From September 2013 universities and colleges in England can charge new full-time students **up to £9,000** a year!!!!

## Tuition Fee Loan

- From 2012/13 you can get a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,000 for new full-time students. (Not income assessed)
- The Tuition fee loan is paid directly to your university or college.
- Tuition fee loan is paid back once a student is earning over £21,000



# LIVING COSTS – (Maintenance loan and grants)

- The **maximum Maintenance Loan** (income assessed) for new students starting in September 2013 is:
  - **£5,500** if you live away from home and study at a university or college outside London .
  - **£7,675** if you live away from home and study at a university or college in London.
  - **£4,375** if you live at home.
- You can also apply for:
  - a full **Maintenance Grant** of £3,250 if your household income is £25,000 or under.
  - a partial Maintenance Grant if your household income is between £25,000 and £42,600
- These loans and grants are paid into your bank account at the start of each term, once you've registered on your course



# SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS

- National Scholarship Programme to help students from lower income families.
- Reduced tuition fees
- Subsidised accommodation
- Each university will decide what support they'll offer so you'll need to check to see what your chosen university is offering and whether you're eligible. The details of this programme will be available on university and college websites from summer 2012.





£249,786,570 available to students.  
Tens of millions go unclaimed.  
Find your funding now!

1 Level of study (required)

- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate
- Pre-University

2 Subject or keyword

Search

Featured scholarships



**Bangor University**  
Postgraduate Scholarship: Access to Masters  
£8,000 per year for 1 year only and Varies  
The funding covers tuition fees and pays the

Scholarships by award type



- ▶ Academic excellence awards
- ▶ Access funding
- ▶ Disabled students allowance
- ▶ Further education funding
- ▶ Hardship grants
- ▶ International student scholarships



# REPAYMENTS

- No repayments until at least 2016
- You don't have to pay your tuition fee loan and your living cost loan back until you are **earning over £21,000 a year.**
- You repay your loans back at a rate of **nine per cent of your income over £21,000.**
- So if your salary is £25,000 a year, you pay nine per cent of £4,000, which is £6.92 a week.
- Interest is added to the loan as the first payment is made, interest is charged at RPI plus 3%



# Repaying student finance

Income each year before tax	Monthly salary	Approximate monthly repayment
£21,000	£1,750	£0
£24,000	£2,000	£22
£27,000	£2,250	£45
£30,000	£2,500	£67
£33,000	£2,750	£90
£36,000	£3,000	£112
£40,000	£3,333	£142

But don't worry anything not paid after 30 years will be wiped!!!!



# WEBSITES

- <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes#seventeen>
- Student Finance England Helpline **0845 300 5090**
- [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) advice on finance
- <http://www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance/> UCAS Student Finance
- <http://studentfinanceyourfuture.direct.gov.uk/>

