

Ref:KH/gk/CareersAdviceParentLetter/Year13

6th October 2026



Preparing for UCAS and Apprenticeship Applications

Dear Parents/Carers

Barr Beacon School

The Autumn Term is a very busy period for Year 13 students as they start their next steps applications. www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

For those applying to university: Although the official UCAS Deadline for most applications is Thursday 14th January, we have advised students to send off their applications early, as most universities will make their decisions as soon as they receive the application. The vast majority of UCAS applicants will apply in January, making the competition much stronger the later your child applies. Those applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine have an earlier deadline of Thursday 15th October and are preparing well for this

Students received detailed advice on how to write a personal statement and how to apply to UCAS last summer, and they are being encouraged to send their personal statements to the Sixth Form Team for checking. Student can apply to up to 5 university courses and will only need to write one personal statement for all 5 choices. When they are ready to send their application, students will book a meeting with Miss Killick and their whole application will be checked carefully.

Parents often ask us about Students Finance (now known as the Lifelong Learning Entitlement). A good summary can be found on our [Careers Website](#) and the [Save the Student](#) website is very useful. There is also excellent wider university advice, tailored to parents/carers, on the [UCAS website](#).

For those seeking apprenticeships: We ran an apprenticeship and CV session last summer and all students participated in a mock assessment centre to prepare them for competitive application processes. As there are no set deadlines for applications, we will be offering ongoing support with applications and mock interviews. Students will need to be proactive in making the Sixth Form Team aware when they have found a suitable vacancy so that we can support them with this.

The application process for higher and degree level apprenticeships is very competitive and often involves lots of stages, including assessment centres, psychometric tests and interviews. Students need to adapt their CV to each new application or there may be a separate online application (depending on the employer).

Some of the best websites to use when searching for apprenticeship vacancies are: [Apprenticeship Search](#), [UCAS](#), [Not Going to Uni](#) and [Rate My Apprenticeship](#).

The whole process can be time consuming and sometimes overwhelming, so we appreciate your encouragement and support at home. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

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