



St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School

UCAS 2020

Information for parents and applicants



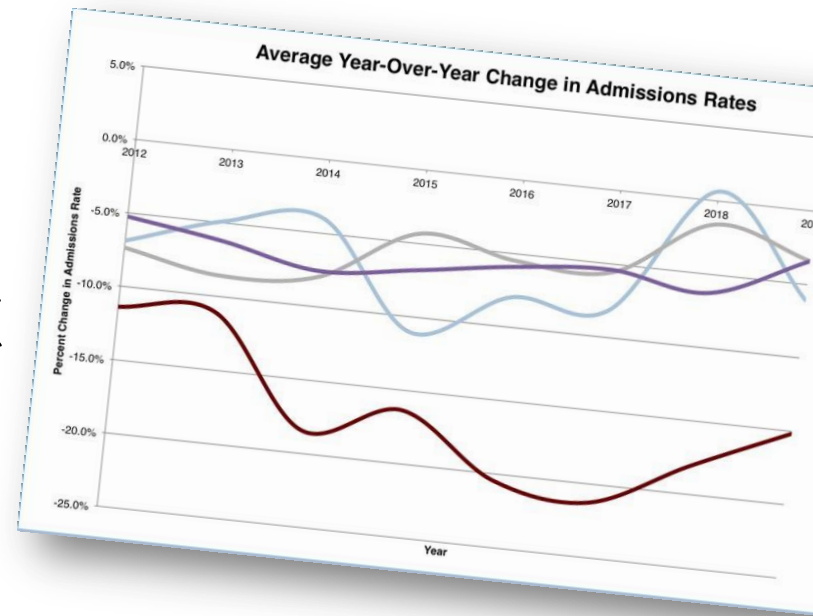
What Will This Talk Cover?

- Application trends
- The UCAS application process: what have we done so far? What can you expect next year?
- What are universities looking for?
- How to make an outstanding application
- How can we support applicants?



Application trends

- Record breaking offer rates – decline in applications since 2014
- Removal of number controls
- Great rise in unconditional and incentivised offers – 68K
- Women 37% more likely to enter Higher Education than men
- Immense emphasis on Mental Health.



The UCAS Cycle

- Research, research, research (Now!)
- Register with UCAS (June of Year 12)
- Apply (September-October of Year 13)
- Reply to offers (March-May of Year 13)
- Confirm offers (August of Year 13, Results Day)

The logo for UCAS, featuring the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'U', 'C', and 'S' are black, while the 'A' is a red triangle pointing upwards.

More Research!

- Start at www.ucas.com
- <http://www.london.ac.uk/tasters>
- Attend open days <http://www.opendays.com>
- Which university <http://university.which.co.uk>
- Entry profiles and Entry requirements
<https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas>
- Higher Apprenticeships
<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships/higher-apprenticeships>
- Attend university seminars
- Attend taster courses
- Attend student conferences, courses, lectures
- Speak to the experts

Admissions Tests

- Some universities require you to sit an admissions test as part of the application process.
- Many have a **15th October** deadline.
- Some admissions tests happen before you have sent your UCAS application.
- You need to research Oxford and Cambridge admissions' tests carefully.
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>

Law

Medical courses

Mathematics

**Thinking Skills
Assessment**

MCAT

Medical College
Admission Test

What have we done so far?



Jan-May

- Professor Organ; Oxbridge application
- Esther Brown; Russell Group application
- University and Apprenticeship Fair
- Research Lessons; Monday's Tutorials

Yesterday

- The students started their UCAS applications

June-July

- Personal statements (Booklet)
- Submit first drafts to Head/Deputy Head of Sixth Form
- Attend university open days

What Can you Expect Henceforth?



Summer

- Undertake further research/ work experience
- Crystallise course & university choices
- Redraft Personal Statements according to feedback

Sept

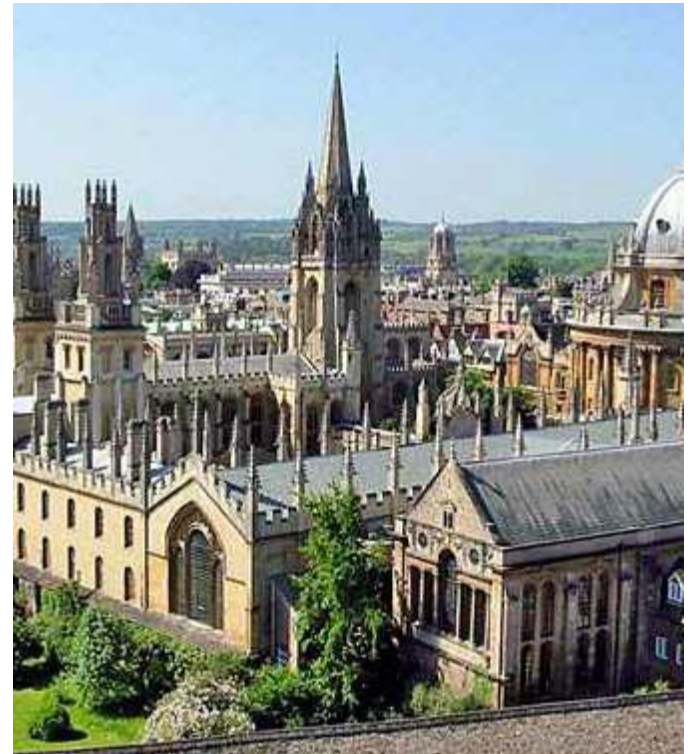
- Submit second draft of personal statement with a view to complete
- **Early deadlines** for Oxbridge/medical students, veterinary science & dentists: is **Oct 15th** but school **internal deadline: 1st Oct**
- Student References for Oxbridge & medicine applicants
- Tutors read & check

What Can you Expect Henceforth?

- Oct
 - 15th Oct: early deadlines
- Nov
 - All applications completed & submitted to UCAS
- Jan 2020
 - 15th Jan offer consideration date
- Jan-Apr 2020
 - Offer holder visit opportunities
- May 2020
 - Confirm firm and insurance choices
 - Exams
- August
 - Exam results
 - clearing, confirmation and adjustment

What do universities want?

- Academic achievement
- Passion for the subject
- Motivation and commitment
- Independent study skills
- Analytical thought and reflection
- Communication skills
- Transferable skills



Will *you* have what it takes?

- Read beyond the syllabus: recommended further reading list
- Undertake an EPQ
- Enter competitions
- Visit sites, museums, galleries, performances, seminars
- Subscribe to forums and magazines
- Set up work experience
- Do volunteer work
- Contribute to school life





<https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas?v=/personal-statements-ucas-progress>

< Back

