

# **Year 13 Parents' Information Evening**

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# **Welcome to the Year 13 Parents' Information Evening**

**Dr M J Airey**

Head Teacher





# Programme



- Mr Burrows, Head of Sixth Form      Internal deadlines and In-School support
- Tom Maude, University of Leicester      UCAS and how to choose a uni / course
- Mrs Mitchell, Aiming High Lead      Aiming Higher programme
- Mrs Collier, Head of Work-related Learning      Apprenticeships
- Mrs Doyle, Achievement Coordinator      Wellbeing support



# Mr Burrows

Head of Sixth Form



# Support with Applications



- Directed Study
  - 1 hour per week
  - Personal/Supporting statements
  - UCAS applications
  - 1:1 conversations
- Sixth Form team
  - Compile references
  - Enter predicted grades
  - Check all applications before submission to UCAS
- Aiming Higher programme
  - Oxford and Cambridge
  - Medicine and Dentistry
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Other competitive destinations
- 1:1 careers meetings



# Projected Grades vs Predicted Grades



## Projected Grades: Objective

- Shown on data reports
- What teachers believe a student would get if they continued with their current level of study, skill, knowledge and engagement

## Predicted Grades: Aspirational

- Only entered into UCAS or apprenticeship references
- What teachers believe a student might get if they do all the work and have their best day on the day of the exam

Staff need to tread a fine line between helping students reach their chosen destination, and making sure that the predicted grades are realistic enough that students receive offers they will actually achieve.

**Any changes to predicted grades will need to be signed off by Heads of Department as being suitably achievable for each student.**



# Key Dates



- First drafts of statements due 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (or A.S.A.P!)
- Early UCAS Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Final drafts of statements due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025
- UCAS applications paid and sent 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- Year 13 mock exams 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- UCAS portal closes 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Firm and insurance choices due 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026



# Tom Maude

University of Leicester



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# How to Choose a Course and University and UCAS Process

**Tom Maude**

UK Student Recruitment Officer





# Thank you for joining me!

## Who am I?

Tom

## Where am I from?

Newcastle

## What did I study?

Youth Work and Community  
Development – De Montfort  
University, Leicester



## Travel to Leicester

**By car:** 2 hours 20 mins

**By train:** 1 hour 5 mins

St Pancras > Leicester

## Travel in Leicester

**Uber / Bolt**

**Bus / Bikes**

Leicester is a **walkable city**



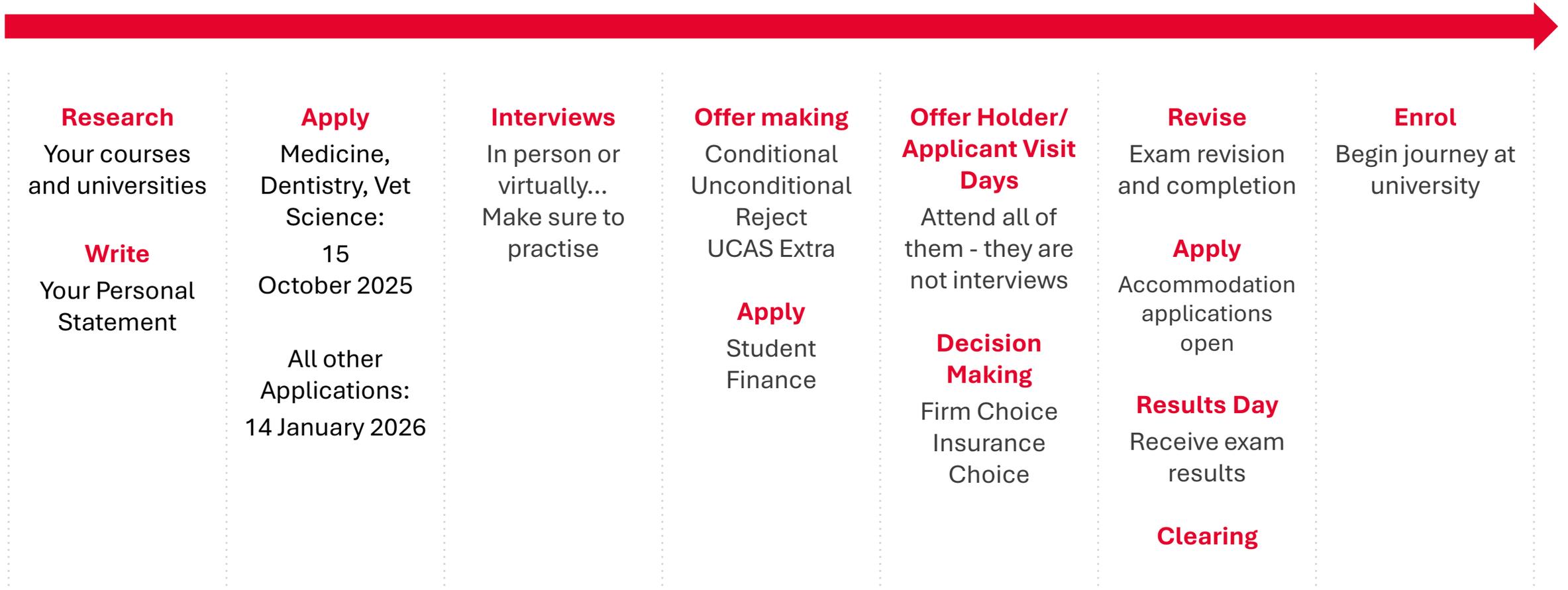


# What are the benefits of University?

- Increased earning potential → **Average starting salary is £32,000**
- Enhanced subject knowledge → **Become an expert in 1 or 2 subject areas**
- Develop transferable skills → **Team work, communication, problem solving**
- Improved Career Prospects → **More job opportunities across multiple sectors**
- Personal Development → **Gain confidence, independence, meet friends for life**



# The Application Timeline





## The UCAS Application

- Submit 1 application via UCAS
- Have a maximum of 5 choices
- If you chose Medicine, Dentistry or Vet Science then you have a maximum of 4 choices for these courses + 1 alternative
- Student's place of study will provide a reference to you



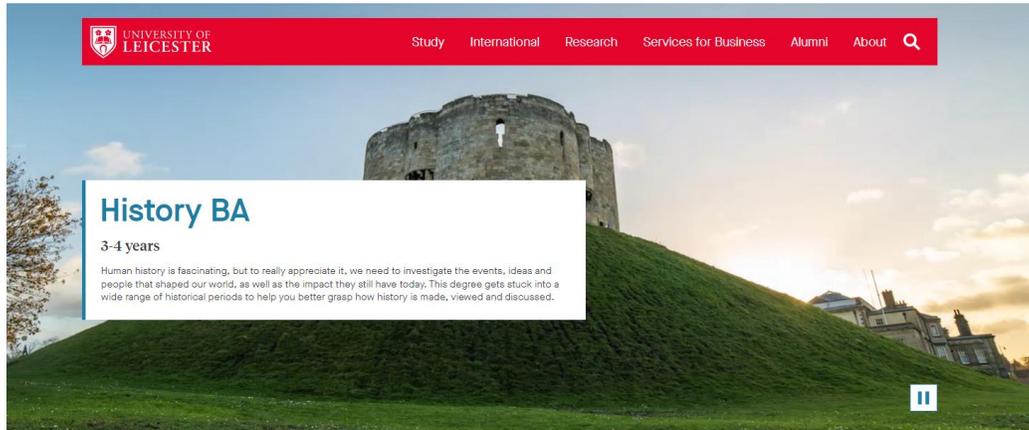
**How many courses are  
there in the UK?**

**35,000 courses**

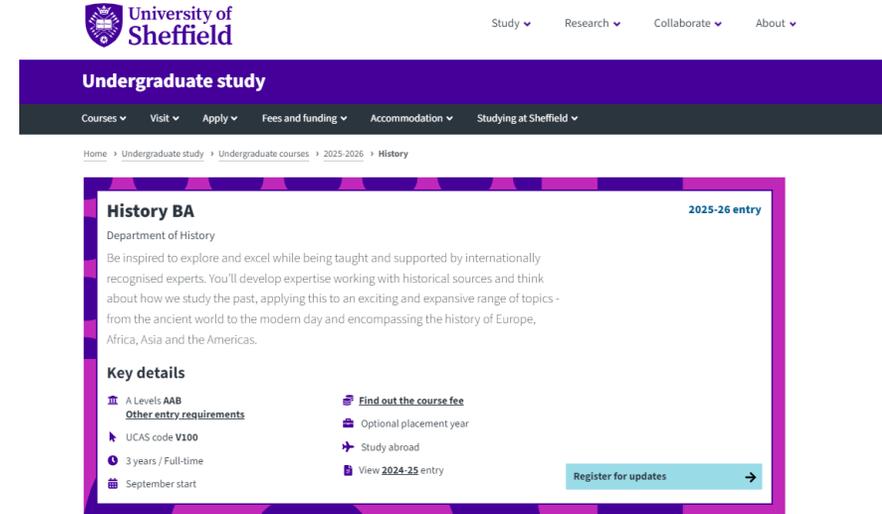




# Research the details...



- The Civil Rights Movement
- Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
- Ideals of Womanhood in 19th-Century America
- Jack-the-Ripper: Crime, Popular Culture and Policing in Victorian Times



- Eastern Africa since 1940
- The Wars for Vietnam
- Trumpism
- Egypt's Golden Empire



## Choosing a university (1)

### Things to consider

- Does the university do the course you want?
- Campus or city university?



## Campus vs City

### Campus University

- All the main buildings and facilities are located within one area
- Students will usually spend most of their time in this central space

### City University

- Has a central hub, but most of the buildings are scattered around the city
- Students will have to travel across town to attend lectures



## Choosing a university (2)

### Things to consider

- Does the university do the course you want?
- Campus or city university?
- Commute or live away from home?
- Location?



## Commute or live away?

- Both are options, it is down to you and your preferences.
- If commuting, what is a realistic distance to travel? Think about:
  - Type of transport
  - Cost of transport
  - How often will you need to travel to university
- Still get the same university experience if you decide to commute rather than live at home



- Cost of Accommodation
  - Studio, Ensuite, Washbasin
- Accessibility Requirements
- Location
  - What amenities are nearby?
- Mixed Flat or Gendered Flat
- Safety
- Extra benefits included in room price?

## Accommodation



- Does the university do the course you want?
- Campus or city university?
- Commute or live away from home?
- Location?
- Rankings?
- Facilities and services?

## Choosing a university (3)



# Facilities

## To consider:

- Students Union
- Library
- Lecture Theatres and classrooms
- Subject specific facilities
- Sports facilities
- Facilities around the city - supermarkets? Hobby based facilities?



# Student Support

- 24/7 on Campus Security
- Counselling
- Nightline
- Safezone App
- The Chaplaincy
- Wellbeing events
- Personal tutor
- Mentor programmes
- Learning Development Centre





# Scholarships

## What's on offer?

### **Mature Student Scholarship**

£1000

### **University of Leicester Scholarship**

£1000

### **Sports Scholarships**

Up to £1000 plus benefits (e.g. free gym membership)

### **Music and Choral Scholarships**

£1000-500

<https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/fees-funding/scholarships-and-discounts>



## Other considerations

### Things to consider

- Reputation
- Careers and Welfare support
- Research in your subject
- Study abroad locations



## Making the most of Open Days

- Take pictures to look back on
- Don't forget to spend time touring the city in addition to the University
- Attend talks: subject specific sessions, sample lectures, student finance talks and more (There are often Parent/carer talks!)
- Encourage taking a notepad to write down any notes you may have
- Wear sensible shoes
- Enjoy the day and ask questions!



- The Student Room
- WhatUni
- Save the Student
- UCAS Website
- The Uni Guide
- Complete University Guide
- Springpod
- University of Leicester UCAS Application resources
  - <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/how-to-apply/applications>

## Resources



# What to do now?

- **Speak to people with experience**
  - Family, teachers, industry experts, university students
- **Utilise useful websites and resources**
  - What Uni, UCAS, Prospects, Springpod, student finance
- **Engage with university events**
  - Taster Days, Open Days, UCAS Fairs
- **Support in gaining relevant work experience**
  - Some degrees ask for it
- **Be honest and have conversations early, supporting options (there is lots of help out there!)**
  - Having conversations early means you are not worrying about impending deadlines



## Open Days: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of September

**Free coach travel** for students travelling from London to Leicester via National Express services.

Trains leave from the following stations:

- London Victoria
- Finchley Road Station
- Golders Green
- Marble Arch
- Baker Street

# Open Day Travel



## Step 1

Book your place now at an Open Day.

- Saturday 5 July
- Saturday 13 September
- Saturday 4 October
- Saturday 8 November



## Step 2

Scan the QR code below to reserve your free coach travel from one of 5 London locations.



## Step 3

Join us and experience an exciting day at the University of Leicester.



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LEICESTER

# Thank you

Any questions?

[www.le.ac.uk/chat](http://www.le.ac.uk/chat)





# Mrs Mitchell

Aiming Higher Coordinator



# Aiming High Programme



- The Aiming Higher Programme is for those hoping to apply to:
  - Oxford
  - Cambridge
  - Medicine
  - Dentistry
  - Veterinary Medicine
- These all require students to meet the **early UCAS deadline, 15<sup>th</sup> October.**



# Aiming High Provision



- Regular meetings in Year 12 covering:
  - Application processes
  - Super-curricular activities: activities students do outside the classroom that take them beyond their school learning
  - Personal statements
  - Admission tests
  - Interview preparation
- Regular emails with opportunities for students to sign up to
- Oxbridge Applications workshop
- Medical student talk
- Individual support with personal statements
- Internal and external mock interviews



# What should students be doing now?



- Studying hard to achieve the top grades
- Completing the final draft of their personal statement for Oxford, Cambridge or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine applications
- Deciding carefully which college and other universities to apply to – carry out research to maximise their chances
- Preparing for any admissions tests not yet completed – these are extremely important in deciding if they will be called for interview
- Keeping up to date with anything related to their subject in the news
- Starting to prepare for interviews (get used to talking about their subject to friends and family, in the mirror, recording on their phone)



# How can I support my child?



- Proof-read their personal statement
- Research online and discuss the universities/college they are considering applying to
- Help them prepare for interviews:
  - Ask them to explain areas of their subject to you
  - Do a mini mock interview to get them used to being put on the spot and under pressure. For example:
    - Why do you want to study...?
    - Tell me about something interesting you have read related to your subject
    - What is your greatest strength/weakness?
    - Tell me about a time when you have demonstrated good teamwork/time management skills



# Mrs Collier

Head of Work-Related Learning



# What are apprenticeships?



Employed



Paid a salary



Contract



80% work  
20% off the job



Typically  
1-4 years +

**600+**  
600+ standards



Intermediate -  
Degree level



Real job =  
responsibilities



Not the easy option

Work full time and study part-time



Learning    Salary    No debt    NUS    Experience    4-6 Years



University fees paid by employer and/or  
government

100+ Universities offer apprenticeships



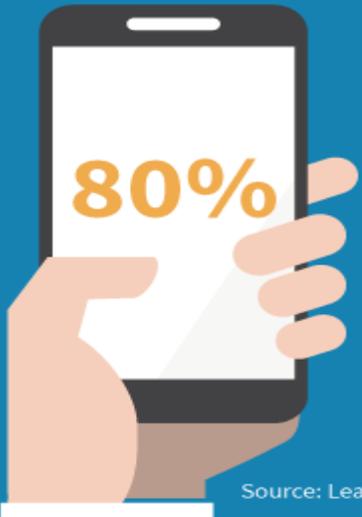
# Key Statistics



## APPRENTICESHIP STATS



Nearly **three-quarters** of apprentices agreed that their chances of earning a higher wage in future had increased



of apprentices agreed that their chances of progressing to a higher level of training had

Source: Learners and Apprentices Survey 2018

## EMPLOYERS ALSO BENEFIT

**78%**

Of employers that hired an apprentice reported improved productivity



**65%**

recognise the new ideas apprentices bring to their organisation



**83%**

would also recommend apprentices to other businesses

## AFTER COMPLETION



**90%**

of apprentices will get a job or go into further training after finishing an apprenticeship

**72%**

will find sustained employment





# Common Industries



Accounting, Banking and Finance



Aviation



Horticulture



Construction/  
Architect



Creative & Digital



Retail



Teaching



IT and Cyber Security



Surveying and Project  
Management



Childcare



Nursing and Care



Engineering



Dental Nursing



Hospitality



Hairdressing



Legal Services



Journalism



Animal Care



# Apprenticeship Levels



Intermediate

**Level  
2**

Equivalent to 5  
GCSE's Grade  
9-4 / A\*-C

Advanced

**Level  
3**

Equivalent to 2  
A-Levels

Higher

**Levels  
4 & 5**

Equivalent to a  
Foundation  
Degree

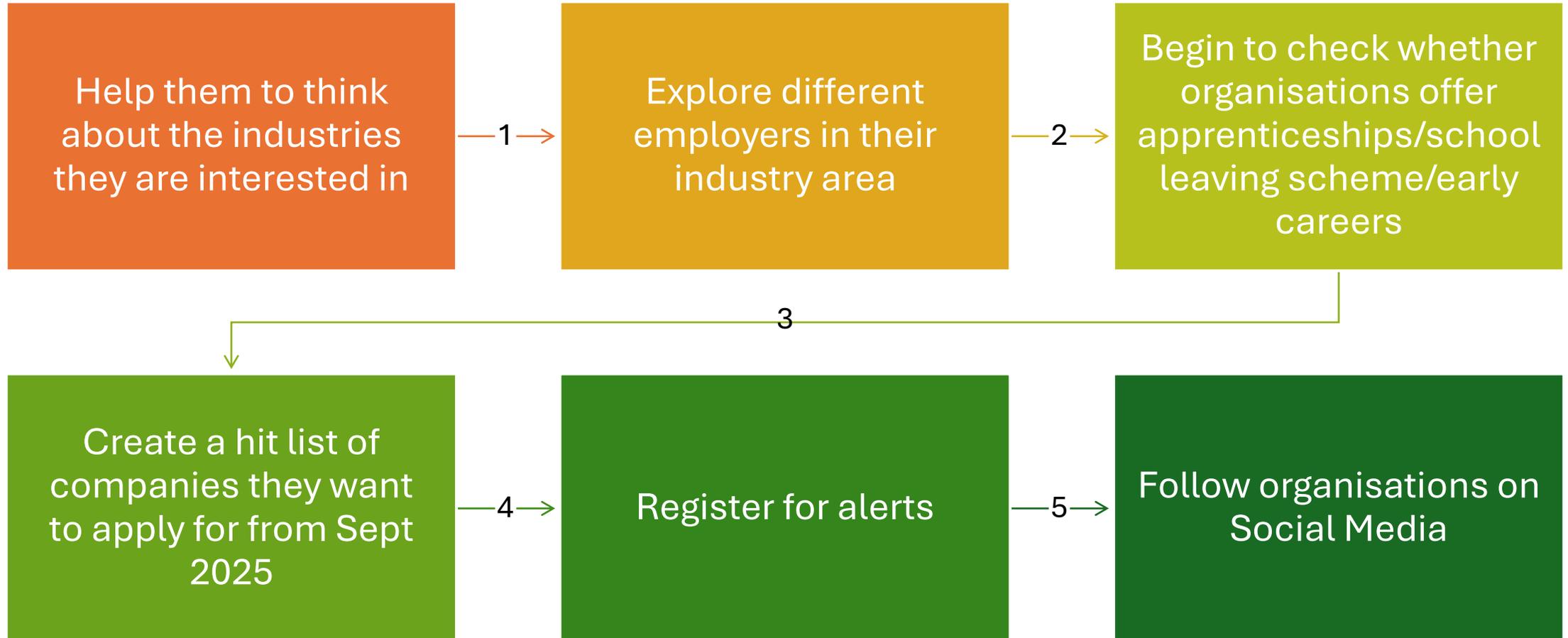
Degree

**Levels  
6 & 7**

Equivalent to a  
Bachelor's or  
Masters Degree

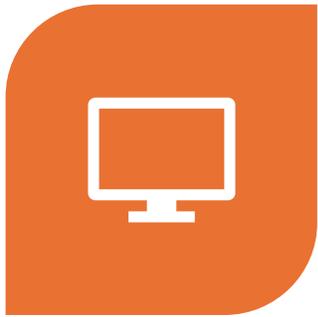


# Help with your child's strategy





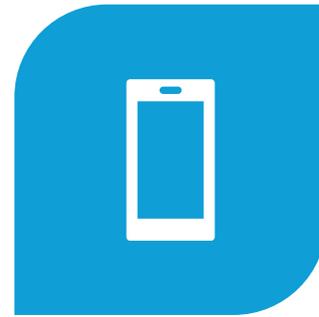
# Know where to look



DIRECTLY ON COMPANY WEBSITES



ON DEDICATED APPRENTICESHIP WEBSITES



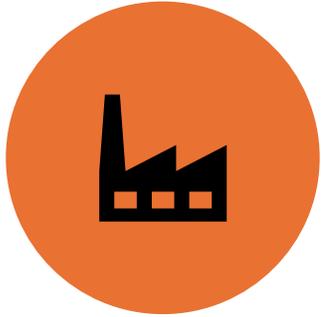
ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



USE NETWORKS – FRIENDS/FAMILY/ WORK EXPERIENCE CONTACTS



# Research industry areas



Some industries have more vacancies than others



Keep options open – widen your search – not all finance roles are with finance companies!



Not all job areas are covered – you may have to start at a lower level to get into the industry



Consider using training providers to help you link with employers

Good places to start.....

LinkedIn

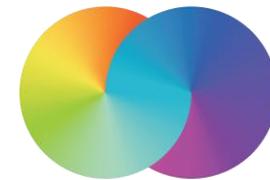


Apprenticeships

**HIGHERiN**



UCAS



GET MY  
**First Job**





[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)

 [Sign in or create an account](#)

Find an apprenticeship [Search](#)

## Search apprenticeships

13,781 apprenticeships currently listed

What	Where
Enter a job or company	Enter a city or postcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<a href="#">Search</a>	<a href="#">Browse by your interests instead</a>

New

### [Solicitor Apprenticeship \(London\)](#)

DWF LAW LLP  
London (EC3M 3AG)

**Distance** 11.9 miles

**Start date** 25 August 2026

**Training course** Solicitor (level 7)

**Wage** £27,000 a year

Closes on Friday 19 December 2025  
Posted 2 September 2025

New

### [Audit Trainee Apprentice](#)

COOPER PARRY ADVISORY LIMITED  
London (EC2M 2PF)

**Distance** 12.4 miles

**Start date** 1 September 2026

**Training course** Accountancy or taxation professional (level 7)

**Wage** £26,000 a year

Closes on Saturday 1 November 2025  
Posted 2 September 2025



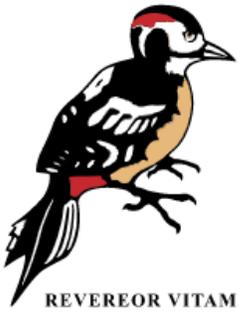
[www.findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/courses](http://www.findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/courses)



# Use universities and colleges



- Universities will advertise the apprenticeship training they offer and the employers they work with
- University open days often have sessions on apprenticeships
- Local colleges advertise local vacancies (LSEC Bromley has a dedicated Apprenticeship page).
- Specific apprenticeship training providers have their own recruitment programmes.



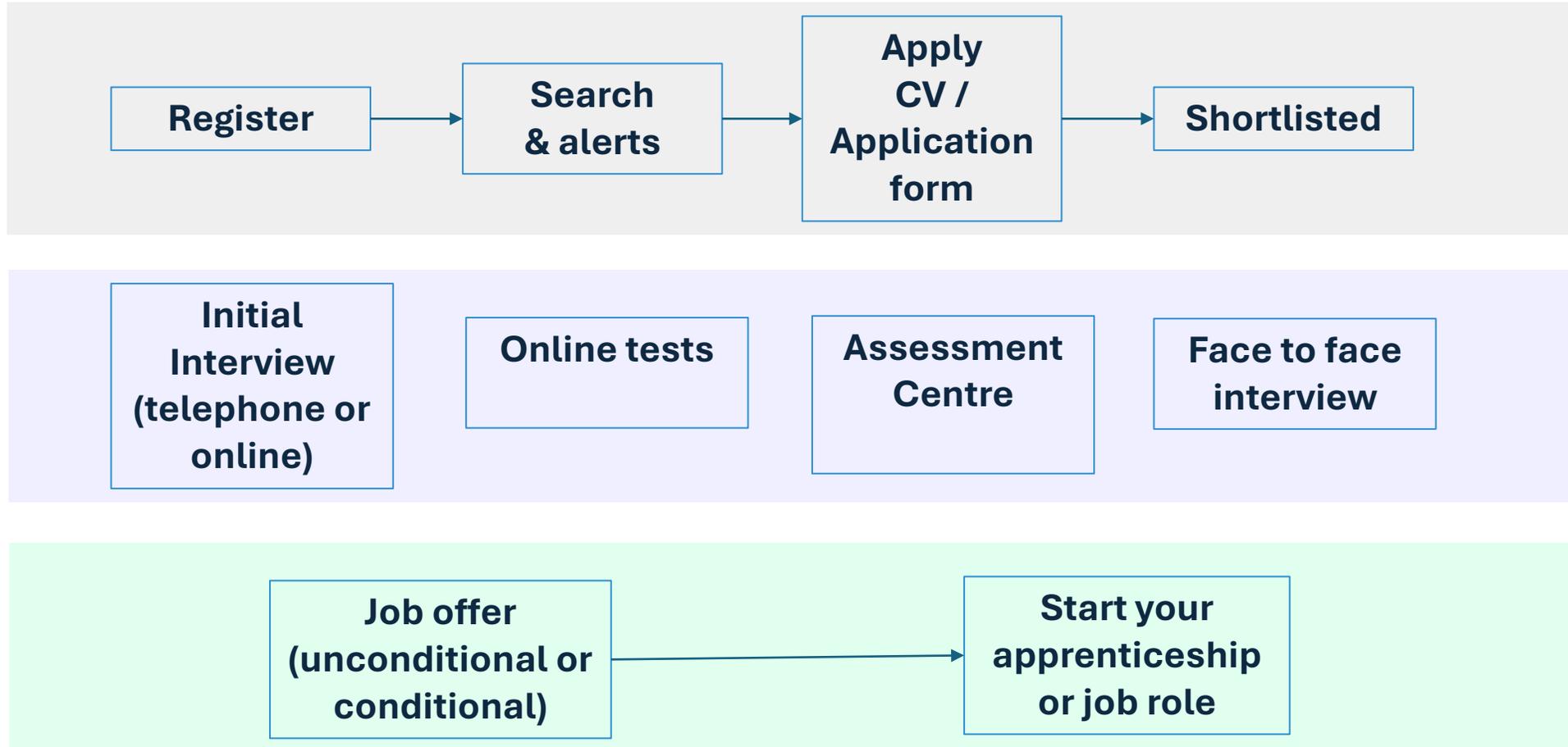
# Know when to apply



- Some companies can start recruitment a whole year ahead – be prepared to start as early as September, but they can also be advertised right up to and beyond end of Year 13
- Keep checking regularly – be ready to apply as soon as you see a vacancies, they can close them early!
- Look out for National Apprenticeship Week
- Dedicate time per week to look and apply for vacancies – it can be time consuming to find and apply for roles.
- Build up a ‘word bank’ for applications



# The Usual Application Process





# How to get shortlisted



- Make sure your application/CV marries up with the skills they are looking for, with specific examples
- Prepare for AI interviews by filming responses to questions
- Research company values and beliefs
- Find out what is happening in the industry you are applying for
- Read the job spec!



# Unifrog

## The Universal Destinations Platform



Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.

Unifrog will help students to explore their key interests and what career paths they can take to reach their goals!



Sign in

Sign in

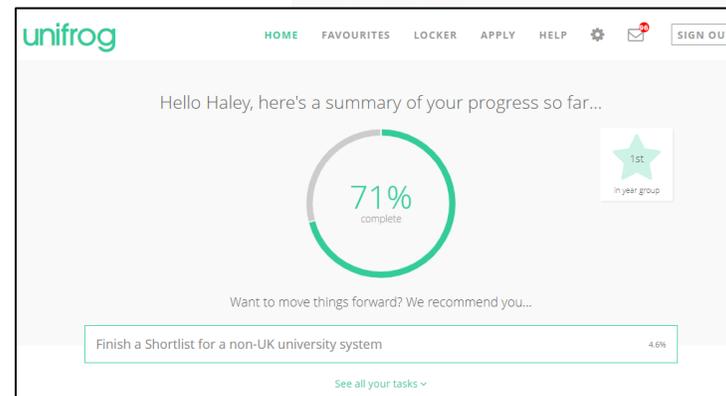
[Forgotten your password?](#)

Been given a Form Code?

[> Sign in for the first time](#)

Teacher or Referee?

We've combined the sign-in pages! Please use this page to log in as normal.





# Unifrog Tools



Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Subjects library	Competencies	Oxbridge	Classes	Locker
Know-how library	Interactions	Apprenticeships	Subject References	Applications list
MOOC		US universities	CV / Resumé	
Personality profile		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
Interests profile		European universities	Common App Essay	
Read, Watch, Listen		Australasian universities	US recommenders	
Webinars		ME and African universities	Notes for Reference writers	
		Irish universities		
		Special Opportunities		
		Events		



# Apprenticeships on Unifrog



**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

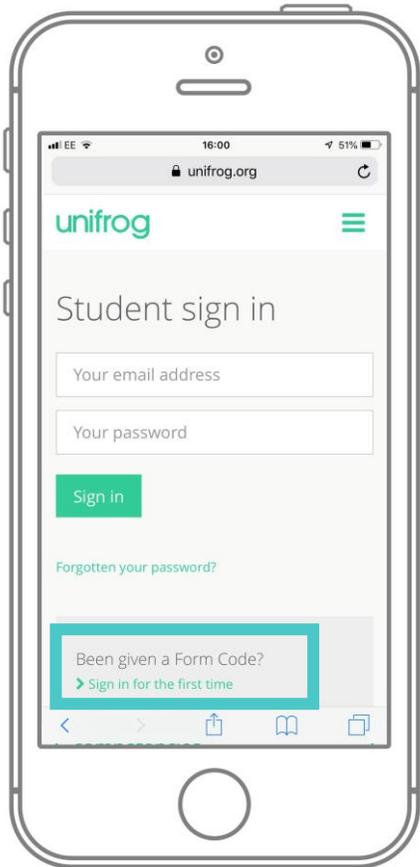
### Employer description

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 – Parent Code



Scan this QR code or go to

[www.unifrog.org/student](http://www.unifrog.org/student) and click 'Sign in

for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

**DRKWparents100**

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!



# Mrs Doyle

Achievement Coordinator for Year 13



# Support in Sixth Form



- Form Tutors
- Subject Teachers
- Sixth Form Team
- Head of Work-Related Learning and Independent Careers Advisor
- ELSA
- Counsellor
- Bursary



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