

15th September 2026
LAI/SSn

Dear Parent/Carer

As students progress through Year 13, their focus shifts toward preparing for life after Sixth Form. Our careers programme is designed to support them in making informed decisions about university, apprenticeships, and employment.

University Applications – UCAS

At the end of Year 12, students were invited to attend sessions on UCAS preparation where we explored how to choose a course and university, the importance of open days, how to match themselves to entry requirements, and how to begin drafting a personal statement. Many students have already made a good start on their applications.

Students should complete and submit their UCAS applications to the Sixth Form team by 30th November 2026. Students applying for Oxbridge, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine must have their applications in to the Sixth Form team by 2nd October 2026.

Students are encouraged to use Unifrog, UCAS, and university websites to research courses and refine personal statements.

Key information for parents:

- Students can apply for up to five university choices through UCAS.
- The application fee is £34.50, payable online by card. For students entitled to free school meals, this fee will be waived.
- The official UCAS deadline for most courses is 13th January 2027, but we encourage students to apply before Christmas so the Sixth Form team can process applications in good time.
- Predicted grades, and a school reference are added to the application after this is paid for.
- Once submitted, universities will review applications and may make a conditional offer (based on final grades), an unconditional offer, or decline the application.
- Students can track offers through the UCAS Hub.
- Once all offers are received, students must select a firm choice (first choice) and an insurance choice (backup).
- After results day in August, places are confirmed if conditions are met. If not, students may still secure a place through UCAS Clearing.

- Student finance arrangements are changing for students starting higher education courses from 1 January 2027. Students starting university in **September 2027** will be able to apply for student finance from **Spring 2027**, including support towards tuition fees and living costs. We will provide further information to students and parents when applications open. In the meantime, families can find the latest information about the new Lifelong Learning Entitlement and student finance on the . [Student finance if your course starts on or after 1 January 2027: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

Apprenticeships

Students who are considering apprenticeships, including degree apprenticeships, should start researching options now. Larger companies often recruit a year in advance, and some schemes open as early as October for September 2027 start dates. Others recruit later, typically November–February, while smaller companies may advertise much closer to the start date.

Useful resources:

- Create an account on the government site: [Find an Apprenticeship](#).
- Explore opportunities on Not Going to Uni [Alternatives To University | NGTU](#)
- Amazing Apprenticeships has some great resources and a parent and carer zone [Parent - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- Check company websites, especially “Early Careers” sections.
- Create or update your [LinkedIn profile](#) to start building a professional presence and search for opportunities.

Important notes:

- The process is competitive, and it is common to apply for a large number of roles before securing one.
- Each application should include either a tailored CV or a strong supporting statement linking skills and experiences to the job requirements.
- Recruitment processes can include application forms, online tests, interviews, and assessment centres.
- Apprenticeships are available at different levels, from Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) through to Level 6 (degree equivalent). Training is usually delivered on the job, with most formal learning completed online, though in some cases this may include regular day release or in-person courses.

Careers Guidance

- One-to-one meetings are available with me to support decision-making, applications, or interview preparation. Students can book by emailing me at lisa.alexander@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk (parents are welcome to attend)
- Students are encouraged to identify their skills, strengths, and interests to help target suitable opportunities. The quizzes on Unifrog are a useful starting point.

Next Steps for Year 13 Students

1. Finalise university and/or apprenticeship choices.
2. Complete and submit UCAS applications by the relevant deadlines.
3. Apply for student finance
4. Research and apply for apprenticeships, being mindful of early deadlines.
5. Attend open days, apprenticeship talks, and careers appointments.

By following this structured approach, students will be well-prepared to transition into higher education, apprenticeships, or employment with confidence.

Thank you for your continued support as we guide Year 13 through this important stage.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Alexander
Careers Adviser KS5

