

Next Steps after leaving College

We appreciate that the options open to your son or daughter when they leave Godalming College might seem complicated, especially if this is your eldest child, so below we have outlined the main options, together with how we aim to support the students.

University

This year 67% of our Upper Sixth have so far applied for university (578 applications). Around 100 will do so during a gap year. Your son/daughter can apply this autumn for a Sept 2017 start or a 'deferred entry' 2018 start.

www.ucas.com is the essential website for the university application process. Use the 'search tool' to find which universities offer the subject your son/daughter is interested in and what the entry requirements are. This may be a grades or a 'points' requirement. The points tariff has changed from previous years, but the Tariff Tables on the UCAS site explain how this works.

The UCAS site has an informative Parents' section www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/parents-and-guardians which explains how the application process works and how you can best support your child. You can sign up for regular Parent Newsletters and download a Parent Guide. You can also find information here about Student Finance. Which? University also has a helpful parents' section www.university.which.co.uk

Students apply for Student Finance in the spring before they start university through www.gov.uk/student-finance. They pay nothing back until they are earning over £21,000.

You may be wondering about the 'best' university for a particular subject. If you are interested in

rankings, then publications such as the Guardian University Guide and the Times Good University Guide give a good overview, but do check the basis on which the rankings are made. www.unistats.direct.gov.uk is very helpful with comparisons, based on student surveys.

Above all, we would advise students to find the best and most realistic match for them. You can help by discussing with them factors such as location, distance from home, campus or not, availability and type of accommodation, graduate destinations, bursaries available and realistic entry requirements.

Attending an open day is an excellent way to get the feel of a place. You can find the dates of these at www.opendays.com.

Participating in a Summer School or Taster Day can also help students decide if that subject is for them.

Considering Oxford or Cambridge? Please ensure your son/daughter is in touch with Dave King, our Oxbridge Coordinator.

Applications for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry as well as Oxbridge have early deadlines and require a strong academic profile.

Applicants can apply for up to 5 courses and they do not need to choose a preference order until they have received all their offers.

Employment, including apprenticeships and sponsored degrees

There are excellent School Leaver schemes available which lead to professional qualifications and sometimes to a degree – a genuine alternative to university. Many of these are in Finance, Business, IT and Retail. Sign up for sites such as www.notgoingtouni.co.uk, www.targetcareers.co.uk, www.milkround.com and www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk Applications open for some schemes as early as November, so it is important to be actively looking.

There are resources on the Careers pages to help with CVs, job applications and interviews, and workshops are held in college to support students.

Apprenticeships last between 1 and 4 years and allow trainees to earn while they learn. Available at 3 different levels, vacancies can be found at www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide

The Careers Pages of Godalming Online contain a wealth of resources to help your son or daughter find the right direction

Gap Year

Taking a Gap Year is viewed positively by most university courses. A year out can help students gain maturity as well as money, although sometimes it can be hard to get back into studying again afterwards.

Some students work for part of the year and then travel. Others opt for an organised placement (voluntary or paid) either in the UK or overseas. Costs vary, so do check the details.

www.yearoutgroup.org acts as a portal for finding out about a wide range of organised programmes.

Do encourage your son/daughter to make definite plans for their gap year.

If he/she wishes to take a gap year they can apply for university this autumn and opt to defer their entry until 2018.

Alternatively, students can apply through Godalming College as an ex-student the following autumn. We will give them instructions on how to do this and will provide a reference for them.

Art Foundation Course

Many art and design degree courses require applicants to have completed a one year Art Foundation course first. This is classed as Further (rather than Higher) Education, which means that tuition fees are free if the student is under 19 on starting. However, students cannot apply for Student Finance to cover living costs.

Applications are made directly to the institution (not via UCAS).

Other college courses

Some students choose to go on to a specialist Music or Drama college.

Some applications for practice-based music, dance and drama courses are made through UCAS Conservatoires at www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires

Other students opt for vocational college courses or continue their studies of A Level/BTEC courses at another local college. Student Finance loans are not available to cover living costs if the course is classed as Further Education.

How we support your son/daughter

The Careers Department and the Personal Tutors support students whatever their career plans.

Our Tutorial Programme examines all the options in depth so it is vital that your son/daughter attends tutorial every week. They also have regular one to one discussions with their tutor.

After the summer exams tutorials will focus on Personal Statement and CV preparation and our Careers Day on 6 July is an important part of our programme. Students will also start a UCAS application during this period, so that they can make progress with it over the summer holiday. UCAS workshops are held in September/October.

Extensive resources are available on the Careers Site of Godalming

Online – do encourage your child to use them.

In addition, the Careers Dept frequently emails students with details of opportunities, so it is important that students check their college emails frequently.

Similarly, they should ensure they read the weekly Student Bulletin to find out about forthcoming events.

Published resources are available in the Careers Area, which is staffed between 9am and 5pm every day.

We also run workshops and arrange talks from outside speakers.

A word about deadlines

We set internal college application deadlines which are in advance of the UCAS/art college deadlines. This is to ensure that there is plenty of time to check applications and attach references.

And finally....

If your son/daughter does apply for university, it is important that they are in the country on Results Day (17 Aug 2017) to be able to communicate with universities if necessary.

Careers Department April 2016



Internal College Deadlines

Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry **19 Sept 2016**

(meeting for early deadline applicants Wed 7 Sept 10am – 1pm)

All other UCAS (University) applications **week beginning 31 Oct 2016**

Art Foundation applications **1 December 2016**

See www.ucas.com for final UCAS deadline dates