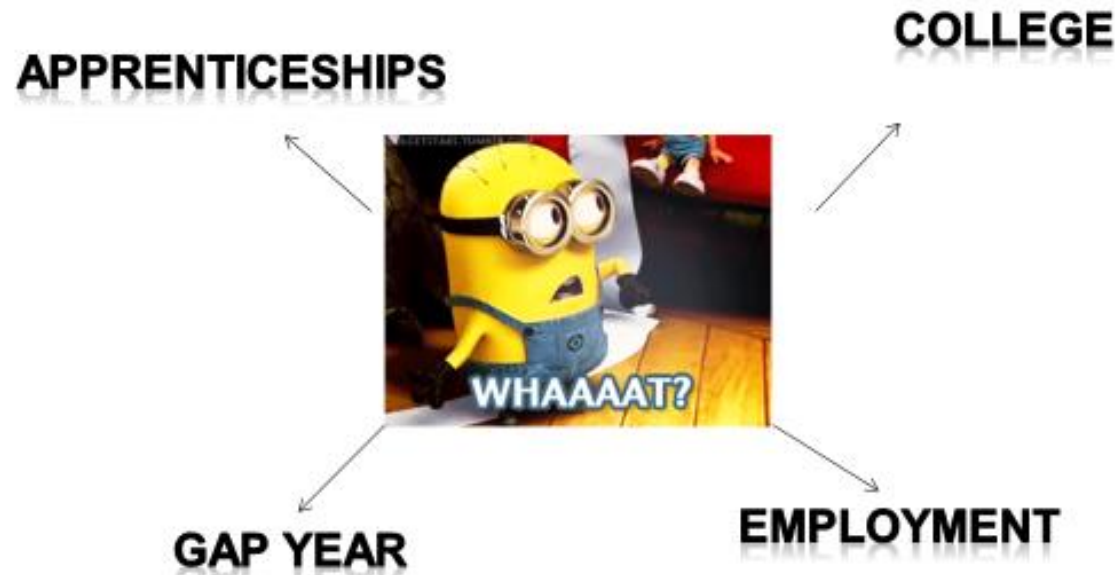


The background features a large white semi-circle at the top, a dark blue semi-circle at the bottom, and light blue and pink rectangular areas on the left and right sides respectively.

# **YEAR 13 DESTINATIONS EVENING**

# MRS ALLEN – ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AT 18



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# Apprenticeship

- Doing an apprenticeship means working for a company while working towards a qualification
- The qualification you work towards depends on the industry, subject and qualifications you already have

## Intermediate Apprenticeship

- Level 2
- 12-18 months
- Equivalent to 5 GCSEs A\* - C

## Advanced Apprenticeship

- Level 3
- 18-48 months
- Equivalent to 2 A-levels

## Higher Apprenticeship

- Levels 4,5,6,7
- 24 months+
- Equivalent to foundation degree level+



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# Apprenticeship – Pros and Cons

## Pros:

- Get real-life experience
- Earn while you learn
- Acquire new skills
- Boost your confidence
- Great lifetime earning potential – potentially better than those with a university degree

## Cons:

- Could limit your future prospects
- Compared to a graduate, you may start on a lower wage
- Can be a shock compared to school/college
- Not instant acceptance – competition is fierce



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## College

- Add to the qualifications you already have by going to a Further Education College
- These colleges offer a range of qualifications such as HE courses (foundation degrees with a top-up at a local university), Access to HE, GCSEs, A-Levels, Vocational Courses, Diplomas, Certificates and Adult Learning courses

South Staffordshire College  
Lichfield • Cannock • Tamworth • Rugeley



 Walsall College

**NSCG** | NEWCASTLE  
AND STAFFORD  
COLLEGES GROUP



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## Gap Year – Pros and Cons

### Pros:

- Broaden your mind by travelling and meeting new people
- Get work experience before doing some more learning
- Take a break from education and take stock of what you want from your career
- Grasp opportunities as they arise

### Cons:

- Unless you have savings, you'll have to work for at least some of it
- It's easy to drift away from education or a clear pathway once your year comes to and end
- You might not have the support of your tutors/advisors during this year out



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## Getting a Job

- Get out there into the big, wide world and see what it's all about!
- You could get an entry level job in the industry you want to be in, or just any job to pass some time while you think about your next move
- Lots of employers offer education that doesn't fall into the category of 'university' or 'apprenticeship', for example professional qualifications



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# Getting a Job – Pros and Cons

## Pros:

- Work experience to put on your CV
- Learn and develop new skills
- Earn a wage
- Take advantage of training and professional qualifications that employers offer, that don't fall under the categories of university or apprenticeship

## Cons:

- Starting work is very different to being at school or university
- Your wage in an entry level job may not be very high to begin with
- Without further education, you may feel limited in where you can progress to



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## **Applications for alternatives do have different timelines than University.**

**Apprenticeships** – larger companies may start recruitment in Autumn term but many recruit throughout the year. Students must ensure they are registered on websites from Destinations day to ensure they do not miss opportunities

**College** – open days are starting from October onwards, applications from then onwards. Many colleges are asking for applications by March

**Gap Year** – this will be individual, depending on plans

**Employment** – Many jobs that line up with end of Year 13 will be advertised from Easter next year.

**Ensure you are prepared – CV, Linkedin and registered for website.  
Can request appointments for support.**

**You can apply for all options if unsure!!!!**

**JEFF CHILTON – ABERYSWYTH  
UNIVERSITY – STUDENT  
FINANCE**

Mrs Fisher

UCAS



## WHAT IS UCAS?

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people **discover** what their next step might be.

### UCAS **does**:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

### UCAS **doesn't**:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas

# Dates and Timelines

Date	Activity
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Destination Evening for parents and students
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	UCAS Application forms to be completed
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Final checks for those applying to Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Medicine
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Appointments for pay and send Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Medicine
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	First Draft of personal statement to be submitted on Unifrog
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Final Draft of personal statement to be submitted on Unifrog
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	All UCAS to be sent by this date <b>£28.50</b>

## Choosing the right place for you

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

## Choosing the right **course** for you

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research?  
How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

# Completing the UCAS application



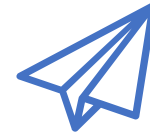
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.



## The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:  
every personal statement is run  
through software to check for  
plagiarism.

# Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy skills?



# Tracking your application



## Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

**Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.**



## All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.

**Reply by dd-mm-yyyy**



## Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

### Follow your application 24/7:

- see your choices
- keep contact information up to date
- view and reply to your offers

### You'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- Unsuccessful

# Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



# What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies







Thank you

UCAS