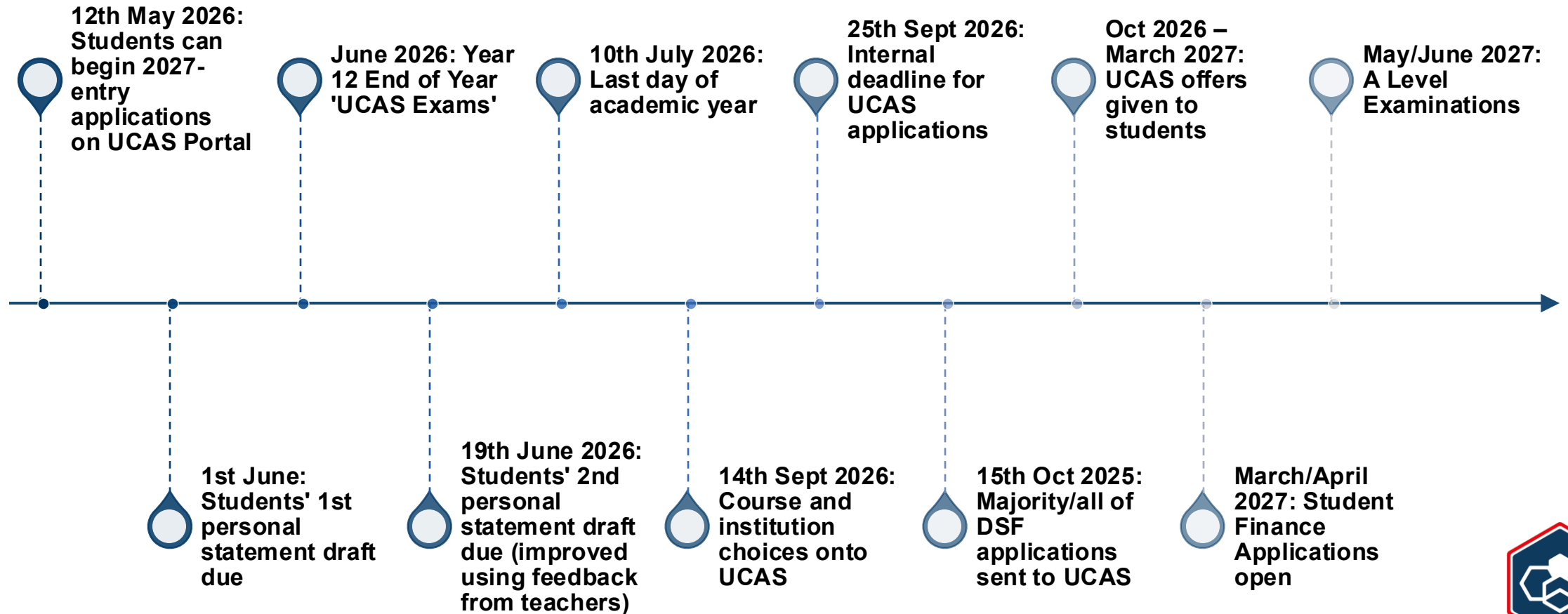




DIDSBURY
SIXTH FORM

UCAS Information Presentation
Thursday 30 April 2026

Timeline



The UCAS prediction mocks



**June 2026: Year
12 End of Year
'UCAS Exams'**

- Most important piece of evidence for teacher predicted UCAS grades
- Universities may ask for proof of predicted grades
- Change of structure:
 - Not taking place within one week
 - No study leave

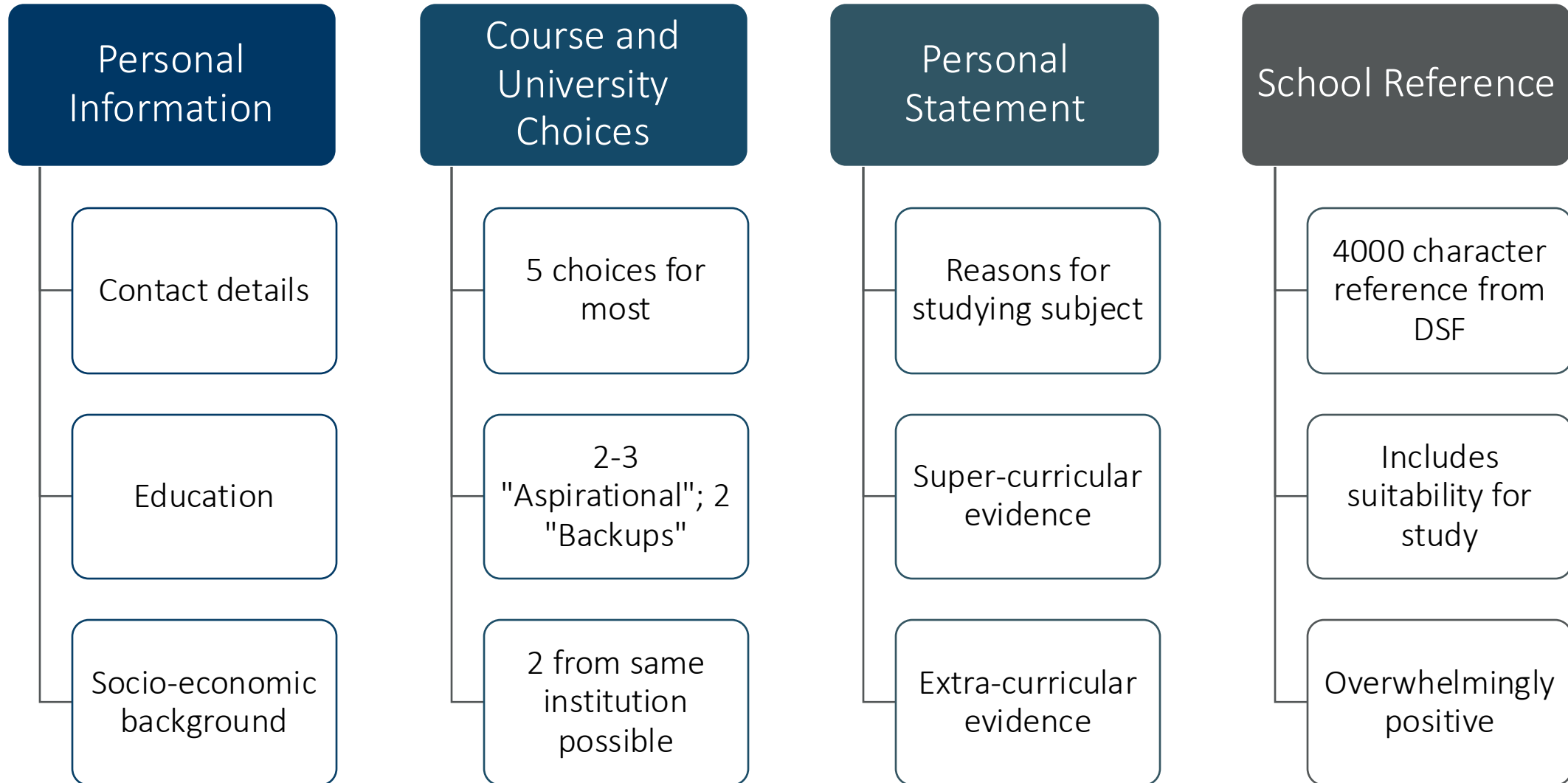
UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

- The UK's primary admissions service for higher education.
- Support 1.5 million students every year applying to over 380 universities and colleges across the UK
- Support young people making post-18 choices by providing information, advice, and guidance to inspire and facilitate educational progression to university, college, or a degree apprenticeship.
- The entirety of the student's application will be completed via the UCAS portal

UCAS



UCAS Components of the UCAS Application



Choosing a University/Course



RUSSELL

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics
and Political Science
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University College London
University of Warwick
University of York

GROUP

- Most students will apply to a "Russell Group" university, which represent 24 leading UK universities
- Students can also apply for graduate apprenticeships through UCAS
- Applications for deferred entry (i.e. in 2028) also possible
- Considerations include: city v campus, contact hours, years on course, bursaries/scholarships available, accommodation, location, cost of living, reputation
- Using university ranking websites – CAUTION!
- All students will have discussed their choices in depth with a member of the Sixth Form Team before final submission



Admissions Tests – students now responsible

- July - September 2026: UCAT (Medics/Dentists)
- August – December 2026: LNAT (Law)*
- 12-16 October 2026: ESAT (Engineers/Natural Scientists)*
- 12-16 October 2026: TMUA (Maths-related inc. Some Economics)
- 12-16 October 2026: TARA (Maths and Social Sciences at UCL)
- Oxford and Cambridge: Some courses require the above tests, some are "in house". Check websites for more details
- **Nov/Dec 2026: DSF Mock interviews**

The Personal Statement

- 4000 characters total across 3 questions
- Drafted by students in Summer Term (ideally twice) - checked in Life after Laurus sessions
- Guidance given in Launchpad, Form Times and LaL sessions
- Redrafted on return to Year 13 in September 2026
- Over summer, students should continue to revise their UCAS responses and start confirming what they want to apply for
- Students may have use 3 school days across Years 12 and 13 to attend open days

The Personal Statement Structure

Personal statement is a singular body of text.

4,000 character limit

1) Why do you want to study this course or subject?

2) How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

3) What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

4,000 character divided between the 3 questions.
Minimum of 350 characters in each section.



DIDSBURY
SIXTH FORM

Q1) Why do you want to study this course or subject?

a) What are your motivations for studying this course(s)?

a) Unless it is a vocational course (MDV, Law, Engineering), do **not** make this about careers.

b) What is your knowledge of the subject area?

a) What wider reading have you done **outside** of the specification?

b) How did you engage with this wider reading?

c) Where did the wider reading take your thoughts on the topic?

d) Don't teach the reader about the topic (they already know it). Instead, explain your thoughts and intellectual interest with the topic / subject.

Q2) How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

a) How do your studies relate to your chosen course(s)?

- a) What wider reading have you done, **off the back of** something that you were introduced to in lesson or as part of the specification?
- b) Where did this wider reading take your thinking on the topic?
- c) Super Curricular? EPQ? Outline and detail how you engaged with these on an intellectual level.

b) What relevant or transferable skills do you possess?

- a) Research what traits the institutions you are applying for look for in an applicant. You need to exhibit these.

Q3) What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Possibly the smallest section for most.
 - a) Do you have any directly related work experience?
 - b) Achievements outside of Sixth Form?
 - c) Any outstanding hobbies?

You should try and twist these into the traits and qualities that institutions are looking for in a candidate (time management, organisation etc.)

Personal Statement Traps

- Starting with a quotation.
- Explaining how your family member(s) do X as a job and that is what has inspired you.
- Explaining why the subject / specialism is important to the world. The university already knows this, which is why they offer a course on it.
- Saying that you have loved a subject from birth. It's ok to develop or find a passion for something recently.
- Teaching the university about a topic that they lecture in.

How does the school reference work?



Total Reference
= 4000 characters



20-Jun Open Day



27-Jun Open Day



20-Jun Open Day



20-Jun Open Day



20-Jun Open Day



20-Jun Open Day



Open day calendar

Browse the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days

Select a month: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)

April 2026

← March

May →

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



Wednesday
1
Apr.

Newcastle College

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 Newcastle Upon Tyne

University of Roehampton

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 London

University of Winchester

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 Winchester, Hampshire



DIDSBURY
SIXTH FORM

Degree Apprenticeships



- Some degree apprenticeships are listed on UCAS (and so count as one of your 5 choices)
- Most are found outside of UCAS (and so do not count towards your limit)
- Additional sessions will run for those interested

Alternatives to University

- Degree Apprenticeships, Deferred Entry, Conservatoires and Gap Years are alternatives to university
- You will still apply for UCAS this year to keep your options open
- Additional sessions will run for those interested



Student Finance – key information (old system)

Student Finance England provides loans for the two costs university students face:

- **Tuition** – fee paid to the university to be taught there (e.g. cost of teachers, equipment, buildings)
- **Maintenance** – Money to cover your costs while studying full time (e.g. rent, bills, food, going out expenses)

2026 entry:

From 1 January 2027, all learners in the UK will apply through the government's new 'Lifelong Learning Entitlement' (LLE), which replaces previous further education funding

Maintenance Loan

What is a maintenance loan and how much am I entitled to?

Household income	Living at home	Away from home (outside of London)	Away from home (in London)
£25,000 or less	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£30,000	£8,132	£9,791	£12,997
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£40,000	£6,642	£8,285	£11,465
£42,875	£6,214	£7,852	£11,025
£45,000	£5,897	£7,532	£10,700
£50,000	£5,152	£6,779	£9,934
£55,000	£4,407	£6,026	£9,168
£58,349	£3,907	£5,522	£8,655
£60,000	£3,907	£5,273	£8,403
£62,377	£3,907	£4,915	£8,039
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£70,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,871
£70,116	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853
£75,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853

https://www.ucas.com

UCAS

Discover Undergraduate Postgraduate Money & student life Apprenticeships Careers Sign in

What should I do?

Explore all your options and start planning your next steps.

Create your UCAS Hub

Discover

- Ultimate Guides
- UCAS Hub
- Careers Quiz
- UCAS events and exhibitions
- Subject tasters
- Chat to students
- Gap years
- International students

What to do

- Discover courses
- Explore apprenticeships
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Subject guides
- Industry guides
- Explore employers
- Degree apprenticeships
- Student finance

Where to go

- Universities and colleges
- Discover regions
- City guides
- Accommodation options

UCAS events

- Create your future
- Preparing for your event
- UCAS discovery

Advice for parents, guardians and carers

- Guide to Clearing
- Higher education terms glossary
- Parent, guardian and carer guide
- Sign up to the newsletter

The UCAS Website – A fantastic resource!



Advice for parents, guardians and carers UCAS

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

Search Heart User Sign in

Home > Discover > Advice for parents, guardians and carers > ...



APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY



How to fill in a UCAS application

If your child has decided university is the right path for them, here's what they'll need to know about making a UCAS application.



Help your child write a great personal statement

Taking a positive approach, and leaving enough time to do a good job, really can make your child's application stand out from the crowd.



What happens once UCAS gets an application?

Find out what we do with your child's application and the different decisions a uni or college can make.



DIDSBURY
SIXTH FORM

University Ranking Websites

- "The Complete University Guide" University Rankings and League Tables 2024 (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)
- Uni Compare | University Degree Course Search: UK Rankings (universitycompare.com) (includes "satisfaction" metrics)
- The Guardian University Guide 2024 – the rankings | University guide | The Guardian
- UK university rankings 2024 | The Times league table | The Times and The Sunday Times (subscription required)
- Find and Compare the Best University & Degree Courses – The Uni Guide (student-run)
- Informed Choices | Informed Choices (if still completely in the dark regarding what to study!)

UCAS

PARENT, GUARDIAN AND CARER GUIDE 2026

Everything you need to support your
child with their higher education choices



How to support your child

- Discuss teacher guidance on improving grades, wider reading and study habits
- Visit the UCAS website and read through the numerous guides
- Plan some university visits using www.opendays.com
- Talk to students about Personal Statements
- Encourage students to book open days and liaise to carpool. Some universities offer finance for train travel.
- Contact DSF if you have any questions at all

Key Dates Overview

- 1st June – 1st Personal Statement draft due
- 19th June – 2nd Personal Statement draft due
- Summer Holidays – Researching and Redrafting
- 15th October – final day for Oxbridge and MDV submission
- 17th October – final day for all submission