

A large, stylized pencil graphic with a yellow body and a pink eraser, pointing towards the top right.A decorative pink graphic consisting of a jagged line at the top right and a vertical bar extending downwards.

HIGHER EDUCATION PARENTS' EVENING

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2011

The logo for 'POST 16', with 'POST' in blue and '16' in a stylized, multi-colored font.

POST 16

A decorative blue graphic at the bottom of the page, featuring a thick horizontal bar and a stylized blue shape on the right side.

FORMAT OF THE EVENING

- The Value of Higher Education
- Introduction to UCAS
- What makes a quality application?
- Support available at Macmillan Academy
- Financing University
- Questions and Refreshments

THE VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- In depth study of one subject area
- Employability
- An investment
 - Over the span of a complete career a degree educated person will earn, on average, £160,000 more
- Opportunity for enjoyment

INTRODUCTION TO UCAS

- Figures from UCAS show that UK applications this year were up by 0.8% to 550,147 (by the end of May).
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS)
- 2012 entry opens 1 September
- UCAS forms are submitted online – 1 form
 - Personal Details
 - Exam Results
 - GCSE
 - AS Level
 - Predicted Grades for A2
 - University Choices
 - Personal Statement
 - Reference

When making decisions, universities look at all of these

UCAS FORM

- Predicted Grades – from subject teachers
- University Choices
 - 5 university choices can be made
 - If you wish to study Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science you can apply for 4 of these courses plus 1 other choice of course
- Personal Statements
- References

UNIVERSITY CHOICES

- Things to consider:
 - The university
 - Campus v city life
 - Big v small
 - Old v new
 - Course content
 - Typical offers
 - Based on 3 A Levels or UCAS points (4 v 3 A levels in Year 13)
 - Be aspirational but realistic

WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- **Justification of your Degree Course**
 - Specific examples of research/reading you have done to support your chosen course
- **Achievements and Aims**
 - Describe recent academic achievements
 - Work experience
 - Career aspirations

CONTINUED ...

- **Strengths/Qualities**

- Show the admissions tutor you are an interesting person who has lots to contribute to the university

- **Skills that you have developed**

- Ability to work independently
- Leadership
- Communication
- Team Work

THE REFERENCE

- Written by Personal Tutors
- Based on subject teacher comments
- Only written when UCAS form is complete and paid for
- Important part of the admissions process

WHO WILL READ MY UCAS FORM?

- Sent electronically to the universities
 - All get it at the same time
 - They don't know where else the form has gone
- The Admissions Tutor
 - A lecturer in the subject
 - Gatekeeper between you and your chosen course
 - Usually starts providing offers as soon as applications are received

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Interviews
- Universities make decisions
 - Track
 - By post
 - Usually a conditional offer (based on certain results)
- Once all have responded it's decision time!
 - 1 firm choice (1st choice)
 - 1 insurance choice (usually a back up so lower grades etc.)
 - May 2012

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Full time Careers Adviser (Ms Cook)
 - G&T Co-ordinator (Mrs Harrison)
 - Tutors
 - Subject teachers
 - Post 16 management team
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- Project Weeks
 - University Open Day Programme
 - Y13 enrolment



KEY DATES

- Careers Day (tomorrow)
 - All students will register with UCAS
- September 2011 onwards - UCAS process begins
 - Time given in registration
 - Students given further advice on courses
 - Assistance with UCAS form/Personal Statement
- 15th October - Closing date for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
 - Specialist advice for all early applicants
 - 1:1 mock interviews for students
- 15th January - Closing date for UCAS
- Assistance with student finance
 - February – Finance Evening

POST



KEY DATES

- Thursday 16 June - Careers Day
- 15th October - Closing date for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- 15th January - Closing date for UCAS
- February – Finance Evening
- May – Decision time!
- August – Results



Costs associated with the UCAS process

- UCAS fee - £11 for a student who uses just one of the five choices allowed, or £22 for students making two or more choices
- Medical and Dental degrees require students to complete an aptitude test (UKCAT). £65 if registered before 31 August 2011
- Oxbridge courses may incur additional fees for admissions tests

Useful websites

- UCAS

www.ucas.com

- Student Finance

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance