



Williamwood

High School

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

Respect * Ambition * Kindness



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UCAS Information Evening 2025

Information for Parents / Carers

Respect * Ambition * Kindness

Agenda

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- **To increase parent/ carer awareness of the UCAS process**
- **To increase awareness of support offered to UCAS applicants**
- **To highlight how both we and you support your young person**

Information

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**Please feel free to take photos of the slides
with key dates although this presentation will
go on our website tomorrow.**



Early Applicants – Key Dates

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- Williamwood High School Internal Deadline – Friday 3rd October
(6 weeks and 1 day)
- School closes for October Break – 9th October
- Pupils Return – 20th October

UCAS deadlines for 2026 entry:

- **15th October: deadline for applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most medicine, dentistry and vet medicine courses.**

Early Applicants – Key Dates

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- **How to apply**

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This is the deadline for applications to be completed and sent for this course. If the university or college still has places available you can apply after this date, but your application is not guaranteed to be considered.

- 1
deadline and recommended courses.

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All Other Applicants – Key Dates

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- Williamwood High School Internal Deadline – Tuesday 11th November
(11 weeks and 5 days)
- School closes for Christmas – 21st December
- Pupils Return – 7th January
- Prelims Begin – 12th January

UCAS deadlines for 2026 entry:

- 14th Jan 2026: 6pm deadline for applications for all other undergraduate courses

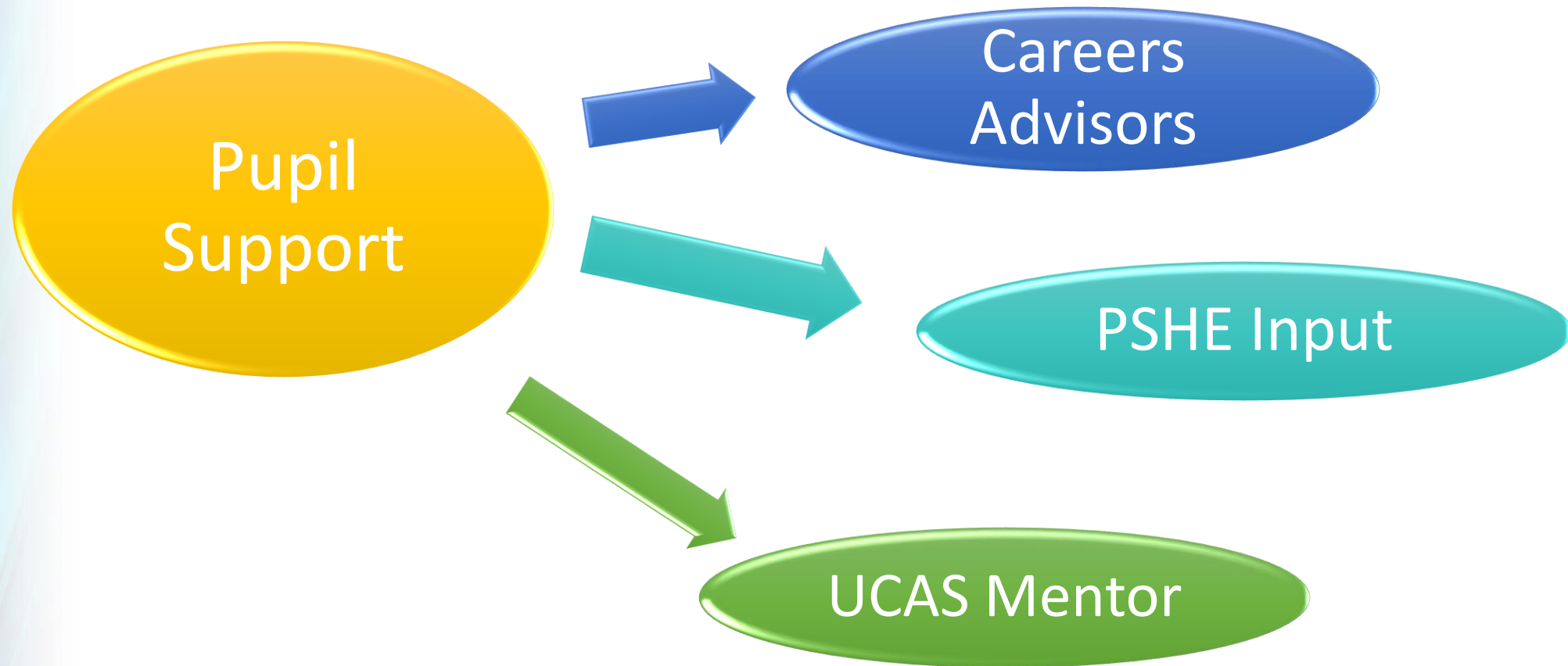
Course Choice

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- Min = 1, Max = 5 per application
- No ranking in order of preference (historically 1 to 5).
- Course application details not shared with all universities.
- All applications carry a fee of £28.95
- Free School Meal = Application Fee Waiver (tick box in Personal Information).

School Support

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Pupil Support

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- PSHE classes organised by House Groups, led by Pupil Support Teacher

PSHE Calendar Overview Session 25-26

Week beginning	S6
11/08/25	Holiday
18/08/25	UCAS
25/08/25	UCAS
01/09/25	UCAS
08/09/25	UCAS
15/09/25	UCAS
22/09/25	UCAS
29/09/25	Holiday
06/10/25	UCAS
13/10/25	Holiday

UCAS Mentor

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- Mentor reviews and provides feedback on the personal statement
- Can be:
 - any member of staff with whom a young person has a strong relationship
 - Specialist teacher in subject related to course
 - Pupil Support Teacher

Pupil Support

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- PSHE classes organised by House Groups, led by Pupil Support Teacher
- Monitor, review, approve and send UCAS applications.
- We check for common mistakes and errors and ensure these are addressed
- Once an application has been paid for and submitted, PTPS completes a final review and submits to UCAS
- At this point applications cannot be withdrawn or edited

Parent / Carer

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Identifying suitable courses-
check entry requirements

Deadlines

Your
Role

Personal
Statement

Additional admissions
entry exams

UCAS Reference

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1

Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre
Overview of the school, facilities, courses offered.

2

Extenuating circumstances

Individual circumstances, factors that may have impacted academic performance

3

Other supportive information to support application.

Evidence of applicants suitability to the course, work experience, academic performance and extracurricular achievements.

S6 Commitment

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- Applicants can receive offers the same day
- S6 is a year long commitment
- Whilst university may be secured, the expectation is for all young people to maintain the highest standards and live our school values until graduation
- S6 pupils are a vital part of the Williamwood community, providing invaluable support and acting as role models for the younger years
- Universities advise successful applicants maintain commitment to studies in preparation for university life



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Jack Brown – Glasgow Caledonian University

Caitlin Houston – Strathclyde University

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UNIVERSITIES OVERVIEW

- UCAS and the Personal Statement
- Preparation for University
- Student Support at University



WHAT IS UCAS?

- UCAS-University and Colleges Admissions Service
- Acknowledges, checks, records, distributes
- UCAS does not make the offer
- Deadlines very important
 - School deadlines
 - UCAS deadlines



UCAS APPLICATION – CONTENT

- Personal details (email contact address)
- Academic qualifications
- Course choices
- Personal Statement
- Teachers reference



APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

- Maximum of 5 choices
- Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- No order of preference
- Universities only see your choices for their institution



PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Sets you apart from the other applicants
- Gives you the opportunity to show how interested you are in your subject
- Shows your range of skills and abilities
- Enables you to detail relevant work experience – especially important for vocational degrees
- Be concise, show your enthusiasm and your motivation and make the most of it!



STRUCTURE

The Personal Statement is made up of 3 questions:

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

Motivation for choosing this course/Knowledge of subject area

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

How are your current and previous studies relevant to your chosen course?

What transferable/core skills do you have?

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

Work experience, volunteering, employment

Personal experiences, any other hobbies, activities or achievements



PERSONAL STATEMENT

What skills and abilities are important?

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Leadership skills
- Ability to work in a team as well as on your own
- Specific skills for your course



TOP TIPS

1. Be Yourself!
2. Make it your own work
3. Use positive language
4. Be concise
5. Proof read!!!
6. Don't be afraid to say good things about yourself!



UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL – THE MAIN DIFFERENCES

- Study – different ways of learning
- Technology – different programmes and uses
- More freedom – managing your time
- Environment – new people, new places
- Finance – the costs of being a student



COSTS OF BEING A STUDENT

- Rent
- Food
- Study supplies (stationary, placement costs)
- Socialising
- Subscriptions e.g. Netflix, Spotify, software etc
- Gym or Sports memberships
- Insurance
- Daily coffee habit!
- Self care



MANAGING YOUR MONEY TOP TIPS

- Plan a realistic budget
- Apply early for grants/loans and research what you're eligible for
- Part time/summer job
- Second hand books/student discounts
- Range of scholarships and bursaries available



STUDENT SUPPORT

Coming to University can bring a mix of emotion, it marks the beginning of a new chapter in life and will bring about many changes – academically, personally and professionally.

You should know that you are not alone in this new chapter – there are other people feeling like you do!

Universities offer a wide range of support services to help you during your time at University and even after it.

Each University has their own support system and may operate differently from another – it is important to check each University website for the support and services available!



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

University support services can help with:

- Academic writing support, including citing and referencing
- Workshops and one-to-one appointments
- Personal tutors and support staff within modules
- Planning
- Structuring Coursework
- Time Management
- Exam preparation



WELLBEING

Some services available are:

- Counselling services
- Wellbeing Advisers/Wellbeing advice
- Mental Health Advisers
- Disability services

For those with accessibility requirements, long-term medical conditions, sensory impairment, mental ill-health, physical impairments, learning disabilities (such as dyslexia).



FINANCIAL & ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION

Universities will offer a range of different support services to make your time in accommodation enjoyable and fair – including hosting activities to boost mental health and resilience.

Universities may also offer support with the private accommodation sector. Whilst they cannot guarantee accommodation, they can help you navigate the private sector.

FINANCIAL

We understand that everyone's financial situation is unique. That is why universities have finance and funding teams to help provide support and advice.

Students may be eligible to access University funds or Scholarships (always check with the University!).

You can book online or in person appointments to receive practical financial advice.



STUDENT UNION

A Student Union/Association is a key part of University life. The Union aims to represent all students at University, ensuring a fair and just process, as well as campaigning to improve University experiences (e.g. free gym membership, breakfast club, etc.). The Union does this through representative officers – Student Presidents and Vice Presidents.

They also provide a range of support including academic, wellbeing, housing, financial and other advice.

Student Unions also host a range of different sports clubs and societies, where students can make new friends and expand their support and friendship networks.



CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY

Universities take pride in offering a range of Careers and Employability services for all students:

- Access to Careers/Job Board, showcasing job opportunities nearby.
- CV Writing Workshops
- Interview Preparation advice and resources
- Graduate recruitment fairs
- Access to a range of online and in-person tools

Careers support often remains following graduation.

HERE TO HELP

Continue your research by chatting with us after this presentation or at your upcoming careers fair.

Our teams will be happy to help you with understanding your course options, entry requirements, and questions about university life.

Useful Links

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www.ucas.com

<https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers>

www.ucas.com/hublive - Up to date events including Q&A's with unis, employers, student apprentices and careers advisors

www.ucas.com/hub-adviser - UCAS Hub is a one stop shop for support for applicants, where they complete their application and communicate with courses

www.ucas.com/careers-quiz - May help identify future career options

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships - Information on different types of Apprenticeships and how to apply

www.myworldofwork.co.uk – Very easy to navigate, offers guidance on jobs, industries, apprenticeships and courses at university and college level. Offers a skills and strengths test to help identify key character strengths to talk about in CV's / applications.

www.apprenticeships.scot – Advertises vacancies in Scotland

Thank you