



Williamwood

High School

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

Respect * Ambition * Kindness



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UCAS Information Evening 2026

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

Timings

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- 5pm – School Presentation
- 5.10pm – Collaborative University Presentation
- 5.40pm – Questions for University Staff
- 6pm – End of the evening

Information

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Please feel free to take photos of the slides with key dates although this presentation will be shared.



Early Applicants – Key Dates

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- Williamwood High School Internal Deadline – Tuesday 6th October
(5 weeks and 5 days)
- School closes for October Break – 8th October
- Pupils Return – 19th 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

• How to apply

-
-

UC

- 1

all health, science, and technology courses.



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.

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All Other Applicants – Key Dates

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- Williamwood High School Internal Deadline – Friday 13th November
(12 weeks and 1 day)
- School closes for Christmas – 18th December
- Pupils Return – 5th January
- Prelims Begin – 11th January

UCAS deadlines for 2026 entry:

- **13th Jan 2027: 6pm deadline for applications for all other undergraduate courses**

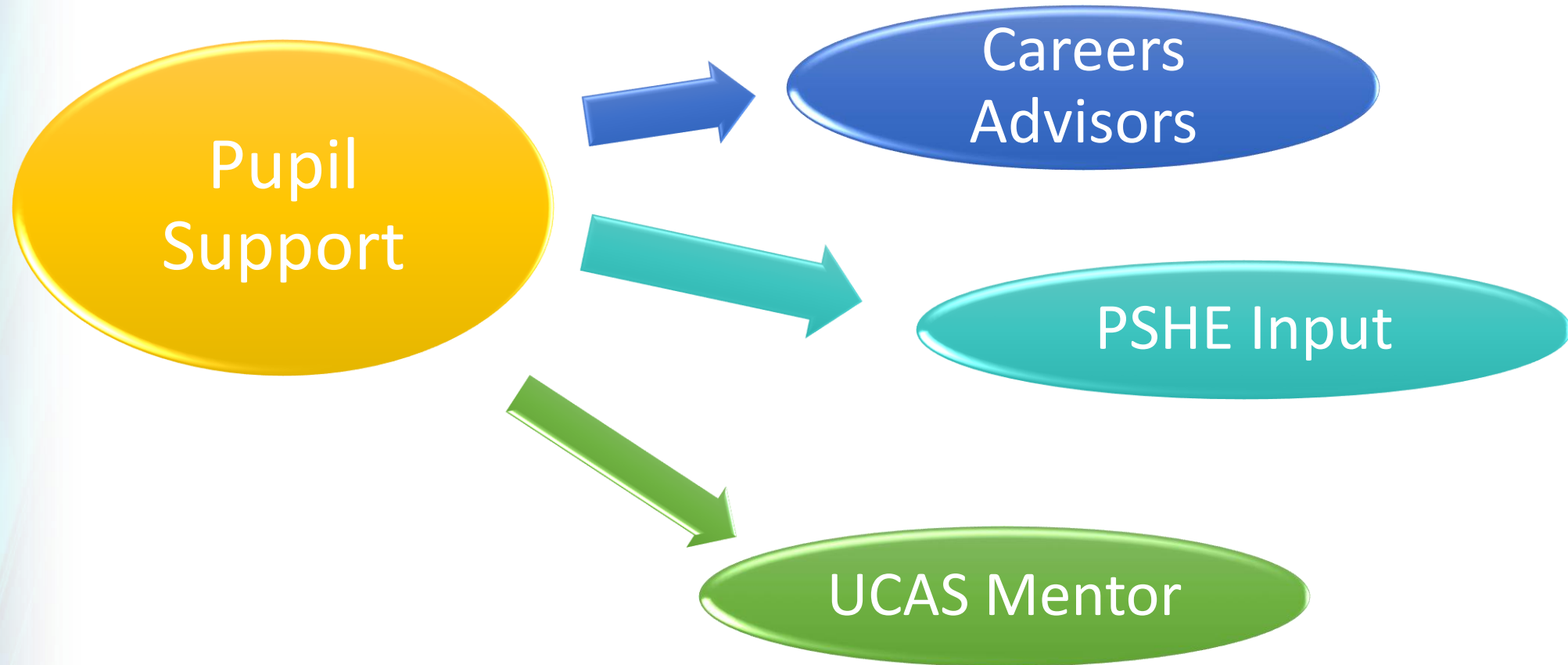
Course Choice

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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 £34.50
- 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

Widening Participation

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- Support coordinated by Mrs Penman (PTPS)
- Focus West
 - Top Up Programme
 - REACH
 - Portfolio Development (GSA)
- Other opportunities available

Widening Participation

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Widening participation refers to efforts by universities to increase access to higher education for students from **underrepresented** or **disadvantaged backgrounds**. The aim is to create a more inclusive and fair admissions process.

Key Points:



Focus Groups: Includes students from:

- Low-income or low socioeconomic backgrounds
- First generation in their family to attend university
- Schools with low progression to higher education
- Areas of low participation in HE (e.g. POLAR4 Q1/Q2)
- Certain ethnic minorities or care-experienced students



Contextual Admissions:

- Universities may **consider personal and educational context** alongside academic achievements.
- Lower offers or extra consideration at interview stage may be given.



Access and Outreach:

- WP students may be eligible for **summer schools, mentoring, application support, or taster days**.
- Programs like **Oxbridge's UNIQ, Sutton Trust Summer Schools, REACH, Top Up** and **Pathways to Medicine** are common.



Flagging on UCAS:

- Some applicants are flagged for WP support through school data or specific indicators (e.g. free school meals, postcode, etc.).



Benefits:

- Extra support during application.
- Targeted scholarships, bursaries, and sometimes lower grade requirements.
- Access to specialist guidance and resources.

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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UCAS Information Evening 2026

Gregory Barton – Stirling University

Ande Moore – University of the West of Scotland

Respect * Ambition * Kindness



Preparing for University

Preparing for university study

- Do your research
- Be organised
- Use available support
- Know yourself, your interests and your skills



Choosing your course



- Choose up to 5 courses on your UCAS application
- UCAS Search



DONE

+ University or college

+ Subjects

+ Entry requirements

📍 Where do you want to study?

🚗 How far do you want to travel?

Point of entry ?

All ▼

Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

🏠 Hub

🗪 For you

📖 Favourites

🕒 What to do

📍 Where to go

🔍 Search

🔍 What are you looking for?

< Search all | 33227 courses from 349 providers

☰ List

🗪 Grid

🔼 Sort by: Best match

🔍 Filters

Undergraduate ▼

2024-2025 ▼

🗑 Clear filters

Choosing your Course

Tens of thousands of
courses across the UK.

Which course is “best”?

The course that suits
you!

Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

What are you looking for?

< Search all | 30952 courses from 292 providers

Filters

Undergraduate

2026-2027

Clear filters

How to choose the right undergraduate course for you

Are you stuck deciding which subject, course type, or uni or college is right for you? Read on for our tips and advice on tackling this big decision.

Important things to consider

- What are the entry requirements?
- What is the course content?
- How will I be taught and assessed?
- What is the student experience like?
- Are there other pathways to University?
- Can I visit the University to find out more?



Personal Statement

Personal Statement

- 3 questions
- 4000 total character count – min. 350 characters per question
- Plagiarism checker on work submitted
- Use ChatGPT/AI with caution

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

Talk about your passion for subject area, any extra-curricular activities related to the subject, and any future plans related to course choice

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

Talk about current studies relevant to your chosen course, or transferable skills to prepare for university study

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

Talk about other work or other personal experience, hobbies, and achievements outside of school

Why is the personal statement important?

- To decide whether to make an offer – we check that you have the right motivation and understanding for the subject you want to study
- To shortlist applicants – some courses have an interview process or a second stage
- For applicants to stand out – lots of students may apply to our most popular courses with the same grades – personal statement helps us get to know you better especially if there's no interview
- To check work experience – for some courses, we might expect you to have completed some paid or voluntary work experience

What are we looking for?

It's as easy as...

A

Activity

*What experience do I have?
What have I done at school?*

B

Benefit

*What did I learn from this?
What skills did I gain?*

C

Course

*How will this relate to the
course I want to study?*

ABC

1. Think about the skills or experience for your course
2. What skills or experience do you have that matches this?
3. How do these link back to your plans and course choice



Skills and experience for my degree	My skills and experience
• Demonstrating interest and passion for subject	• Did extra reading • Attended taster session • Watched documentary
• Team work • Communication • Time management	• Taking part in sports • Committees at school • Part time job
• Work experience related to subject and career choice	• Better understanding of career and what job involves

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

- Course: BA (Hons) Primary Education with Specialism in Literacy

Following my work experience, I volunteered at my local library to support the Summer Reading Challenge. As a volunteer, I supported library staff with day-to-day tasks, and I was responsible for organising an event in the library to encourage children to enjoy reading outside of school. This allowed me to gain further experience in working with children and planning educational activities to promote literacy skills.

To develop my understanding of working with primary school children, I completed work experience at a local primary school in S5. I spent one week shadowing a Primary 4 teacher and observing the different responsibilities such as behaviour management and lesson planning. Working with this class for a full week allowed me to better understand the primary curriculum and the interdisciplinary approach between subject areas. For example, I enjoyed seeing how numeracy skills were reinforced by learning to count and complete simple sums in Spanish, and how a creative writing activity was based on a recent class trip to a local museum. I also found it very useful to talk to teachers about the challenges they experience as part of their roles to gain a realistic understanding of the job.

These experiences have reinforced my desire to study Primary Education and has been useful in preparing for the practical elements of this course, where I look forward to completing placements as a student teacher.



Personal statement guides

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/personal-statement-guides>

think
Stirling



STUDENT SUPPORT & THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



UWS.AC.UK



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Personal
tutors/advisers

Study skills
workshops

Academic
writing
support

Library
resources

Subject-
specific
guidance



UWS.AC.UK





WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Counselling
services

Mental health
advisers

Wellbeing
workshops

Stress
management
resources



UWS.AC.UK



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding and
loans

Scholarships
and bursaries

Budgeting
advice

Hardship
funds

Part-time
work
opportunities



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STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student services
teams

Disability
support

Careers services

Accommodation
support



UWS.AC.UK



CLUBS, SOCIETIES & SPORTS

Sports Clubs

Academic &
hobby based
societies

Cultural
groups

Volunteering

Leadership
roles



UWS.AC.UK



BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Student
unions

Peer
mentoring

Welcome
events

Networking



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TIPS FOR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Get involved

Ask for help

Manage your
time

Build a
support
network

Maintain
balance



UWS.AC.UK



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

Thank you