



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

HIGHER EDUCATION - Support at OHS: FAQs

Higher Education Support at OHS FAQs

Which universities do OHS students go to and what do they study?

We encourage our students to apply to leading universities in the UK and beyond for subjects they are good at and enjoy. OHS students are highly regarded by universities and are enormously successful in achieving offers from all leading universities. The destinations of our 2011- 2019 Leavers and their degree courses are included in this guide. Typically, 20-25% of our applicants are successful in securing places at Oxford and Cambridge and 1 in 8 for Medicine. Typically, we enjoy a 100% success rate for Medicine; over 80% of our applicants routinely achieve places at Russell Group Plus universities and between 80% and 90% meet their first choice offer.

What guidance is offered at OHS to help students choose the courses and universities which are right for them?

Miss Pallas-Brown (Director of Sixth Form), Dr Strobel (Head of Careers and Lifelong Learning), Mrs Claire Chipchase (Deputy Director of Sixth Form) and the Sixth Form Tutors are all on hand to discuss UCAS applications with students. The timetable we follow is enclosed in this booklet. Last term we introduced Year 12 students to the websites Unifrog, CareersCompanion, Higher Ideas, SACU and the UCAS course search which students can use to find information about courses and institutions. Later this term applicants for Medicine will have a conference on all aspects of the application process for Medicine, including a focus on interviews. We have covered the UCAS application process, students have begun on-going discussion of their plans with their Tutor and relevant subject teachers in addition to attending the Higher Education Evening. In the Summer Term we provide workshops on personal statements and the UCAS form as well as guidance and preparation on pre-interview tests and interview preparation. Subject teachers will provide guidance on wider reading. 2018 Leavers will be invited to talk to Year 12 in the Summer Term about their university and Gap Year experiences. In the Autumn Term of Year 13, advice on wider reading continues and we organise practice interviews with constructive feedback so that girls approach interviews with confidence. All this is in addition to the regular talks, lectures and other events we organise for students such as Life Lunches, weekly TMPMedSoc, the Careers Event, interview preparation and opportunities to attend university-run Taster Days, Master Classes and conferences. We expect students to be proactive and organised in taking advantage of these opportunities.

What support does GDST offer?

BMAT, UCAT and LNAT preparation days are all organised by the GDST, in addition to the Oxbridge Conference, and draw on the wide range of expertise within the GDST as well as making use of other organisations. These events take place in the Summer Term and more information will be provided later this term. The GDST Careerstart Programme has an extensive range of Insight Days and networking opportunities with a variety of leading global companies just for GDST Sixth Form students.

Can students apply post A-Level?

Yes. Each year several students choose to apply post A-Level. Students who choose to do this get the same level of support from us as those who apply pre A-Level. Dr Strobel and Miss Pallas-Brown meet with post A-Level applicants in the course of Year 13 and are available from publication of A-Level results onwards for advice and guidance. Post A-Level applicants are very welcome to come into school to use the resources in the Careers Centre and to see staff after they have left school. Our support to post A-Level applicants is all part of our after-sales service.



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What help do students receive if they wish to take a Gap Year?

Gap Year opportunities like internships, jobs and volunteering placements are advertised in Sixth Form assemblies and we also e-mail information to students. Places on graduate internship schemes with prestigious global companies like HSBC and Nomura Bank are on offer to GDST Sixth Formers. Information about different Gap Year organisations is available in the Careers Centre and we can put students in touch with former students who can share their experiences. Dr Strobel and Miss Pallas- Brown, together with the Sixth Form Tutors, are also on hand to advise and help students plan an exciting, productive and focused Gap Year which will enhance their university application.

What happens to the UCAS form once a student has completed it?

Each UCAS form, including personal statement, will be checked and proof-read by the Tutor. Each section of the form is checked carefully. This is a big undertaking and we expect students to adhere to our internal deadlines so that there is plenty of time for this. Tutors pass the checked UCAS forms to Miss Pallas-Brown, who then checks the forms again and attaches the reference. Each UCAS form is read and approved by the Head before it is sent to UCAS. At each stage we return forms to students if there are any alterations to be made.

Who writes the UCAS reference?

Subject teachers provide information for Tutors, who are responsible for writing the reference for each student in the Form. The references are then passed to Miss Pallas-Brown who checks and edits them and attaches them to the UCAS form. The UCAS reference is an extremely important part of the application and we take great care to ensure that each reference reflects the academic and personal strengths of each student.

How are predicted grades determined?

The predicted grades that will be entered onto the UCAS form are decided in September of Year 13. We look carefully at performance in the Year 12 internal exams and any other assessments as well as performance throughout Year 12 to determine predicted grades for the UCAS form. In June of Year 12 students will receive provisional predicted grades for each subject. We give students provisional predicted grades at this stage as part of our academic monitoring and to help students make realistic decisions about courses and institutions.

How can students ensure a strong UCAS application?

Our advice to all students is:

- Make use of resources;
- Seek and act on advice;
- Start early—writing a strong personal statement takes time;
- Stick to deadlines;
- Perform to your best in assessments and internal exams;
- Undertake wider reading and anything which shows commitment and enthusiasm for your chosen course, and the chance to develop transferable skills.