



# Sidmouth College

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# Sidmouth College

## UCAS Information Evening.

### May 2023



# Agenda!



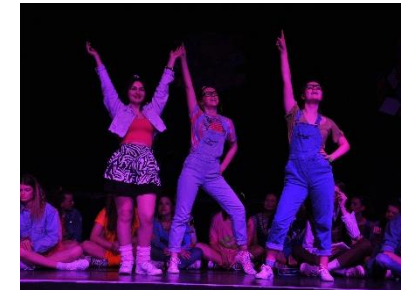
- Welcome
- Introductions
- Post A Level options
- University Journey
- .TimeLine and key dates.
- How to make your UCAS application
- What happens after applying
- Student Finance.

# Introductions



Mrs Sue Hurley  
Head of Post 16  
Sidmouth College.

Mr Karl Devincenzi  
Schools relationship Manager  
Exeter University



University  
*of* Exeter



# Post A Level options.



Higher  
education



Apprenticeships/  
traineeships



Studying  
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job



# Why Higher Education?

## Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

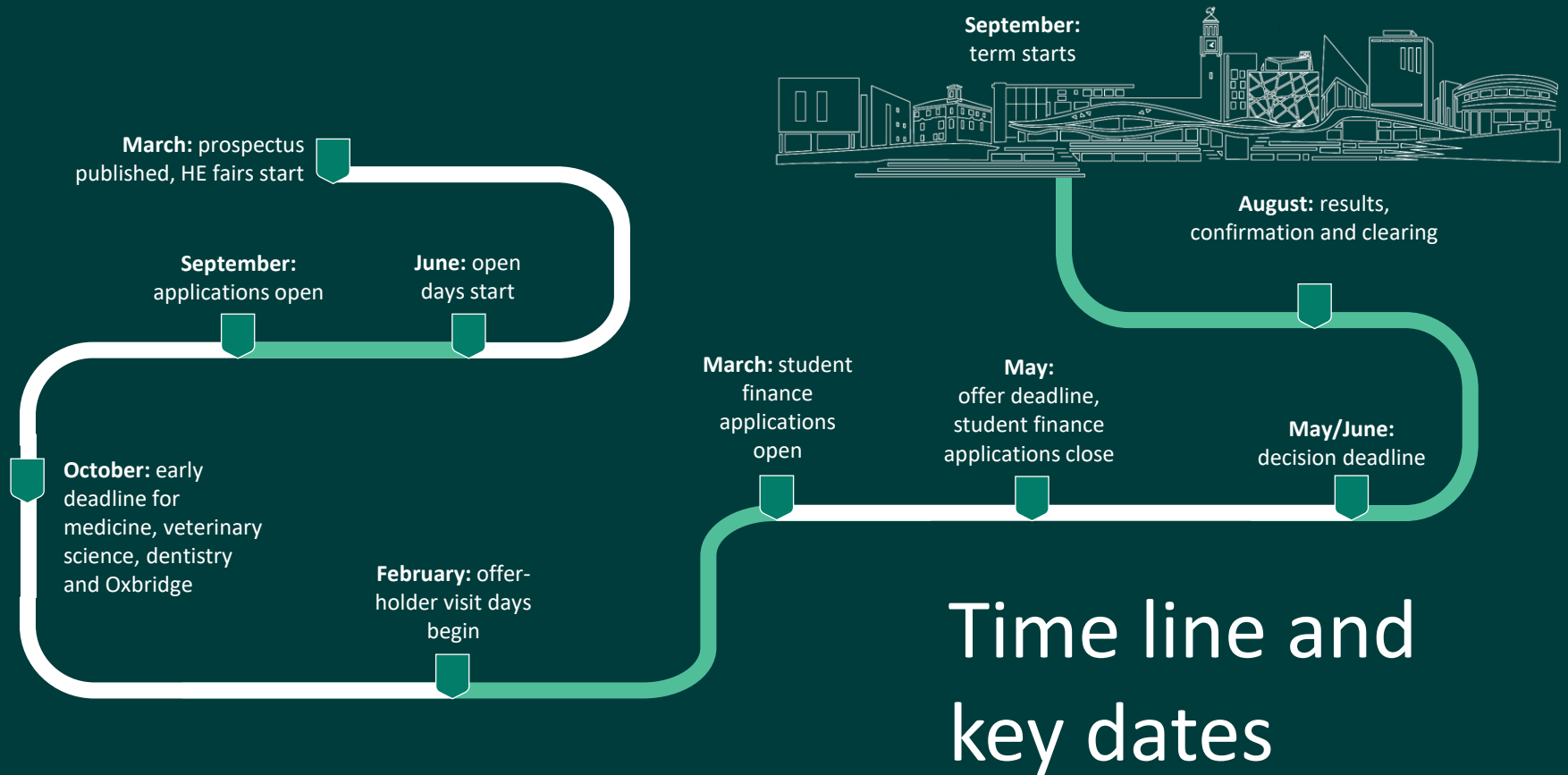
## With a degree, they'll have:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential





# Your journey



# Choosing the right university!

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.





# Choosing the right course!

What does the course cover?

Courses with the same title may be very different.

Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.

Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?

See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.

How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?

How is the course assessed?



# The Application Process

It is an online application

Maximum of 5 choices

Choice restrictions

Medicine, veterinary, dentistry.

Maximum of 4

Oxford or Cambridge

Application costs:

One choice: £20.

Two to five choices: £26.

Equal consideration.



# Completing a UCAS application

A student  
registers at:  
[ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply)

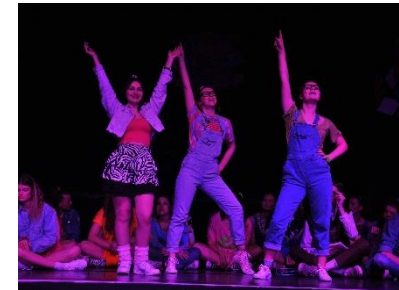
Sections to complete:

1. Personal details
2. Additional information
3. Student finance
4. Choices
5. Education
6. Employment
7. Personal statement
8. Referee details

Teacher/  
adviser adds  
their  
reference

Universities/  
colleges make their  
decisions

Applications  
are sent to  
UCAS



# The Personal Statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed



# References!

Section one	General statement about the school/college/centre
Section two	If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the application's education and achievement.
Section three	Other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the courses applied for that universities should be aware of.
Section four	Predicted grade

The reference is most valuable where it is providing us with additional, contextual information about the student (especially where their educational journey has been, in any way, non-standard). There is considerable variation in what is included in the current reference so the hope is the reformed statement will be fairer to all applicants



# References! Section examples

UCAS School and Sixth Form Centre is a large, comprehensive, and inclusive academy. Typically, students take three A levels or combine A level study with a BTEC course. The EPQ and Core Maths qualifications are additional options open to all students.. 40% of students qualify for pupil premium and many are the first in their family to apply for university. Internal exams and assessments sat in Y13 are used to inform predicted grades. Students end of term exams results in Year 12 are used to base predicted grades for October deadline courses. **Section one**

Catrin's Year 12 assessment, along with the rest of her cohort, was impacted by an unfortunate staffing challenge, which led to her class having two new teachers in the space of three months in subject XX. She has recovered well from the disruption and remains positive, and we feel that her tenacity will help her to close some of the gap. However, her final grades may not truly reflect her natural intellect and ability. **Section two.**





# References! Section examples

Olivia is a gifted and talented national and GB level U18 national squad hockey player. During her studies she has spent significant time away from the classroom to engage with rigorous training. This has the potential to put pressure on her academic work, however, Olivia has never failed to make up for lost learning time. Olivia's attitude, commitment, and drive to succeed is nurtured through her sport is also apparent in her studies. We hope that her future university will be supportive in enabling her to continue to balance her academic and sporting commitments; if they do, they will find the skills she brings back to the learning environment highly rewarding.

## Section three

Rose is the strongest of a large cohort and an outstanding Biologist. Her wider reading and passion for the subject underpins her vast subject knowledge and she was involved in the Biology Olympiad, achieving a Silver Award. An exceptional chemist, she is one of the most able in the cohort, consistently placed in the top 5% in assessments. Practical skills within the sciences is of particular note, gaining high marks in her practical exam. Her practical skills also benefited her in her recent study of aspirin which she completed to a very high standard. She used her highly developed manipulative skills to synthesise aspirin and then successfully analysed her sample using thin layer chromatography and NMR spectroscopy



# Sidmouth College Dates



19 May	Introduction to university and the ucas process within PD.
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Introduction to personal statements within PD
28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 trial examinations.
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Introduction to Degree apprenticeships within PD.
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Employability week and UCAS/Personal statement review.



**8 September** First day for receipt of completed applications.

**15 October\*** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford **or** Cambridge.

**15 January\*** Equal consideration application deadline.

**30 June\*** Last date for applications before Clearing.



# After Applying!

## University decisions:

Unconditional offer

Conditional offer

Unsuccessful or withdrawn

## Applicant replies:

Firm acceptance

Insurance acceptance

Decline



# What should be done now?

Research

Extra curricular activities

Work experience

Extra reading around subject areas.

Focus on the trial examinations.



# What support can you offer?

Research: Parent/guardian section of the UCAS website

Sign up: Signup for updates from ucas, especially those that involve the application process.

Open Days: Attend virtual events and open days

Money! Student finance.







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