

A photograph of three students sitting on a grassy field. On the left, a young man with glasses and a striped scarf is looking at a laptop. In the middle, a young woman is smiling and looking towards the man. On the right, another young woman is looking down at a laptop. A large, semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The background shows trees with autumn foliage under a bright sky.

**Rushcliffe School:
Applying to university
The UCAS process at our school
Guide for Parents**

UCAS

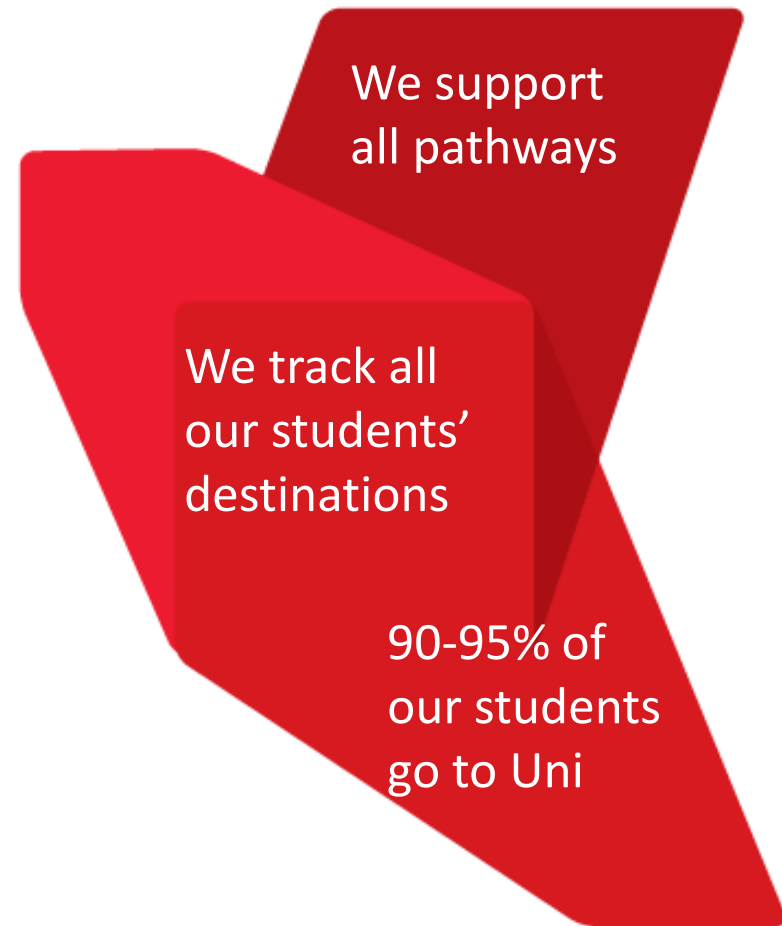
What we will look at?

- Post 6th form options?
- The Context of Higher Education in the UK today
- *“I’m not sure about going to Uni...?”*
- *“How do I choose a Uni...?”*
- Entry Requirements
- Some key Facts
- Personal statements
- *“What is the points system...?”*
- Time lines
- How we support students at Rushcliffe
- What if they change their mind or don’t get the grades?
- *“Where should I get information from...?”*

Post 6th form options

- University
- Foundation Courses
- Apprenticeship
- Gap Year
- Job

- We support all!



Context: UK higher education



- 370+ Higher Education Providers (HEPs) recruiting via UCAS
- 37,000+ courses
- 685,000 anticipated applicants (2015)

“Our son / daughter is not sure whether to go to University”

- The school’s advice and common sense suggests the following...
- Unless you are 100% certain you are NOT going to University for any reason, apply anyway and keep your options open.
- Or defer?
- So, now you will probably apply – how do you choose which Uni?


Keep options open?

Apprenticeships?
Year out?
Job?

Rushcliffe school supports all pathways

How to choose a Uni?

- Open Days
 - Halls of residence
 - Private Housing
 - Meet students / teachers
 - How switched on is the Uni
 - Look around the city
 - Get a feel for the place...
- KPI – see sheet later
- Internet – Specific information about the course



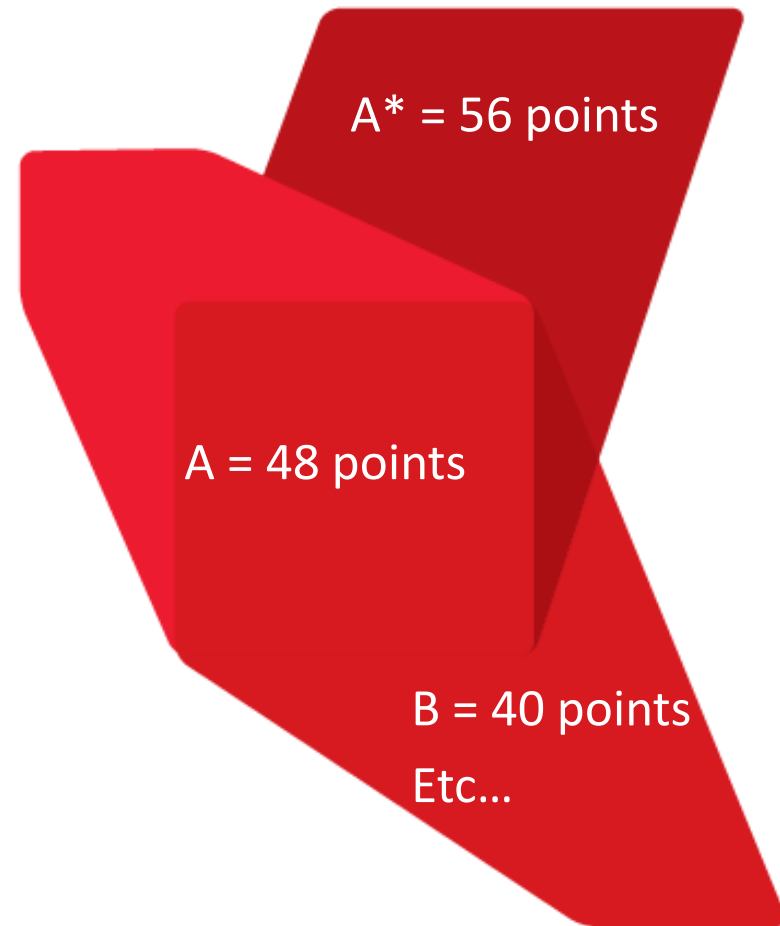
Visit as many
as you can

Saturdays if
possible, if not
in July

If you can't go,
use prospectus,
use internet
etc..

Entry Requirements

- Each Uni offers its own entry requirements for each course
- Some use points e.g. 120 points is equivalent of B,B,B
- Top Unis tend to offer specific grades, e.g. A, A, B
- It is vital the 5 universities your student applies to are roughly in line with their ability – i.e. their predicted grades



Some Key Facts

- Your son / daughter will apply for 5 universities – In line with their ability!
- They may get offers or refusals from each of these
- Students will pick 2 from these offers - 1 firm and 1 insurance
- They wait for their grades to see if they have got in
- Clearing if necessary




90% of Rushcliffe pupils go to Universities

If you don't get any offers you can go through clearing

If you accept an offer and get that grade, you should go

Personal statements

- The personal statement is 1 part of the total UCAS application process
- Tends to be the cause of anxiety
- There is a structure to follow
- It will get checked by form tutor AND Head of year
- Keep doing drafts
- **Have 1 ready by straight after the summer**
- It's 1 side of A4 about themselves!



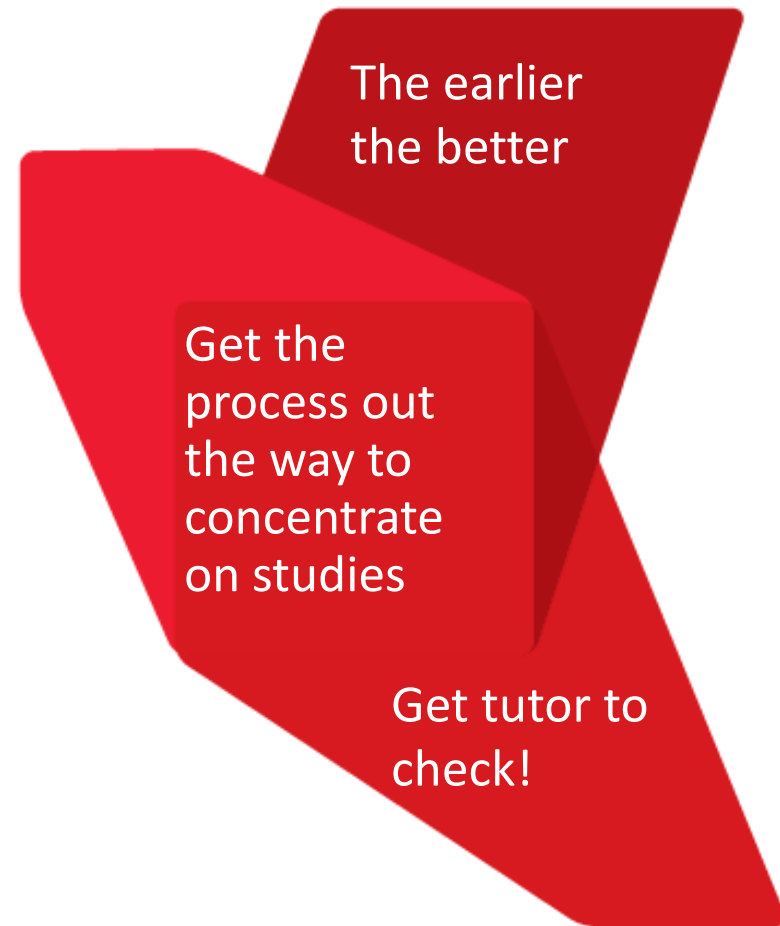
UCAS
deadline
January

School
deadline Oct
half term

Try and get a
1st draft done
September!

Time lines

- Open Days – between now and Summer and some 1st half term
- Personal Statement - 1st draft Sept 2015
- UCAS application - School deadline – Oct half term
- Final UCAS deadline – 15th January 2017




Time Lines continued...

- Competitive courses are much sooner than these dates (15th October)
- Students get offers any time after application submitted
- If students have more than 2 offers they firmly accept 2 around spring 2017
- The sooner the better!!!!



How we support the process at Rushcliffe

- Tutor time – now until Xmas
- Computer rooms in form
- Check personal statement drafts and application
- Offer advice based on experience
- 2 Bright Days, UNIFROG, Outside Speakers
- Head of year, Head of 6th form and mentor available
- 5 Uni spread



We have done this every year for years!

Dedicated form tutor who knows the pupil

OFSTED look at our post 16 pathways

“What if they change their mind?”

- If you now want to go when you didn't – should have applied anyway!
- Don't want to go any more – pull out
- Don't want to do that course – pull out and go through Clearing
- Don't get grades – Clearing or
- ...Gap year. 8 did this last year – We help these pupils!



Choosing a Uni - Key Performance Indicators

- Quality Assurance Agency Rating
- Destinations of leavers
- Graduate Employability
- Unistats
- Research ratings
- National Student Survey Outcomes – for the University and for the course
- And where do you get this information from...

Guides and KPI

- [the Times University Guide - The Sunday Times](#)
- *www.thesundaytimes.co.uk › Home › News Review › Education*
- [Which? University - find the best university & degree course](#)
- *www.university.which.co.uk*

- [Complete University Guide: Home](#)
- [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](#)

- *UCAS Website*

- *This PPT will be on the school website*

Any Questions?

EXTREMELY USEFUL RESOURCE: www.ucas.tv

