

Holmes Chapel 6th Form College

Post 18 Options Information Evening

[Video summary](#)



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We have consistently high expectations



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Mrs McDermott
Head of Yr 12&13

Mrs Greeney
**Student Support
Manager**



Mrs Jackson
Careers Adviser



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Tutor Team

Mrs Bentley

Mrs Buehling

Ms Shaw

Mrs Thomas

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Purpose of this presentation is to introduce:

- Post 18 options available to students
- Preparation and application process

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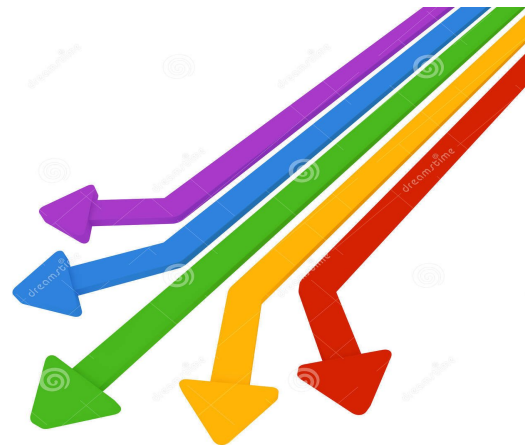


Possible Options Post 18

Higher Education (University)

Further Education (Colleges)

Apprenticeships
(Degree L6-7/ Higher L4-5)



Gap Year

Employment
(with training)

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Common pathways - University

- Most common destination for students at HC6F, with around 75% applying to University each year.
- National figures: 30-40% of 18 year olds will go to university.



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The benefits of continuing in education?

- Essential for some careers
- Develop transferable skills
- Increase subject knowledge
- Increase confidence and independence
- Meet new people
- Increased job prospects
- Higher earning potential
- Broaden experiences

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Timeline - Post-18 Options

June - July 2026

PD and Tutor Activities

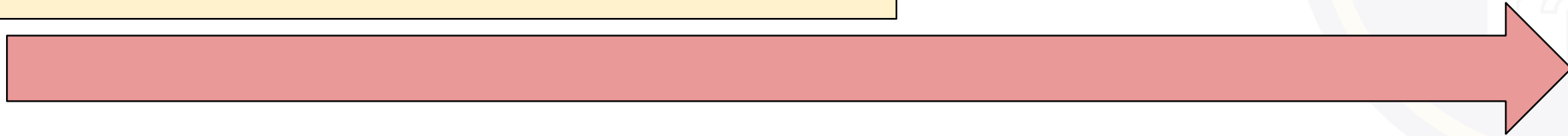
- Personal Statement & Application Letter writing guidance

Explore Open Days & Options

ALW: Visit to Uni and research in College

August 2026

Finalise ideas and draft personal statement/letters



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Timeline - Post-18 Options

15 October 2026

UCAS Early Entry deadline
(Medics, Vets & Oxbridge)

27th November 2026

HC6F UCAS Entry Deadline

30th October 2026

Final Drafts for Personal
Statement/Application Letter

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Timeline - Post-18 Options

November onwards 2026

Apprenticeship
applications open

May 2027

Finalise UCAS options
& Student Finance

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Preparation and research: University - do now

- Take the UCAS Quiz to find your career matches
- Use the UCAS website and the student HUB
- Useful apps include Uni Compare and WhatUni
- Start thinking/planning a personal statement
- Possible volunteering opportunities / work experience
- Super-curricular opportunities: competitions, online courses

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Before you begin your application, please consider:

- Choose something you enjoy – you're investing time, money & effort
- Is it right for your chosen career path? (check with employers and professional organisations)
- Location – city or rural, transport links
- Environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- Finances: tuition fees, living costs

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Consider the following, in relation to chosen courses:

- Courses with the same title may be very different
- Look carefully at the core course content and the optional modules
- Which modules are the most relevant to your career aspirations?
- Does the university offer placement or study abroad?
- The taught course – structured teaching or independent research?
- How is the course assessed? Choose a style that suits you.

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Thinking about entry requirements: The UCAS tariff system

A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Pearson
BTEC Level 3
National
Extended
Certificate

D* 56

D 48

M 32

P 16

Applying to UCAS - Predicted Grades

Predicted grades:

Predicted grades are **optimistic** but **realistic**.
University choices should reflect these grades.

Predicted grades are not the same as interim grades.

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Applying to UCAS

- Applications are online
- Five choices (£34.50 admin fee)
- Medicine, veterinary & dentistry have 4 choices + 1 other
- Oxbridge applications can choose only one or the other
- Other Universities can't see what else you have applied for

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Offer types:

- **Unconditional** (not as many of these in recent years- grades still checked by employers so you must still try)
- **Conditional** (must meet certain grades)
- Dependent of **interview** (might have to show portfolio or do admissions tests)

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Offer acceptance choices:

- Online system called **The HUB** allows you to follow progress of application
- Choose a **Firm choice** (where you'll be placed if meet entry requirements)
- **Insurance** (lower conditions incase firm choice not met)

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Student Finance England

Tuition fees & Maintenance Loan = Student Debt

- All student debt is paid back through tax
- **9% of earnings over £25,000**
- For example: if someone earns £28K then they pay 9% of £3K so would pay back around £23 a month.
- Not paid after 40 years then it is cleared.

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Student Finance England

Tuition fees are a maximum **£10,050** per year.
These are paid upfront - not means tested - paid directly to the University.

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Student Finance England

Maintenance loan: depends on personal circumstances as well as where and when studying takes place.

Paid directly to student.

Currently students can borrow up to:

- **£8879** if living at home with parents
- **£10,544** if away from home (this increases to £13,348 if studying in London)

There are variations to this - please check [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website for specific circumstances.



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Student Finance England

- **Scholarships, grants & bursaries:** don't need to be paid back. Apply directly to Uni for this, dependent on circumstances & abilities.
- Apply early!! Window usually open from January-May

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Apprenticeships & Higher Technical Qualifications

Work and
Industry skill based
learning

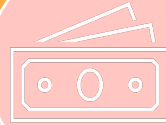
UCAS



Study



Job



Wage
*

Apprenticeship Levels

Name	Level	Eq. education
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A -level develop industry understanding
Higher	4,5	Professional/foundation/Higher Technical
Degree	6,7	Bachelors/ Masters

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Studying a Degree Apprenticeship:

The Course Structure

- Day or block release at University
- Some online contact
- Assessment termly & tailored to projects at work
- Real job role responsibility
- Average starting salary of approximately **£21-28k** per year

Higher/Degree Apprenticeships

- Mix of academic and practical/work based learning (80/20)
- Degree no Debt
- Real world experience
- Increased Employability (last yr 93%)
- Fewer Employers taking on entry level starts last 2 years
- Highly competitive
- Challenging!

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An example of a Higher Apprenticeship



- 80- 120 UCAS points+ gcse maths/eng
- Evidence of work experience required
- Audit, Finance, compliance, tech, business leader
- Professional Qualifications or HNC/D - Hons Degree
- A range of work placements to give you the broadest skills and experience possible before specialising
- Earning capacity can reach around £30K before the course is complete

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An example of a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship

B B C

- Production, journalism, engineering, operations, tech, business
- Level 3 qualifications as a minimum
- Demonstrate active interest in the media
- 22.5k starting salary
- Opportunity for further qualifications

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An example of a Degree Apprenticeship



- Minimum 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above
- 3 A level passes - person/job fit recruitment
- Business and Finance/Audit
- Rotation work placement before specialising
- Professional & Bachelors Degree qualifications
- circa 24k starting salary

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An example of a Degree Apprenticeship

- Minimum entry 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above
- 2 or 3 A level passes B grade (subject specific dependant on role)
- Business, technology, Science, IT
- Rotation work placements before specialising
- Full bachelors Degree
- 15k starting Salary

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The Recruitment Process

- Method varies by employer- online application, CV, Letter, assessment centres
- Screening tests are common psychometric, aptitude, personality, skill etc...
- Interviews: 1-1, group, telephone, online live or recorded

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The Recruitment Process

- No limit on number of applications you can make
- Employers are looking for variety of personal skills and qualities as well as qualifications
- Work experience is very highly regarded

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What next.....

Research.....

- Research Industries and Apprentice Job roles/levels available
- Research Organisations and their Apprenticeship Offers
- Research Universities Offering Higher & Degree Apprenticeship

Take note of what's required - personal skills, qualities, experiences as well as subject/grade requirements

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What next.....

Take action....

- Work on developing you - personal skills, industry insights, experience etc to ensure you have the edge
- Work on an effective CV - that sells you

Make Applications....

- Search & respond to advertised vacancies
- Make speculative applications
- Use existing employer contacts!!

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Useful resources.....

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk>

Discover job roles by industry, interest, subjects

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

Industry guides, reviews, best employer ranking,

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

<https://notgoingtouni.co.uk>

Vacancy search/apply, industry guides...

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Higher Technical Qualifications...

Practical, skill based employer led Level 4&5 courses

- Developed by employers and awarding bodies: **exact knowledge, behaviours & skills businesses are looking for**
- Based on the same set of standards as **apprenticeships** to offer sector specific training
- Flexible - Full/part time/distance learning - 1 to 2 years
- Fees to pay, eligible for Student finance (**4.5-9.5 k**)
- Search/apply using Ucas/ local institutions directly

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Higher Technical Qualifications...

Higher national certificate - Level 4 (1 year)

Higher national diploma – Level 5 (2 years)

Foundation degrees – Level 5 (2 years)

What next?

- Enter the workplace with valuable knowledge & skills
- Higher/Degree level Apprenticeship
- A full Honours Degree (top up system)

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Higher Technical Qualifications...

- digital
- health and science
- construction and the built environment
- business and administration
- education and early years
- engineering and manufacturing
- legal, finance and accounting
- agriculture, environmental and animal care
- catering and hospitality
- creative and design
- Media

Offered at a range of Universities and F.E & Technical Colleges with Higher Education Departments linked to a University

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Gap Year



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What is a Gap Year?

Not a year off - opportunity for development

You can choose: **Volunteer**
Paid work
Travel
Study

[Gap Year/prospects.ac.uk](https://gapyear/prospects.ac.uk)

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Things to consider

- **Add value to a CV** - new skills, gain new experiences, personal skills
- **Take time out to really consider next steps**
- **Earn and save money**
- **Develop maturity**
- **Harder to return to study or work**
- **Expensive**
- A year of **“nothing”** looks bad on your CV

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How parents can support their children at this time:

- Discuss and explore all options over the summer.
- Encourage them to complete their draft personal statements/ application letters within the deadline.
- Prompt them to include experiences and strengths that we may not know about.
- Apprenticeship pathways- encourage child to be proactive

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Further Information:

- Parent, Guardian and Carer guide on UCAS website ([Parent and Carer Guide](#)) and shared on the letter sent out.

These slides will be available on the Sixth Form area of the website, with links available.

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Advice from previous Year 13 students:

Do your research - go to as many possible uni open days before you choose and go with the uni that you can see yourself in and you have a good feeling about (when you know, you know)

If you choose a subject that requires an interview, confidence is key but be yourself as they want to see your personality and how you stand out from the crowd (which is also important in the personal statement/questions).

Explore all of your options including degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and university- find what works best for you to get the most out of your higher education.

Over the summer, do as many activities as you can that would be helpful for your personal statement e.g start a new hobby / volunteer / raise money for charity.

Start your personal statement as early as possible. If you are struggling with your personal statement, ask your teachers to help, especially teachers linked to the subject you intend to study.

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Contact Us::

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