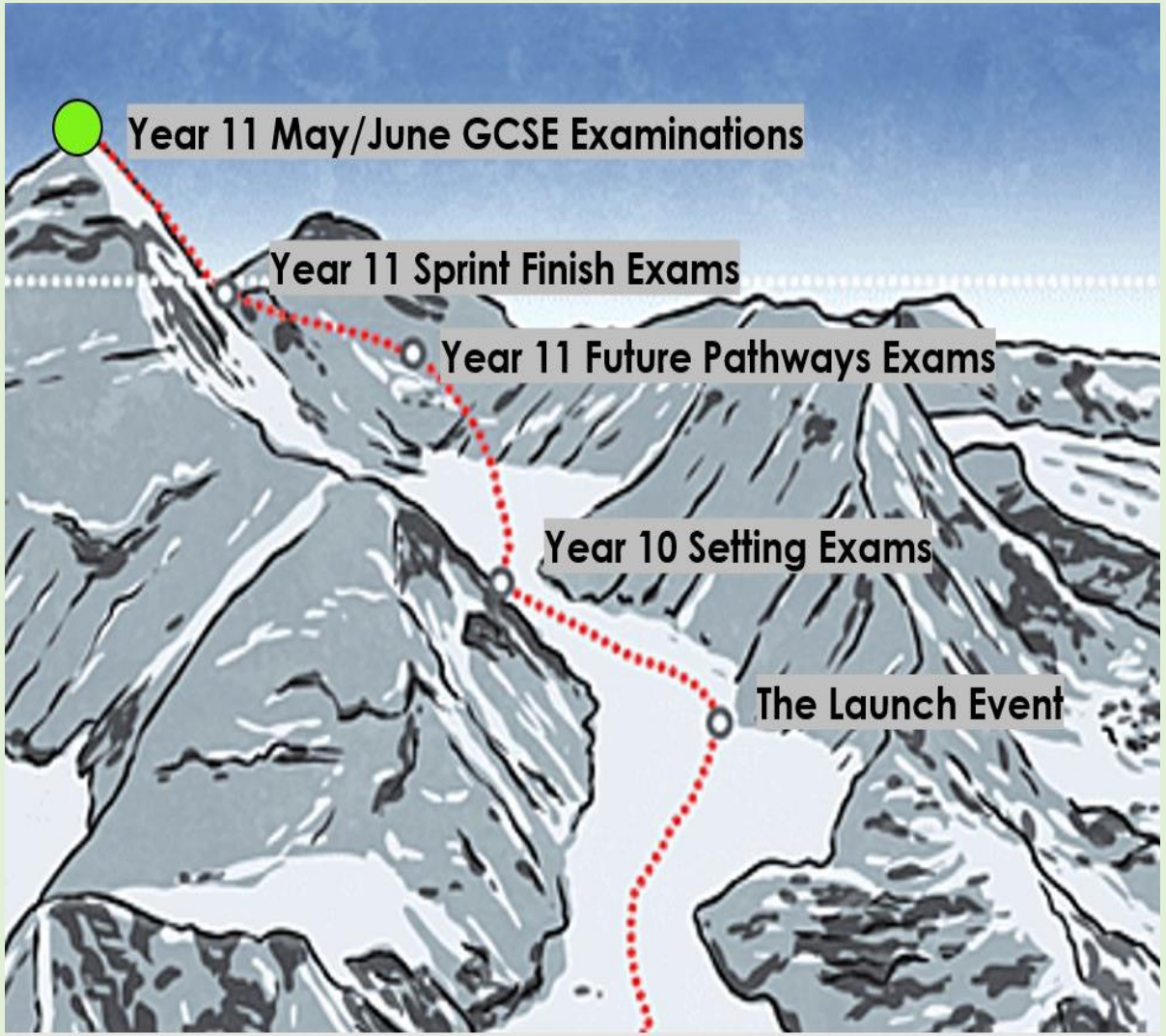
UCAS and Futures Information Evening Thursday, 1 October

Lucy Pitcher
Director of Sixth Form

Tonight's aims:

- To know the options available to students when they finish Sixth Form.
- To understand the UCAS process.
- To know how we support the students through their 'Futures' curriculum.
- To understand student finance and how it impacts you.
- To learn more about degree based apprenticeships.

Post-Sixth Form Options





Post-Sixth Form Options

University	Conservatoire	Gap year
Degree level apprenticeship	Higher apprenticeship	Employment

17/11/2026

Degrees

Benefits of a degree

- Compulsory for certain careers
- 97% of business leaders report graduates reaching management positions faster[1]
- Average graduate salary is £42,000, compared to £30,500 for non-graduates
- Government projections indicate 90% of new jobs by 2035 will require graduate skills[3]
- Life skills: independence, networking, critical thinking

Choosing a course

- 164+ universities
- 35,000+ undergraduate degrees

- Shadowing / work experience in that field
- Visit Open Days
- Explore online prospectuses
- Visit UCAS.com

Course considerations

- Modules differ across courses with the same name, e.g. History
- Accreditation, e.g. British Psychological Society
- Year in industry / sandwich year abroad
- Contact hours
- Assessment methods
- Employment prospects

University considerations

- Entry requirements
- Ranking
- Russell Group
- Distance from home
- Campus or City
- Facilities
- Student satisfaction

Application process

- UCAS manage all UK applications and automatically share results to confirm places
- 5 course choices
- £34.50 / free for those eligible for FSM

Support in school:

- Unifrog
- Sharing opportunities (via email)
- CPSHE
- Tutor sessions – Yr 13: twice a week
  Yr 12: Summer Term
- Aspiring Scholars Programme
- Futures workshops- From Yr 12 onwards
- Work Experience- Yr 12 Summer Term
- Mock interviews- Yr 12 Summer Term

Support in school: Unifrog

An online platform used to:

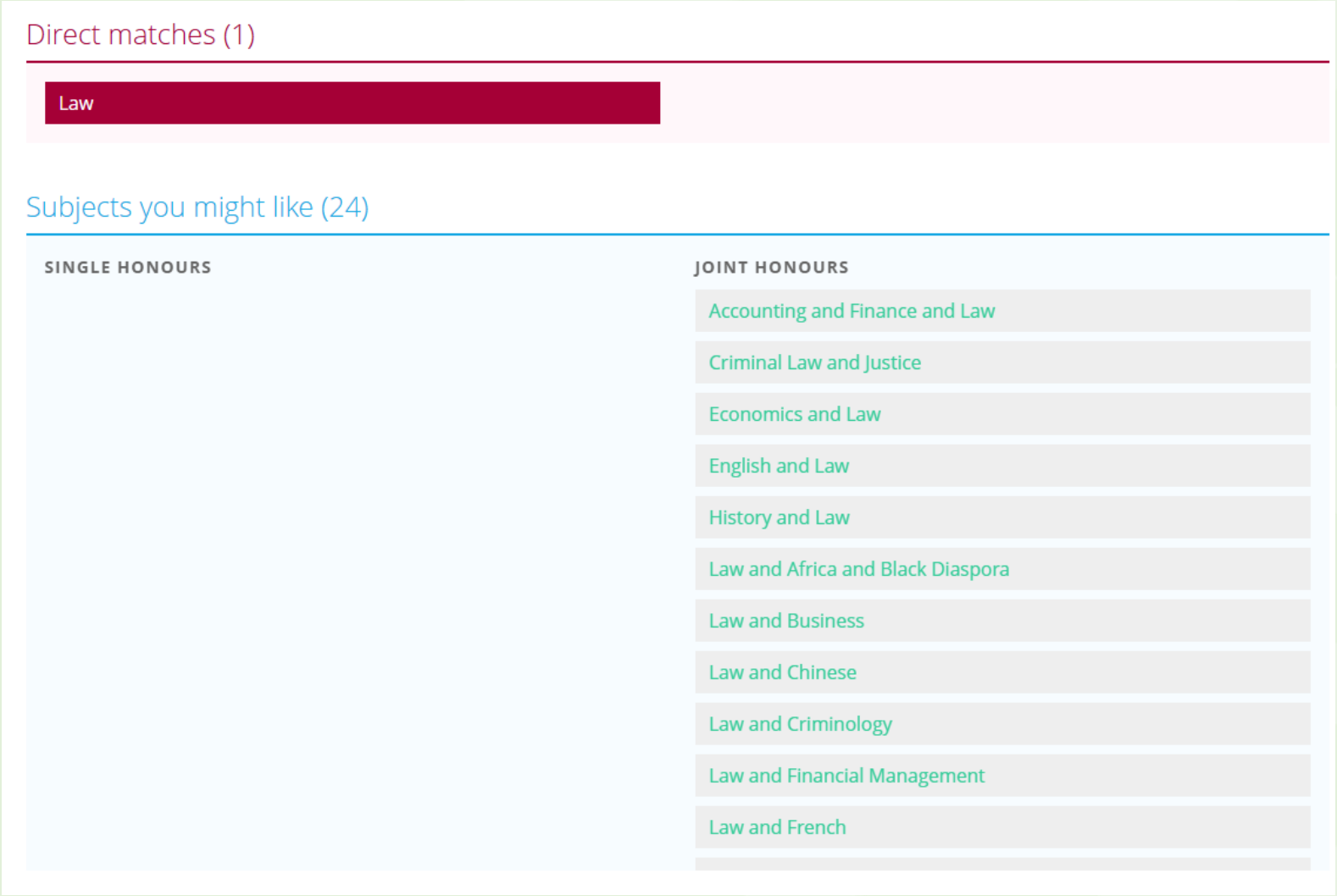
- Log work experience
- Research courses
- Write personal statements
- Store predicted grades

- If you were at ICC in Year 10, you will already have a log in from work experience.
- If you were not at ICC, and you do not have a log in, please email Mrs Nichols for support.

Support in school: Unifrog

Initial searches for courses and universities:
You can put in:
Current subjects
Career aspirations
Preferences-

- Russell group
- Distance
- Setting
- Single or joint honours

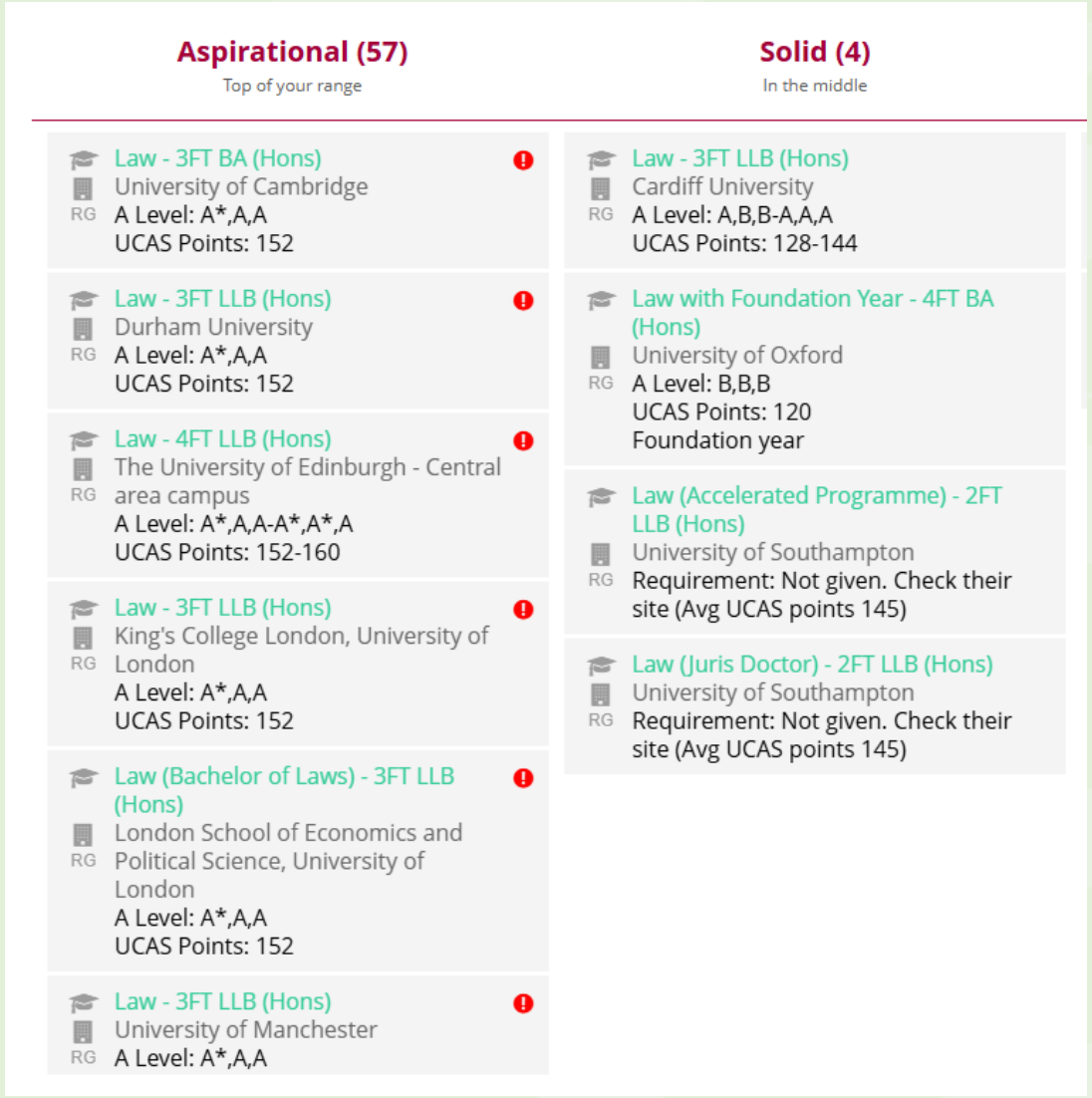


Unifrog

It will then give you a list of possible course options.

You can click on the course and it will give you further details.

Or you can then go to the UCAS website to research further.



Timeline for most applications

When		Process
Year 12	Oct-May	Research courses, open days and universities
	Summer Term	Register with UCAS, link to school with buzzword (supported in school)
Year 13	Sep	Predicted grades finalised
	Sep-Oct	Write personal statement, with guidance from tutor
	Oct-Jan	Attend open days, online webinars.
	Nov- Dec	Pay and submit application
	Dec	School writes reference and checks application
	Jan	Equal Consideration deadline
	Feb	Extra opens:
	Mar - Apr	Apply for loan
	May	Deadline to respond to offers – select firm and insurance
	July	(Clearing opens)

Early applications

- Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary
- Oxford / Cambridge
- Music conservatoires

- Internal application deadline: 25 Sep (current Yr 13)
- External application deadline: 15 Oct (current Yr 13)

- Entry test dates vary
- Interview dates vary (Oxbridge usually Dec, Medicine often Dec – Mar)

Early applications

Year 13:

- 1:1 meeting with Ms Findlay
- Further support with application if needed.
- Guidance for final submission and payment

Year 12:

- Aspiring Scholars Programme (see Mrs Offer)
- Information event- Spring Term

Personal Statement

- One statement goes to all five choices
- 4,000 characters
- Split across 3 prompts:
    - Why do you want to study this course or subject?
    - How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare?
    - What have you done to prepare outside of education, and how were these experiences useful?

Personal Statement- guidance

- Show, don't tell
- Show passion through reading, projects, competitions, visits, podcasts, shadowing, work experience…
- Reflect on experiences

Apprenticeships

- Research apprenticeships on YOU.Gov website
- Look out for emails from Mrs Hughes on opportunities for work experience and open days
- Personal statement will support applications

- Year 12 (Summer Term): support with writing CV

Gap years

- Useful to confirm decision or gain experience.

- We recommend a deferred UCAS application.
- We recommend completing the application process at this time.

- Useful information on the UCAS website.

Call to action

- Discuss ideas for the future early and often
- Research together – Use Unifrog tools and UCAS website
- Plan Open Day visits
- Read through personal statements

- Year 12 grades matter
- Year 13 - time is of the essence!