

*'Pedes in
terra, ad
sidera visus.'*

*Feet on the
ground,
eyes to the
stars.*



Success in the Sixth Form

Y13 Parent Information Evening
2025-2026



Welcome!

- Welcome back to all parents and carers.
- Welcome to the Year 13 Success in the Sixth Form Information Event.

Presentation Objectives

- This presentation is designed to give you important information on how to help your child do several things:
 - Make a successful transition from Y12 to Y13
 - Succeed in Sixth Form over the next ten months
- As well as...
 - Some helpful reminders about Sixth Form processes and procedures.
 - Some advanced information about university/apprenticeship applications

The Sixth Form Team



Mr J Clarke

Head of Sixth Form



Ms T Tunnard

Assistant Head of Sixth Form



Mr T Gool

Deputy Head of Sixth Form



Mrs L Bentham

Sixth Form Learning Mentor

Welcome to the Sixth Form - a passport to...?

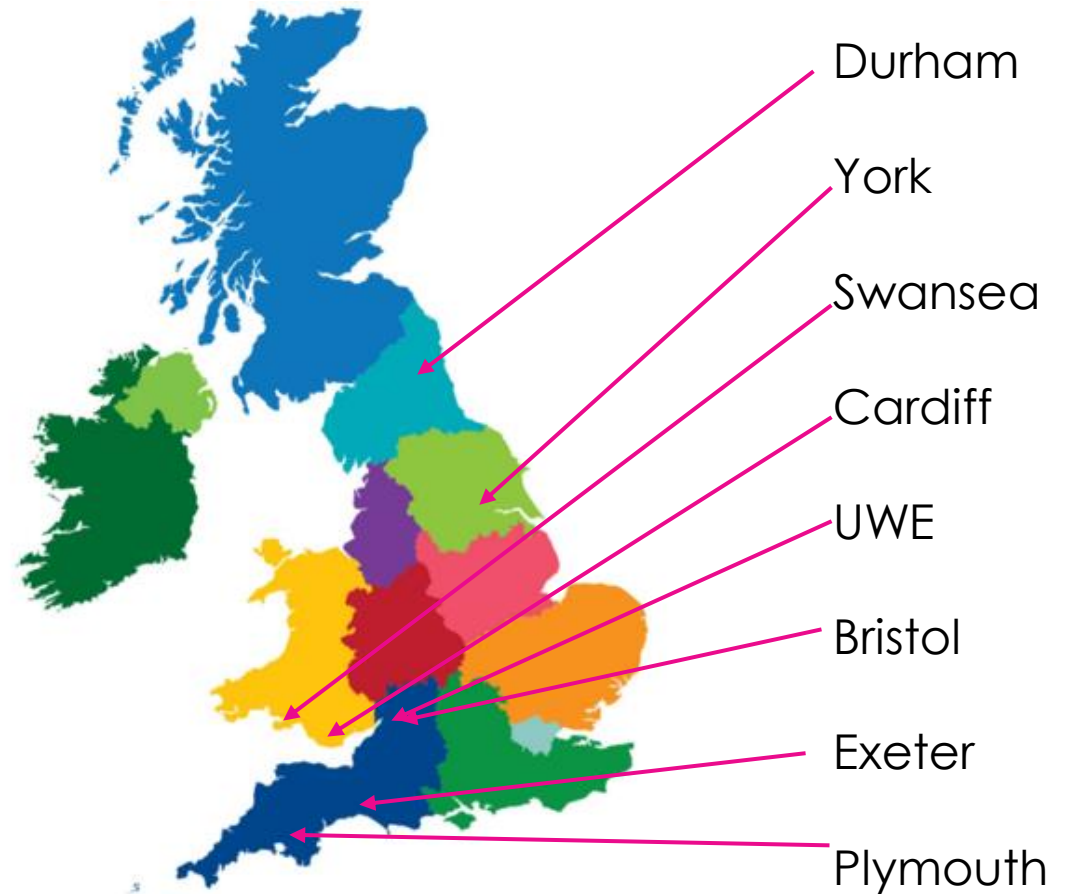


Destinations 2025

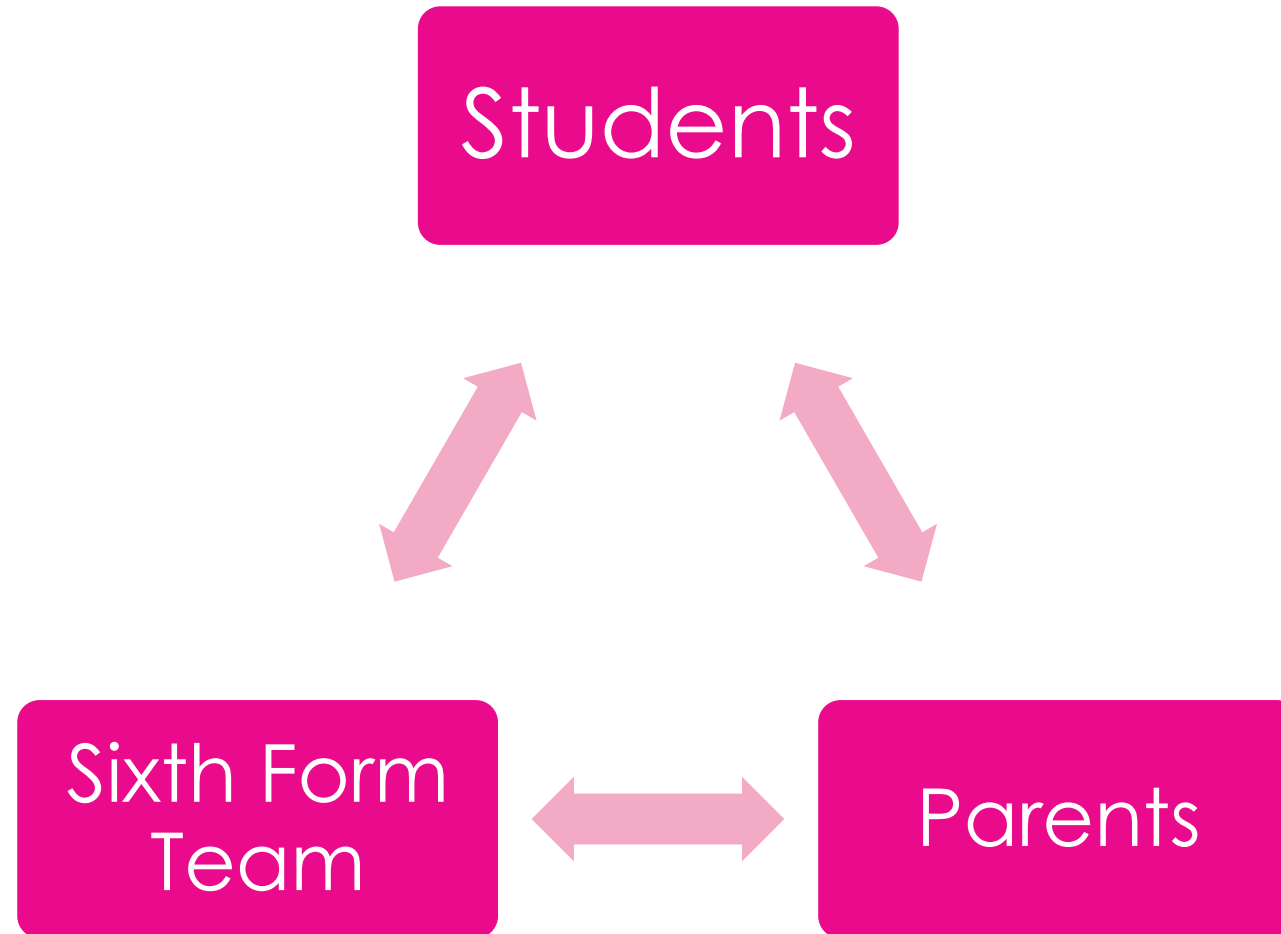
Lots of universities!

Great apprenticeships!

Some other brilliant things!



The Three-Way Partnership





Admin and Procedures

Meeting Expectations – The Sixth Form Charter

- Attend **all lessons** punctually and have a **positive mindset**.
- Commit to being an outstanding learner. **Give 100%**, 100% of the time.
- Effectively **manage relationships** in a mature, respectful and intelligent manner.
- Demonstrate a **proactive approach**, accepting responsibility for your own learning.
- **Contribute meaningfully** to the Sixth Form Community and be proactive in the wider life of our Sixth Form.
- Consistently maintain a positive Quality of Work grade Good or better (0 or +1) for all your subjects.
- To **dress appropriately**, meeting the Sixth Form dress code.
- To always wear your student **lanyard and ID badge**.
- **Respect** and look after the Sixth Form Suite.
- Take **personal responsibility** to regularly check school emails.
- Attend **all compulsory visits** and events scheduled in the Sixth Form.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students must be in the building by 8.25 am.

Registration is at 8.30 am.

Ordinarily, students may go off-site at lunch-time. They must sign out and in at reception.

Students who arrive **late** will not be able to leave at lunch-time and will be required to stay in college all day for the remainder of the week.

Y13 students with no timetabled lesson or TSS at P5 may leave at lunchtime.

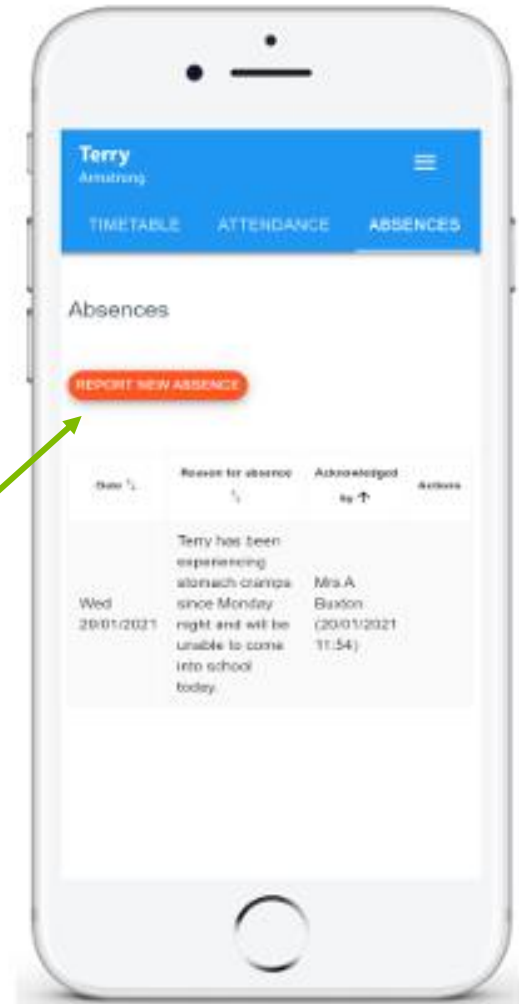
From January, Y13 students with an excellent record in the first two terms may be permitted to come in for timetabled lessons only.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Student attendance and punctuality to lessons is monitored in the usual way:
 - 96% is the minimum expectation for Sixth Form attendance, although students should aim for 100%
- In context:
 - 96% = 8 school days missed per year
 - 90% = 19 school days missed per year
 - A student who is 30 minutes late each week will lose the equivalent of 19 days of learning per year
 - **Statistically, missing just 17 days per year is likely to mean a drop for students of 1 grade across their subjects.**

Attendance

- If your child is going to be absent, please notify us as quickly as possible using the Class Charts App.
- Selecting the Absences tab will display a list of absences that you have reported, once you have reported them.
- This includes when the absence took place, the reason for the absence and who acknowledged your absence report.
- To report an absence, click on the Report New Absence button.



- During daily tutor time, Tutors will work closely with their tutees regarding:
 - General messages
 - Careers and futures guidance
 - Academic guidance and study skills support
 - Pastoral support and wider personal development
- Tutors are the first port of call for students, parents and carers for any questions, queries or concerns. Their email addresses are on the following page:

Tutor Contact

- **Mr Cooper** - 6COR: scooper@thespirescollege.com
- **Ms Christie-Young** - 6CYG: hchristieyoung@thespirescollege.com
- **Mrs Farmer and Mr Gool** – 6FMR: afarmer@thespirescollege.com
- **Mr Mearns** – 6MNS: gmearns@thespirescollege.com
- **Miss Ross** - 6ROS: cross@thespirescollege.com
- **Mr Somers** - 6SMR: jsomers@thespirescollege.com
- **Dr Taylor** - 6TYR: mtaylor@thespirescollege.com



Making the
Leap:

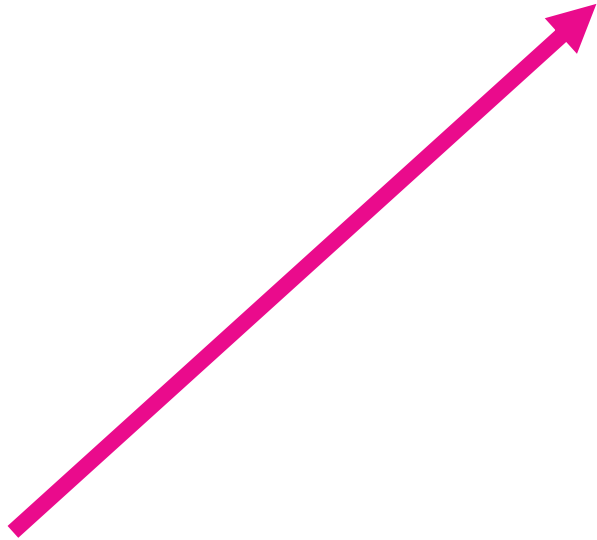
Year 12
to
Year 13

Independent Study

- Students have, on average, **27 hours of lessons per fortnight** cycle.
- Students are expected to **at least match this** time commitment with independent study, revision and consolidation. Research from the University of Warwick indicating that **44 hours of study per fortnight is what is practised to achieve an A grade.**
- We give time to students to achieve this in College through Teacher Supervised Study (TSS) periods and Independent Study periods. Students who are studying 3 subjects have 6 TSS and 14 independent study periods per fortnight. Students who are studying 4 subjects have 2 TSS and 10 independent study periods per fortnight.
- If students use all their TSS periods and Independent Study periods for work, they are left with around 24 hours per fortnight or 1.7 hours of work to complete at home / in their own time each day in order to match Warwick's advice.
- **If students use their school time and manage their own time effectively for study, they will comfortably protect their work-life balance.**

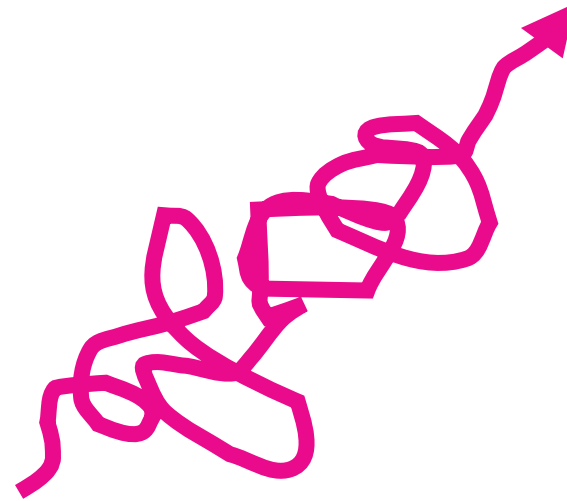
The Sixth Form Journey

Success



**What people think it
looks like**

Success



**What it really looks
like**

Interleaving – Space Revision Out

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

Space out and interleave topics

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

The Pomodoro technique – make the best use of your time!

THE POMODORO TECHNIQUE



1
Decide on the Task That You Need to Do



2
Set the Timer to 25 Minutes



3
Work on the Task Until the Timer Rings

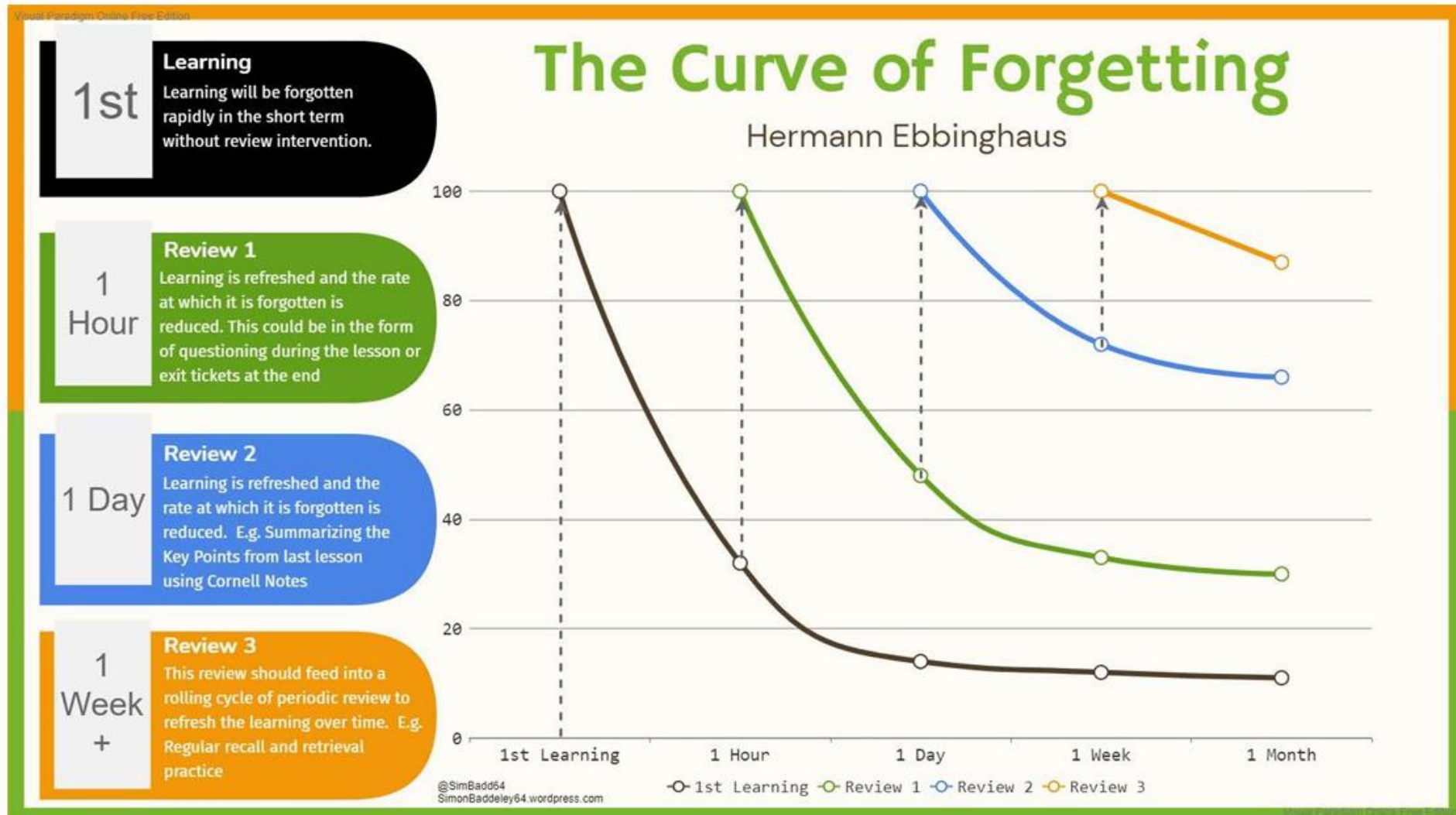


4
Take a Short 5 Minute Break

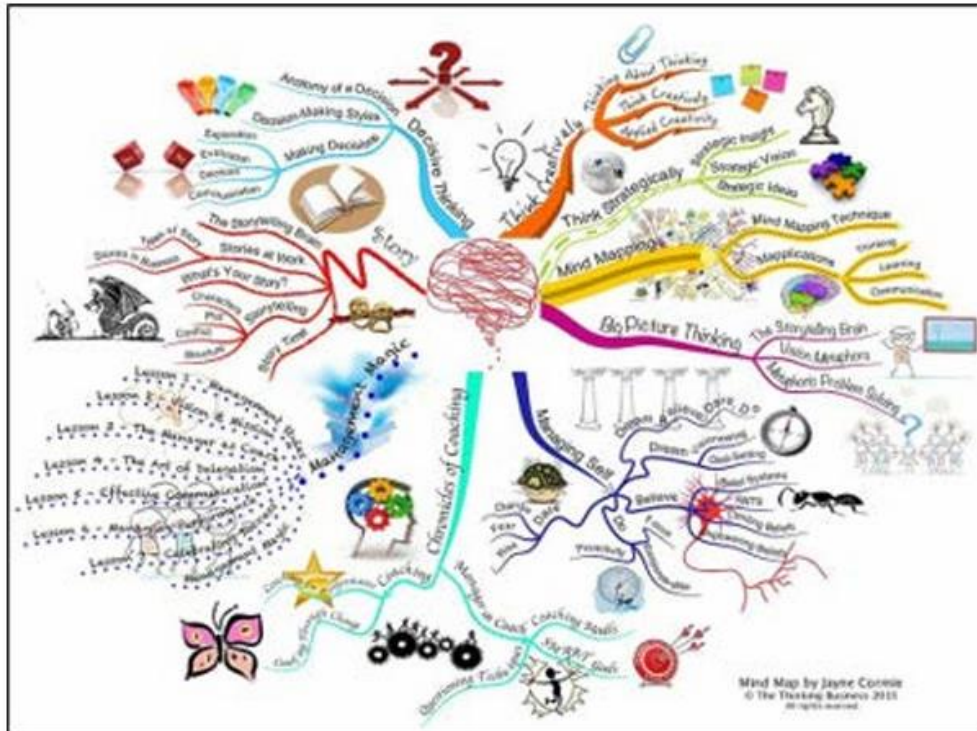


5
After 4 Cycles Take a 15-30 Minute Break

Our Memory



Effective Note-Taking



ABOUT

The Cornell note-taking method was devised in the 1940's by Dr Walter Pauk, at Cornell University.

- ✓ Efficient method of taking notes
- ✓ Encourages reflection
- ✓ Makes an effective study guide for revision and exam preparation

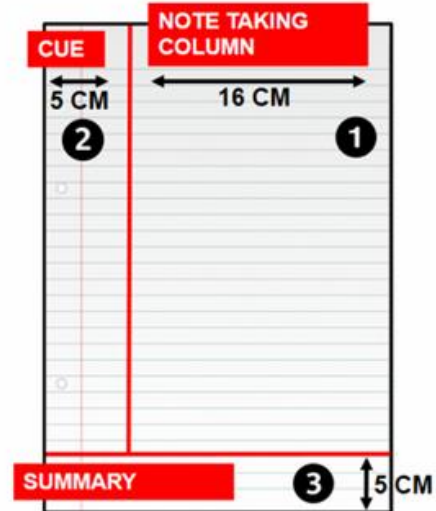
HOW

Divide an A4 page into the three sections as shown.

You can use different dimensions for each section if you prefer

Each section has a specific purpose:

- 1  RECORD
- 2  QUESTIONS
- 3  REVIEW

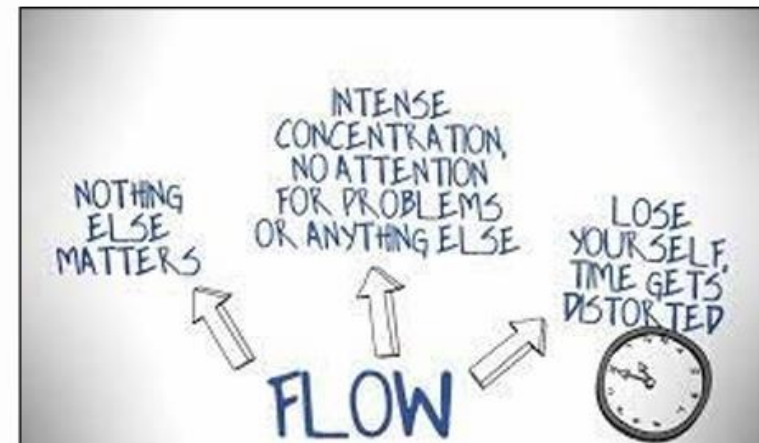
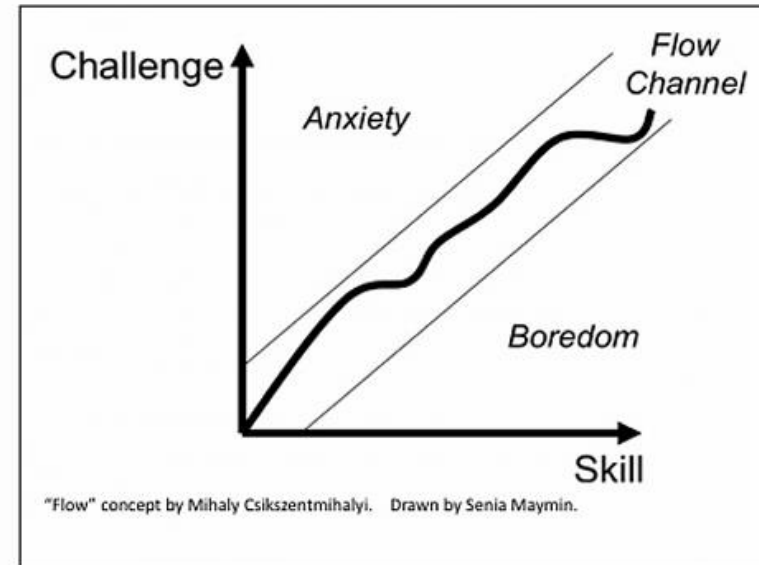
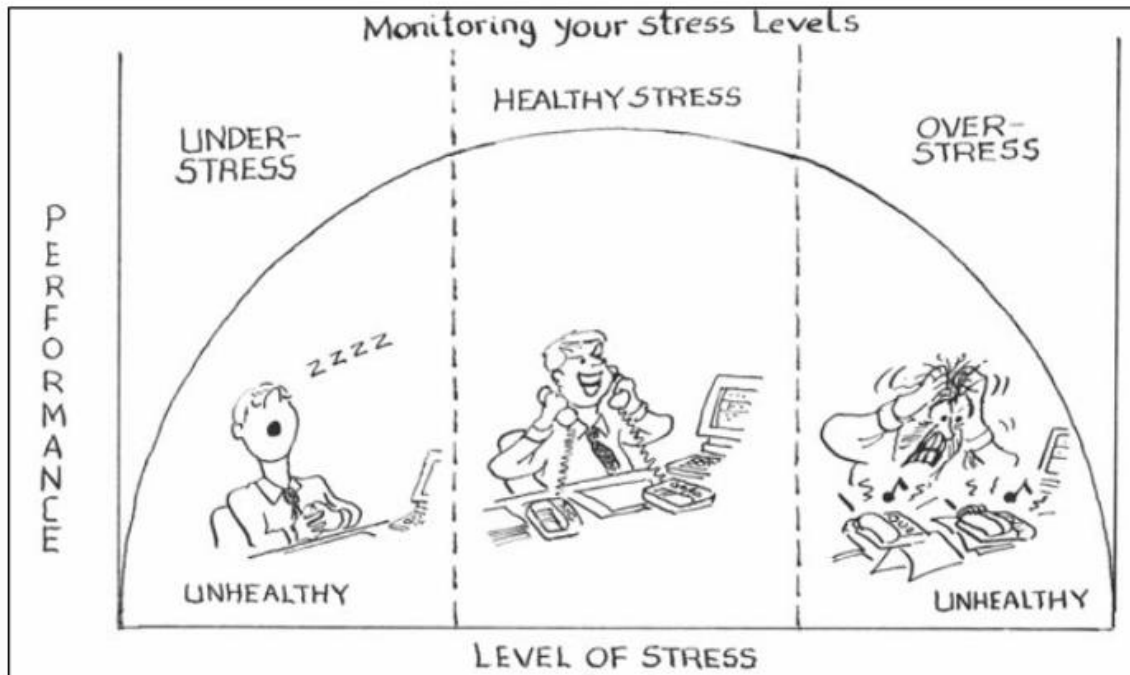


- 1 Write your notes in this section **during the lesson**
Use **any format** you like to record these notes (for example, mind-mapping)
Record only the **important information** (don't write in full sentences)
Focus on **ideas** rather than the actual words

- 2 This section is for **recall**
Do not write in this section **during the lesson**
The cue section is created **when you review your notes**.
Do this **as soon as possible** after the lesson
Cues are in the **form of questions** that you can use the notes to answer.

- 3 A summary of the notes taken
It should be **concise** focusing on **key ideas** only
Written in **your own words**
NOTES + CUES + SUMMARY should show how all ideas fit together

Stress and Flow



Growth Mindsets

Fixed Mindset	Growth Mindset
Intelligence is static.	Intelligence can be developed
Leads to a desire to <i>look smart</i> and therefore a tendency to:	Leads to a desire to <i>learn</i> and therefore a tendency to:
• Avoid challenges	• Embrace challenges
• Give up easily due to obstacles	• Persist despite obstacles
• See effort as fruitless	• See effort as path to mastery
• Ignore useful feedback	• Learn from criticism
• Be threatened by other's success	• Be inspired by other's success

Angela Duckworth delivers an excellent TED talk on 'Grit' and the Growth Mindset, which you can find [here](#).

This is a great example of the sort of material we recommend to students to help them make the transition in Sixth Form.

Research Into Home Support from PiXL

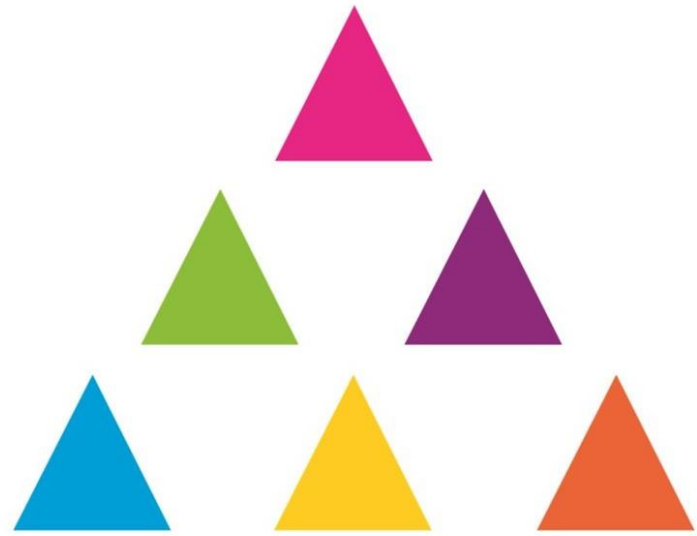
- Help them set goals
- Keep them active
- Healthy eating
- Time out
- Sleep patterns
- Unplugging
- Staying cool and calm
- Belief
- Be supportive



Each day you can support your child to make choices which can impact how they perform during the next two years.

Making a success of the time in Sixth Form (tips from previous students!)

- Independence and proactivity
- Organisation and time management
- Effective recording of learning and note-making
- Resilience and grit – recognise things will be tough and stressful, and this is ok!
- Genuine academic engagement – wider reading and research. Depth over breadth.
- Beyond Sixth Form – extra-curricular activities
- Understanding your grades (and using them!)
- Parents/carers are powerful sources of support



THE SPIRES
— COLLEGE —
Sixth Form

Next Steps in Life

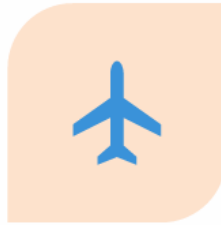
Discover Options



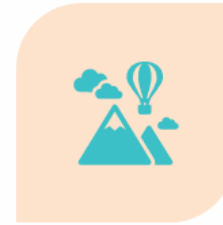
**Higher
Education**



Apprenticeships



**Studying
Abroad**



Gap Year



Getting a Job

Discover Pathways

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course. Higher technical qualifications (HTQs) in England are an example of these.
- **Foundation Degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Batchelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Apprenticeships:** typically take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships are offered for levels 2 – 7 in NI and England, levels 2 – 6 in Wales and SCQF levels 4 – 11 in Scotland. All nations offer degree level apprenticeships.

Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

UCAS



Hub



For you



Favourites



What to do

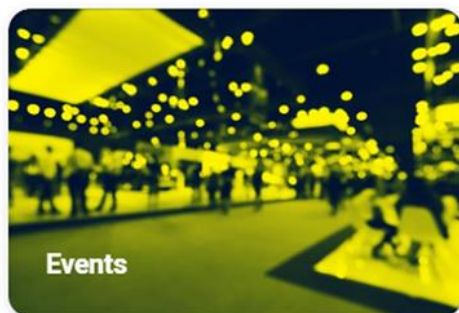


Where to go

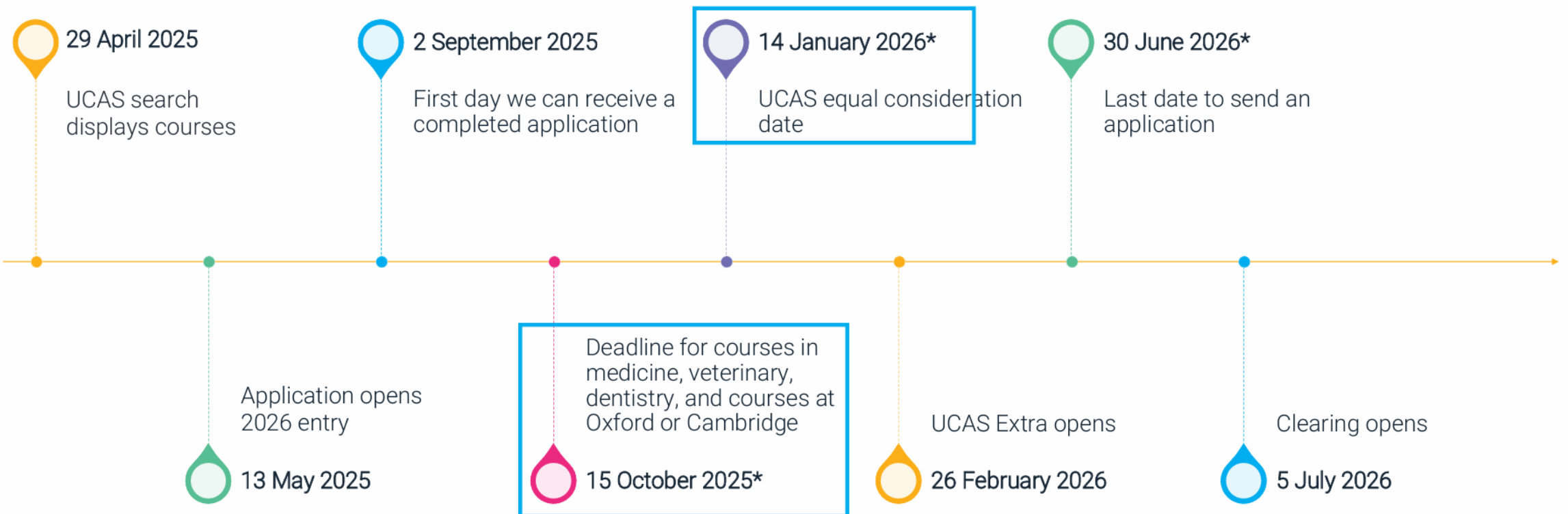


Search

Search for items



KEY DATES FOR 2026



VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

All filters Sector Organisation



AtkinsRéalis Virtual Work Experience programme

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at AtkinsRéalis.

Available 11/11/2024 - 31/10/2025

[Start now](#)

- ☐ Accounting, banking & finance (9)
- ☐ Agricultural & environmental (1)
- ☐ Business, administration & consulting (3)
- ☐ Construction & trades (2)
- ☐ Digital, IT and computing (2)
- ☐ Energy & utilities (6)
- ☐ Engineering (7)
- ☐ Government & politics (1)
- ☐ Healthcare & medicine (12)
- ☐ Hospitality, catering & events (2)
- ☐ Law & legal services (1)
- ☐ Property & surveying (1)
- ☐ Publishing & journalism (1)
- ☐ Retail (1)
- ☐ Science & research (4)

[Show more](#)



Allied Health : Virtual Work Experience with Health Education England

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Health Education England.

Available 16/09/2024 - 25/03/2025



mydentist Virtual Work Experience

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at mydentist.

Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

[Start now](#)



Severn Trent Sustainability: Water Industry Virtual Work Experience

Energy & Utilities

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Severn Trent.

Available 09/09/2024 - 29/04/2025



HR Career Insights: Virtual Work Experience with CIPD and Springpod

Business, Administration & Consulting

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Available 13/11/2023 - 31/10/2025

[Start now](#)



Engineering a Sustainable World - Work Experience with IChemE

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Available 30/09/2024 - 30/04/2026



Skills for Success: Forvis Mazars Work Experience

Accounting, Banking & Finance

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Forvis Mazars.

Available 28/10/2024 - 15/06/2025

[Start now](#)



Legal Realities Unveiled: Virtual Law Careers with TLT and Springpod

Law & Legal Services

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at TLT LLP.

Available 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025

Reset filters POWERED BY Springpod UCAS Media Service

THE COURSE MATTERS

Teaching & learning

- ✓ Teaching hours, self-study, lectures, and group work.

Assessment & structure

- ✓ Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

Entry requirements

- ✓ Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

Career links

- ✓ Placements, internships and study abroad.

Class size & experience

- ✓ Student numbers and learning environment

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: This course

Date range: 2019–2023

Grades held by accepted students ?



ABB

Highest grades

CCC

Lowest grades

Rate of offers for UK school leavers



Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

How do you compare?

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

UK A-Level grades

B

B

C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.

Accept & show results

Cancel

APPLICATION KEY FACTS



Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices



Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.



Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).



Research is key to a successful application.



Applying costs £28.95.

COMPLETING THE UCAS APPLICATION



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start an application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT



Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.



Three separate sections with question prompts.



A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.



The same for all your choices.



There isn't a spelling or grammar check.



No formatting allowed.



Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

Why do you want to study this course or subject? *

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? *

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? *

This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.

REPLIES TO OFFERS

- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you're not holding an offer, use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers

CONFIRM YOUR CHOICES

UCAS Application

Your Personal ID number
116-000-7564

< Previous
Select insurance choice

Cancel Save choices

Selecting as your firm choice

Archaeology (V400)
University of UCAS (Z98) (E56)
Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)
Location: Main site
Start date: September 2020

OFFER
You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer
Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.
[View full offer](#)

Selecting as your insurance choice

Geography (L700)
University of UCAS (Z98) (E56)
Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)
Location: Main site
Start date: September 2020

OFFER
You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer
Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.
[View full offer](#)

Offers you are declining

Italian and History of Art (RV33)
University of UCAS (Z98) (E56)
Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)
Location: Main site
Start date: September 2020

OFFER

OTHER OPTIONS

Extra (26 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- You can still find a place using Extra.

Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Clearing is for students in various situations.
- Whether you've exceeded expectations, changed your mind, or don't have a place.
- Understanding the process helps you take control of your options.



THE A-Z OF APPRENTICESHIPS

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few...

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

- Advertised throughout the year; with no single application deadline.
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations.
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year.

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships



HOW CAN UCAS HELP?

Apprenticeship Application Guides

- Get to grips with what to expect when applying for specific industries.

Live studio apprenticeship podcast

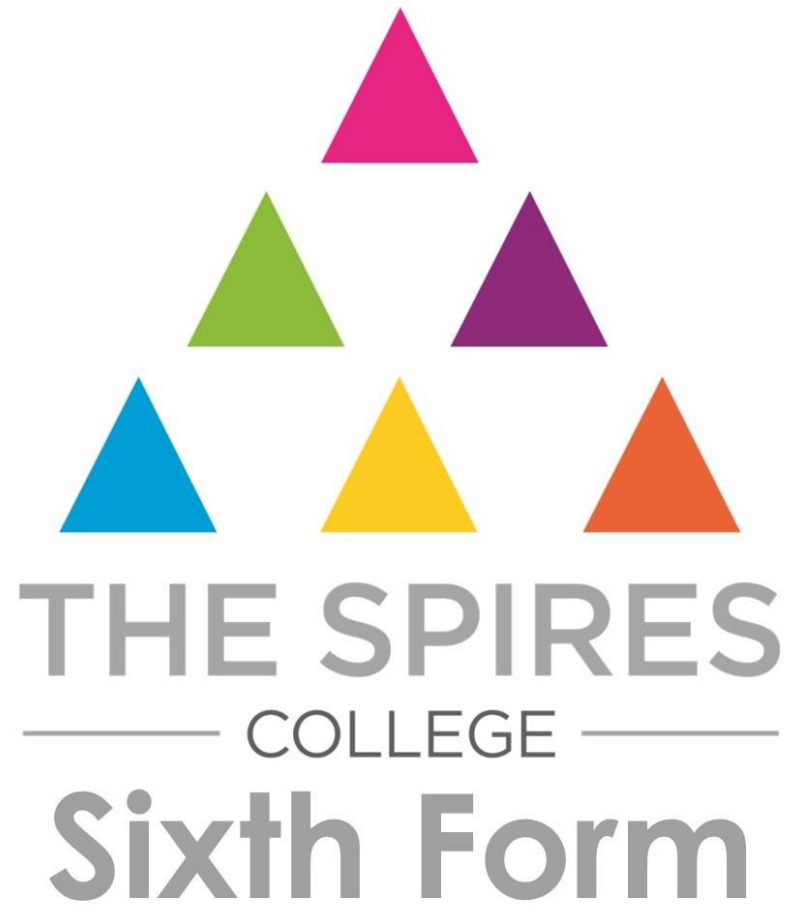
- Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to apprentices and experts about what you need to know.

UCAS CV builder

- Create a professional CV in minutes.

Find it all and more ucas.com/apprenticeships





Final Things...

Pre-Public Exams (PPE)

**PPEs take place during the
week commencing
12 January 2026**

Supporting SEND

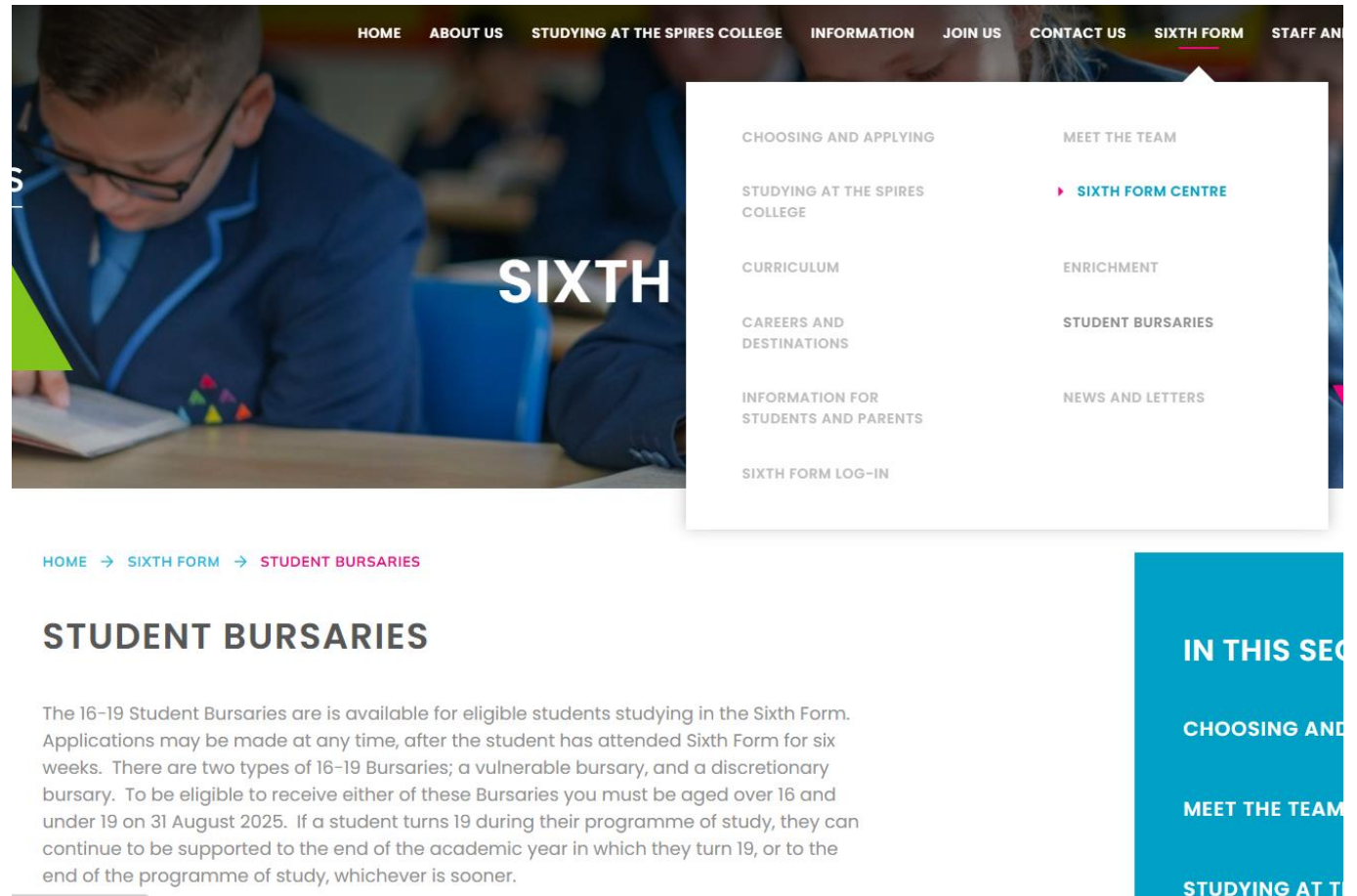
Students with SEND are supported by all members of staff at the College

- Within the Sixth Form, support and intervention for students with SEND is provided through the teaching staff and Sixth Form team, in collaboration with the SEND department.
- Intervention takes the form of coaching to promote independent study skills, to prepare students for study in Higher Education and for achieving within a working environment.

The 16-19 Bursary

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is a government provided, means-tested fund, providing financial support to help students to overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education and training.

There are two types of Bursary, details of which can be found under the Bursary section of the Sixth Form area of the website.



The screenshot displays the Sixth Form section of The Spires College website. The navigation bar at the top includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, STUDYING AT THE SPIRES COLLEGE, INFORMATION, JOIN US, CONTACT US, SIXTH FORM (highlighted), and STAFF AND PARENTS. A dropdown menu for the Sixth Form section is open, listing various options: CHOOSING AND APPLYING, MEET THE TEAM, STUDYING AT THE SPIRES COLLEGE, SIXTH FORM CENTRE (highlighted with a red arrow), CURRICULUM, ENRICHMENT, CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS, STUDENT BURSARIES, INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS, NEWS AND LETTERS, and SIXTH FORM LOG-IN. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail reads HOME → SIXTH FORM → STUDENT BURSARIES. The main heading is STUDENT BURSARIES. The text below explains that the 16-19 Student Bursaries are available for eligible students studying in the Sixth Form, with applications made at any time after six weeks of attendance. It details two types of bursaries: a vulnerable bursary and a discretionary bursary, and outlines the eligibility criteria based on age and the end of the academic year or programme of study.

HOME → SIXTH FORM → STUDENT BURSARIES

STUDENT BURSARIES

The 16-19 Student Bursaries are available for eligible students studying in the Sixth Form. Applications may be made at any time, after the student has attended Sixth Form for six weeks. There are two types of 16-19 Bursaries; a vulnerable bursary, and a discretionary bursary. To be eligible to receive either of these Bursaries you must be aged over 16 and under 19 on 31 August 2025. If a student turns 19 during their programme of study, they can continue to be supported to the end of the academic year in which they turn 19, or to the end of the programme of study, whichever is sooner.

IN THIS SECTION

- CHOOSING AND APPLYING
- MEET THE TEAM
- STUDYING AT THE SPIRES COLLEGE

Exeter Scholars Programme

Exeter University provides contextual offers to all students from The Spires College, -2 grades. E.g., A*AB could become ABB.

Exeter Scholars receive offers of -3 grades. E.g., A*AB to BBB.

It is worth checking the admission pages for all universities for details of contextual offers – do they include our postcode in their offers?

Parental Clinics

Mr Clarke, Head of Sixth Form, is available to meet with parents each Thursday afternoon between 3 and 4 pm, up to the October half-term break.

He offers appointments for up to 30 minutes for parents to ask any questions they may have and discuss any issues.

To book an appointment , please email:
sixthform@thespirescollege.com

Thank you for your time!

Thank you for reading and / or listening to this presentation; we hope it has been informative and helpful.

Should you have any further questions, please contact your child's tutor and they will be only too happy to help.

We are looking forward to supporting your child through their post-16 journey and we look forward to working with you over the next two years!