

# Key Stage 5 – Support, Guidance & Destinations Booklet

*Cyfnod allweddol 5 \_ Pecyn cymorth a chyfrannu*



**Information for Parents and Carers**

*Gwybodaeth i rieni a gofalwyr*

## Welcome

At King Henry VIII 3-19 school, we put your future at the heart of everything we do. We have organised our Post 16 team with this in mind. We have a dedicated Head of Sixth Form and a separate Destinations Leader; you will also be assigned an academic mentor who will help you plan every step of your journey. Weekly meetings with your mentor replaces the system of registration followed in Year 7-11, to allow for a more intimate and bespoke experience, enabling you to experience tailored enrichment opportunities and to monitor your progress against target grades and the requirements of your next destination.

Whether you're aiming to get to a selective university or to find work we aim to make you more attractive in a competitive environment. For highly competitive ventures such as Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities and Medicine we will tailor an enrichment package that involves extra reading, attending conferences and courses and test and interview preparation. However, all students are encouraged to engage in extra-curricular activities. All students are given the opportunity to attend a mock interview experience by the Destinations Leader or their academic mentor.

### This booklet aims to...

- Explain key dates and advice for student, parents and carers
- Provide ideas for what can be done at home to help
- To be well informed of the range of post-school destinations available

In addition to the academic enrichment we offer a range of student-led clubs and societies. If you want to volunteer we offer a range of school-based activities. Our PALS programme (Pupil Active Listening Service) places Sixth Formers at the heart of the school acting as peer mentors to pupils making the transition to the first years of secondary school. This programme is widely recognised and you will receive external training for the role. Every department in the school has Sixth Formers running lunchtime clubs and classes.

Our students benefit from the school's excellent relationships with universities. Aberystwyth University run sessions on applying to university, personal statement writing and student life as part of our enrichment programme. We have academic links with two Oxford colleges and every year we have students enrolled on the Sutton Trust Summer Schools programme. Our students also participate in Bristol University's Access to Bristol programme. Successful completion of this guarantees an interview for courses that require one and a reduced grades offer for those that do not. We also work with the University of South Wales' Network 75 programme of degree apprenticeships if your future is to combine work and study

*"King Henry VIII 3-19 School community will work together to create an inclusive, safe and happy learning environment in which all are challenged and supported to achieve their potential. Everyone is committed to learning today for a fulfilling life tomorrow."*

## What do you need to know...

The Sixth Form is about preparing you for the next step - whether it be university, college or the world of work. During your time at school you will be encouraged to develop your independent learning.

When you don't have a lesson, you have **Flexitime**. This means students:

- can complete independent study in the Resource Area
- can work in the sixth form common room
- can go off site when all lessons for the day are completed

You should appreciate however that

- Non-contact time is designed for pupils to gain independence and to learn the skills of research and reading around topics you are covering.
- Flexitime enables pupils to have a broader understanding of their subject and therefore enables them to achieve a higher level of understanding.

These skills will help to develop those lifelong skills which hopefully will encourage you to be lifelong learners.

To support your child we have a system in school of academic mentors. Students will have weekly appointment to help them:

- ✓ Settle in to year 12
- ✓ Manage their time develop their organisation skills
- ✓ Monitor their progress against their targets
- ✓ Begin destination planning

*"Let him who would enjoy a good future waste none of his present"*

*--Roger Babson*

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Applied Science BTEC RFQ				Unit 3 Science Investigation Skills Internal tests  Unit 8 Physiology of Human body systems. 4 internally marked assessments across the year	Unit 3 Science Investigation Skills Internal tests  Unit 8 Physiology of Human body systems. 4 internally marked assessments across the year	Unit 3 Science Investigation Skills External written task set and marked by exam board Unit 8 Physiology of Human body systems. 4 internally marked assessments across the year
Chemistry	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in April	AS exams modules 1 and 2.	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in April  Practical internal exam after Easter	A2 exams modules 3 and 4 in May/June

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Biology</b>	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in April	AS exams Units 1 and 2.	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam Practical Exam for Unit 5	A2 Exams Units 3 and 4
<b>Physics</b>	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in April	AS exams modules 1 and 2.	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam Practical internal exam after Easter	A2 exams modules 3 and 4.

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Mathematics</b>	Minimum standards test. Week starting Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fortnightly progress checks.	Exam dates TBC Unit 1 (2hs 30 mins)  Unit 2 (1hr 45min)	Fortnightly progress checks	Fortnightly progress checks	Exam dates TBC Unit 3 (2hrs 30 mins)  Unit 4 (1hr 45mins)
<b>Further Mathematics</b>		Fortnightly progress checks.	Exam dates TBC Unit 1 (1hr 30 mins)  Unit 2 (1hr 30 mins)  Unit 3 (1hr 30 mins)	Fortnightly progress checks	Fortnightly progress checks	Exam dates TBC Unit 4 (2hrs 30 mins)  Unit 5 /6 (1hr 45mins)

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
ICT BTEC Level 3 Information Technology	Unit 1 Communication and Employability Skills for IT  Unit 2 Computer Systems  Coursework Units	Unit 1 Communication and Employability Skills for IT  Unit 2 Computer Systems  Coursework Units	Unit 30 Digital Graphics  Coursework Unit	Unit 28 Website Production  Unit 8 E-Commerce  Coursework Units	Unit 28 Website Production  Unit 8 E-Commerce  Coursework Units	Unit 7 Organisational Security System  Coursework Unit
Sport BTEC Level 3	Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology (Written examination)	Unit 5 Application of fitness Testing (Coursework)  Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology (Written examination)	Unit 5 Application of Fitness Testing (Coursework)	Unit 2 Fitness for training, Health and Well Being (Written examination)	Unit 2 Fitness for training, Health and Well Being (Written examination)  Unit 3 jobs in the Sports Industry (Coursework)	Unit 3 jobs in the Sports Industry (Coursework)

*"Success ... seems to be connected with action. Successful men keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."*

*--Conrad Hilton*

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>History</b>	<p>Unit 1 The Stuarts: Background to James I &amp; Charles I</p> <p>Unit 2 Germany: Democracy to Dictatorship. The challenges facing and the golden year of Weimar</p>	<p>Unit 1 The Stuarts: Charles I Civil War Interregnum Charles II</p> <p>Unit 2 The fortunes of the Nazis and crisis of Weimar</p>	<p>Exams / Begin preparing for Unit 4</p> <p>Exams / Begin preparing for Unit 5 coursework</p>	<p>Unit 3 The Tudors: Protest</p> <p>Unit 4 Nazi Government and Consolidation of Power</p>	<p>Unit 3 The Tudors: Rebellion Preparation for examination</p> <p>Unit 4 Life in Nazi Germany and the Impact of WWII Preparation for examinations</p>	
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<p>Unit 1 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 2 An introduction to Religion and Ethics</p>	<p>Unit 1 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 2 An introduction to Religion and Ethics An introduction to Religion and Philosophy</p>	<p>Unit 1 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 2 An introduction to Religion and Philosophy</p>	<p>Unit 3 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 4 A study of Religion and Ethics</p>	<p>Unit 3 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 4 A study of Religion and Ethics</p> <p>A study of Religion and Philosophy</p>	<p>Unit 3 A study of Buddhism</p> <p>Unit 4 A study of Religion and Philosophy</p>

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Design and Technology Product Design	<p>Unit 2 Design and Make Task Non-Examined Assessment 50% of AS qualification (20% of overall qualification) 80 Marks</p> <p>Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</p> <p>Unit 1 External Examination: Product Design 50% of AS Qualification (20% of overall qualification) 80 Marks</p>			<p>Unit 4 Design and Make Task Non-Examined Assessment 50% of A Level qualification (30% of overall qualification) 100 Marks</p> <p>Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</p> <p>Unit 3 External Examination: Product Design 50% of A Level Qualification (30% of overall qualification) 100 Marks</p>		

*"When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get them, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either."*

-- Leo Burnett

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Business Studies</b>	Unit 1 Examination content Business Skills and Functions	Unit 2 Non-Exam Assessment Business Creation	Exam preparation and revision for Unit 1 Exam in May	Unit 3 Business Strategy	Unit 5 Non- Exam Assessment Business Investigation	Exam preparation and revision for Unit 3 exam in May
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>	Unit 1 Promoting Health and Well-being	Unit 2 Non-Exam Assessments Supporting Health, Well-being and Resilience in Wales	Exam preparation and revision for Unit 1 Exam in May	Unit 3 Theoretical perspectives of children and young people's development	Unit 4 Non – Exam Assessment 2 Supporting the development, health, well-being and resilience of children and young people	Exam preparation and revision for Unit 3 exam in May
<b>Economics</b>	Unit 1 Microeconomics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarcity and choice</li> <li>• Demand and supply in product markets</li> <li>• Demand and supply in labour markets</li> <li>• Resource Allocation</li> <li>• Market Failure</li> </ul>	Unit 2 Macroeconomics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macroeconomic theory</li> <li>• Macroeconomic objectives</li> <li>• Policy instruments</li> <li>• International trade</li> </ul>	Exam preparation and revision for Unit 1 and Unit 2 exam in May			

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Geography	Unit 1 Plate Tectonics and Glaciated Landscapes	Unit 1 Plate Tectonics and Glaciated Landscapes  Unit 2 Fieldwork write-up Changing Places	Unit 2 Changing Places  Unit 3 Global Systems – Water and Carbon  <i>Summer Examinations for Units 1 and 2</i>	Unit 3 Global Governance – Migration and Oceans  Unit 5 Coursework preparation November	Unit 4 China Plate Tectonics  Unit 5 Coursework	Unit 5 Submission of coursework –May 2026  <i>Summer Examinations for Units 3 and 4</i>
Law	Unit 1 Section A Law making in Wales & England and the nature of law  Unit 2 Law of tort	Unit 1 Section B The Welsh & English Legal systems and the nature of law  Unit 2 Law of tort	Exams  Units 3/4 Criminal Law	Units 3/4 Criminal Law  Units 3/4 Human Rights Law	Units 3/4 Criminal Law  Units 3/4 Human Rights Law	Units 3/4 Criminal Law  Units 3/4 Human Rights Law  Exams

*"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't - you're right."*

-- Henry Ford

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Music</b>	<p>Haydn symphony 103</p> <p>A detailed study of movement 1. Students study the development of the symphony in the classical period</p> <p>Students study Cole Porter and Rodgers and Hammerstein</p> <p>Composition 1 on a brief set by the exam board – completed by January</p> <p>Performance work - ongoing</p>	<p>Haydn symphony 103 (Movement 2)</p> <p>Detailed study of the movement, continue to look at overall development of the period</p> <p>Students study Andrew Lloyd Webber and Schonberg</p> <p>Composition 2 (free choice) complete by Easter</p> <p>Performance work ongoing; visiting examiner some time this term</p>	<p>Revision of all examination material</p> <p>Once examination is complete, students begin work on A2</p>	<p>Overview of all areas of study. Detailed work on Brahms symphony No.1 movement 4</p> <p>Students begin composition work Composition 1 to be completed by Christmas</p> <p>Performance work – ongoing</p>	<p>Continuation of all areas of study for appraising examination</p> <p>Work on composition 2; this to be completed by Easter (for those completing extended composition, the additional piece should also be handed in by Easter)</p> <p>Performance Examination between half term and Easter</p>	<p>Revision of all examination material in preparation for A2 summative exam</p>

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Welsh Baccalaureate/ Skills Challenge Certificate	Global Community Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select and investigate a global issue of their choice</li> <li>• Make connections between the global issue they have researched and a local perspective</li> <li>• Plan and participate in a community action</li> </ul>			Individual Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore a research topic of their choice</li> <li>• Produce and presenting a research outcome, which could include the production of an artefact</li> <li>• Evaluate their individual project</li> </ul>		
	Future Destination Project – Completed in Year 12 and Year 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider their skills, attributes, abilities and goals</li> <li>• Create a personal manifesto for their future</li> <li>• Collaborate with their peers to achieve a common goal</li> </ul>					

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Art and Design	<p>Handmade sketchbook to be complete by October ½ term</p> <p>Unit 1 Personal Investigation – initial research</p> <p>10-12 pages by Xmas ½ term</p>	<p>Unit 1 Personal Investigation – initial research</p>	<p>Unit 1 Personal Investigation-Final piece</p> <p>Unit 1 Prep and Final piece to be completed by end of April 2026</p> <p>Begin Unit 2 Personal Investigation – initial research</p>	<p>Unit 2 Personal Investigation-development of ideas</p> <p>10-12 pages &amp; Opening paragraph of essay by end of Sept 2025</p> <p>Essay paragraph 2 &amp; 3 by end of Oct 2025</p> <p>Essay paragraph 4 &amp; 5 by end of Nov 2025</p> <p>Essay Final draft by end of Jan 2026</p>	<p>Unit 2 Personal Investigation – Development of ideas. Final piece completed by end of Jan 2026</p> <p>Essay Final version by end of Jan 2026</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2024 Unit 3 exam paper released</p>	<p>Unit 3 Prep to be completed by end of April/May 2026</p> <p>Unit 3 – 15 hour Exam – final piece April/May 2026</p>

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
English Literature	Unit 1 Prose: Study of Charlotte Bronte's <i>Jane Eyre</i>  Drama: Study of Tennessee Williams' <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Unit 2 Poetry: Study of Owen Sheers' <i>Skirrid Hill</i>  Study of Seamus Heaney's <i>Field Work</i>	Exams/Begin preparing for A2 Unit 4 and Coursework	Unit 4 Shakespeare: Study of <i>Hamlet</i>  Unit 5 Coursework: Preparation for 3,500 word essay comparing two novels (one pre 2000 and one post 2000)	Unit 3 Poetry: Study of Chaucer's <i>The Merchant's Prologue and Tale</i>  Study of 'unseen' poetry  Unit 5 Coursework: Completion of final draft	Revision of Units 3 and 4 for examination

"Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves."

-- Dale Carnegie

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Sociology</b>	Culture and socialisation research methods  Class based assessment	Education and research methods  Mocks	Amalgamation of knowledge Synoptic review Exam focus Start of A2 crime and deviance	Crime and deviance research methods  Class based assessments	Stratification and inequality research methods  Mocks	Amalgamation of knowledge Synoptic review Exam focus
<b>Psychology</b>	Perspective past to present (Biological/cognitive /behaviourist)  Debate essay 1-3 Research methods  Class based assessments	Perspectives past to present (Psychodynamic/ positivist)  Debate essay 4-5 Research methods  Mock	Research exam prep Research methods workshop  Start of A2 Schizophrenia	Schizophrenia Autism research practical 1 2 key controversies  Research methods  Class based assessments	Criminology research methods Controversy 3-5 Research practical 2  Mocks	Synoptic review Practical recap Practice papers  Exam
<b>Government and Politics</b>	The constitution of the United Kingdom  Class based assessments	Devolution electoral systems  Mocks	Synoptic review Revision  Exam  Start A2 Ideologies	Political ideologies Socialism/liberalism  Constitution Congress Judiciary  Class based assessments	Political ideologies Conservatism/ Nationalism  Executive electoral process Political parties  Mocks	Amalgamation and synoptic review  Exam focus

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Welsh Second Language				Regular end of topic tests and Mock Exam in December	Unit 4 Oral Examination: Drama and Oracy;  25% of qualification 75 marks.  Section A: Living through the medium of Welsh.  Section B: Discussing a play – Crash.  Section C: Personal response. Synoptic Assessment	Unit 5 Written Paper: 2 hours The Welsh language in Society and Translanguaging;  15% of qualification 80 marks.  Unit 6 Written Paper: 2 hours The Use of Language and the Short Story;  20% of qualification 100 marks.

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Performing Arts	<p>Unit 1 Investigating a practitioner's work</p> <p>Unit 2 Developing skills and techniques for live performance</p> <p>Internal Assessment</p>	<p>Unit 1 Investigating a practitioner's work</p> <p>Unit 2 Developing skills and techniques for live performance</p> <p>Internal Assessment</p>	<p>Unit 1 Investigating a practitioner's work / Exam</p> <p>Unit 2 Developing skills and techniques for live performance</p> <p>Internal Assessment</p>	<p>Unit 27 Musical Theatre techniques</p> <p>Internal Assessment</p>	<p>Unit 3 Group Performance workshop</p> <p>Unit 27 Musical Theatre techniques</p> <p>Internal Assessment</p>	<p>Unit 3 Group Performance workshop / Exam</p>

Subject	Year 12			Year 13		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Media Studies				Unit 3 Section A (Exam) TV Drama Practice essays	Unit 3 Section A (Exam) TV Drama Practice essays	Unit 1 Section A (Exam) TV Drama Revision A2 Examination
				Section B (Exam) Magazines Practice essays	Section C (Exam) Video games Practice essays	Section B (Exam) Magazines Revision A2 Examination
				Unit 4 (NEA) Investigative Research Development Outline Planning	Unit 4 (NEA) Construction Critical Analysis	Section C (Exam) Video games Revision A2 Examination
						Unit 4 (NEA) Submission of coursework April 2026

## Pupil Progress and Reporting

Year 12		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> September: Information evening</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> November: Progress Report</li> <li>• Mock exams will be late November.</li> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> December: Parents evening</li> <li>• WBQ Days TBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> January: Mock results issued</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> March: Reports Issued</li> <li>• WBQ Days TBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June: AS Exams</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> June A2 courses begin</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> June Interim reports issued</li> <li>• End of June: End of BTEC Cert courses</li> <li>• Start of July: Begin BTEC Sub Dip courses</li> <li>• WBQ Days TBC</li> </ul>

Year 13		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Interim Report</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> October: Parents evening</li> <li>• Mock exams will be in late November</li> <li>• WBQ Days TBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> January: Mock results issued</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> March: Reports issued</li> <li>• WBQ Days TBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June: AS re-sits</li> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June: A2 exams</li> <li>• End of June: BTEC Sub Dip end</li> </ul>

### Public Exam Timetable

The WJEC timetable for Summer examination 2026:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/fpmjzpsv/gce-as-and-a-level-june-2026-examination-timetable.pdf>

### Second half of summer term

Please note: Year 12 students **should not** take holidays in the second half of the summer term. For A-level students we will aim to get important A2 work done in that time in order to finish A2 courses by Easter 2026. For BTEC students, Certificate work goes on throughout June, then Subsidiary Diploma work starts in July. All students will also have destination planning and Skills work to do then.

Year 13 students should not plan holidays until after 24<sup>th</sup> June. Every year, WJEC puts this statement in their timetables:

*Contingency Timetable dates have been scheduled up to and including the 24<sup>th</sup> June. These dates will be used in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations. Centres must therefore remind candidates that they must remain available until the 24<sup>th</sup> June should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.*

## Information that might be useful

The post school market has undergone significant changes in recent years with a range of university courses and apprentice programmes being introduced. As a sixth form we want our students to be able to navigate their way through these increasingly complicated choices.

In the current climate universities might be divided along the following lines:

- ✓ Selective universities are those who receive many more applications than they have places
- ✓ Recruiting universities are those who tend to receive fewer applications than they have places
- ✓ Private universities are those outside of the confines of student finance

All of these have minimum entry requirements based on your child's performance in their level 3 courses.

University degrees are themselves more complex than was the case in the past and the vast majority of universities will now offer some combination of the following:

- ✓ Foundation degrees – these add an extra year to your child's study for those students who either fail to meet the requirement of the standard degree or those who chose the wrong subjects whilst at school
- ✓ Degrees with a placement year – these give your child the opportunity to spend a year working in a field related to their degree subject
- ✓ Degrees with a year abroad - these give your child the opportunity to spend a year working in a work placement abroad related to their degree subject
- ✓ Integrated masters – these have a post graduate component built in at the end of the degree
- ✓ Degree apprenticeship – these allow your child to earn while they learn

### Selective universities

You may have read about certain categories of universities. These include:

- ✓ The Russell Group (24 most research intensive universities)
- ✓ **The Sutton Trust 30**

Research undertaken by the Sutton Trust found that graduates of these 30 universities:

- Earn on average £4300 (17%) more than other graduates
- 12% more likely to be in professional occupations 5 years after graduation

Apprenticeships are arguably even more complex to navigate than university courses. When your child are researching apprenticeship opportunities you need to understand that they are categorised into levels:

- ✓ Intermediate (equivalent to GCSE level). This course is aimed at those school leavers who leave Year 11 without five GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths
- ✓ Advanced (equivalent to A-Level). These are aimed at school leavers who leave Year 11 with five GCSEs at A\*-C including English and Maths
- ✓ Higher (equivalent to foundation degree). These are aimed at school leavers with at least 2 A levels or equivalent qualification
- ✓ School Leaver Programmes (run by large employers e.g. KPMG). These are outside of the National Apprenticeship programme and some large employers will advertise these separately and they can be aimed at either Year 11 or Year 13 leavers
- ✓ Degree – earn whilst studying and the employer pays the tuition (e.g. the University of South Wales Network 75)

## Choosing a University

- ✓ Have an idea of how far from home they want to travel/live
- ✓ Disregard all of the universities outside of this range and research the rest:-
  - The Guardian University Guide is a free online tool which ranks university by institution and subject
  - Unistats.com offers additional information e.g. number of applicants to places, number of lectures per week, cost of accommodation, etc.

## For more detailed information

- ✓ Visit the webpage of the university and the subject page
- ✓ Send for a prospectus (all university sites have online request forms)
- ✓ Visit the university on its open day. There is a calendar on [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)
- ✓ Get the most out of the open day. Visit the subject department, view the accommodation and spend some time in the city

## Making choices

- ✓ Use the 3 C model to make their choice (course, campus and city). Make sure they are reasonably happy with all 3 factors
- ✓ When you apply to UCAS you can make a maximum of 5 choices (4 for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine)
- ✓ These can be 5 separate universities but they can choose more than one course from the same university

## The UCAS form

The UCAS application form is completed online and is made up of several sections:

- ✓ Personal details, education and qualifications and a personal statement
- ✓ The statement is 4000 characters including spaces and should be about 60% academic (why do they want to study that subject and why they have the academic skills/aptitude for that subject) and 40% personal qualities

## UCAS Track

- ✓ Once sent, your child's application moves from the UCAS Apply system to the UCAS Track system
- ✓ When they click Pay and Send, they are sending it to Mr Gilson not to UCAS
- ✓ All of their judgements will come via UCAS Track
- ✓ Make sure they read the offer letter/email that they receive from the university carefully

## Types of offer

- ✓ Conditional offers (most likely) which are subject to their performance at A-Level or equivalent
- ✓ Unconditional offers (unlikely) but if they get one they are already in
- ✓ Rejections
- ✓ These offers are made via UCAS Track. Make sure they check it regularly. They will receive texts/emails when there has been a change

## Conditional offers

- ✓ These mean that they have to satisfy certain conditions to be guaranteed a place
- ✓ These can be graded offers e.g. BBB
- ✓ Or points offers e.g. 120 UCAS points

- ✓ Point offers will take into consideration any AS subjects that they passed but did not carry on to full A-Level whereas graded offers do not

### UCAS Points System

A-Level/BTEC Grade	UCAS Points	AS Level/AS BTEC Grade	UCAS Points
A*/Dist*	56		
A/Dist	48	A/Dist	20
B	40	B	16
C/Merit	32	C/Merit	12
D	24	D	10
E/Pass	16	E/Pass	6

### Unconditional offers

- ✓ Certain universities e.g. Aberystwyth, Bangor will offer the opportunity to sit a scholarship paper.
- ✓ If they enter and are successful, they may receive an unconditional offer. This means that regardless of their A-Level performance, they will be accepted
- ✓ Some universities make unconditional offers that can be used as either firm or insurance but these are rare

### Unconditional offer schemes

- ✓ Some universities have unconditional offer schemes e.g. Birmingham, Sussex, Nottingham
- ✓ These offers are made but only under the proviso that they make that university their firm choice
- ✓ By doing so, they decline all other offers and are effectively accepted on to the course with no conditions

### Five becomes two

- ✓ In most scenarios they will receive 5 conditional offers. From these, they can choose two. The deadline for this decision is May 2025 (year 13), May 2026 (Year 12)
- ✓ They choose one as your firm choice (effectively this is their first choice/favourite)
- ✓ They choose another as their insurance (this is their second choice and should offer them some security)
- ✓ They decline the other three offers

Example of a UCAS Track statement

Institution	Course	Decision	Reply	Conditions
(K12) Keele University	(L611) Criminology	Conditional offer	Declined	This offer is subject to you obtaining GCE A-Level grades CCC. Your offer differs from our published entry requirements as we have considered your individual circumstances when reviewing your application.. We are pleased to offer you a place under our Unconditional Offer Scheme - this means that if you accept Keele as your firm choice the conditions above will no longer apply. You will then automatically be made unconditional. Please note you are still expected to complete the studies leading to your prospective qualifications.
(L34) University of Leicester	(M900) Criminology	Unconditional offer	Firmly accepted	
(M20) University of Manchester	(M901) Criminology	Conditional offer	Declined	This offer is subject to you obtaining GCE A level Grades ABB Alternative conditions GCE A level Grades BB Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate - First award 2017 at grade A. Alternative conditions GCE A level Grades AB Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate - First award 2017 at grade B. If you would like to come to a visit day for offer holders, please book a place here <a href="http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/visit-days/">http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/visit-days/</a>
(S27) University of Southampton	(L611) Criminology	Conditional offer	Declined	This offer is subject to you obtaining from three GCE A levels Grades BBB excluding General Studies Critical Thinking Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate Grade B can be substituted for A level Grade B.
(Y50) University of York	(L611) Criminology	Conditional offer	Declined	This offer is subject to you obtaining Obtain grades AAB at Advanced Level in 3 subjects OR Pass the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate with a grade B in the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, and AA from 2 A Levels OR Pass the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate with a grade A in the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, and AB from 2 A Levels

### **Before they decide**

- ✓ Do not let them choose their firm/insurance without further research e.g. attending the offer holders open day. This is more intimate than the general open day and will give them a better idea of the course/university
- ✓ Make sure that their insurance is a lower conditional offer than their firm. Otherwise they risk being rejected by both
- ✓ Find out whether their chosen universities offer any sort of bursaries/financial assistance

### **What next**

- ✓ There are different deadlines for making their Firm/Insurance based on the date that they received their final offer
- ✓ Check when their two chosen universities open their applications for accommodation and apply as soon as possible. Some universities give preference to those who have selected them as their Firm choice
- ✓ Make sure they apply for a student loan via Student Finance Wales

### **A-Level results day**

- ✓ They will receive a message on this day to confirm their place. It might be their firm, it might be their insurance
- ✓ Within one week, they will receive the formal offer in writing including any details about accommodation. "Sign" these agreements and return them as soon as possible
- ✓ If they have failed to satisfy the conditions of both offers, they will be eligible for UCAS Clearing

### **What if they change their mind?**

- ✓ If they have an offer of a place confirmed, it is legally binding
- ✓ If their offer is from their firm choice, their insurance choice will have expired and will have probably gone into clearing
- ✓ They can put themselves into UCAS Clearing but doing so they forfeit the place they are holding
- ✓ They can put yourself into UCAS Adjustment and keep the place they are holding

### **UCAS Clearing**

- ✓ They will be issued with a Clearing Number
- ✓ A website will exist within the UCAS site with a search function that lists all of the universities and courses that still have places available
- ✓ Make sure they act quickly and phone any of the listed universities in which they might be interested as soon as possible. Be sure to have their UCAS ID & clearing number handy as it will allow the universities to make them an offer more quickly. They do not have to have applied to these universities as one of their original five

## The Clearing Process

- ✓ Initially, they will speak to one of the university's clearing team who will transfer them to the admissions team
- ✓ If they made you an nominee on the application you will be permitted to talk to the university on their behalf
- ✓ The conversation with admissions can take the form of a mini-interview (remember to ask for accommodation)
- ✓ They will make them an offer
- ✓ They can then add this as a Clearing choice\* in UCAS Track (usually from 3pm and the university will respond to confirm their place)
- ✓ They can get several offers over the phone but can only add one as a choice

## UCAS Adjustment

- ✓ If they did better than expected and now decide they want to go to a "better" university or enrol on a different course then they can register for Adjustment on UCAS Track
- ✓ Once registered, they will have 5 24 hour sessions (including weekends) to find a suitable course and university. Check what is available on Clearing but also contact the universities directly
- ✓ They will keep their confirmed place while they are looking for others so if they find an alternative they will have to contact the university that holds their confirmed place to be released. Make sure they do not do this until they have an agreement from the alternative. At the end of the five days, UCAS Track reverts to their original offer

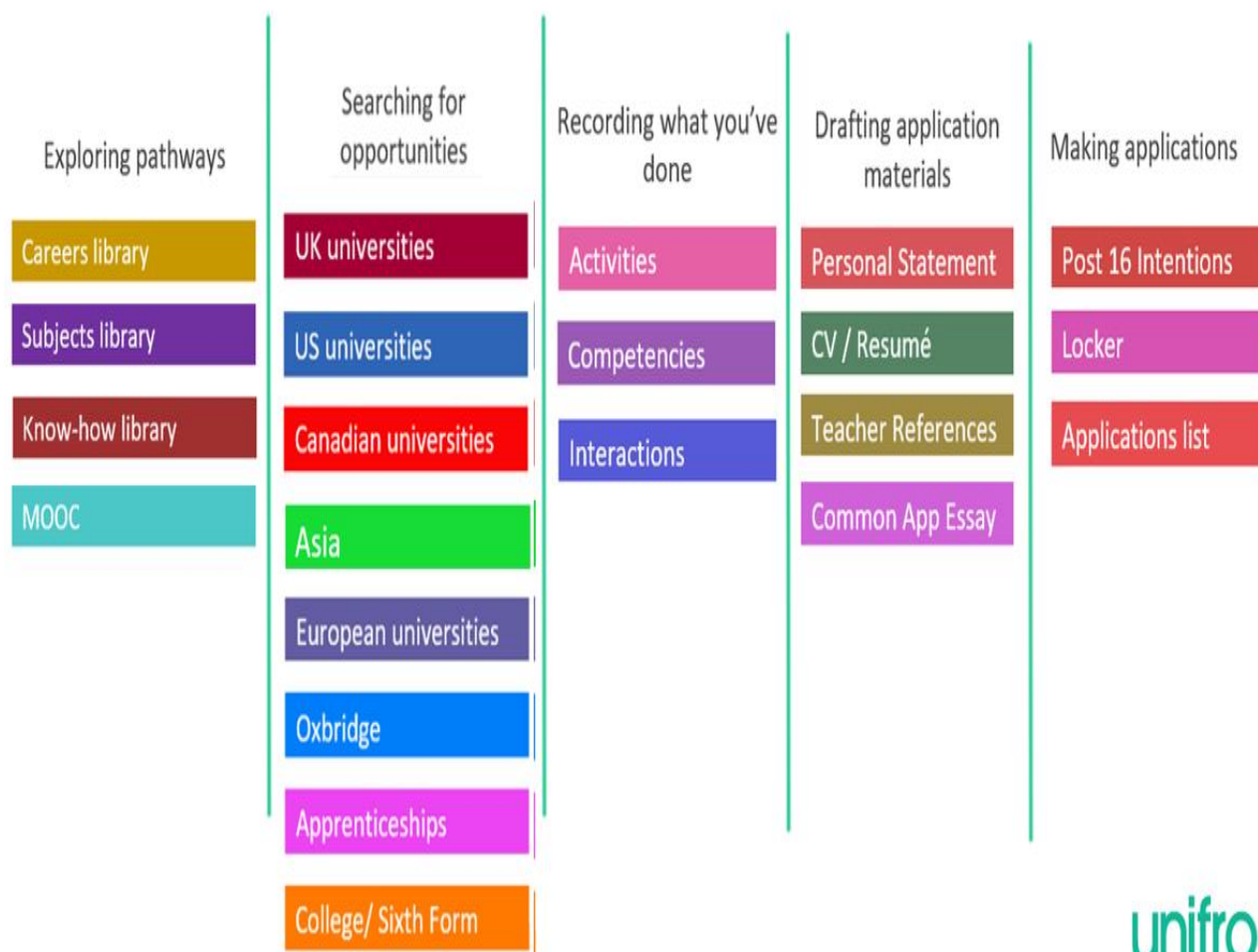
## Student Finance

- ✓ Think of this as a graduate tax rather than a loan
- ✓ The student borrows a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan
- ✓ Repayments only begin when earnings are greater than £25k and they repay 9% p.a of their earnings above that threshold
- ✓ So someone earning £26k would repay £90 pa (less than £8 per month)
- ✓ The debt is written off after 30 years
- ✓ Full amount of tuition varies (capped at £9000 in Wales and £9250 in the rest of UK)
- ✓ Grants for maintenance will still be available to all Welsh students (£1000 non-means tested) so every student will receive at least £1000 as a non-repayable grant
- ✓ There is a sliding scale to calculate the size of the grant based on household income with a maximum grant of £9000
- ✓ All students will have £9000 for maintenance (part grant and part loan). There is no parental contribution in Student Finance Wales (unlike in England)

## Unifrog

- Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.
- Unifrog will help you to explore your key interests and what career paths you can take to reach your goals
- In Unifrog there are a number of excellent resources and tools as shown on the next page. These will help you plan your future destinations.

## Unifrog Tools and resources



unifrog

## Education maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment of £40 to help 16-18 year olds with the costs of further education. Payments are made every 2 weeks as long as you meet the school's attendance, performance and behaviour requirements.

EMA is dependent on household income and a link to EMA Wales can be found at

[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

Application forms are available from the school in the Sixth Form Resource Area or from Student Finance Wales. The application form should be returned as soon as possible at the beginning of the year. If it is not received within 8 weeks of starting your course you may lose out on back-dated payments.

If students are entitled to EMA they will be notified by Student Finance Wales. Payments are made fortnightly directly into the student's personal bank account.

Students must complete an EMA Learning Agreement with the school which sets out the conditions they need to meet in order to qualify for payment.

The award of EMA is regulated by the Welsh Assembly Government, the school simply administers the system by monitoring attendance and targets and by passing this information on to the WAG

Any initial queries, however, may be addressed to the Post 16 Wellbeing and Learning Support Officer who is based in the Sixth Form Resource Area.

## Key Contacts

We welcome contact from parents when you have any questions or issues you need to discuss. For subject specific matters we ask that you contact your child's teacher through your child in the first instance, where possible, before contacting the KS5 Leaders.

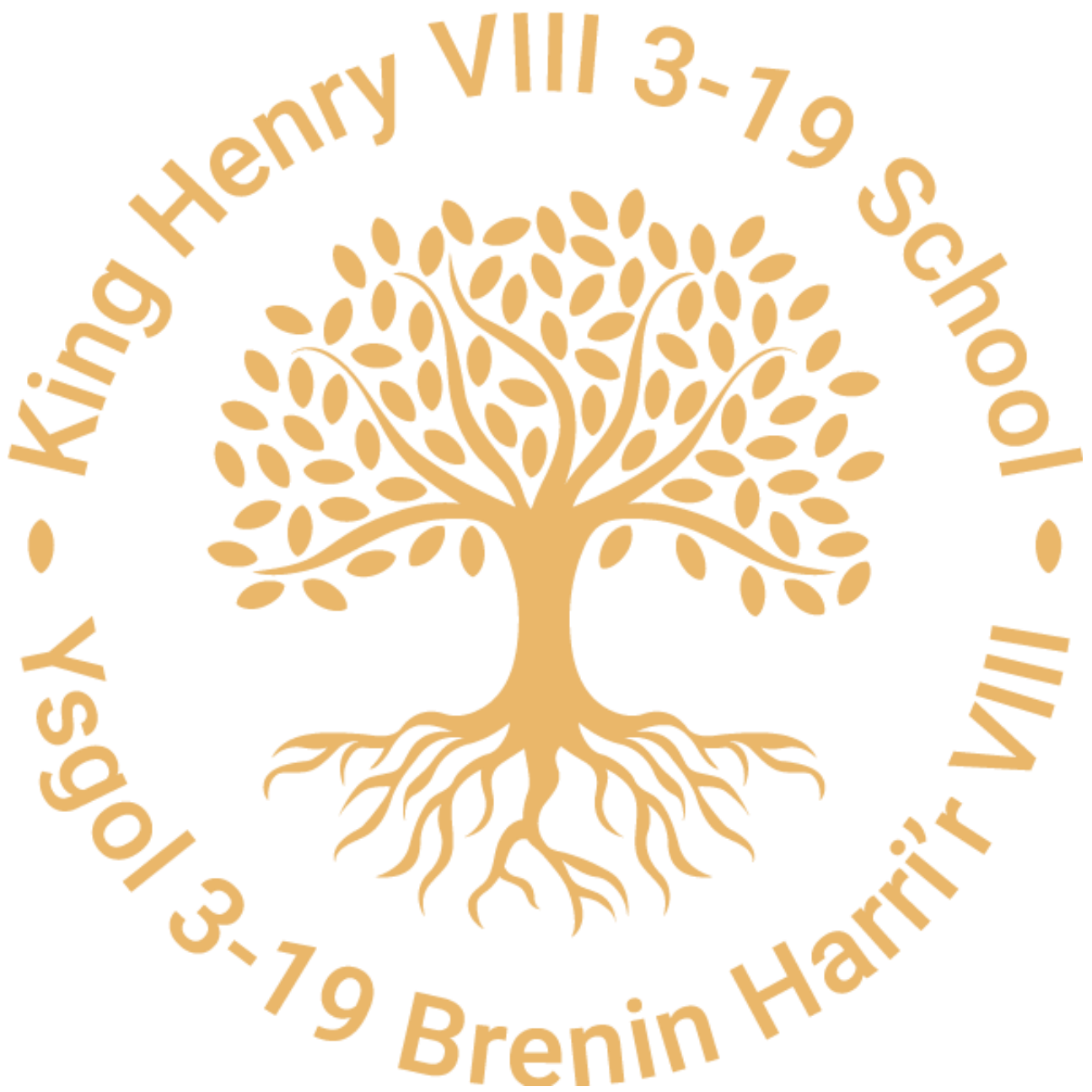
Post 16 Wellbeing and Learning Support Officer contact number: 01873 735349

Headteacher	Mr J Watson	FAO The Headteacher Kinghenryviii319@ monmouthshireschools.wales
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs K Corken	Corkenk@monmouthshireschools.wales
Post 16 Destinations	Mr R Gilson	GilsonR@ monmouthshireschools.wales
Wellbeing and Learning Support Officer	Mrs H Williams	williamsH764@ monmouthshireschools.wales



*"Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come."*

*-- Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson*



Old Hereford Road,  
Abergavenny,  
NP7 6EP.  
Tel: 01873 735375  
[www.kinghenryviiiischool.org.uk](http://www.kinghenryviiiischool.org.uk)