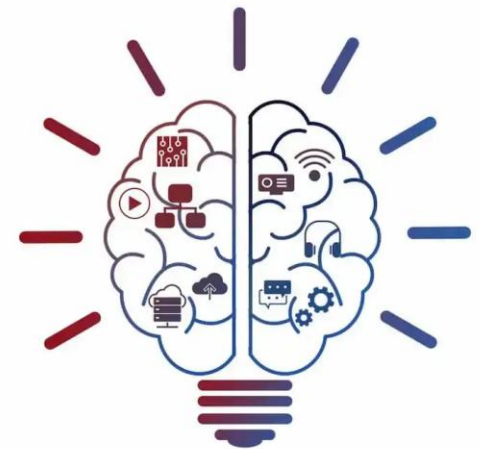


# Parent/carer Information Post-18 plans



## Future Plans Week

22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026





## CONFIRMED POST 18 PATHWAY

Continued lifelong love  
of learning and personal  
development



**ASSEMBLY**  
Intro to Student  
Finance



**ASSEMBLY**  
Transition –  
Alumni Panel



**WORKSHOP**  
Applying for  
Apprenticeships



**ASSEMBLY**  
University Choices



**PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Budgeting, Investments, workplace  
issues, social media, transition



Intro to Linked In



Work Experience



Backwell School  
Careers Fair



Impartial Careers  
Appointment with  
Qualified Adviser



**NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK**  
Activities in school



Ongoing Future Plans  
Application Support



unifrog



**PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Career Management, Future of Jobs,  
Applications and Sectors



**ASSEMBLY**  
Post-18 Options



**UNIVERSITY  
VISIT**



**PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Workplace Skills and  
Future Plans

**FUTURE PLANS  
WEEK**

Networking, Interviews,  
online research, UCAS  
Applications, Apprenticeship  
Support, Finance Workshop



# BACKWELL SCHOOL CAREERS JOURNEY KEY STAGE 5

## CAREERS PROGRAMME: LEARNING OUTCOMES



*By the end of Year 13 the students will have:*

- Become aware of their interests, strengths and skills
- Associated their interests, strengths and skills with a variety of career paths
- Researched these career paths and expanded their ideas.
- Identified preferred routes whilst remaining resilient and adaptable to change
- Made choices and tested them for realism
- Applied successfully for their next steps
- Moved on confidently having developed the skills to make successful future choices

The programme also works alongside the **academic** and extra-curricular **programme** to help students **develop** employability skills such as confidence, communication, creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, social intelligence, and a love of life-long learning.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### Key messages for this week

- Be open minded
- Have fun
- Be willing to work with new people
- Step outside your comfort zone – have a go!
- Be polite/respectful to everyone you work with
- Be on time!



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### MONDAY 22 JUNE

| Time        | Mins | 12-1                                                               | 12-2                       | 12-3                       | 12-4                       | 12-5                          | 12-6                          |
|-------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.00-9.20   | 15   | INTRO TO THE WEEK (SFT)                                            |                            |                            |                            |                               |                               |
| 9.20-9.25   | 5    | Movement                                                           |                            |                            |                            |                               |                               |
| 9.25-10.30  | 60   | Finance Workshop (SF3)                                             | Speed Networking (OLD GYM) | CV & Interview Prep (GIT)  | Speed Networking (OLD GYM) | CV & Interview Prep (LIT)     | Speed Networking (OLD GYM)    |
| 10.30-10.40 | 10   | Movement                                                           |                            |                            |                            |                               |                               |
| 10.40-11.45 | 60   | Speed Networking (OLD GYM)                                         | Finance Workshop (SF3)     | Speed Networking (OLD GYM) | CV & Interview Prep (LIT)  | Speed Networking (OLD GYM)    | CV & Interview Prep (GIT)     |
| 11.45-12.30 | 45   | Lunch                                                              |                            |                            |                            |                               |                               |
| 12.30-1.30  | 60   | CV & Interview Prep (GIT)                                          | CV & Interview Prep (LIT)  | Finance Workshop (SF3)     | GAP YEAR TALK (SFT)        |                               |                               |
| 1.30-1.45   | 15   | Movement                                                           |                            |                            |                            |                               |                               |
| 1.45-2.45   | 60   | GAP YEAR TALK (SFT)<br>(Former students: Emma Hobbs/ Polly Jarvis) |                            |                            | Finance Workshop (SF3)     | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (GIT) | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (LIT) |

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Bath University Trip

|             |                                              |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 8.45        | Students meet in Sixth Form Theatre          |
| 9.00        | Registration on coaches.                     |
| 9.15        | Leave Backwell                               |
| 10.45-11.45 | Tour of the campus                           |
| 11.45-12.30 | Talk on choosing and applying to University. |
| 12.30-13.00 | Lunch                                        |
| 13.00-13.30 | Q&A with the student ambassadors.            |
| 13.45       | Coaches depart                               |
| 3.00        | Return to Backwell School                    |

- Lanyards
- **Lunch and Water**
- Sun cream/hats etc
- Weather appropriate clothing whilst representing Backwell



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

**WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE**

| Time        | Mins | 12-1                          | 12-2                          | 12-3                          | 12-4                          | 12-5                          | 12-6                          |
|-------------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.00-9.20   | 20   | INTRO TO THE DAY (SFT)        |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 9.20-9.30   | 10   | Movement                      |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 9.30-10.30  | 60   | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (LIT) | Interview & CV Check (Lib)    |                               | Future Plans Meetings         | Finance Workshop (SF3)        | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (GIT) |
| 10.30-10.45 | 15   | Break                         |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 10.45-11.45 | 60   | Interview & CV Check (Lib)    | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (LIT) | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (SIT) | Unifrog UCAS Research 1 (GIT) | Interview & CV Check (Lib)    | Finance Workshop (SF3)        |
| 11.45-12.30 | 45   | Lunch                         |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 12.30-1.30  | 60   | Future Plans Meetings         | Future Plans Meetings         | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (LIT) | Interview & CV Check (Lib)    | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (GIT) | Interview & CV Check (Lib)    |
| 1.30-1.45   | 15   | Break                         |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 1.45-2.45   | 60   | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (SIT) | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (LIT) | Future Plans Meetings         | Unifrog UCAS Research 2 (GIT) | Future Plans Meetings         | Future Plans Meetings         |



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

**THURSDAY 25 JUNE**

|             |         | 12-1                                                                                                                                                                                   | 12-2                                       | 12-3                                       | 12-4                                       | 12-5                                       | 12-6                                       |
|-------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9.00-9.20   | 20 mins | <b>INTRO TO THE DAY</b><br>(SFT)                                                                                                                                                       |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 9.20-9.25   | 10 mins | Movement                                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 9.25-10.30  | 60 mins | <b>Personal Statement Masterclass or Apprenticeship Talk</b><br>PS Masterclass (BS1) (LIT) (GIT) (SIT)<br>Apprenticeship Talk (SFT) (Former student: Freya Harris – <u>Thatchers</u> ) |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 10.30-10.45 | 15 mins | Break                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 10.45-11.45 | 60 mins | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(BS1)                                                                                                                                             | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(LIT) | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(GIT) | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(SIT) | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings            | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings            |
| 11.45-12.30 | 45 mins | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 12.30-1.30  | 60 mins | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings            | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings            | <u>Future Plans</u><br>Meetings            | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(SIT) | <u>Unifrog UCAS</u><br>Research 3<br>(LIT) |
| 1.30-1.45   | 15 mins | Break                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |
| 1.45-2.15   | 30 mins | <b>SUMMARY AND WHAT NEXT</b><br>(SFT)                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |                                            |



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



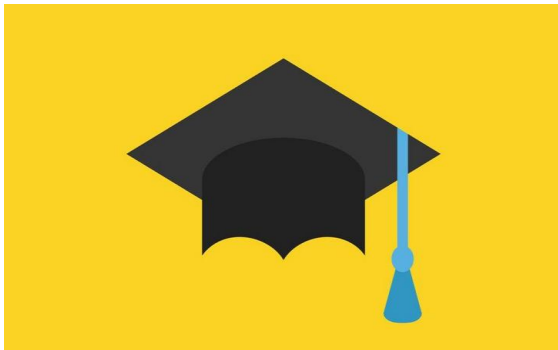
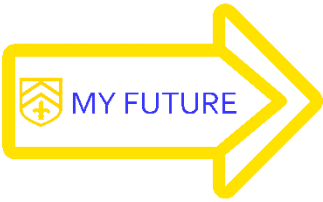
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**



- Work Experience: students should have completed an initial placement form on Unifrog and have permission.
- If they haven't managed to get physical work experience then look at the Careers bulletin for ideas for virtual work experience – there is a lot out there, Spring Pod is great! Once completed, add as an activity on Unifrog (plus any WEX in holidays)
- Other ideas for this day:
  - Complete home learning/independent study
  - Complete a MOOC
  - Continue with applications (Personal statements, CV, research)

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



## Future Plans

# Parent/carer Information

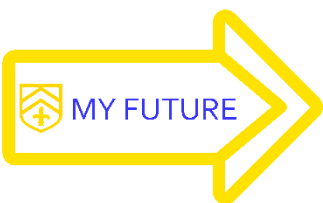
## Post-18 plans



### They don't know what to do!

- **Whatever decision they make is not final.** It may affect what they do for the next few years but if they change their mind later on that's ok. Shouldn't worry about making the wrong choice.
- For now, open their mind to all the options and apply for as many different options as possible.
- Research! Unifrog is an excellent resource and may highlight careers they hadn't considered.
- They don't need to be 'passionate' about something – just an idea they might enjoy it.





# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

**UNIVERSITY**

**GAP YEAR**

**APPRENTICESHIPS  
HTQs AND  
EMPLOYMENT**



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



MY FUTURE

[Home page](#) [6th Form Handbook](#) [tutor team](#) [email/office 365](#) [y12 key dates and contacts](#) [y13 key dates and contacts](#) [subjects](#) [well-being](#)  
[rock paper scissors](#) [university challenge](#) [6th form paarlauf](#) [suggestion box](#) [a-z of information](#) [Year 13 Leaving Info](#) [tutor page](#)  
[6th form curriculum information](#) [EPQ](#) [Employability Award](#) [Future Plans and Application Support](#) [Super-Curricular Activities](#) [WEX](#) [Future Plans Week 2026](#)

### INFORMATION ON POST-18 CHOICES

Click on the Post-18 Choices link below for Info on University, Gap Years and Apprenticeships, including the UCAS Guide and Personal Statement Advice. Scroll down for the weekly careers bulletin and a sample CV and Covering Letter you can edit for yourself.



**Post-18 Choices**  
Information and guidance for students

### CAREERS BULLETIN

### SAMPLE CV AND COVERING LETTER

Careers Bulletin 20 March  
Updated every Friday

For an editable version of the CV click here

For an editable version of the Covering Letter click here



**CVs - How to Pass the Algorithm**  
**Tips from Lloyds Bank**

### QUICK LINKS

UCAS Guide 2026 to download

 Choosing a Uni

 Responding to UCAS Offers  
You must see a member of SFT before responding to

Find An Apprenticeship  
Apprenticeship search engine

Gap Year Advice  
From a recommended website

Not Going to Uni  
Information and Advice on Non-Uni options

 Finding Work Experience

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



MY FUTURE

### Post-18 Options

University

Uni courses with early deadlines

Apprenticeship

Gap Year

Employment

Register for UCAS

UCAS Application Guide

UCAS Personal Statement

Student Finance

### Post-18 Options

- University
- Apprenticeship
- Gap Year
- Employment
- Higher Technical Qualifications

Research **these options** via your student account on [Unifrog](#). You can input your A Level/CTEC subjects to generate some ideas.

You could also use on-line **questionnaires** such as [Prospects Planner](#) to generate career ideas based on your interests and skills.

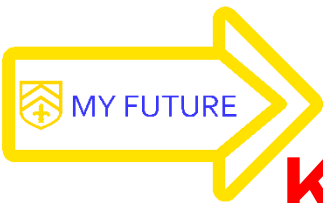
Bear in mind these are a guide only, they are not telling you what to do!

**To discuss further, book an appointment with Backwell School careers adviser, Mrs Farr ([jfarr@backwellschool.net](mailto:jfarr@backwellschool.net))**

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

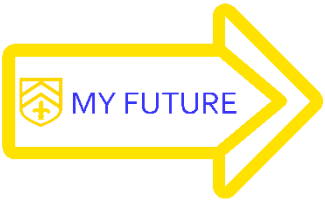
### KEY DATES IN YEAR 13 SEPT-DEC



|                                                                                                                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science, Conservatoire (music/drama) - finished applications to be handed in to school       | <b>21 Sept</b>          |
| Register for any University Entrance Tests<br><b>There are no longer any entrance tests sat in school</b><br><b>Book early!</b> | <b>now - early Sept</b> |
| Applications for Conservatoires / Drama Schools deadline (please check individual institutions)                                 | <b>1 Oct</b>            |
| Apprenticeships with larger firms and organisations are advertised                                                              | <b>early Oct</b>        |
| Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science, Conservatoire (music/drama) - <u>final deadline</u>                                 | <b>15 Oct</b>           |
| All other UCAS finished applications due to school                                                                              | <b>6 Nov</b>            |
| Interviews for Oxford/Cambridge/Medicine                                                                                        | <b>Nov/Dec</b>          |

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### KEY DATES IN YEAR 13 JAN-AUG

|                                                                                                                                              |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| All university applications <u>deadline</u> for 1 <sup>st</sup> round of decisions.<br>You can apply after this but the courses may be full. | <b>13 Jan</b>      |
| Interviews/assessments take place for apprenticeships with larger firms                                                                      | <b>Jan/Feb</b>     |
| Most other apprenticeship vacancies are advertised                                                                                           | <b>Jan onwards</b> |
| Deadline to make 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice university places                                                                | <b>May</b>         |





# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Sixth Form weekly Bulletin/Careers monthly – keep an eye!

#### FUTURE PLANS

**Careers Bulletin:** Please see the 'Future Plans and Application Support' page on Frog for the latest Careers Bulletin, resources, events, support and the school's careers platform, Unifrog. If you have any queries regarding future plans, please contact Ms Farr at [jfarr@backwellschool.net](mailto:jfarr@backwellschool.net).

**University Open Days:** Where possible, please attend open days on Saturdays/at weekends, rather than on a school day. You are allowed a maximum of five days' absence to attend open days throughout Years 12 and 13. You must submit a planned absence form in advance of any open day you wish to attend (not the day before or after the event!) to allow time for approval/permission by teachers and the Sixth Form Team.

Please see below a selection of virtual and physical university events and open days coming up – find them all at <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/>

---

---

Saturday 20 June

Chichester  
Derby  
Huddersfield  
Lancashire

Plymouth  
Reading  
Sheffield  
Westminster

Saturday 27 June

Birmingham

Lancaster

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



**GAP YEAR**



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



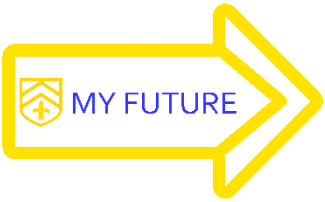
## WHAT STUDENTS DO ON GAP YEARS

*Taking a gap year should be an informed choice*

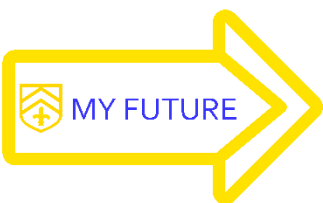
- Part-time Work
- Independent Travel (Students heard from Kilroy Travel)
- Gap Year 'Scheme'
- Volunteering
- Work Experience
- Study part-time to gain a qualification (e.g. at college)
- 1 Year college course/Art Foundation course
- A combination of all of these.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



- Can be a brilliant time to explore the world, develop skills, and have a break from study but...
- ...don't use 'gap year' as a default option choice unless you have planned what you are going to do and why you are taking a gap year....
- ...In other words, don't use it as an excuse to put off the decision of what to do next.
- It's a good idea to apply for university/apprenticeships/HTQs as well as consider a gap year, so all your options are open.
- If university is a definite for you but you want a gap year, you could apply this year for a 'deferred' place. You would then have an offer for a place to start in 2028. Not all universities offer this.



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### RESEARCH

[www.independantgapyearadvice.org](http://www.independantgapyearadvice.org)

## Independent Gap Advice

*Independent Gap Year Advice For Young People*

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year)

PROSPECTS

|                                                                                       |                                             |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---|
|    | Gap year ideas                              | > |
|    | Teach English abroad                        | > |
|    | 7 steps to the ultimate gap year            | > |
|    | Volunteer projects in South America         | > |
|    | Summer camp jobs in the USA                 | > |
|   | Working abroad                              | > |
|  | 10 opportunities to volunteer with children | > |
|  | Volunteering with animals                   | > |



# WHERE TO FIND US



travels@kilroy.co.uk



020 8028 0740



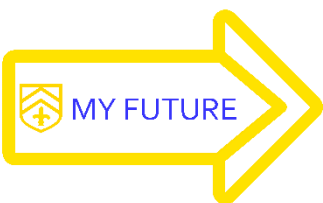
@kilroy\_uk



43 Queens Rd

Clifton, Bristol

BS8 1QQ



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



**A guide to gap years** ♥

Making the most of a year out

[Read the guide >](#)



**Work abroad: 3 things to figure out before you apply** ♥

Let's get planning

[Read the guide >](#)



**How to get an internship** ♥

They can take effort to find but they're well worth it

[Read the guide >](#)



**Volunteering: why it matters and how to start** ♥

Explore your options while you help others

[Read the guide >](#)



**A guide to summer schools** ♥

6 tips for making the most out of summer schools

[Read the guide >](#)



**Tilting Futures: What it's really like** ♥

A gap year with a purpose

[Read the guide >](#)



**How to stay safe while travelling** ♥



**Careers: Key terms** ♥

Get to know your job specs from your person specs,



**Work abroad: 5 reasons to make it happen** ♥

Unifrog is an excellent source of information for gap years and all other options.

Parents/carers already have an account linked to your child – sign in using your email address



# Parent/carer Information

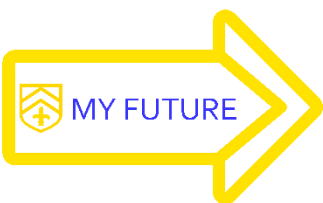
## Post-18 plans



### EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT FORMAL TRAINING

- There is no legal requirement to remain in learning after 18.
- If you do not want to achieve a higher level qualification, then it is totally reasonable to pause your formal learning and just work.
- **However**, your career journey is likely to benefit from gaining the highest level qualifications (academic or vocational) you can. So if further qualifications are on offer, at least consider them. You may find it harder to gain them later in life.
- You may not know what you want to do but you will have **more options** in your career the higher the qualifications you have.





# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Apprenticeships

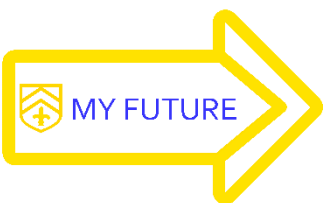


# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



- Earn a salary whilst working towards a qualification.
- The qualification is paid for. No student loan!
- Working towards Industry Standard qualifications whilst developing **skills**
- Working on real projects, making a difference to the world and gaining valuable work experience, as well as contacts in your chosen sector. This can give you an advantage over the graduates looking for jobs after their degrees.



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Apprenticeship Levels

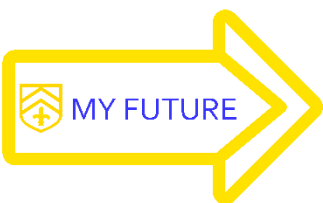
| Name         | Level        | Equivalent                    |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Intermediate | 2            | 5 GCSEs at a pass             |
| Advanced     | 3            | 2 A Level's at a pass         |
| Higher       | 4,5, 6 and 7 | Foundation degree and above   |
| Degree       | 6 & 7        | Bachelor's or Master's Degree |

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



- You can do an apprenticeship at degree level (Level 6). For this you generally need A Levels at A/B grades.
- You could also do an apprenticeship at higher level (Level 4/5). For this you need A Levels at lower grades.
- You could also do an apprenticeship at advanced level (Level 3). Although you only need GCSEs for this, your A levels will put you at an advantage. People also choose this route if the employer requires a certain A Level which they don't have. After Level 3 you would then move up to a higher level.



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

# Amazing Apprenticeships

**HIGHER & DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
VACANCY LISTING**

**JANUARY 2025**

The collage includes logos for the following companies:

- amazon, Amey, Bellway, BritishSugar, BAKKAVÖR, e-on, EDF, EY
- AIRBUS, AVOVE, Broadfield, bam, Bishop Fleming, Berkeley Group, CAPULA
- accenture, A&O SHEARMAN, babcock, BENTLEY, BANK OF AMERICA, CISCO, CATERPILLAR, e.
- love every drop, anglian/water, ARMY BE THE BEST, AG, DHL, Dunelm, FRESHFIELDS, GXO
- ZENOPIA, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK UK, AstraZeneca, WSH, WHITECODE CONSULTING, wtw, Vodafone, FARRER&Co, Greencore, HFW, iti
- Vistry Group, TROUP BYWATERS + ANDERS, Virgin Media, O2, TaylorWessing, UKRI, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Mondelez International, SNACKING MADE RIGHT, ROLLS ROYCE, METROPOLITAN POLICE, KPMG
- TRIBOSONICS, TAYLOR WOODROW, SEVERN TRENT, Shell, KIER, JBA Consulting, PKF FRANCIS CLARK, JLR
- TELEDYNE e2V, Submarine Delivery Agency, SIEMENS, NetworkRail, national highways, Nestle, MBDA, LEONARDO, th trowers & hamlins, TARMAC, Life Is On, Schneider Electric, Morrisons, LEYLAND TRUCKS

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### **Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)**

- Level 4 & 5 qualifications, introduced in 2022 and developed by employers to bridge the skills gap
- Including Foundation degrees (FdA), Higher National Certificates (HNC's) and Higher National Diplomas (HND's)
- 1/2 years in duration
- Can be offered part-time
- A way to continue higher technical education for those who prefer the classroom environment
- Tuition fees and maintenance loans can be accessed



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



HTQs are available across the following sectors:

- digital
- health and science
- construction and the built environment
- business and administration
- education and early years
- engineering and manufacturing
- legal, finance and accounting

From 2025, HTQs in the following sectors will also be available:

- agriculture, environmental and animal care
- care services
- catering and hospitality
- creative and design
- sales, marketing and procurement
- protective services



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



**UNIVERSITY**



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### 1. Consider Subject Area

- What has caught your interest in your studies so far? Start looking broadly (e.g. 'business') before narrowing it down (e.g. 'marketing').
- You might want to try a new subject.
- You may want a course with a link to a potential career
- If you are unsure see Careers Bulletin for details on open days

**NON  
VOCATIONAL**

Maths  
Chemistry  
History

**SEMI-  
VOCATIONAL**

Business  
Law  
Psychology

**VOCATIONAL**

Physiotherapy  
Medicine  
Accountancy

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



## 2. Consider Course Level

- Most students take an **Honours Degree** (BA, BSc, BEng, LLB, etc.). This is a Level 6 qualification.
- If you did not get the grades or relevant A levels you might consider a **Foundation Year**. This is an extra year before Honours Degree.
- A few students may take a **Masters Degree** (MA, MSc, MEng). This is a Level 7 qualification and takes 4 years. However, most do this as an extra year after the Honours Degree.
- You may consider a **Foundation Degree** which is a combined academic/vocational degree involving a placement. Takes 1 year (Level 4) or 2 year (Level 5).
- You may consider a vocational **Higher Technical Qualification** (HTQ). This is a 1/2 year Level 5 qualification which you usually take at college.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### 3. Consider Type of Course

- Single Subject
- Joint Honours e.g. “Maths **and** Chemistry”
- Major/Minor (e.g. 75% of one, 25% of other) e.g. “Maths **with** Chemistry”
- Sponsored Degree (e.g. Army, employer funded or part-funded)
- Degree at a private college or university e.g. ‘drama school’
- Year in Industry (workplace)
- Year Abroad (working or studying)
- Two year accelerated degree (intensive)
- Four year part-time degree (for those with other commitments)
- Online degree!

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### 4. Consider Entry Requirements

- Courses may ask for specific grades.
  - They may also ask for specific subjects..
- 
- BA History (Bristol University): AAA, including History
- They may ask for UCAS tariff points
- 
- BA Business and Management (UWE): 112 UCAS Tariff points
- Most will accept CTEC subjects as tariff points or instead of an A Level (including Oxbridge) but safest to check first.
  - When making your 5 choices, go for a variety of offers, i.e. ambitious / realistic / insurance. Your teachers will give you predicted grades for UCAS applications (they will be optimistic but also realistic ).

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

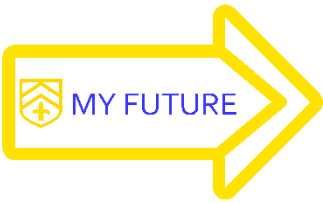


### 5. Other Factors

- **Course content.** Not all degrees with the same name are the same.
- **Assessment Style** (exam, practical, dissertation, etc.)
- **Teaching Style** (lectures, seminars, tutorials)
- **Contact Time** (find on 'Uni Guide' website)
- **Placement Opportunities**
- **Employer Contact and Graduate Destinations**
- **Location** (nearby/far away, urban, coastal, country, campus, overseas)
- **Clubs/Societies.** Some students make this their priority.
- **Living Costs**
- **Student Satisfaction Survey** (find on 'Discover Uni' website)
- **Professional Accreditation** ( e.g. Psychology= BPS, Teaching= QTS)
- **Accommodation options**

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



## STUDY ABROAD OR ONLINE

You might be considering studying abroad. There is lots of info on UCAS and Unifrog.



For study in the USA the best source of info is the Fulbright Commission



You might also consider an online / distance learning degree. A fulltime degree with the Open University is around £7k a year.





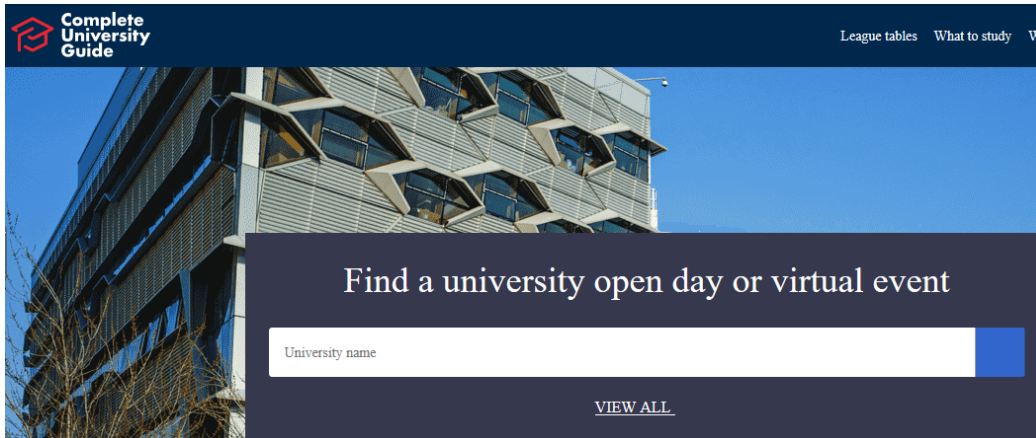
# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



## OPEN DAYS

- Even if you are not thinking of that particular university it may be worth visiting an open day just to get an idea of what a subject or university is like.
- 5 days max out of school!

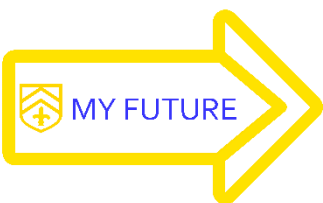


UCAS

Undergraduate / What and where to study

**EVENTS AND OPEN DAYS**

Explore this section ▼



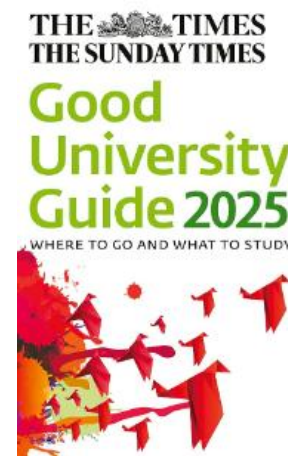
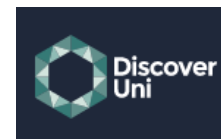
## RESEARCH WEBSITES

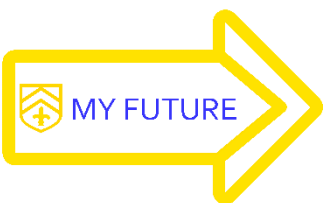
# Parent/carer Information Post-18 plans

- [www.ucas.com/explore/courses](http://www.ucas.com/explore/courses)
- [www.discoveruni.gov.uk](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk)
- Unifrog
- League tables

UCAS

unifrog



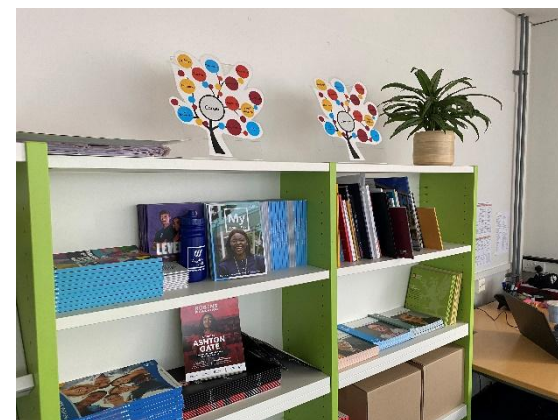


# Parent/carer Information

## HELP IN SCHOOL

### Post-18 plans

- If students prefer written info, there are some prospectuses on the shelves in the Library. They can also send off for these via the uni websites.
- Talk it through with their tutor or book an appointment with Mrs Farr



# Parent/carer Information

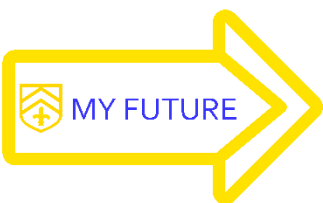
## Post-18 plans



## MAKING DECISIONS

1. Think about which factors are important to you.
2. Create a spreadsheet with courses against these factors.
3. Create a league table

| Uni + course     | Assessment: coursework vs exam | Course content / modules                                                   | Entry requirements  | Travel time from home | Placement opportunity |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Leeds, Maths BSc | 50% of each                    | Four optional modules/year<br>Can take 2 modules from other dept in Year 1 | AAA/144 UCAS points | 3 hrs 30 (by train)   | Yes                   |



# MONEY

## Parent/carer Information Post-18 plans

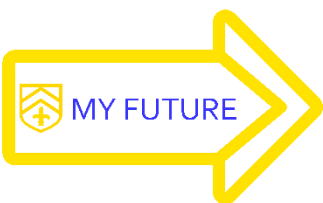


GOV.UK

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

- Most degrees are capped at the max £10,050 per year (2027/28). Foundation years are around £5,760 per year.
- Everyone is entitled to a tuition fee loan but additional maintenance loans are **means tested based on household income if you are under 25.\***
- Tuition fee loans are paid directly to the university at the beginning of each year. Maintenance loans are paid to you 3 times a year.
- You don't start repaying student loans until you are earning over **£25k**
- Repayment is based on **9%** of what you earn over this amount.
- All debt is written off after 40 years.
- To help you pay living costs, **scholarships, bursaries, paid placements, and part-time work** are all worth investigating. Research via [www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/](http://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/)
- You need to apply for Student Finance in Feb 2027.





# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Plan 5 Loan system

|                                                                                                                    | REPAY                                                                                                                                                                                                 | MAXIMUM TERM                                  | INTEREST ADDED                                                                                                             | IMPACT                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>ENGLAND 2022 STARTER</b>   | <b>9% OVER</b><br><br><b>£27,295</b><br><small>NEW: frozen until 2025</small><br>on £30,000 income you repay £243/yr | <b>30 YEARS</b><br>(from April after leaving) | <b>Up to RPI +3%</b>                                                                                                       | STATE PAYS<br><b>44p</b><br>PER £1<br>Only 23% likely to clear in full |
| <b>ENGLAND 2023 STARTER</b><br> | <b>9% OVER</b><br><br><b>£25,000</b><br><small>frozen until 2026/7</small><br>on £30,000 income you repay £450/yr  | <b>40 YEARS</b><br>(from April after leaving) | <b>RPI</b><br>(so no 'real' cost)<br> | STATE PAYS<br><b>19p</b><br>PER £1<br>52% likely to clear in full      |



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

# MONEY

**New student loans to cost many 50% more: Martin Lewis' 6 need-to-knows about 'Plan 5' English student finance**



Martin Lewis | Money Saving Expert

Updated 13 May 2025

 Save

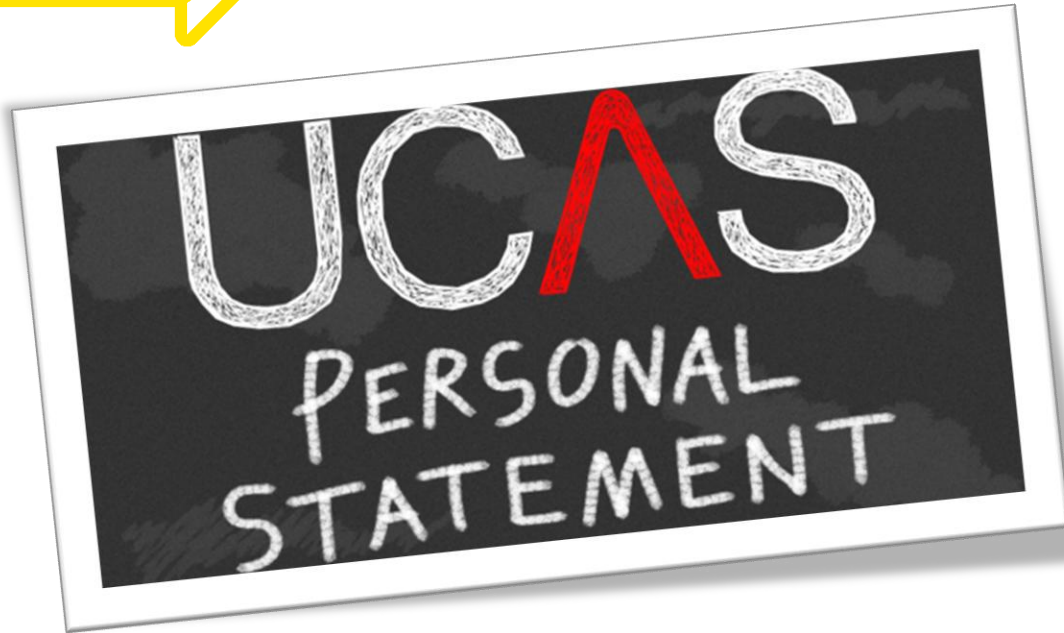
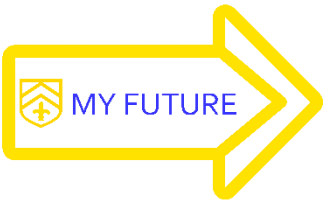
 Share

## University **Parental Contribution** Calculator

How much the government expects you to contribute to your child's student maintenance loan. Child not at uni yet? Use our [How much should you save](#) calc.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



**UK university staff only read students' personal statements for two minutes**

**Huge increase in applications means officials are left with little time to read student statements**



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### What are admission tutors looking for?

- **An understanding of what the course entails; demonstrate curiosity and interest, enthusiasm and motivation**
- **Self awareness – an understanding of your transferable skills and how these can be applied to the course (time management/independent study/critical thinking etc)**
- **Relevant experience**
- **Specific examples**
- **Plain English!**

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

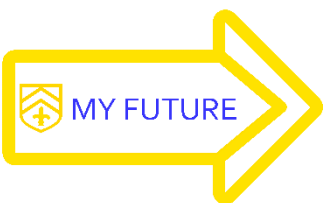


How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



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

- The new structure is to guide students and scaffold the process
- Students should have thoroughly researched the course they are interested in before they start writing it
- Use the PEEL method



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Students will want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this could include:

#### Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have they been inspired by a key role model or moment in their life?
- Is it a subject they love and want to pursue further?
- What is their drive?
- How has their path led them to this course or subject area?

#### Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

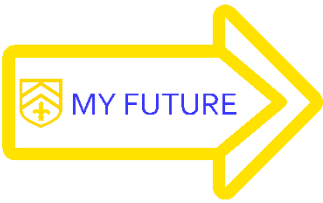
- Is there a particular subject area they've researched?
- Something they can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked their interest?

#### Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do they already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might they use their studies to launch their career?
- What's important to them and their future, and how might the knowledge gained from their chosen course(s) help them to achieve this?

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

UCAS

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to the subject or course(s), examples could include:

#### How their studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be current or previous studies.
- From any form of formal education – think school, college, training provider, or short online university course.

#### What relevant or transferable skills they have that make them a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped develop a core set of relevant skills required for their chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped them understand where their interests and strengths lie.

#### Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see grades on their application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, UCAS and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for the subject or course(s), this could include:

#### Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to their chosen course(s).

#### Personal life experiences or responsibilities:

- Is there a situation they've personally overcome that has influenced their decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped them develop essential qualities for the course?

#### Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why they'd make a great student.

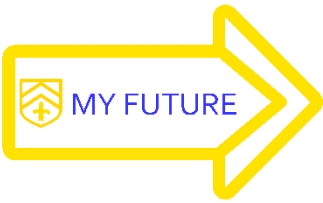
#### Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications they've attained outside of the classroom.



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



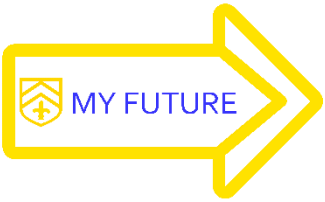
### Examples of evidence

UCAS

|                           |               |                                |                    |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| In person work experience | Blogs & vlogs | Positions of responsibility    | Projects or essays | Mentoring              |
| Virtual work experience   | Documentaries | Awards                         | Books              | Tutoring               |
| Work shadowing            | Podcasts      | Challenges                     | Influencers        | Online subject courses |
| Paid employment           | TED Talks     | Personal life experiences      | Hobbies            | Trips or visits        |
| Volunteering              | Articles      | Work based learning / training | Clubs              | Competitions           |

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### **Use of AI e.g Chat GPT – UCAS advice**

Generating (and then copying, pasting and submitting) all or a large part of your personal statement from an AI tool such as ChatGPT, and presenting it as your own words, could be considered cheating by universities and colleges and could affect your chances of an offer.

When you complete your application, you now have to declare that your personal statement hasn't been copied or provided from another source, including artificial intelligence software.

As part of our responsibility to applicants and universities and colleges, the UCAS Verification Team run checks to detect fraudulent applications and patterns of similarity in personal statements.

If UCAS software detects elements of a personal statement that are similar to others, the universities or colleges it is intended for may be notified.





# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



**0 of 6** notes added so far

Be strategic: think about what you'd like each reference / recommendation to cover.



**Chemistry with Mr Turner**

UK Subject Reference

(you haven't added a note yet)

Add >



**Economics with Mr Langford**

UK Subject Reference

(you haven't added a note yet)

Add >



**EPQ with Miss Haywood**

UK Subject Reference

(you haven't added a note yet)

Add >



**Spanish with Miss Haywood**

UK Subject Reference

(you haven't added a note yet)

Add >



**Tutorial with Mrs King**

UK Subject Reference

(you haven't added a note yet)

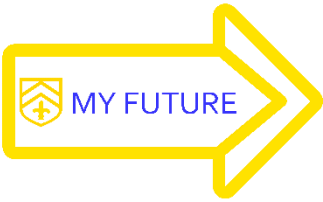
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It is helpful if students have done the research on their courses and make notes for their teachers to demonstrate how they have acquired the necessary knowledge/skills admissions tutors are looking for.

Especially important if they are applying to a course related to that subject.

We will share Intended Future Plans with teachers to help with references

### UCAS predicted grades



- Predicted UCAS grades by your teachers are often aspirational but should be attainable Your teacher won't be doing you any favours if they give you unrealistic predicted grades – this would be unprofessional
- UCAS predicted grades may be higher than what your internal report says – your internal forecast grades are what your teachers think you are most likely to achieve.
- Your teachers will use a body of evidence, such as termly assessment and trial exams to decide on these grades. You can talk to your teachers about them/ask to demonstrate attainment at a higher grade but ultimately you should respect their professional judgement.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans

### Make informed choices



#### Make use of your five choices:

- One/two aspirational, two/three realistic , one/two as insurance.
- After offers you will have to confirm firm and insurance choices.

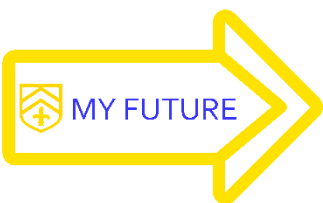
#### Consider the value of a points offer:

- Courses all with a likely offer of AAB or A back-up.
- A points offer of 128 points is equivalent to AAB or A back-up and is more flexible:

*e.g. A\*BC is also 128 points.*

*You can include AS & EPQ points.*

|    | CTEC/Extended Certificate |    |   |
|----|---------------------------|----|---|
| D* | 56                        |    |   |
| D  | 48                        |    |   |
| M  | 32                        |    |   |
| P  | 16                        |    |   |
| E  | 6                         | 16 | 8 |



# Parent/carer Information

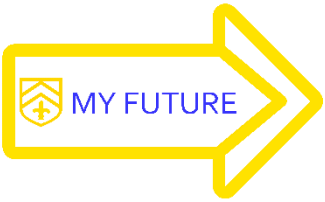
## Post-18 plans

**Write down 5 things you need to do by the end of Year 12 to help you in your planning. These need to be SMART:**



# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### What can students still do to boost their applications?

- Seek work experience (virtual?), volunteering, part-time jobs
- Gain specific subject knowledge via an online course (eg. via Future-learn or a MOOC on Unifrog)
- Get involved in extra-curricular activities, e.g. :
  - Creative pursuits (music, drama, art)
  - Sport / Outside activities
  - Mentoring / Supporting Others
  - Sixth Form and Lower School Clubs/Societies. If there isn't one which interests you, start your own!
- Use your study periods constructively and in a way which will help you!
- Email Mrs Ball for a 1-1 chat about your ideas.

# Parent/carer Information

## Post-18 plans



### How can Parents/Carers help?

- Talk to your young person
- Help them to be aspirational yet realistic
- Check their personal statements
- Support them to get to the right open days
- Keep an eye on upcoming deadlines  
(internal/external, finance, accommodation)
- Help them to resist bribery and to make a considered decision!
- Help them to make and stick to SMART targets