

HOUSE ACADEMIC MENTOR NEWSLETTER

Term 6 2023

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UCAS DEADLINES – all houses, all HAMs!

Friday 8th September: Early Entry Candidate personal statement first drafts to HAMs.

Friday 29th September: All sections of the UCAS application form except for choices and your personal statement complete.

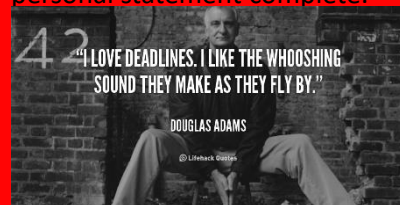
Monday 16th October: Early Entry deadline – applications complete by 6pm.

Friday 20th October: First draft of your personal statement or CV to your HAM

Friday 15th December: Final date to hand in your personal statement for checking.

Thursday 21st December: All UCAS applications checked and ready to send to UCAS.

Wednesday 31st January: Final UCAS deadline – applications complete by 6pm.



The UCAS application form

Fill in as much of this form as you can at home – remember your HAMs will be tracking your progress. Some of the common mistakes we see are:

- Not putting in the correct funding code (its 02 for most of you!).
- Forgetting to say you don't have any criminal convictions.
- Asking to receive information in Welsh.

If you're not sure which exam boards to enter on the qualifications page, you can find a list in our new shared resources space.



Just checking in

(phrase)

I'm going to keep sending you emails about this until you respond.

Course requirements – have you checked?

When searching for Uni courses (try <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>) please make sure you check the course requirements carefully.

- Grades.
- Work experience requirements.
- Specific subjects you have to have taken.

Remember, if you're not sure how aspirational a course might be for you your HAM has access to the UCAS 'Historic Grades' tool, that could give you an idea of what previous applicants needed to get on to the course you're looking at.

NEW: Shared resources space.

Looking for more? Documents from the newsletter and additional resources and guidance can be found in our shared resources drive. Use your school e-mail to access.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/186MHQeyoaTeKJYPP6jjN3OqdieGYVT6q?usp=sharing>

Apprenticeships corner

UCAS gets a lot of air time, but apprenticeships are an ever more popular option – have you remembered:

- Apprenticeships can provide a pathway to the same qualifications as a university course whilst allowing you to earn instead of accumulating debt.
- The application process is very similar to UCAS, but you might have to make a separate application for every course on offer.
- You can still apply for UCAS at the same time.
- Apprenticeships can be advertised all year round, so you must look regularly.

If you want to know more, all DHFS 6th formers were given an apprenticeship guide (and you can find that in our new shared resources area) but you can also find lots of support and opportunities at:

- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) – a one stop shop!
- <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch> - the governments national database for apprenticeship offers.

Personal Statements

There are lots of great personal statement guides out there, like the one on the UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement> or the ones in our new shared space, but some sound advice is always to complete a skills audit, making a list of your strengths and the things that you have already done that would make you a great applicant for your course.

A personal statement is all about the things that make you the best candidate for a place on the course you are applying for, so make sure to talk about your skills, not just your experiences.

Remember, selling yourself is hard, but when your personal statement starts to make you sound nauseatingly amazing you're on the right track!



A slice of HAM

Each term, one of our HAMs shares a little bit about their journey with you. This term Miss Watkin talks about her choices:

I had my entire life planned out for as long as I could remember, my path was set, and I worked towards it as hard as I could. Then, two weeks before my A-Level results came out, I realised I had changed my mind. I took a year out in a really boring desk job while I worked out a new plan and went to uni to do an English undergraduate degree the following September.

Hello Parents and Carers!

This sidebar is just for you 😊.

Hopefully your child came back from the UCAS launch day this term and has been having lots of conversations with you about what they want to do after they leave DHFS.

We just wanted to let you know that as House Academic Mentor's (HAMs) we're here to support your child by:

- Providing guidance on applications of all types (Uni, apprenticeships, and employment).
- Offering 1-2-1 support with making University choices.
- Guiding students towards appropriate work experience.
- Giving feedback on personal statements and CVs.
- Offering interview practice.

We are also responsible for writing your child's reference at the end of the process, and we're also here for any other pastoral support your child might need.

Please feel free to get in touch with your child's HAM if you have any questions about Post-18, current applications, or anything relating to the UCAS process and we'll be happy to help.