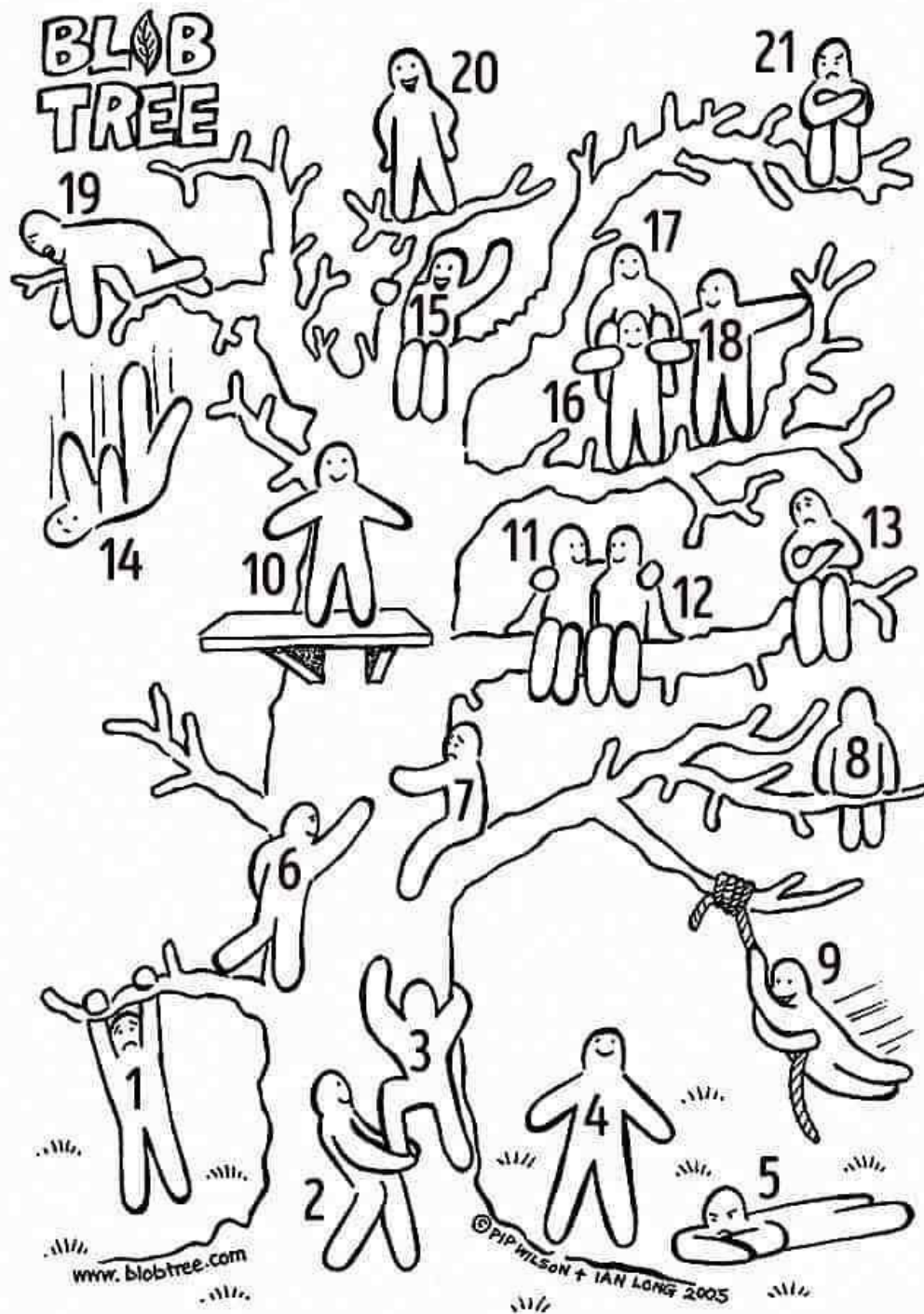# Higher Education Evening part 2
Thursday 6th June 2024

Mr Jones

Which blob best describes how you now feel about discussing your son/daughters 'post 18' options?

Meet the Team

Mr Will Jones, Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)

Head of Year 13 - Mrs Susannah Hughes

Head of Year 12 - Mr Carl Bezuidenhout

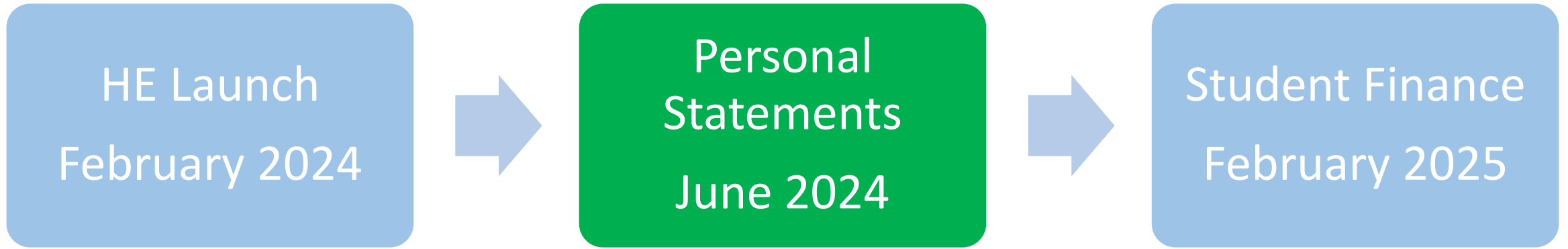**Sixth Form Student Services Manager - Mrs Grethel Hall**

Sixth Form Administrator – Mrs Fiona Hugill

Head of Careers – Mrs Augusta Kennedy

| HE Launch February 2024 | → | Personal Statements June 2024 | → | Student Finance February 2025 |

This evening's focus:

- Writing a 'Personal Statement'
- The difference between Unifrog and UCAS
- UCAS Predicated grades
- Reminder of apprenticeships as a Post – 18 option and the process involved in applying
- LinkedIn

HE launch in February

- Since the last session we have…..

  - Introduced the UCAS process
  - Introduced Unifrog as a search tool
  - Outlined of various Post -18 options
  - 1:1 careers guidance/interviews
  - Farnborough UCAS fair
  - Securing(ed) work experience
  - May 2024 Progress reports

Friday 7th June

- Personal Statement Day for students

Period 3 - 4

- External company coming to lead a 'Writing a Personal Statement' session

Period 5

- Start drafting the personal statement on Unifrog
- Log on to UCAS and begin their application

UCAS Predicated Grades

- Evidence based

- Holistic

- Aspirational*

What can you do if you were hoping for higher predicted grades?

- Complete summer work

- Produce assessed work at the required standard

- Honest post mock reflections
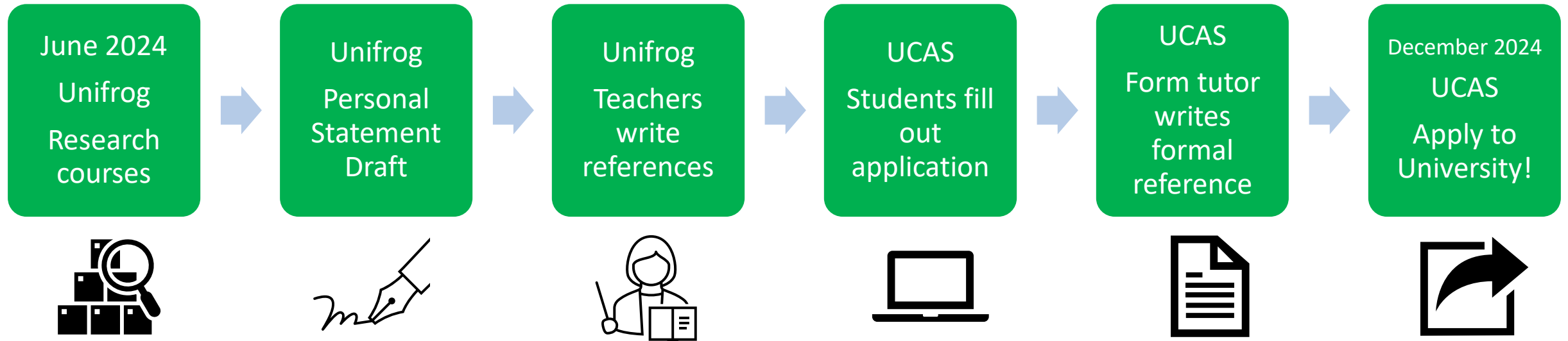
- School report WB 14th October 2024

Gordon's Honours

- The Gordon's Honours Programme recognises those who 'bleedgreen' by demonstrating hard work and service in all aspects of school life: lessons, house and co-curricular during Y12-13.

- There are three checks to pass:

  o Conduct: Behaviour points

  o House: House nomination based on contribution

  o Co-curricular: 40 hours service to the school (<u>representation</u> e.g. being part of a team and <u>volunteering</u>, minimum 10 hours)

In Autumn Term of Y13 Honours students UCAS / Apprenticeship / work reference will be prefixed with "x is an honours students at Gordon's school", In the Summer Term of Y13 Honours students' LinkedIn profiles will be 'recommended' by Gordon's School.

A reminder of the UCAS process

June 2024

Unifrog

Research courses

→

Unifrog

Personal Statement Draft

→

Unifrog

Teachers write references

→

UCAS

Students fill out application

→

UCAS

Form tutor writes formal reference

→

December 2024

UCAS

Apply to University!

Entry Requirements

Universities make offers based on:

- A Level grades A*- E
- BTEC grades D*- P
- UCAS points

A Level Grade	UCAS Points		BTEC Grade	UCAS Points		EPQ	UCAS Points
A*	56		Distinction*	56		A*	28
A	48		Distinction	48		A	24
B	40		Merit	32		B	20
C	32		Pass	16		C	16
D	24					D	12
E	16					E	8

Therefore, a university course might have the entry requirements of AAB, or 136 UCAS points. Mock examinations in April are a good indicator of realistic university destinations.

MEET THE DEADLINES:

KEY DATES:

- Complete **personal statement draft** to **tutor by 21st June 2024. Oxbridge personal statement draft by 19th June 2024.**

- 16th September: Oxbridge/Medi personal statement final version.

- 15th October 2024: Submission deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary Medicine/Science, Medicine, Dentistry applications

- 30th September: All students final personal statement due

- November 2024: Applications sent off

- 29th January 2025: Offical UCAS deadline

Oxbridge Applicants

Student meeting with Mrs Wright w/b 2nd September 2024

15 September 2024

- Deadline to [register for the LNAT admission test](#) if you want to study Law.

- Deadline to apply for access arrangements for the [UCAT admission test](#) if you want to study Medicine or Graduate Medicine.

16 September 2024

- Deadline to register for the [ESAT](#) and [TMUA](#) admissions tests.

19 September 2024

- Deadline to register for the [UCAT admission test](#) if you want to study Medicine or Graduate Medicine.

- Oxford test dates and arrangements still to be confirmed: keep up to date with

https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests

- UCAS forms to be ready for checking by Monday 16th September

Writing an effective personal statement

Suzie Loader – School and College Engagement Officer

TEF 2023 Gold — Teaching Excellence Framework
Outstanding teaching.[1]

EXCELLENT ★★★★★ **QS**
One of the best universities in the world.[2]

TOP 40
Top 40 most international universities in the world.[3]

More than 400 courses in 40 subject areas.

Four times Queen's Anniversary Prize winners, most recently in 2020 for exposing the devastating effect of plastic pollution on human and wildlife health.

90%
90% positive graduate outcomes.[4]

Green Flag Award winning campuses across Devon and Cornwall.

30,000 students from more than 150 countries.

Consistently Top 5 in British Universities and Colleges Sport rankings out of 150+ institutions.

Leading UK university.[5]

RUSSELL GROUP
A world-class, research-intensive university.

Award Winning Careers Support:
- Training
- Development
- Networking
- Support
- Opportunities.

SUCCESS FOR ALL
- ✓ University of Sanctuary
- ✓ Stand Alone Pledge
- ✓ Care Leavers Covenant
- ✓ Stonewall Diversity Champion
- ✓ Athena Swann Gender Charter

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[1] Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023.
[2] Awarded 5 Stars rating from QS.
[3] Ranked 39th in the THE Most International Universities in the World 2023.
[4] 90% of graduates in or due to start employment or further study 15 months after graduation based on full-time, first degree, UK domiciled graduates (HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2020/21).
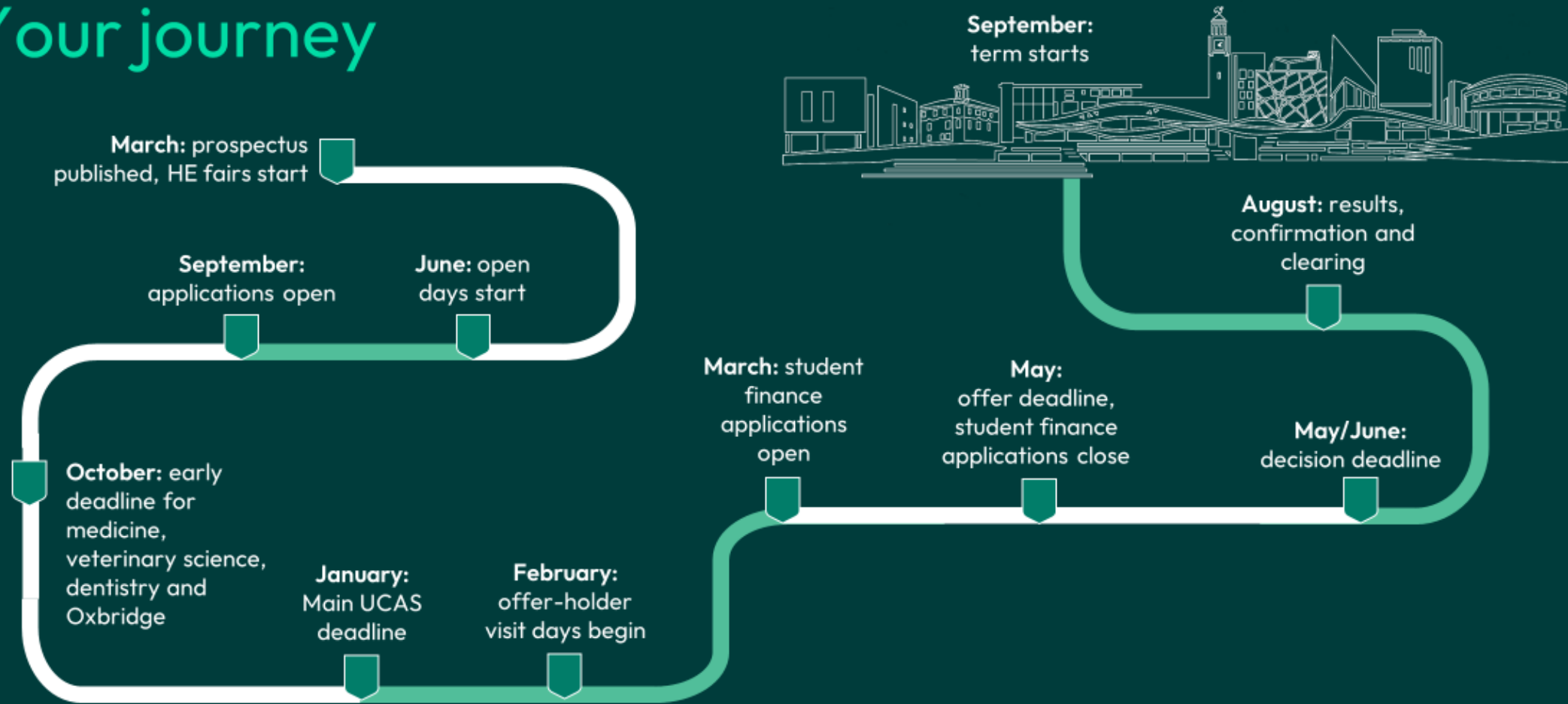[5] 11th in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024.

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We will look at

- What a personal statement is

- How to get started

- What to include

Application process

Universities consider:

- achieved academic performance

- predicted academic performance

- personal statement and teacher reference

- any extenuating circumstances

- possible interviews / admissions tests / portfolios / auditions etc

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Your year of entry is important...

Current Year 12 (Year of entry: 2025)	Current Year 11 (Year of entry: 2026)
• Only 4,000 characters or 47 lines • Continuous text • Same one for each choice • 75% should be subject-based • 25% should be about you as a person • Discuss: • your interest in the subject • super-curricular activity • relevant work experience • your current studies • extra-curricular activities	• UCAS are going to change the structure of the personal statement – it is likely that you will be given specific questions to answer under three key themes: • **Motivation for your chosen course:** Why do you want to study it? • **Preparedness for the course:** How has your learning so far helped you to be ready to succeed on these courses? • **Preparation through other experiences:** What else have you done to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

... but what universities want to know isn't changing!

How are your current studies relevant and preparing you?

Why are you interested/passionate about your chosen subject?

What other relevant experiences do you have and what supercurricular activity have you done?

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The specifics

- Only 4,000 characters or 47 lines

- Same one for each choice

- 75% should be subject-based

- 25% should be about you as a person
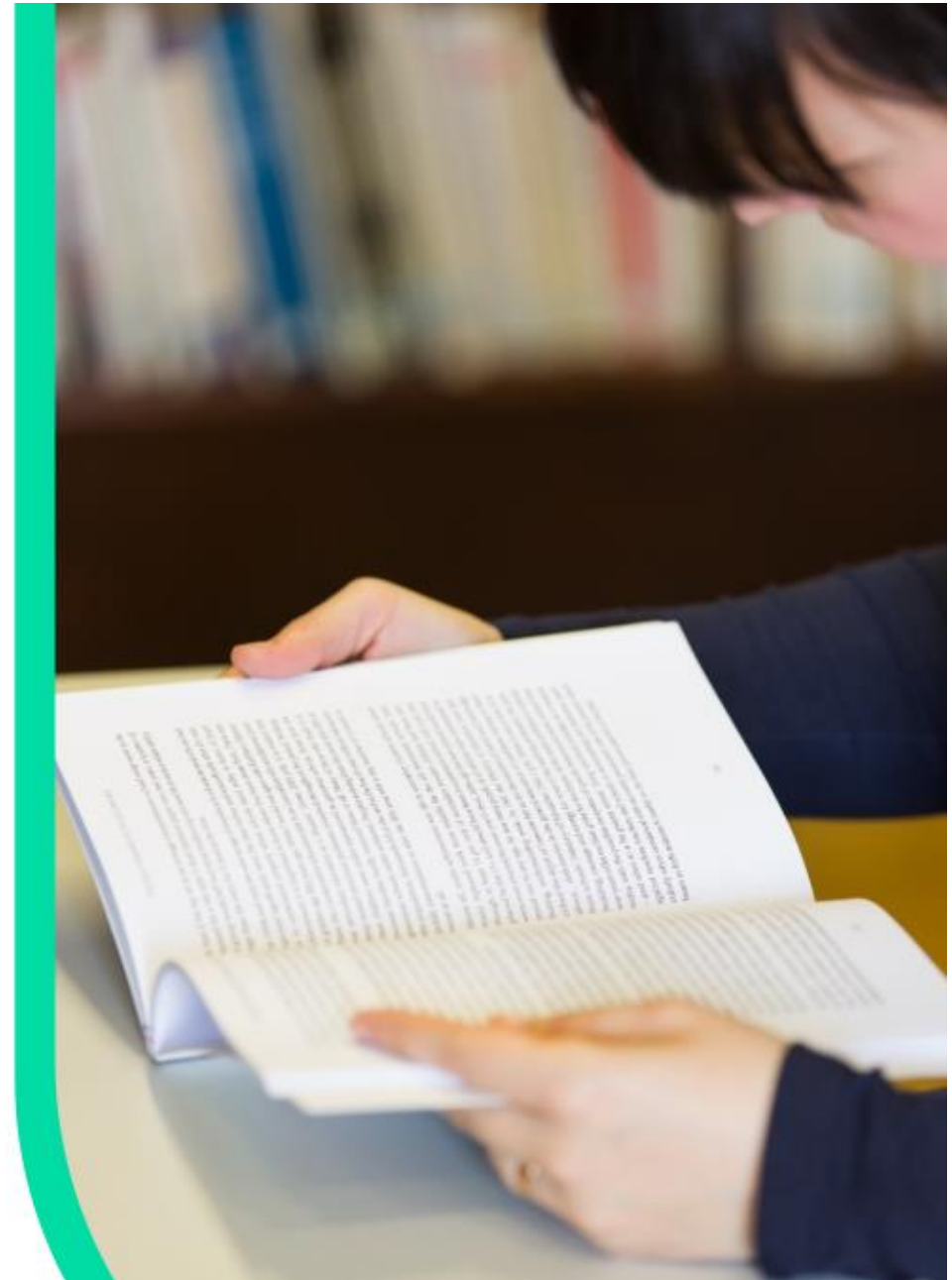
Structure

- Discuss:

  - your interest in the subject
  - super-curricular activity
  - relevant work experience
  - your current studies
  - extra-curricular activities

Getting started on the Personal Statement

Stage 1

1. Subject(s) you are interested in

Stage 2

Over to you...

List your specific interests in that subject – don't worry, it doesn't have to be exact now
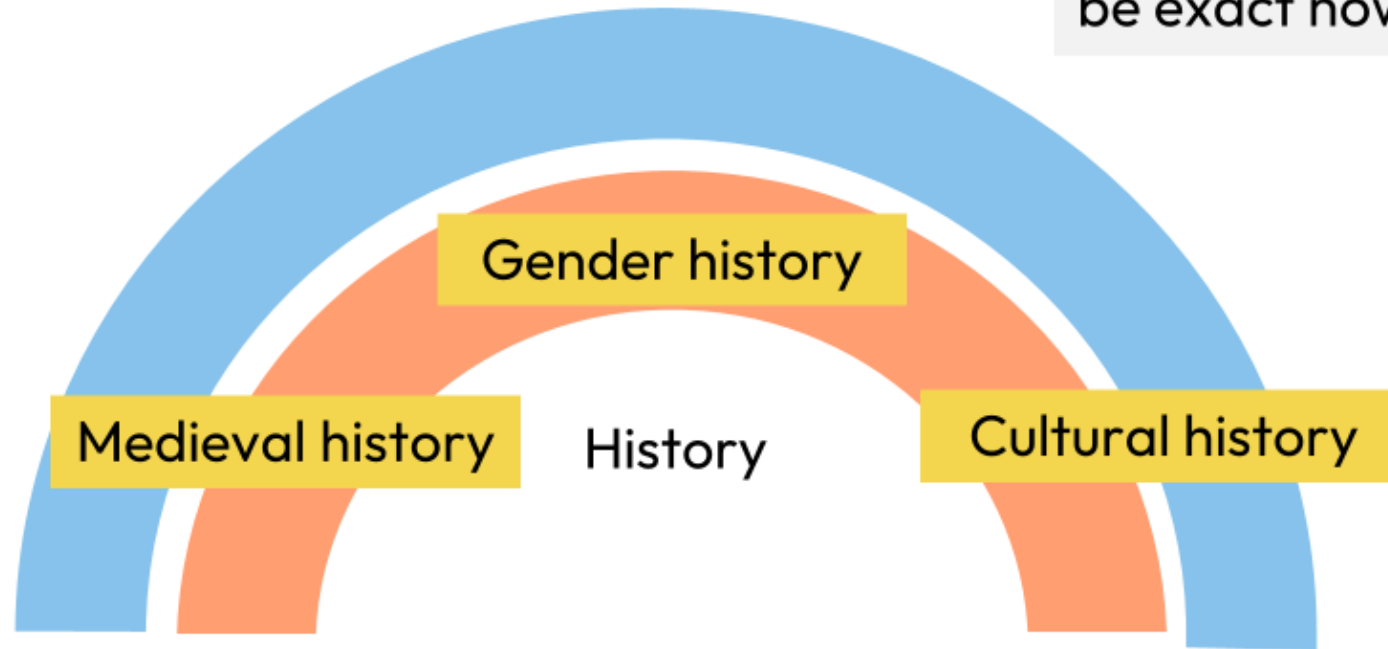
2. Specific areas

1. Subject(s) you are interested in

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Example:

Gender history

Medieval history

History

Cultural history

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Volunteering at a
local charity shop

Binge-watching
Netflix

Organising a
fundraising event
at school

Work experience
at a local paper

Duke of Edinburgh

Part time work

Running/starting
a club

Being on student
council

Captaining a
school sports
team

Transferable skills

Extra-curricular and skills

Activity	Benefits: skills attained	Course: links with your subject
EPQ	Harvard referencing	I'll be required to reference all sources during my history degree.

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Remember to...

- Choose your subject(s) before you start writing

- Complete super-curricular exploration before starting to write

- Think about your audience

- Check spelling, punctuation and grammar

- Get feedback

- Redraft

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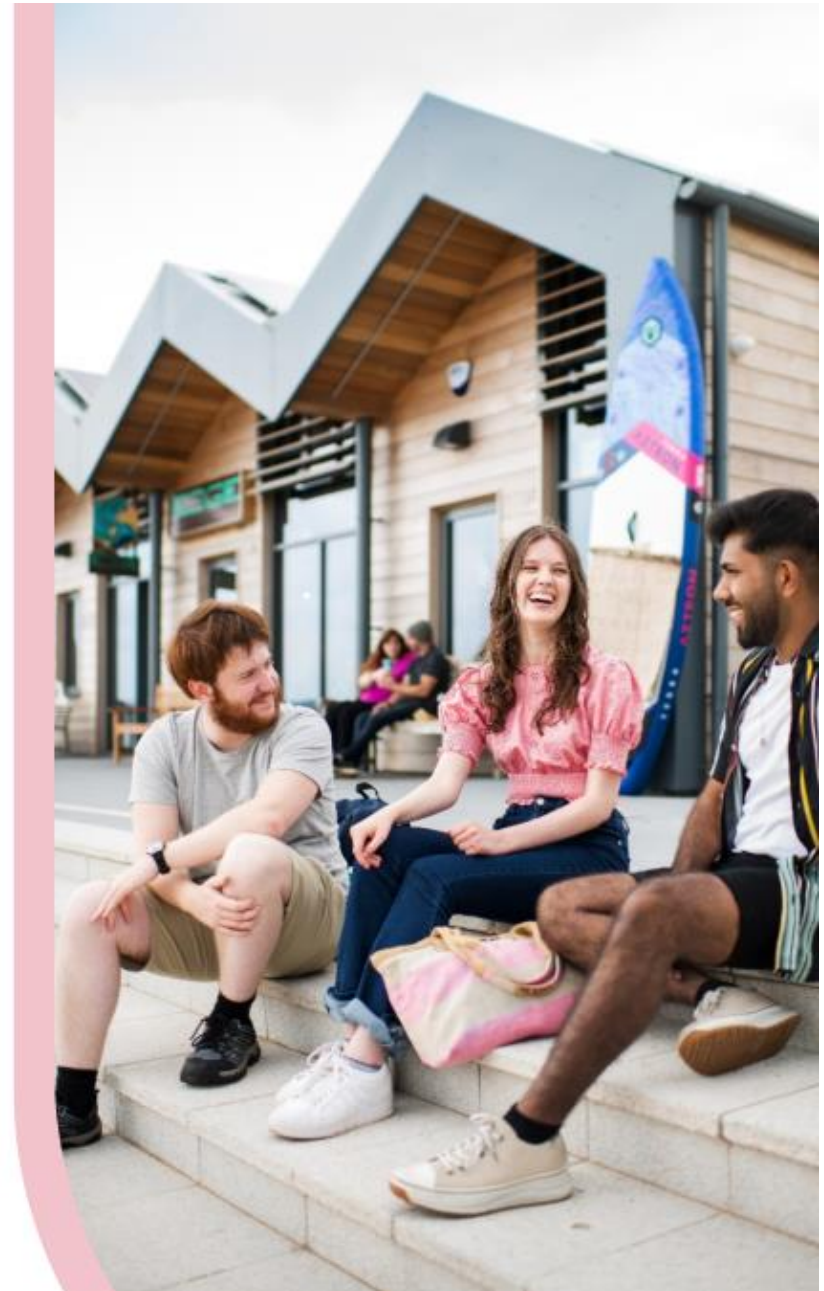
Avoid...

- Mentioning any university by name

- Any misleading information

- Plagiarism

- Cliches

- Leaving it until the last moment

Over to you: Planning time!

| Academic Content	Extracurricular Content
• Why are you interested in the course? • What skills do you need to succeed in this course? Then think about the evidence that proves that you have them. • What super-curricular research have you done/what do you need to do? • What overall themes/ideas have emerged from your super-curricular research? • What elements of your A Level subjects have you found particularly interesting? • What skills have you developed throughout your studies? • How could you open your statement?	• Have you done any relevant work experience and what has it taught you? • What clubs/hobbies do you have and what relevant transferable skills have they given you?

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For Parents and Supporters

- We offer a programme of FREE online webinars designed especially for parents, guardians, carers, relatives and supporters.

- Applying to the University of Exeter

  26th September 2024

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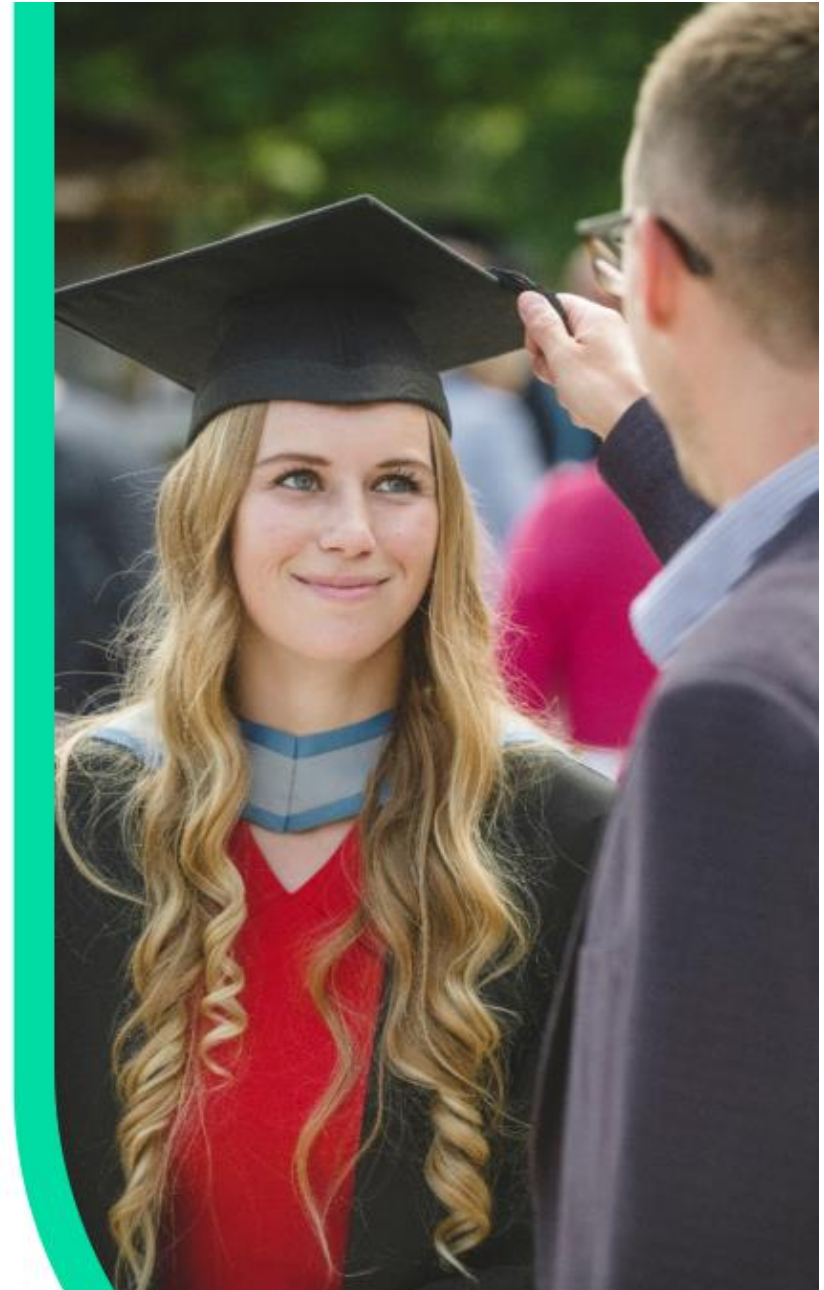
Hear from the University of Exeter

- Sign up for support and information from the University of Exeter!
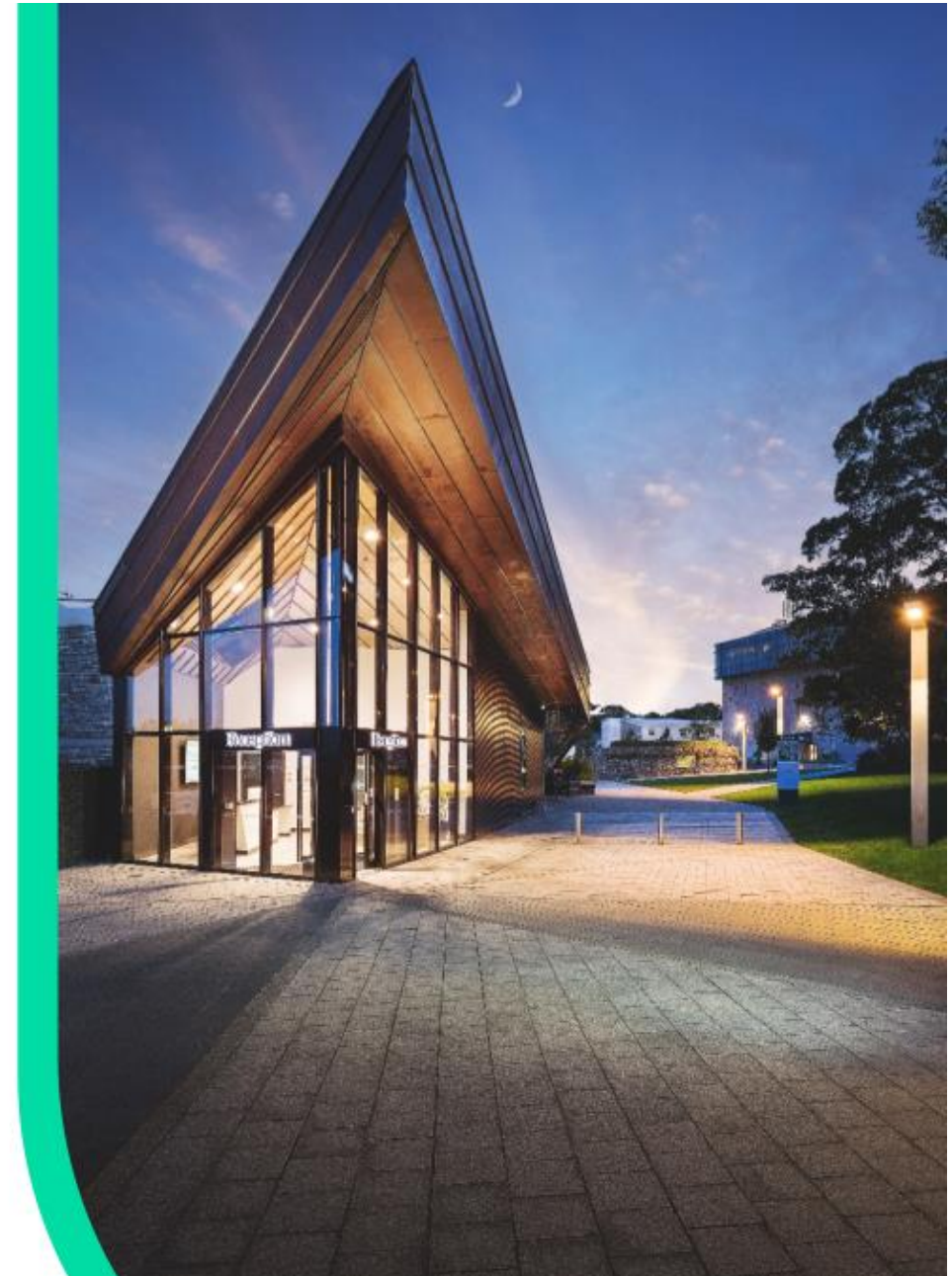
Apprenticeships

What do you need to know?

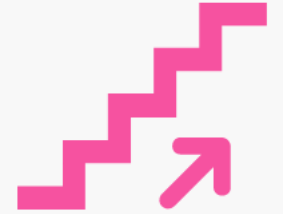Mrs Kennedy, Head of Careers

What are apprenticeships?

Employed

Off the job

Intermediate – degree level

Paid a salary
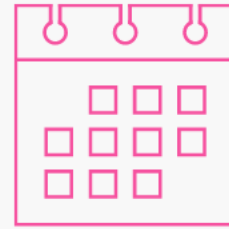
Typically 1-6 years

Real responsibilities

Contract

600+
600+ standards

Not the easy option

The levels of apprenticeships

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade 4-9 (A*-C)
Advanced	3	2 A Levels / Level 3 diploma / International Baccalaureate
Higher	4,5,6 & 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Higher & Degree apprenticeships

Work full-time and study part-time

Learning	Salary	No debt	NUS	Experience	4-6 Years

University fees paid by employer and/or Government

Wide range of employers work with 100+ universities to offer degree apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships at Russell Group Universities

University of Exeter

- Civil Engineering

- Finance Services (J.P. Morgan)

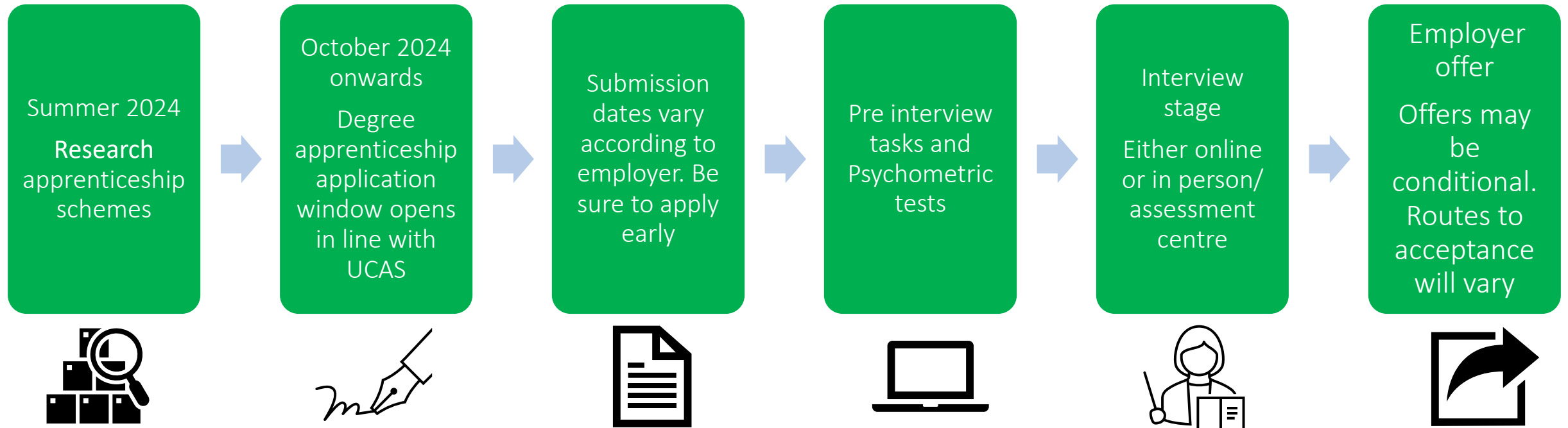- Digital and Technology Solutions (IBM)

University of Birmingham

- Chartered Surveyor

University of Warwick

- BEng Applied Professional Engineering

- MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Critical Care) (NHS)

- MSc Digital Technology Solutions

A reminder of the Apprenticeship Application Process

| Summer 2024 **Research** apprenticeship schemes | → | October 2024 onwards Degree apprenticeship application window opens in line with UCAS | → | Submission dates vary according to employer. Be sure to apply early | → | Pre interview tasks and Psychometric tests | → | Interview stage Either online or in person/ assessment centre | → | Employer offer Offers may be conditional. Routes to acceptance will vary |

Remember to check the school Careers website for information and advice on Apprenticeships:
Gordon's School - Careers Education (gordons.school)
National Apprenticeships Helpline: 08000 150 400

Successful applicants:

- Take time over the application

- research the organisation in advance

- attend an **Insight** day or webinar

- have relevant work experience and are proactive

- can articulate how they have the skills and qualities the employer seeks

- are **enthusiastic** and resilient

What are employers looking for?

Flexibility and adaptability	Tact and diplomacy	The ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines
The ability to be proactive and work on your own initiative	Honesty and reliability	Attention to detail
Discretion / understanding of confidentiality issues	Remain calm under pressure and to think quickly in a crisis	Adapt quickly to change

How are we supporting students?

- **Building your Network -**

LinkedIn and Gordonian sessions for all Y12 before the end of this term

- **Apprenticeship Preparatory Workshop -**

Friday 7th June at 2:40pm in Chapel

- **Apprenticeship Clinic –**

Mentoring, interview skills, application support for Y13 in the Autumn term

What is LinkedIn?

- LinkedIn is a Business networking platform for **professionals** to connect, share, and learn. Contrary to popular believe it is not **Social Media**.

- LinkedIn is your gateway to networking, researching organisations, and building your **professional** presence online.

- LinkedIn is your **digital CV –** your 'personal brand'**.**

- According to statistics provided by LinkedIn; **93%** of recruiters use LinkedIn to research and recruit candidates.

- Over 58.4 million companies and 129,000 Educational institutes globally are registered on LinkedIn as of 2023.

- 90 job applications are submitted on LinkedIn every minute.

- 50 million people use LinkedIn to look for jobs every week.

- On average, 8 people are hired via LinkedIn each minute.

Why should a Student have a LinkedIn profile?

- Get a head start on your peers and 'Connect to Opportunity'.

- Think: University, Apprenticeships, Work, Research or Learning

- Linked to personal statement – consistent message

- An essential tool when transitioning into the world of work – be it a part-time or a full-time job, a work placement or volunteering.

- Access to an **instant network of over 2,000** other Gordonians – working or studying all over the world.

- Start to network early – strong connections can be made while still in school

- A professional space designed to **showcase your achievements** (Volunteering, DofE, Debating, Awards, Clubs etc, Sports captain, Lead role)

It is your Professional/Personal Brand
All Y12 will be supported to create LinkedIn profiles this term

Reminder
All Gordon's honours students will receive a
LinkedIn recommendation from the school
when they leave

Linked in

Last word…
Mr Jones

Personal Statement Day tomorrow
Personal Statement Writing and Key Competencies

- Students should come prepared with an idea of a subject area/industry they're interested in (*not expected to know exactly what course/job*).

- They will leave the day with a first Personal Statement draft underway.

Key Dates

Dates	Deadline for
19th June 21st June	Oxbridge personal statement draft to Mrs Wright Personal statement draft to tutors
16th September 30th December	Internal deadline for Oxbridge/Medicine personal statement Deadline for other personal statements
WB 4th November	Begin submitting UCAS applications
29 January 2025	National UCAS deadline for applications