

# Year 13 Raising Achievement Evening

## Questions and responses



### **What is the careers book HEAP and is it available digitally?**

This is a book which contains by subject all of the entry requirements for all UK universities. Students can use this to identify universities to apply to. There is a double page spread for each subject. We have printed copies in school that students can refer to. A digital bundle can be purchased but the printed copy is much better value.

### **Why are EPQ predictions not part of UCAS prediction grade sheet?**

The examination series for AQA EPQ is November, so these are currently being internally moderated and processed to send to the examination board, therefore not available when the grade sheet was sent to parents. Students have been informed individually about their EPQ prediction, Mr Langford.

### **How do universities use the AS grade?**

Individually universities use the AS grades in different ways. The AS grade counts towards UCAS points which can in turn reduce a conditional offer issued by the universities. It also means that students can apply to a higher ranked university that uses UCAS points as part of their admissions criteria. This is because students have three A level predicted grades and an AS qualification which all contribute to total UCAS points. Below is a table which details the UCAS points for A level, AS Level and EPQ.

| A Level | AS Level | EPQ     |
|---------|----------|---------|
| A* = 56 | -        | A* = 28 |
| A = 48  | A = 20   | A = 24  |
| B = 40  | B = 16   | B = 20  |
| C = 32  | C = 12   | C = 16  |
| D = 24  | D = 10   | D = 12  |
| E = 16  | E = 6    | E = 8   |

### **Why have the Physics grades not been confirmed yet?**

The delay is due to staff absence, we will be confirming the Physics predicted grades as soon as possible.

### **Will there be another assessment in October for non-early applicants, and another round of predicted grades?**

No, there will be no other across year group assessments before the January practice exams, but subjects continue to set end of topic tests and if they see a change in level of working from a student and if they are engaging more with teachers outside lessons, staff will raise that predicted grade if they think it is warranted. Subject staff are really good at doing that.

### **How do students apply for degree level apprenticeships?**

Degree level apprenticeship application processes and deadlines are specific to each company, there is a government website where they are all advertised: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. However, our subscription to CTM Pathway makes this process much simpler for our students. They will remind students of the deadlines for apprenticeships in their chosen area of interest, invite them to employability days which prepare them for the selection process and offer a mentor. All students have a log in for CTM Pathway and were introduced to the website during enrichment last year.

### ***Is there any support for STEP?***

Yes, the Maths department run sessions to assist those students entering for these qualifications, please ask your son/daughter to see Mrs Mangat.

### ***What is the deadline for applying for Russell group University?***

Students should apply by the UCAS deadline of 31 January, but our experience shows that it can be advantageous to send applications earlier on in the process. We therefore suggest students submit their applications to the school by 9 October.

### ***Is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award considered by any universities in admission process?***

Some universities do not consider any extra curricular activities, however some do consider all types of extra-curricular opportunities. The value of this qualification, we think is in the personal development of the individual, the skill, volunteering elements and expedition all provide a valuable development experience for students. However, it is the completion of the award which is most highly prized.

### ***Is there any support for the university admissions tests?***

There are a plethora of tests, some of these tests are supported by the work Mr Langford leads on the Oxbridge Pathway such as the HAT, TSA and LNAT. There is also general support for the BMAT, in particular the essay component on the Medicine Pathway. Students are also linked with subject specialists to assist with both test preparation and interview.

### ***Can students select more than 5 universities?***

Students can only apply to 5 universities on their application form, but they can apply to apprenticeships at the same time to increase the range of options they can choose from on Results Day.

### ***Are they allowed to change their course eg from Engineering to computing or pharmacy?***

Depends when in the process they decide to do this. It is better if the UCAS application centres around one or two of courses that are related, as they can only write one personal statement. Choosing very different courses can make writing the personal statement difficult and can make the candidate sound undecided about what they want to study. If they change their mind about the course after they have applied and received offers, they can reject their offers and enter UCAS Extra - where they apply to one university at a time and the university has 21 days to respond. If unsuccessful they can apply to another university and wait for a response. Or on results day they can self-release from any offers they have and enter clearing for whichever courses have vacancies.

### ***What happens if students actual grades are higher than their prediction grades?***

On results day students can self-release from their original offers and apply through clearing to a university that has a vacancy in the course they are interested in. We advise they phone any universities they are interested in, to gain a verbal offer before clicking the self-release on their original offers.

### ***Does enrichment course results also give UCAS points?***

Some enrichment courses provide a qualification, some do not. Of those providing qualification some carry a UCAS tariff eg Public Speaking leads to a LAMDA qualification which carries UCAS points.

### ***Is it possible for a student to obtain an offer from a university where their predicted grades did not meet the entry requirements?***

We recommend that students apply to a range of universities, one or two slightly above their predictions (having checked with admission tutors first that they issue aspirational offers), a couple where their predictions meet the entry requirements and one or two where the entry requirements are below their predicted grades. A student can also look at clearing options on Results Day. You just need to be aware that not all universities or courses will have vacancies on Results Day.