



Welcome to
Varndean
Sixth Form College

University Information Evening

24 March 2026

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Programme for the evening

6-6.45pm - UCAS and other options

6.45 - 7.15pm - Financing University

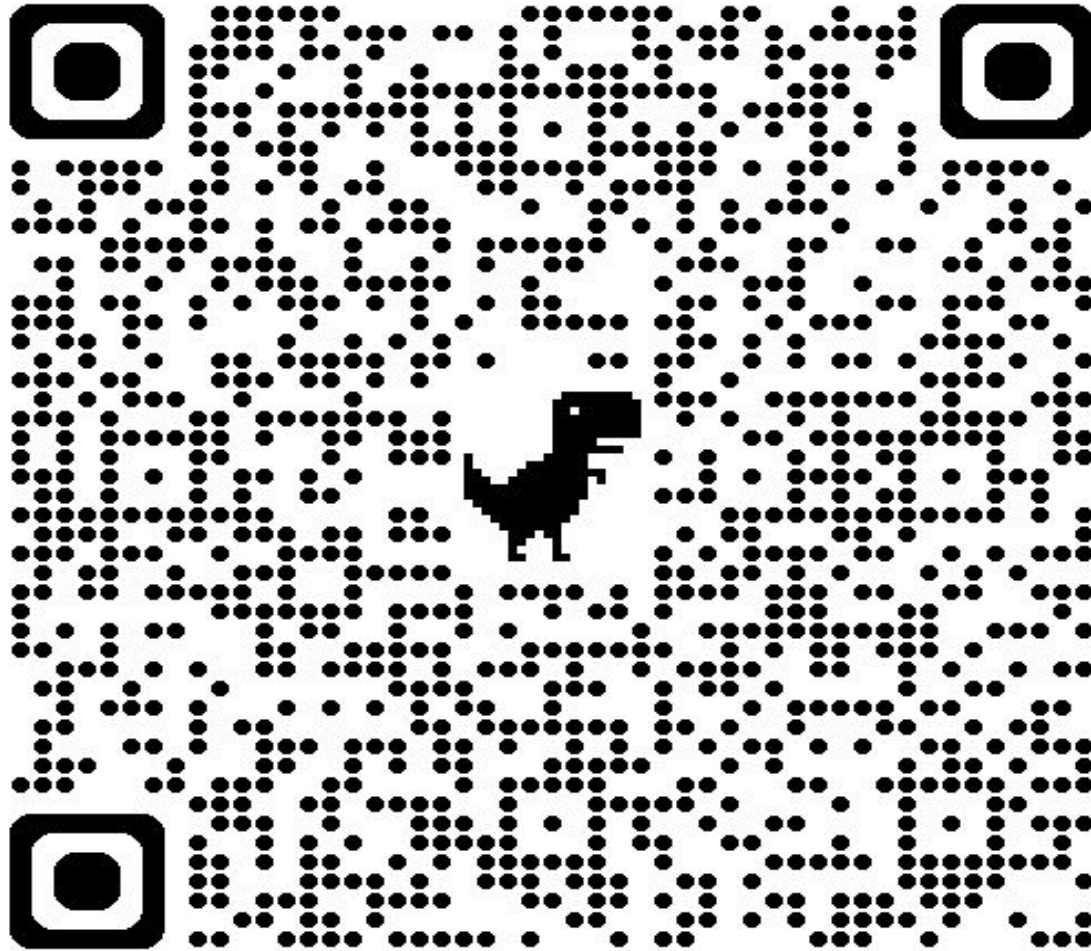
7.15pm onwards:

Russell Group/Oxbridge Talk - Room **Q4** - Jacob Lund

Art Foundation - Room **Q3** - Rob Macdonald

UCAS/Finance Q&A - Hall - Cordelia & University of Brighton

Presentation to download





Previous School
Varndean School

A Level Results
Biology A*
Mathematics A*
Physics A*

Destination
Natural Sciences
University of Cambridge

Ella Anderson



Previous School
BACA

A Level Results
Criminology A*
Law A
Modern History B
+ EPQ (A)

Destination
Law
Queen Mary University of London

Guluzar Aslan



Previous School
Downlands

A Level Results
Mathematics A
Computer Science B
RSL Games Development - Distinction*
+EPQ (A)

Destination
Computer Science
University of Southampton

Charlie Hodges



Previous School
Downlands

A Level Results
English Language A*
English Literature A*
Classical Civilisation A*
Philosophy A
+ EPQ (A*)

Destination
Classics, University of Cambridge

Maria Wakeham



Previous School
Hove Park

A Level Results
3D Design A*
Graphic Design A*
Business Studies B

Destination
Art Foundation

Rhys Griffiths

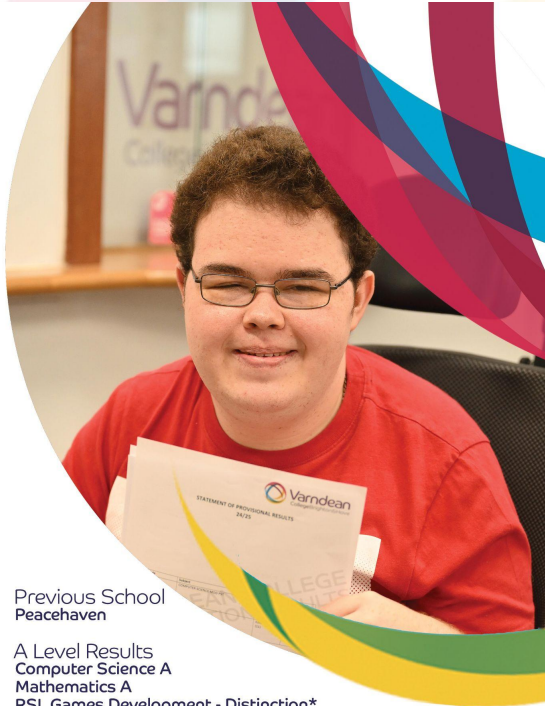


Previous School
Dorothy Stringer

Results
CACHE L3 Technical Diploma in
Childcare & Education (EYE) - A*

Destination
Early Childhood Education and Care
Norland College (2026)

Ella Fellingham



Previous School
Peacehaven

A Level Results
Computer Science A
Mathematics A
RSL Games Development - Distinction*

Destination
Computer Science for Games
University of Brighton

Dennis Cullip-Cross



Previous School
Patcham High School

A Level Results
Biology A
Chemistry A
Mathematics A
Art (Fine Art) B

Destination
Veterinary medicine
University of Edinburgh

Polly Ashton-Prevett



Previous School
Dorothy Stringer

A Level Results
Politics A*
French A
English Literature A
+ EPQ (A)

Destination
English and French
University of Bristol

Lysander Pierce



Previous School
Downlands

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 44 points

Destination
Politics & International Relations
London School of Economics

**Ayla Mackrory-
Jamieson**



Previous School
Lewes Old Grammar

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 35 points

Destination
Finance With Year Abroad
University of Exeter

Adam Alexander



Previous School
Davisons CE High School

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 40 points

Destination
English Literature and History
University of Manchester

Mia Reid

University or not? - What to Consider

- Is there a subject they really want to learn (more) about?
- Are they good at self directed study?
- Are they ready to ‘spread their wings’?
- Will they ask for help if they need it?
- Does their career plan require a degree?



Other Options..

- Degree apprenticeships - detailed information [here](#)
 - * You apply to an employer NOT the university
 - * Lengthy application process - many national firms start advertising vacancies in autumn of Y13
 - * Attend university part time alongside your job/ online or 'block release'
 - * Earn a salary while you study
 - * Highly competitive - gain a degree without the student loan

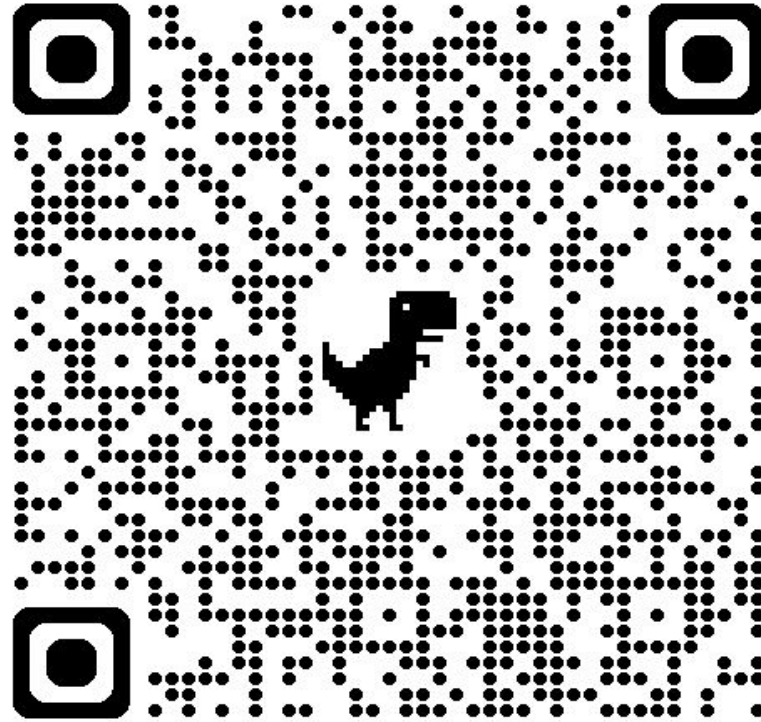


Other Options

- Apprenticeships - detailed information [here](#), live apprenticeships vacancies [here](#) and [here](#)
- Apprenticeship ‘Occupational Standards’ [here](#) - apprenticeships have approved specifications - employers need to follow these.



Gap Year - How to make it work for you



Taking A Gap Year Presentation

Gap year ... or not?

Benefits

Time to 'breathe'
Gain maturity/
Perspective
WEX/Employment
Earn Money
Time for Travel
Competitive Applications
Try new experiences

Things to Consider

Does your Uni accept gap year applications?
Need to be busy
Plan ahead
Students from outside UK need to stay in UK? -
Student Finance

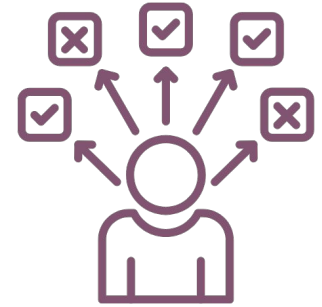
60% of students said a gap year helped them decide on their degree course

University - Benefits

- Dedicated time to explore their subject
- Stepping stone to further academic/professional qualifications
- Lifelong friendships/contacts
- Exposure to industry relevant cutting edge research
- On average, earn more when starting work and through working life



How to choose a Subject



- What do they care about?
- What topics fire them up at home?
- On their courses, are there any particular modules/units/assignments they have enjoyed more than others?
- Look at university courses online - do a 'deselection' exercise together - it's easier to eliminate lots of subjects than pinpoint one - or use a prospectus index ...cross things out ...

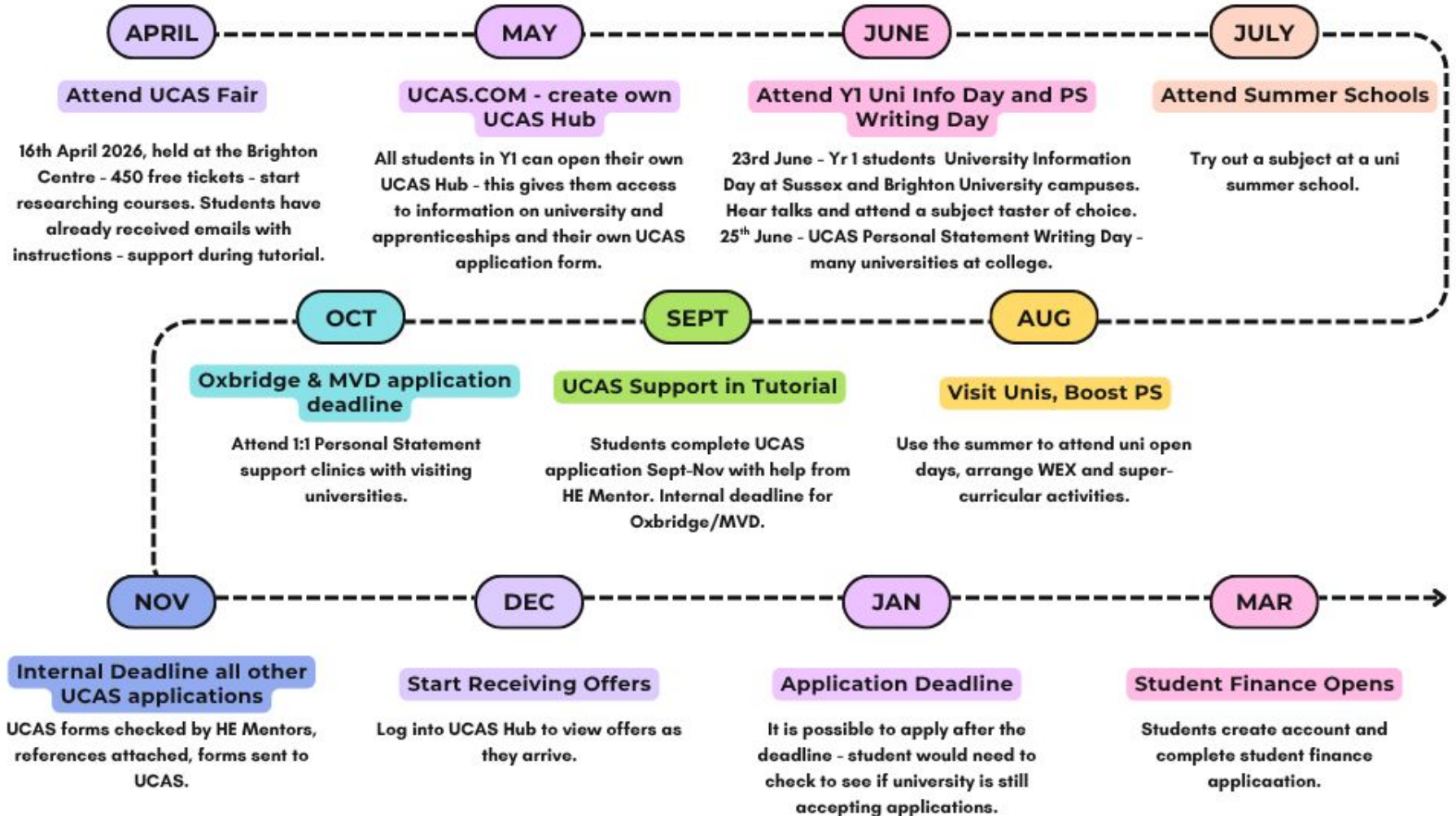
How to choose a Subject (cont.)



- Listen to online subject lectures and webinars
- Use student forums such as 'The Student Room' to hear what others say
- Connect with current university students through 'Unibuddy'
- Keep options open and choose a general subject and specialise at masters level?
- Try to visit the universities - do this between April and October - www.opendays.com

UCAS Timeline

Students can book an appointment with the Careers Team at any time to receive 1:1 support with decision making.



Where to get help...

- HE Mentor - UCAS support + check UCAS application
- 1:1 Careers Appointment - individual, specific help
- Tutorial Time - all UCAS information provided
- Unifrog - Available to all students
- UCAS.com - everything higher education + more
- In college and external events

Let's hear from the experts ...

- Alliyah Oussa
- Bluebell Baynes

University - How to Apply



Students will register on UCAS.com during tutorial and open their own 'UCAS Hub'- this allows them to start researching and storing all the information most pertinent to them

Once they have registered they can also access their own application form - www.ucas.com

The application cycle for entry 2027 starts on 12th May 2026

Select up to 5 Courses



- Up to 5 choices - 1 Personal Statement covers all choices
- Check/compare units/modules - universities write their own courses
- Where do they want to live? Home or Away?
- Try to visit the universities - www.opendays.com

Make sure student predicted grades match entry requirements - understand the [UCAS Tariff](#) - CHECK WHAT UNIVERSITIES ASK FOR !

Help with Personal Statements:



- 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 and how do they prepare you for your course?

Everything to do with going to university:

www.ucas.com

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

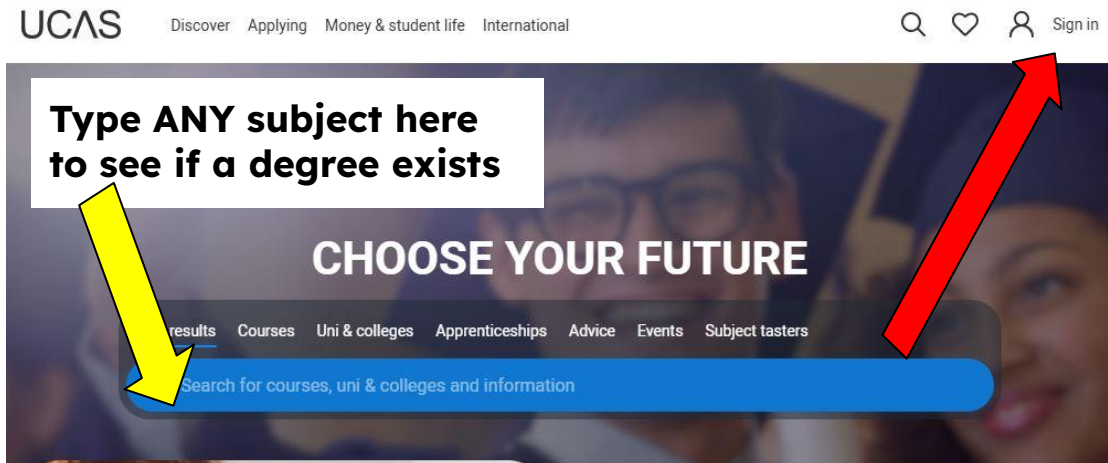
Search icons: magnifying glass, heart, person, Sign in

Type ANY subject here to see if a degree exists

CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

Navigation: results Courses Uni & colleges Apprenticeships Advice Events Subject tasters

Search for courses, uni & colleges and information



Sign in Register

REGISTER

Email *

First name *

Last name

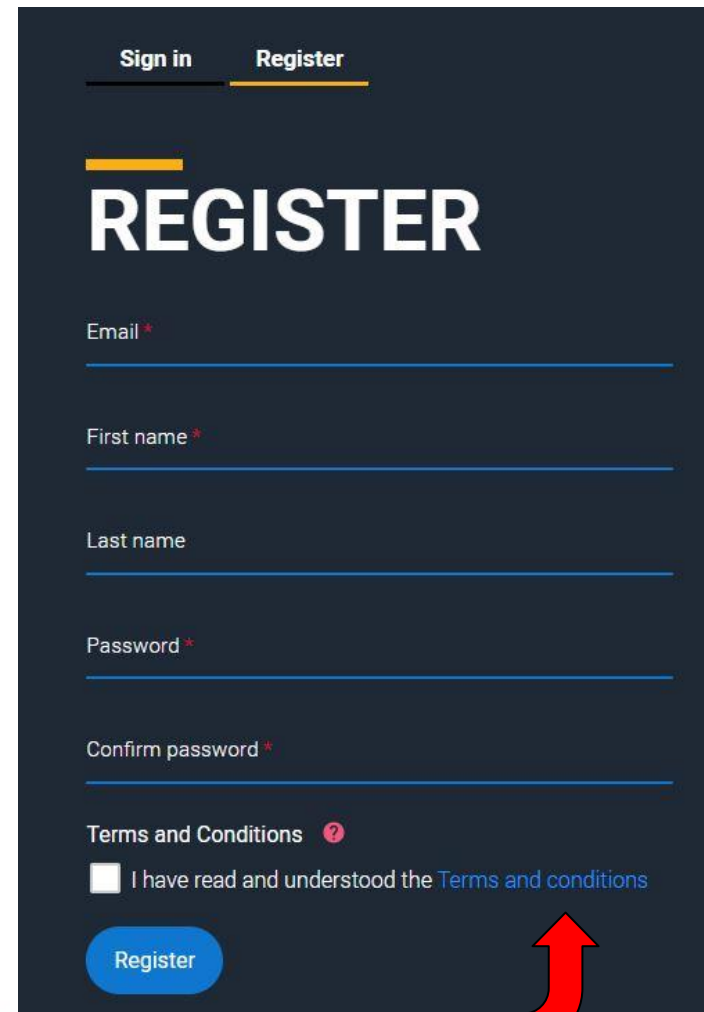
Password *

Confirm password *

Terms and Conditions ?

I have read and understood the [Terms and conditions](#)

Register



UCAS DISCOVERY FAIR

Brighton Centre - **16th April** 2026



Students will book their free tickets during tutorial - 'Join Group Booking' UCASBKN1320568 - tickets reserved for our students only

Important dates:

- **15th April** - lunchtime talk with University of Sheffield - applying to competitive universities
- **16th April** - UCAS Discovery Fair - 450 tickets (free) - students book during tutorial
- **18th - 22nd May** - Year 1 Work Experience Week
- **23rd June** - All Year 1s to visit University of Sussex OR University of Brighton for University Information Day
- **25th June** - UCAS Personal Statement Writing Day

Access to slides

All slides will be available on the 'parents' section under the 'Careers' tab of the college website and will be emailed to you tomorrow.

Optional talks..

Russell Group/Oxbridge Talk - Room

Q4 - Jacob Lund

Art Foundation - Room Q3 - Rob

Macdonald

UCAS/Finance Q&A - Hall - Cordelia

& Jake from University of Brighton



Varndean
Sixth Form College



**We value your feedback:
Please complete the
evaluation at the back of
your 'info pack', rip it off
and leave on your seat
before you depart**

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