



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS 2019–20

Parents' Guide





Introduction

We realise that helping your daughter through the important step of applying to university is probably one of the most significant milestones in the educational journey. The choices she makes have to be entirely her own but the support of home and school is vital.

This booklet is intended to provide a range of information to help you to support your daughter's application. If you have any queries or would like further information please do contact me.

St Helen's is proud of its 'in-school UCAS system' which ensures that most of the students' applications are dispatched by early November. For many, this means the receipt of early offers and this in turn eases some of the pressures when minds should be concentrated on the academic work of A-levels. However, to gain the time advantage students need to be working hard on their UCAS choices and particularly the personal statement during Trinity term and the holiday.

The university application process is undoubtedly different to the one you may have followed and may even have changed from the experiences of any older children.

Making the right choice from the 55,000 courses available at one of 325 universities and colleges takes careful research. If this is begun during the months before the summer examinations the decision-making will be much easier. For some, very early planning is crucial, eg the Oxford choral scholarships and organ awards.

There are pre-admission selection tests for subjects such as medicine and law which have to be taken between June and early October. Experience has shown us that registration for these at an early stage gives the student more choice of test venues and times to suit. Also there are many more admissions tests particularly for Oxford and Cambridge which will be held on 30 October 2019.

Some of the students have already chosen what they want to study and even at which university. However, most of those in Lower Sixth will just be starting to consider the range of possibilities. Crucially they should be thinking: what subject should I study? What type of course is right for me? Where? When? The Higher Education team at St Helen's is here to help with all of these questions, and more.

Heather Doherty
Head of Sixth Form and Higher Education

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What and where to study

In this process, the first thing your daughter needs to do is to decide which course she would like to study. For lots of students this can be quite difficult. If she is uncertain about which course to choose there are several things to consider:

- Passion, enjoyment or vocational considerations – whatever the reasons for going to university the most important one for your daughter has to be choosing a subject that she loves and is passionate about, such that she will want to study it for several years. It may be directly relevant to her career plans such as medicine, however over 70% of graduate vacancies do not require a specific degree subject and instead require a first or 2(i) degree classification. It is therefore vital that she enjoys studying her subject independently in order to achieve a 2(i) or above.
- Something new – many courses follow from existing studies such as biology or history, while others are new such as law or history of art, giving some students the variety they need. Your daughter should talk to current Upper Sixth students and see how they made their decisions.
- Course detail – look carefully at the detailed course descriptions given in the prospectuses and course outlines as degrees with the same name at different universities can vary considerably in content and format.
- Teaching and assessment – courses are taught in a variety of ways. How does your daughter learn best? Does she thrive on practical elements or continuous assessment? You and your daughter will know what suits her and hopefully find the right balance.
- Be ambitiously realistic – what are her A-level predictions? These are available following summer examination results and will give an idea of the range of universities that then become possible. There is a need to strike a balance between what is possible and achievable whilst still being ambitious and having a goal to aim for.
- Type of course – is it a straight three or four years or is there the opportunity of a work placement year? What about a degree apprenticeship? These relatively new programmes provide hands-on experience, a salary and the opportunity to gain a degree while you work at often a high quality, prestigious, multinational corporation.
- Studying abroad – this may also be an option and is not confined to those taking a language. Several universities offer the chance to spend some time abroad and be taught in English.
- What about employability – parents and students are justifiably concerned about the ultimate employability of 'x' degree. An excellent website which compares HE course data including student satisfaction and job prospects after graduation is unistats.ac.uk.

Where to study

When choosing where to study there are number of factors to consider:

- Academic reputation – the resources list (Appendix 1) details several league table websites, most of which use the Teaching Quality Assessment and Research Assessment Exercise in their criteria. Do note that the academic reputation and league tables change dramatically year-on-year and from one statistician to another.
- Academic facilities – what are the academic facilities like eg labs, libraries, specific equipment and IT facilities. Looking round at open days can often answer these questions.
- Social facilities – these can be the deciding factor for many who wish to continue with musical, drama or sporting interests.
- Campus or city – what type of environment will appeal? The campus provides the student with a self-contained world, whereas a city offers a faster-paced and less boundaried experience alongside non-students, which is attractive to some.
- Distance – this needs considering by both student and parent. When looking at universities' accommodation check out the vacation policy. In a hall of residence is the student required to empty their room at the end of every term? This can be demanding when belongings have to be transported long distances at regular intervals.
- Accommodation – most offer a range of types of accommodation from en suite to shared, catered to self-catering, with appropriately different prices. We suggest aiming for the middle price bracket.



University open days

One of the best ways to help with this sifting process of choosing a place and a course is to visit university open days. Some have separate presentations during the course of the day for parents.

The School does not run organised visits to any particular open days but Form Tutors/subject specialists will advise on which may be the more appropriate to visit. Please make sure that your daughter follows the correct procedure if she wishes to attend any of them, ie no more than two per term in Lower Sixth during the school week and with appropriate permission, details of which are in the Sixth Form Handbook. Form Tutors keep a record of the students' proposed visits which are during school times so that they can advise students accordingly. However, increasingly universities are organising open days in the holidays and at weekends so look out for those as well.

The timetable of selected open days in Appendix 2 is based on the more popular St Helen's leavers' destinations. There are details available in the Careers Library of Old Girls currently studying or who have previously studied at university who are willing to be contacted by St Helen's students for more information about a course or place.

Higher Education information and resources

'Where is the best place to study?'

This is the question which most parents will ask. The answer is the one which is the right course and place for your daughter. Inevitably there are league tables of subjects and universities. It is worth checking the criteria each table uses – some are based on teaching quality and others on funding for research. There is an excellent range of comprehensive higher education reference material in the School's Careers Library which supplements internet research. A great place to begin for parent and student alike is www.unifrog.org which enables subjects and places to be easily searched and compared against each other. You can log on to Unifrog via our school code: shskparents (via www.unifrog.org/code). Other useful websites are listed in Appendix 1.



Deadlines and the UCAS form

A calendar of the Sixth Form higher education programme is to be found in Appendix 3. The university application is an online process. The students begin the initial registration upon returning to school after their summer examinations with up to five potential choices (four for medicine/dentistry/veterinary medicine). The writing of the personal statement is the biggest hurdle and this should be finalised by students' return to school in September. They may ask for your views on what they have written as well as those of the appropriate members of staff. Advice may or may not be given/accepted but it is crucial that this is their own description of self. Please resist the urge to write it for them!

Interviews

The pattern now is that few universities interview candidates (Oxbridge, medics/vets excepted) although this may vary for individual subjects within each university. Students in Upper Sixth who may be interviewed are offered the opportunity of having a practice interview during Michaelmas term where we ask volunteers who have specific subject and/or career expertise to come in and give the students the opportunity to practice the interview experience and receive feedback on their performance.



Finance

Key points to note

No eligible student will have to pay up front for their tuition. Students will not be expected to contribute until they are earning over £25,000. For instance, once earning £27,000 she will repay £15 a month.

Tuition fees

The maximum universities can levy for tuition fees is £9,250 per student per annum. Most universities will charge this.

Loans

The government will lend any eligible student the money to pay for tuition costs. This is paid directly to the university. Each student is also eligible for a living cost loan which is paid directly to them and it is based on where they are studying. For 2018–19, a full-time student received up to:

- £7,324 living at home
- £8,700 living away from home outside London
- £11,354 living away from home in London
- £9,963 studying abroad for one year

There are funds available through the National Scholarship Programme for bright potential students from less affluent backgrounds.

Repayments

Graduates will only make contributions towards their tuition costs when they are earning over £25,000.

Annual income	Monthly repayment
Up to £25,000	£0
£27,000	£15
£30,000	£37
£35,000	£74
£40,000	£112

Applies from 1 September 2012
Source: studentloanrepayment.co.uk

The repayment will be 9% of income above £25,000. All outstanding payments will be written off after 30 years.

Finance is a complex and personal subject. The financial implications for the student and parent are set out on sites www.gov.uk/student-finance and www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/full-time.

International students should check eligibility www.ukcisa.org.uk.

What else will help with application to university

- Supercurricular learning – see the monthly newsletter in the Weekly Mailing and the Going Beyond section of the Parents' Area on the school website.
- Taster courses – these are generally subject insights and are run by universities eg University of London and Headstart (engineering and technology).
- Work experience in Sixth Form – targeted work experience in Sixth Form is important. In some cases it is a prerequisite, especially for those courses that are highly competitive and particularly for veterinary science, medical and associated professions.

A carefully balanced programme of work experience can enhance a university application but must take into account both the need to study and a holiday. If your daughter is needing to undertake work experience in Sixth Form it is important that she makes an appointment to see the Work Experience Coordinator, Mrs J Bailey, who will be able to assist her. She is contactable via email at jbailey@shsk.org.uk.

Oxbridge

Should your daughter apply for Oxford or Cambridge? Oxford and Cambridge are often combined and called 'Oxbridge' but this is just for ease – they are two separate universities and students can only apply to one of them at a time.

Oxford and Cambridge are not as scary as they might seem. They are two very good universities which offer a slightly different way of learning: tutorials. Rather than the large lectures and seminars found at most other universities, tutorials are meetings between a student and a tutor (lecturer) and perhaps one or two other students. This means that each student gets lots of personal attention but it also means they can't hide if they don't understand something! It does mean that they get very good value for money as they get a lot of individual support.

Oxford and Cambridge are very competitive. If your daughter has a combined total of 6 A*s or 8/9s at GCSE then she should definitely be considering applying. Oxford and Cambridge will also want to see at least one A* prediction for her A-levels.

The application process for Oxbridge is also a little bit different as your daughter would have to apply a little bit earlier but this means that she gets her application out of the way so she can focus on her A-levels.

Both universities will interview and will want to see plenty of supercurricular learning. We have put together a section in the Student Guide on supercurricular learning which will guide your daughter in finding extra reading. We also share a monthly newsletter with ideas from Sixth Form teachers.

Do make sure that you come along to the 'Is Oxbridge For Me?' evening on 1 March.

"Generally when someone asks me 'should I apply to Oxbridge?' I turn the question around and ask 'why shouldn't you apply to Oxbridge?' If you can't think of a really good reason not to, then give it a go."

Miss Doherty

Regardless of the outcome, the process is interesting and exciting, your daughter will get a thorough mock interview for any other universities who call her to interview and it means that her UCAS application is submitted nice and early, freeing up her time to focus on achieving those important A-level grades.

A gap year?

Deciding whether or not to take a gap year will for some be a foregone conclusion and others will make the decision as Upper Sixth progresses. Your daughter should check with specific university departments to find out if:

- The department is in favour of gap years (some mathematics and engineering departments prefer candidates straight from school).
- It is better to apply pre A-level with a deferred entry or to postpone the university application until post A-level.
- The various colleges at Oxford and Cambridge may take different views on a gap year and this will also vary between subjects.

It is important that if applying for deferred entry the student shows in the personal statement some clear ideas and plans for the year and provides a good reason for deferring.

There are an enormous range of gap year projects and companies, all offering worthwhile opportunities. Some details about these can be found in the black file in the Sixth Form Centre with further information available in the Careers Library. Additionally it may be worth visiting a gap fair.

The Parents' Association offers awards to help towards gap year travel.

What next?

- Encourage your daughter to use some of the time between now and the summer exams to begin the higher education research.
- Login to Unifrog and get started making some shortlists.
- Visit the UCAS website and others if you can.
- Consider bookings to open days carefully.

Applications – exceptions to the rule

Art and design

Britain is renowned for its art and design education provision. Graduates from a wide range of courses face a choice of exciting, fulfilling careers in all parts of the world.

Art is traditionally seen as not necessarily leading to a specific job. However, a degree will help your daughter follow lots of creative career paths. If art or art history is what they really want to do, then let them go for it. Far better to study a subject about which they are passionate than to grind their way through three years of a course that they are not particularly interested in.

What people will be looking for are the same things that every employer is looking for: good communication skills, IT literacy, flexibility, teamwork skills etc. By studying art it is likely a student will specialise in a single subject such as painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, digital media, ceramics, graphic design, textiles, fashion, art history and theory, or combine two or more in an interdisciplinary degree.

The Art Department recommends that if your daughter is seriously considering studying art and design at degree level, taking a Foundation Course will enable her to experience all aspects of art and design to make an informed choice out of the thousands of undergraduate courses available in the UK.

The Foundation Art and Design diploma course

The Foundation Course is an intensive year of introductory study to many art and design areas, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, video, animation, textiles, fashion, costume, theatre, prop making, architecture and interior architecture, three-dimensional design, design crafts, product design and furniture design. It gives students time to develop their skills in their chosen field and to prepare a portfolio for interview.

A Foundation Course is the preferred route of entry to most BA courses in art and design in the UK. Students are now having to make a substantial investment in their university education so making the right choice is even more crucial.

Course fees

- Home and EU students under the age of 19 on 31 August – free.
- Tuition fees for home and EU students over the age of 19 on 31 August varies between providers.

If your daughter is considering art at degree level please see Ms McDonald for advice on which Foundation Colleges and universities to apply to and how to get a portfolio together.

Foundation courses are oversubscribed. For example, Oxford Brookes Foundation Course applications receives in the region of 700 applications for a maximum of 100 places – applicants are selected on a portfolio submission.



Music

- A course search for conservatoire courses is accessed via the UCAS website – see the UCAS Conservatoires section: www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires.
- Registration with UCAS Conservatoires is separate from UCAS Apply and applications through both systems are possible for the different types of music degree courses.
- Dates for submission through UCAS Conservatoires are different. The normal application cycle is from the beginning of July to 1 October.
- For some music courses application is made direct to the college – seek advice from music specialist subject staff.

Post results applicants

Applying with grades actually achieved can be the chosen route for some for any of the following reasons.

- A deliberate decision made by the student at the beginning of Upper Sixth to wait and see the outcome of the final exams. This may remove pressure and allow the individual to concentrate on studies.
- 'Hopes and dreams' – perhaps a student is aiming for a course where a university's entry requirements are higher than the School's predictions for the student.
- A wait-and-see approach can allow for the full potential to be evaluated before the reference is written.
- A change of heart by the student – some students begin to realise as they move through Upper Sixth that their original interest in studying a particular subject has changed – they now prefer something else. This may mean making a fresh application after leaving St Helen's.
- Final grade variation – some students exceed original expectations and decide to apply for universities not previously considered eg Oxbridge. Others may need to adjust an application to fit in with actual grades. The highly competitive universities and subjects may not be prepared to accept students with grades lower than the offer made, necessitating a modification of course or place of study.

The Higher Education team at St Helen's endeavours to give full support to students applying post results. However, there is a need for commitment to regular communication and updates between staff and students. There are the same deadlines for dealing with post results as for those students in Upper Sixth.

Studying abroad

If your daughter is considering applying to universities abroad, research application procedures and deadlines early in Lower Sixth – these are likely to be significantly different from UCAS procedures and deadlines.



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Higher education resources – booklist and websites

Where do you start to look for information about universities? It is easy to think that everything is available on the internet now and much of it is. However, there are some detailed reference information resources that are only available in higher education reference books and most of these are available in the Careers Library. Also available are a wide range of books on specific careers and these contain advice on progression through higher education and training.

Name of publication	Author/publisher	Description
Degree Course Offers (latest edition)	Brian Heap	Each subject listed in hierarchical order of offers made – very useful quick indicator of which universities offer particular subjects and other insights into subject specific information
Choosing Your Degree Course and University	Brian Heap	
Degree Course Descriptions	COA	Subscription service dcd.coa.co.uk . See Mrs Trump for login details. Also in printed form in the Careers Library
Which Uni? Find the best university for you	Karla Fitzhugh	
The UCAS guide to Getting into University and College	UCAS	
The Times Good University Guide		Annual publication also available online
Guardian Good University Guide		Available online
Getting into...(series)		Selected subjects eg medicine, veterinary, business economics and management
Passing the UKCAT and BMAT	Felicity Taylor Rosalie Hutton Glenn Hutton	One example of the type of help book for medical admissions tests – more publications in the Careers Library
LNAT Mastering the National Admissions Test for Law	Cavendish	
Getting into Oxford and Cambridge	Sarah Alakija	One example of the type of help book for those considering applying to Oxbridge – full booklist in Applying for Oxford or Cambridge (St Helen's publication)
St Helen's Old Girl feedback		Annual questionnaires giving invaluable insights into university life and particular courses
Gap Year Guide Book	Ed. A Sharratt	
Gap Years – The Essential Guide	Emma Jones	
Black gap year files		Contain general information and Year Out Group prospectuses – more available in the Careers Library
Studying Abroad: A Guide for UK Students	Cerys Evans	
Study Abroad Guide	Irish Times	
Uni in the USA	The Good Schools Guide	

What subjects might interest me?

Try one of these questionnaires, both available online.

www.careersoft.co.uk	'Higher Ideas'	Access code: Ntu5c6qm
www.ukcoursefinder.com	Free online study interests questionnaire	Register online, can be returned to at any time

Key websites	Description
General	
www.ucas.ac.uk	Use 'course search' facility to identify specific courses and requirements
university.which.co.uk	Lots of background information about applying to university – ideal for those looking to narrow down the options of what to study and where
unistats.ac.uk	Official website for comparison of HE course data including student satisfaction and job prospects after graduation
www.unifrog.com	Easily-accessible information on universities, courses, studying abroad, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), writing personal statements etc
www.bestcourse4me.com	Website claiming to make the link between course studied, earnings and jobs achieved
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk	One of several league table websites each using slightly different criteria. Others include those published by The Guardian and The Times (subscription website book in the Careers Library)
Student finance	
www.gov.uk/student-finance	Information on student finance
www.moneysavingexpert.com/students	Information on loans and all things financial including a free sixth former's guide
www.scholarship-search.org.uk	Scholarship information by subject and organisation
Gap year	
www.yearoutgroup.org	Clear links to member gap organisations
www.gapyear.com	Orientated around travel aspects of gap year
www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry	Year in industry site – good for gap year placements
Study abroad	
www.worldstudent.com	Site for looking at opportunities to study abroad
www.Eunicas.ie	For applying for English taught courses in Europe
www.fulbright.org.uk	Information on studying in the USA
www.studyinaustralia.gov.au	Details on studying in Australia
www.studyoptions.com	UK representative of 18 Australian and 8 New Zealand universities
Alternatives to university	
www.careercompanion.co.uk	Access to careers, HE and support websites – username: cconline, password: sthelens
Apprenticeships	
www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships	Official guide to degree apprenticeships
www.thetechpartnership.com/recruitand-train/	Provides a full list of universities involved, the specialisms they offer and the employers they work with
www.unifrog.org	The apprenticeships section provides a comprehensive search facility which encompasses school leaver programmes and degree apprenticeships – code: shskparents
www.notgoingtouni.com	Information on jobs and apprenticeships

University open days 2019 for 2020 entry

What to do if your daughter wants to go on an open day

- Check university websites – many have specific open day pages. Pre-booking is almost always essential. Where booking forms are not yet available it is possible to receive an email or text alert as to when the online booking form is becoming available. Below is a list of all the university open days at the time of printing. You can also find updated information on university websites or via opendays.com.
 - School permission – in Lower Sixth visits to open days should be kept to a maximum of two each term in school time. Working towards the necessary grades must take priority. Time off for open days is not advisable between the return from the Easter holidays and internal school examinations (ending on 7 June).
 - Your daughter's Form Tutor will help her decide which universities would be appropriate to visit and will keep a record of those visits. The School does not run organised visits as some schools do – we think that it is more important that students make individual decisions.
- If a student decides that they would like to make an open day visit please follow this procedure:
 1. Consult and take advice from Form Tutor, subject teachers and parents.
 2. Ask a parent to request absence for the intended visit well before the date. The parent must email Miss Doherty to ask for permission for the student to be absent.
 3. Students must let teachers know in advance that they will be absent from lessons.
 4. Make sure that your daughter's Form Tutor and the Sixth Form Administrator has recorded each open day visit.

Look out for open days that are not in school time eg Saturdays or during school holidays. While permission and lesson excusal are obviously not required for these dates we would still advise students to consult their Form Tutors, subject teachers and parents before deciding to go.

Selected open days

This list is not comprehensive but gives many of the more popular St Helen's destinations.

University	Dates (2019)	Booking information	Additional information
Aston	Tba – see website	www2.aston.ac.uk/opendays	Campus tours also available
Bath	Friday 21 June Saturday 22 June Saturday 14 September	www.bath.ac.uk/opendays	
Birmingham	Tba – see website	www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/opendays/index.aspx	
Bristol	Friday 14 June Saturday 15 June Saturday 7 September	www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/	Campus tours and virtual events also available
Cambridge	Thursday 4 July Friday 5 July	www.cam.ac.uk/opendays	College and department open days also available
Cardiff	Wednesday 27 March	www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays	Campus visit days and self-guided campus tours also available
Durham	Monday 1 July Saturday 6 July Friday 20 September Saturday 21 September	www.dur.ac.uk/study/ug/visit/	Discover Durham tours and self-guided tours also available
East Anglia (UEA)	Tba – see website	www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visit/open-day	

University	Dates (2019)	Booking information	Additional information
Edinburgh	June – date tba: see website	www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ undergraduate/open-day	
Exeter	Friday 31 May Saturday 1 June Saturday 7 September Saturday 19 October	www.exeter.ac.uk/ undergraduate/visiting/ opensdays/	
Glasgow	Thursday 13 June Wednesday 4 September Saturday 19 October	www.gla.ac.uk/explore/visit/ undergraduateevents/opensdays/	Guided and self-guided campus tours also available
Imperial College	Tuesday 25 June Wednesday 26 June Saturday 14 September	www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/ visit/open-days/	Campus tours also available
Kings College London (KCL)	Tba – see website	www.kcl.ac.uk/study/visit/ undergraduate-open-days/ index.aspx	Campus tours also available
Lancaster	Tba – see website	www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/ open-days/undergraduate-open- days/	Campus tours also available
Leeds	Tba – see website	www.leeds.ac.uk/homepage/59/ undergraduate_open_days	Guided and self-guided campus tours also available
Leicester	Saturday 23 March Other dates tba – see website	le.ac.uk/open-days	Campus tours also available on Fridays
Liverpool	Friday 21 June Saturday 22 June Saturday 21 September Saturday 19 October	www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/ undergraduate/open-days-and- visits/	Campus tours and Virtual Open Day also available
London School of Economics (LSE)	Wednesday 11 April Other dates tba – see website	www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/ meet-visit-and-discover-LSE/ events/visit-lse/2017-18/ undergraduate-open-day-11- april-2018	Campus tours and other events also available
Loughborough	Friday 28 June Saturday 29 June Friday 20 September Saturday 21 September	www.lboro.ac.uk/study/ undergraduate/visit-us/open-days/	Guided and self-guided campus tours also available
Manchester	Friday 21 June Saturday 22 June Saturday 28 September Saturday 12 October	www.manchester.ac.uk/study/ undergraduate/open-days-visits/ open-days/	
Newcastle	Friday 28 June Saturday 29 June Saturday 14 September	www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/ open-day-visits-fairs/open-days/	Campus tours also available
Nottingham	Friday 28 June Saturday 29 June Friday 13 September Saturday 14 September	www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/ visitingus/opensdays/opensdays. aspx	Virtual tour also available

University	Dates (2019)	Booking information	Additional information
Oxford	Wednesday 3 July Thursday 4 July Friday 20 September	www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-and-outreach/open-days	See website for specific subject and college dates.
Oxford Brookes	Tba – see website	www.brookes.ac.uk/open-day/	
Queen Mary's (QMUL)	Friday 21 June Saturday 22 June Saturday 5 October	www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/openday/	Campus tours and virtual tour also available
Royal Holloway	Tba – see website	www.royalholloway.ac.uk/student-life/visit-royal-holloway/undergraduate-events/	
Royal Veterinary College (RVC)	Tba – see website	www.rvc.ac.uk/study/rvc-for-all/visit-us#panel-open-day	Virtual tour and Open House events also available
SOAS	Saturday 8 June	www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/opendays/	Subject-specific taster days also available
Sheffield	Saturday 22 June Saturday 6 July Saturday 7 September Saturday 19 October	www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/open-days	Guided and self-guided campus tours also available
Southampton	Tba – see website	www.southampton.ac.uk/about/visit/open-days.page	Virtual Open Day also available
St Andrews	Wednesday 6th March Wednesday 3rd April Wednesday 10th April Wednesday 17th April	www.st-andrews.ac.uk/visiting/visiting-days/ug/	Talk and Tour also available on weekdays
Surrey	Friday 5 July Saturday 6 July	www.surrey.ac.uk/open-days	
Sussex	Tba – see website	www.sussex.ac.uk/study/visit-us/undergraduate/open-days	Guided and self-guided campus tours also available
Swansea	Saturday 16 February Saturday 9 March Saturday 6 April Saturday 15 June	www.swansea.ac.uk/open-days/	Guided, self-guided and virtual campus tours also available
University College London (UCL)	Friday 28 June Saturday 29 June Saturday 7 September	www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/open-days/	
Warwick	Wednesday 23 January Friday 1 March Friday 5 April Wednesday 17 April	warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/	Talk and Tour also available: 7, 17 and 28 November
York	Friday 28 June Sunday 30 June Saturday 14 September Sunday 15 September	www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/	Campus tours and taster days also available

Sixth Form higher education programme 2019–20

Lower Sixth	
2019	Lent term
8 Jan	Introduction to researching courses and Unifrog
22 Jan	Higher Education Evening for students and parents
Feb	Start planning open day visits (some start in March)
1 Mar	'Is Oxbridge For Me?' outreach event
15 Mar	Joint Careers Convention at Abingdon School
	Trinity term and summer holiday
3 June	Lower Sixth internal examinations week begins
17 June	Focus on Futures
June	UCAS opens: students can start completing their applications
June	Individual higher education guidance interviews for Lower Sixth start
June	Most popular month for open days (organise individually)
June	Drafting personal statements for UCAS applications
June	Early discussion with possible Oxbridge candidates; taster courses; organisation of extension work
19 June	Parents' Evening for higher education consultation
1 July	UCAS Conservatoires applications begin
	End of term visit from Old Girls to discuss university courses
	Applications for choral and organ awards for Oxford and Cambridge to be completed by 17 August
	Work experience in summer holiday (individually organised)
Upper Sixth	
2019	Michaelmas term
1 Sept	Closing date for Oxford choral and organ scholarship applications
Sept	UCAS application process continues
Sept	Final predicted A-level grades for UCAS available through Parent Portal
18 Sept	Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine UCAS forms to tutors for checking
25 Sept	Deadline for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine UCAS forms to be submitted to school administrator
1 Oct	UCAS Conservatoires applications end
Tbc	Interview technique session
2 Oct	UCAS forms submitted to school administrator if half-term submission is required
10 Oct	Parents' Meeting
15 Oct	Final UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine applications
15 Nov	All remaining UCAS forms to tutors for checking
22 Nov	Deadline for all UCAS forms to be submitted to school administrator

Upper Sixth	
2019	Michaelmas term
	Parents' Evening
	Practice interviews in school
	University interviews and offers
	Gap year applications
	Student financial support applications online to Student Finance England begin
2020	Lent term
	University interviews and offers
	Mock A-level examination week
	Talk about decisions on university offers
	Mock A-level examination results, current performance and predicted A-level grades available through Parent Portal
	UCAS summary decisions arrive
	Parents' Evening
	University decisions taken by students
2020	Trinity term and summer holiday
May	Final deadline for UCAS decisions
May/June	A-level examinations
	Post results applicants – UCAS applications and personal statements
August	A-level results
	Assistance with Clearing if needed
	Post results applications

Who can help in school with higher education advice

Higher Education and Careers team

St Helen's offers students a range of people to ask for help regarding their higher education choices. The Higher Education and Careers team includes:

Miss H Doherty Head of Sixth Form and Higher Education

Mrs E Trump Head of Careers and Professional Guidance

Higher Education and Careers Coaches:

- **Mrs K Homann** (medicine and allied subjects)
- **Dr R Strong**
- **Mrs C Nash** (international applications)

Mrs J Bailey Work Experience Coordinator

Form Tutors

SUBJECT SPECIALISTS

Who to contact for HE courses that are offered at A-level

Art and Design	Ms J McDonald
Biology	Mrs R James Mrs K Wright
Chemistry	Dr G Smith
Classics/Classical Civilisation	Miss D Spain
Drama/Theatre Studies	Miss K Grandi
Economics and Business	Mr J Smart
English	Mr J Muir
Food Studies	Mrs B Alpers
Geography	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
History	Miss D Smith
Mathematics	Mrs S Sharp
Modern Languages	Mrs L Probert
Music	Ms H Rakowski
Physics	Mrs J Edwards
Politics and related courses	Dr L Gribble
Psychology	Mrs K Collett
Religious Studies	Mrs K Meuleman
Sports Science/PE	Mrs L Trumper (Mrs L Turner)

SUBJECT SPECIALISTS

Who to contact for HE courses not on Sixth Form A-level curriculum

Accountancy and Finance	Miss C Clarke
Alternatives to Medicine	Mrs K Homann
Alternatives to Veterinary Science	Mrs K Homann
Anthropology	Miss H Doherty
Architecture	Ms J McDonald
Biochemistry	Dr G Smith
Chemical Engineering	Dr G Smith Mrs J Edwards
Computing, IT and Related Courses	Mrs L Stringer
Dance	Mrs L Trumper (Mrs L Turner)
Engineering	Mrs J Edwards
Environmental Science	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
Environmental Studies	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
Film and Media	Mr A Verjee
Geology/Earth Sciences	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
History of Art	Ms J McDonald
Journalism	Mr J Muir
Land-based Studies	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
Law	Mr J Smart
Medicine	Mrs K Homann
Natural Sciences	Dr G Smith Mrs J Edwards Mrs R James
Nursing	Mrs K Homann
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	Dr G Smith
Philosophy	Mrs K Meuleman
Physiotherapy	Mrs K Homann
Philosophy, Politics and Ethics (PPE)/ Human, Social and Political Science (HSPS)	Dr L Gribble Mrs K Meuleman
Planning	Mrs H Finch-Noyes
Sociology	Mrs K Collett
Teaching: Primary	Mrs N Bass
Therapies	Mrs K Homann
Veterinary Science	Mrs K Homann



ST HELEN &
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