

# George Abbot Sixth Form Higher Education Applications 2019-20

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**THE SIXTH FORM  
AT GEORGE ABBOT**  
Academic excellence within  
a vibrant community

Find out more at our information  
evenings and open mornings  
this month

#thinkbig  
[www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

Image by Kristin, George Abbot Sixth Form



# Why Choose Higher Education?

- Chance to study a subject you are passionate about
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to your chosen career
- Gain confidence, independence and important life skills that will widen your prospects
- Making lifelong friends



# With a degree...

- The opportunity to follow your career path
- Good employment prospects
- Many employers target graduates
- Higher earning potential
- This is also true for degrees achieved via a degree apprenticeship



# The Key Areas

- The UCAS process
- Research/Decisions to be made
- Fees & loans
- Competition/Predicted Grades
- Any questions



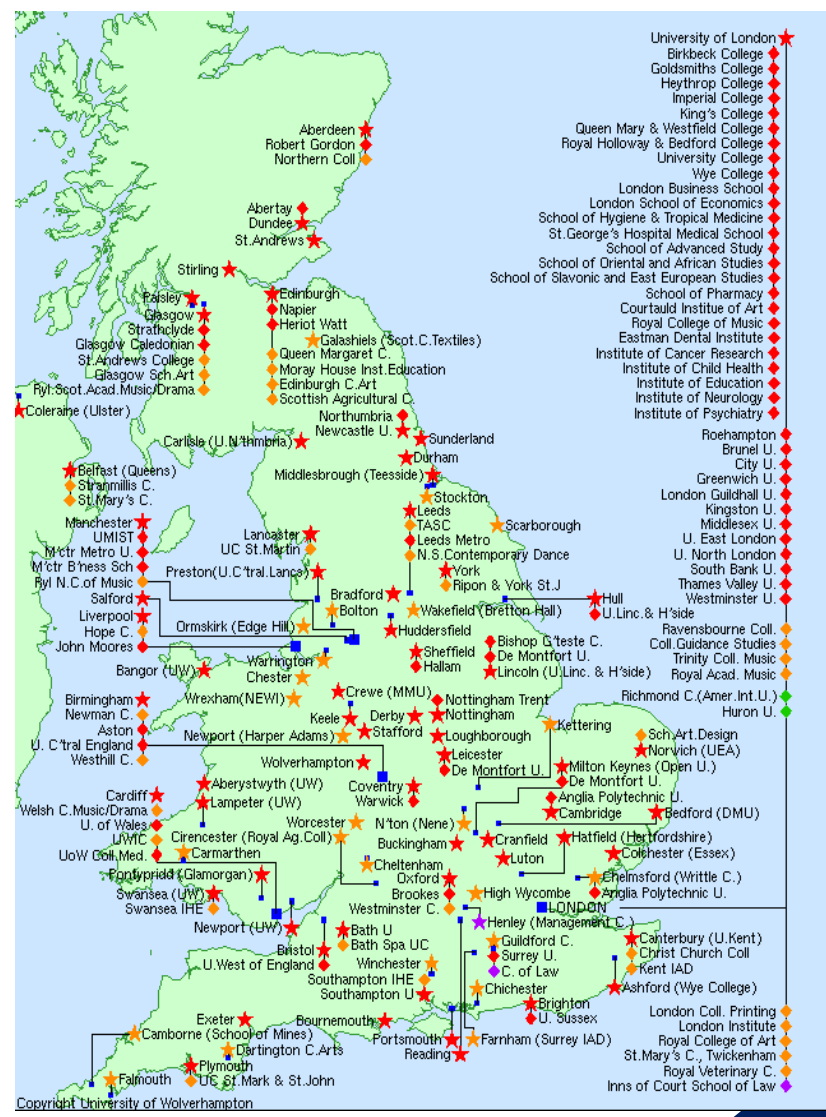
# Which University?

▶ **Campus?**  
Warwick / Kent / Sussex

▶ **Civic?**  
Leeds / Glasgow/UCL

▶ **Large?**  
Birmingham / Manchester

▶ **Small?**  
Winchester/ Bath Spa/ Chichester



# Other things to consider



**Finance** – course fees, possible bursaries, scholarships, travel and living costs



- **Travel** – to and from home
- **Accommodation** – uni halls or private residences?
- **Extra curricular** activities



• Student satisfaction statistics

• **THE DEGREE COURSE!**



# Which Course?

Over 50,000 courses available at 395 providers. Do lots of research-ask for help. Do you really enjoy the subject?

Single / Joint honours? sandwich course? Integrated foundation year? year abroad?

Learning styles /assessment

The following websites are all excellent and completely free of bias.....

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>

(good evidence of the students' view of their educational experience)

[www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)

<https://university.which.co.uk/>

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables)

(there are many league tables and they are all compiled differently – use judiciously and ask for help if need be)



# Keep an open mind.....

For example, recent past students have undertaken these less well known courses

- Ship architecture
- Power boat technology and design
- Horology
- Fabric surface print
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathy
- Real estate
- Sports technology and design
- Food technology and manufacture





# Where did our students go in 2018?

- ▶ **174** accepted a university place (91% to first choice)
- ▶ **20** on a Gap Year and then to university
- ▶ **14** post-qualification university entries (100% to first choice)
- ▶ **4** to Art School, Drama School, ACM for a Diploma pre-University degree
- ▶ **Several** Degree Apprenticeship places taken up
- ▶ **18** to various Engineering Degrees
- ▶ **15** into employment with training (e.g. Higher level and Advanced Apprenticeships in engineering, business, finance, film production, estate agency, retail etc.)



# DEGREE DESTINATIONS 2018

(incl. Post Qualification Applications)

- Maths, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Biological Sciences and Chemistry
- Economics, Business and Finance
- Social Science (including Law and Psychology) and Humanities
- English, Linguistics and Media
- Medicine/ Nursing / Physiotherapy/ Pharmacy/ Occupational Therapy/ Paramedic/Dietetics
- All Design (including Graphics, Game Art, Fine Art, Architecture, Product Design, Fashion) and Media production
- Art/Drama/Dance Diploma
- Sports related
- Primary Teaching
- Acting/Music/Dance
- Languages and Classics



# Some George Abbot Highlights from 2018

Large number of students going to Durham, LSE, UCL, Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, Southampton, Sheffield, Bristol, Warwick, Nottingham, Exeter, Loughborough and Bath.

Several students into medicine, vet medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing. (all except 2 achieved offers)

An increase in the number of students applying for degrees with an integrated foundation year, especially in Engineering.

An increase in the number of students applying for sandwich courses with work placement years.

Students undertaking taster courses, Headstart engineering and summer schools to inform their options.

***Students being more imaginative in their options and researching them carefully.***



# OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE

2012	Ten offers
2013	Eight offers
2014	Thirteen offers
2015	Three offers
2016	Ten offers
2017	Three offers
2018	Three offers
2019	Seven offers



# Some National Statistics For 2018

(from Higher Education Statistics agency)

- By September **2018, 533,360** students started degree courses mostly from the 18-21 age range.
- 74,075 students were from the EU or were classified as international students (*who pay much higher fees*).
- According to the Office of National Statistics, about a **third of all 18 year olds nationally** started a degree course.
- Average tariff for entry was 120 UCAS points (BBB).
- Nationally, about **72% were in a graduate job** sixth months after graduating.
- Others undertook further post-graduate study, took a Gap Year or worked in non graduate jobs.



# Successful Applicants have.....

A good GCSE profile and doing appropriate A Levels and/or BTECs

Enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the subject shown in personal statement

Evidence of learning beyond the A Level Spec. e.g. MOOCS and Future Learn

<http://mooc.org/>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Coherent application

The role of work experience

The role of the reference

Relevant predicted grades



# UCAS Website

University and Colleges Admissions Service

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)



Online queries regarding

- institutions
- courses
- services
- links to other websites
- teaching and learning quality information



# Online Application

- Via the system known as APPLY
- Very user friendly - lots of FAQs
- Can apply for **up to five courses**
- The universities cannot see where else you've applied
- Writing a personal statement
- Your application is a personal advertisement – the importance of getting it right





# Oxbridge & Medical Applications

- All via UCAS and earlier date for Oxford **or** Cambridge and medicine, dentistry, vet applicants **October 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**
- Admissions Tests
- UCAT (medicine) from 1<sup>st</sup> July – early October
- Most other entrance tests (e.g BMAT, TSA and subject specific tests sat on **30<sup>st</sup> Oct** (in half term))
- Interviews
- Preparation



# MUSIC, DRAMA and DANCE

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES** is part of the UCAS website devoted to performance degrees

e.g. at Birmingham College Of Music and Drama, Royal College of Music, Royal College of Music and Drama, Royal Scottish and Welsh College of Music and Drama, Trinity Laban College of Music and Drama, Guildhall College of Music

**This process starts earlier - let us know if you are interested**

You can apply to up to 5 uni courses via UCAS **and** also for courses through UCAS Conservatoires.

Many Drama courses are now applied to via UCAS however some are done independently and you will need to research these.

For all of these courses the audition is vital and you will need to keep in regular touch with your tutors both inside and outside of school regarding your application.



# ART and DESIGN

- ▶ Huge range of courses
- ▶ **Foundation Diploma studies**
- ▶ one year, no fees for the under 19s, no loans – e.g. at the University for the Creative Arts at Farnham and Epsom (UCA)
- ▶ **Can run parallel with a degree course application**
- ▶ The vital importance of the Portfolio
- ▶ Mrs. Clifford will give a talk on this during the Next Steps week in June.



# Fashion

[www.fashionretailacademy.co.uk](http://www.fashionretailacademy.co.uk)

L3 and L4 courses in fashion retail, visual merchandising, buying and garment technology.

Very strong industry links and employment rates.

UAL, UCA, Nottingham Trent, De Montfort, Buckinghamshire New, Manchester Met, Leeds are all popular choices with our students.

May need an Art Foundation Diploma first.



# School Administration

- Online registration takes place during the Next Steps week in June.
- Guidance on filling in the online form.
- Storing passwords etc.
- Red folders and advice
- Checking the application - the role of the Form Tutor, Head of Year and HE adviser
- The reference
- Having a sense of urgency!



# The UCAS Process

- ▶ Acknowledgement of your application is the first contact
- ▶ Offers, interviews or rejections made
- ▶ UCAS Track
- ▶ Student firmly accepts one offer and one other as an insurance
- ▶ What is UCAS Extra and Clearing?
- ▶ What is UCAS Adjustment?



# How can you maximise your application?

- Attend open days, possibly take a parent - they may have a different perspective.
- Taster days, Summer Schools, join societies, super-curricular activities
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure you read everything carefully that is sent to you.
- Check personal and school emails regularly



# Careers and Advice

- ▶ Think ahead - is the degree valued by your future employers? Does it give professional accreditation?
  - ▶ e.g. BPS, AAT/ACCA/ICAEW, IMechE
  - ▶ Check institution websites and [www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com) for graduate employment rates.
  - ▶ Speak with Mrs Rose our careers adviser or Miss Head our HE adviser, UCAS guides and these useful websites
- [www.britishservices.co.uk/careers.htm](http://www.britishservices.co.uk/careers.htm)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) (excellent for explaining clearly what different careers are and the sort of skills needed – can be useful when writing a personal statement)
  - [www.isco.org.uk](http://www.isco.org.uk)
  - [www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk)
  - [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)
  - <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>





# Student Finance

See [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance) (govt. website)

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes/>

(Martin Lewis on MoneySavingExpert.com)

[http://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/1819/sfe\\_terms\\_and\\_conditions\\_guide\\_1819\\_o.pdf](http://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/1819/sfe_terms_and_conditions_guide_1819_o.pdf)

(PDF from the Student Loan Company for 2018-19)

- Tuition fees are up to £9250 p.a.
- Tuition and maintenance loans available on a sliding scale according to household income, therefore no up-front fees.
- Extra support for disabled students and for some students with a verified specific learning difficulty.
- Pay back, through PAYE, occurs once the student is earning £25,000 p.a. (9% on any earnings above this, e.g if you earn £29,500 pa you will repay £45 per month).
- Loan accrues interest at inflation rate plus 3%.



# Additional Financial Support

- ▶ University bursaries – non repayable.
- ▶ Scholarships - mainly for academic excellence - shop around the universities for these.
- ▶ <https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/>
- ▶ NHS no longer supported but look out for degree apprenticeship route.
- ▶ Industrial and commercial bursaries.
- ▶ The Armed Forces.
- ▶ Disability loans/grants.



# Key Dates

## ▶ **March – July**

- ▶ UCAS Convention, Apprenticeship show, Research, open days, book summer schools

## **May - June** Examinations

- ▶ **June** - Next Steps Week – register with UCAS

- ▶ **September- December** Complete applications

- ▶ **December-January** Art Foundation deadlines

- ▶ **January 15th** UCAS final deadline

- ▶ **March** – Finance details available

- ▶ **April-May** Final choices & UCAS Extra. Start looking at accommodation details

## **August** Results and celebration

**September** –PQA applicants to contact school to get registered



# Applying Abroad?

See the Prospects website for information

[http://www.prospects.ac.uk/studying\\_abroad](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/studying_abroad)

(Past students have applied to Canada, the USA, Australia, Holland and Poland).

For applications to the USA see

[www.fulbright.org.uk](http://www.fulbright.org.uk) for an explanation of the process.

See info sheet in Next Steps Folder

You can run an overseas application parallel with a UCAS application.



# Gap Year and Post-School Applications



We continue to support our students in their university and job applications after they have left George Abbot.

Most Gap Year students will apply to University through the school within four years of leaving.

All students register with UCAS and research their career options whilst at school.

Check out notice boards and brochures and in USIC and USIC Atrium.

Some applicants defer their place for a year – but ask for advice about this first.



# Alternative Options

(employment and “earn and learn”)

- ▶ <http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/> - really excellent website. We will get all students registered with this in the Next Steps/Progression week in June. All students will write an up to date CV.
- ▶ [www.prospects.org.uk](http://www.prospects.org.uk) – excellent for job profiles (450 of them) and apprenticeship recruitment
- ▶ [www.apprenticeships.org.uk/](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/) - ideas and updates
- ▶ [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk) - The Open University
- ▶ Regularly check out emails sent from Miss Head and Mrs Rose for ideas.
- ▶ Financial, Business, IT, NHS, Engineering and Retail sectors are actively recruiting 18 year olds with good A Levels – offer professional accreditation and increasingly up to degree level study (accredited by a university).
- ▶ E.g. Mondelez accredited by the University of Kent
- ▶ Dyson by Warwick, Balfour Beatty by London South Bank
- ▶ Local FE colleges for L3 and L4 study.



# Thank you for coming.



▶ Further questions?

Please stay behind and ask  
Diane Head  
(Higher Education Adviser)



Or email

[dhead@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dhead@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk)

