

Key Dates- Year 13

28th September 2023 - Year 13 reports home

2nd October - Conservatoire deadline

12th October- Year 13 Parents Evening
(online)

16th October: Early UCAS deadline
(Med/Vet/Oxbr etc.)

21st October – half term begins

30th October – back to school

27th November - 8th December - Year 13
Internal Progression Exams

22nd December – last day of term; internal
UCAS deadline

5th January – Inset (training day)

8th January - students return to school

January: BTEC external exams

31st Jan: UCAS deadline

15th February - Year 13 reports home

17th February – half term starts

26th February - return to school

29th March – Easter holiday (Good Friday)

15th April – Inset (training day)

16th April - students return to school

May 2024 - Last day of school TBC

May/June: A Level and BTEC external exams

26th June - National Contingency Day

5th July - Year 13 Prom

15th August: BTEC and A Level results day

22nd August: GCSE Results day





Year 13 Info Evening
Thursday 14th September 2023



SWA Sixth Form Successes

Mr L Huckle
Associate Principal - Head of Sixth Form

KS5 Results (with BTEC in brackets)

C+ APS 33.5 = highest ever

Dist- APS 30.3 = highest ever (outside covid)

%	2018	2019	2020 - CAGs	2021 - TAGs	2022 - not yet back to pre COVID levels	2023
A*-A or equiv.	22 (26)	17 (21)	(28)	(39)	26 (35)	18 (26)
A*-B or equiv.	48 (52)	41 (47)	(53)	(64)	60 (70)	44 (56)
A*-C or equiv.	75 (76)	66 (74)	(80)	(87)	84 (90)	75 (82)
A*-E or equiv	98 (98)	97 (98)	(99)	(99)	99 (99)	99 (99)

KS5: Central Bedfordshire Sixth Form Exam Results

	2023		2022		+/-
SWA	195	C+	153	B-	2.91
	159	C+	117	B	5.38
	144	C+	160	C+	-1.25
	194	C	211	B-	-2.01
	120	C-	142	B-	-5.42
	72	C-	68	C+	-1.39
	73	C-	65	C	-1.00
	32	D	47	C	-4.68
	9	D-	18	D+	-1.32



Mrs Hoad
Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Head of Year 13



Expectations for Year 13

- 8.20am every morning – enrolled as full-time students; registration is covering statutory aspects
- Dress code and lanyard
- Organisation – planning, resources (e.g. folder), using non-teaching periods; effective study techniques
- Attendance – punctuality, and report illness/appointments/driving tests
- Leave of Absence form - to book time off
- cbonham@bestacademies.org.uk 01462 628065
- Communication – using/checking/sending emails
- Car park - and parking permit
- Financial support: Bursary forms
- First point of contact: Form Tutor
- Sanctions: B1, Sixth Form Penalty Hour, Academic Referrals, behaviour policy
- Praise and rewards

Money and very important dates

October/November: UCAS: £27

December: Hoodies order: £25

January: Yearbook: £5

February: Prom: deposit £5 then

March: Prom: remainder: £20

Exam schedules: Provisional for summer 2024

National Contingency Day: 26th June 2024

Prom: Friday 5th July



UCAS PROCESS

What has happened so far?

- Attended UCAS event at London ExCel in March
- Many have been to university open days
- Students have started the online UCAS application process (Next Steps Day summer term 2023)
- Students should have been working on their first draft of their Personal Statement
- And also have registered with the apprenticeship website
- Resources have been shared with them on their google classroom
- And form tutors are starting to mentor them through the process
- NB - degree level apprenticeships - some companies/providers run their applications through UCAS - so every student has registered and created an account

What happens next?

- For most students we are working towards a Christmas deadline to send all UCAS applications off: 22nd December 2023
- Official deadline= 31st January 2024
- For most courses - universities make offers as applications come in; offers will not be moved up but may be revised during 2024

2nd October 2023 at 6pm	16th October 2023 at 6pm	31st January 2024 at 6pm
Applications for Music Conservatoires	Applications for Oxbridge Applications for medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry	Applications for most universities and courses

What happens next?



Applications for Music Conservatoires	Applications for Oxbridge Applications for medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry	Applications for most universities and courses
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These students should already be working with Miss Corbishley as part of The Society.
Personal Statements should be *done*.
Miss Corbishley is assisting with checking and preparing tutor references

What happens next?



Applications for Music Conservatoires	Applications for Oxbridge Applications for medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry	Applications for most universities and courses
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These students will work with their form tutor to develop their personal statement and their tutor will prepare their reference

Courses and institutions - What and Where?

- This will likely be the biggest decision our young people have had to make - what do I study? And where do I go?
- They can choose up to 5 courses. Applications are **blind** so each university will not know any other choices that have been made
- How to pick the right courses and universities?
 - Open days and visit the town/city/area
 - Speak with friends, family, neighbours, teachers
 - Produce a 'university search spreadsheet' with your own tailor made ranking system
 - Do not only use published ranking systems - try to be more specific for your particular subject; consider employability, student satisfaction, as well as academic rankings

Visit

Contextualised Admissions and widening access

<https://www.ucas.com>

Contextual information and data can be used by universities and colleges to assess an applicant's achievement and potential in light of their educational and socio-economic background. This is called contextualised admissions, and the aim is to form a more complete picture of the characteristics of an individual applicant.

Contextualised admissions may encourage aspirational applications to higher education, and can help explain why a student has received a certain offer. It seeks to identify those applicants with the greatest potential to succeed on the course. It is also commonly used to inform support provision at other stages of the application process, and once a student has enrolled.

Advice: Complete all the relevant application fields in full.

E.g. SEN information; information about parents background.

Additional financial support may be available once enrolled at university - so we would encourage applications to be made with all appropriate information.

New for 2024

School context statement - which will be the same for all students applying from SWA

Samuel Whitbread Academy is a large (1690 students) rural comprehensive school, with 465 students in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form recruits primarily from our in-school year 11 cohort but we are increasingly attracting students from further afield. Typically, students take three A levels or combine A level study with a BTEC/Applied course. As part of the student's application to the Sixth Form, students have an open application and are not restricted on course combinations, therefore students can opt to take a combination of A levels and BTEC/Applied Level 3 course if they wish. The EPQ, Mathematical Studies and A Level Further Mathematics qualification are additional options open to students alongside other timetabled enrichment opportunities. The Sixth Form offers KS5 programmes of study in 37 subjects where entry requirements ensure a comprehensive entry. Students need to achieve five grade 5s to study A Levels and four grade 4s to study BTECs. Each course has its own individual requirements related to grades and an Average Points Score. Students sit rigorous Internal Progression Exams (IPEs) at the end of Year 12; this data, together with students' performance throughout year 12 and the first half term of year 13, is used to formulate the UCAS predicted grades.

New for 2024

Individual Extenuating circumstances comment

Students in care or care leavers

Young carers

Significant obstacles during their time in education

Significant barriers to achieving their potential

Approximately 10% of our cohort

Written in conjunction with, and with the consent of the student

GDPR rules apply to all stages of their application

Helping to check applications...

1. Use personal email, not school email
2. Nominated access. This is an option for students to allow a parent/guardian to access and respond to UCAS on students behalf: useful if student is away and unreachable on results day, or may need support with phone calls. Most students do not nominate access.
3. Upper/Secondary School and Sixth Form are the only schools that need to be added. All GCSEs (Level 2) and A Level/BTECs (Level 3) will need to be declared; music and drama/dance grades 6 and above can also be added.
4. Also can add in other qualifications such as Duke of Edinburgh - if in doubt, ask.
5. Student finance option= 2nd option 'student finance services'

Final step: Book appointment with Miss Collins



- **When everything is ready** - students need to then book an appointment - Miss Collins (6th form administrator)
- They can do this in person in the 6th form office, or by email lcollins@bestacademies.org.uk
- These appointments will be with either Mr Tonking, Mr Huckle or Mrs Hoad and will be during a staff free period.
- They must have completed all stages of the application AND paid and sent before the meeting occurs. £27.50 - School does not pay.
- Nothing gets sent to the universities until the school has completed the checking meeting.
- When everything is checked and the student is happy - then the final send button is clicked!

Entrance tests (Oxford and Cambridge and others)



Registering for your testing is your responsibility

The exams office will help

Visit them before the end of Friday this week!

For each course you are intending to apply for you need to check the entry requirements in the university prospectus.

E.g. Maths at university - not just Oxford requires the MAT

Finance and planning

Student loans - tuition and maintenance

March/April 2024 - how to apply, and finance/budgeting/planning ahead

Maintenance loan: Parent household income - means tested

Repayments: consider repayments as an additional small tax on income

Student loans do not have the same consideration as unsecured loans or personal credit card debt

Take professional independent financial advice if you are considering assisting with financing university 'privately'.



PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Mr Lee Huckle
Head of Sixth Form
lhuckle@bestacademies.org.uk

What do universities look for in a personal statement?

Students who will complete the course (retention)

Students who will contribute to the course, the department and the university

- Teamwork, flexibility, interest in wider world and evidence of an active life

Students who will enhance the university's reputation – this can be achieved through extra curricular activities you have been involved in to date (year 12 debates, clubs, American exchange) as well as what you can give to the university.

Advice:

Resources are available on their yeargroup google classroom and UCAS website

Do not use AI or google searches to source written passages for your personal statement

A good template:



Paragraph/s	Content
Opening – paragraph 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do you want to study the course and why are you passionate about it?
2, 3 and possibly 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How your interest in the subject developed• Include details of wider reading and exploration• Work experience relevant to the subject• Extra-curricular activities• Positions of responsibility in school and out of school
Closing paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How you will make the most of your place outside your studies• Career goals and how you will use your degree in the future.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Miss Emma Foreman
Careers Leader SLT
eforeman@bestacademies.org.uk

Post 18 Choices

- Foundation degrees
- University
- Apprenticeship
- Degree level apprenticeship



Start forwards and work backwards...

Foundation degrees



A foundation year can be a great gateway to a university education. Helping you refine your study skills and build up your bank of valuable, transferrable skills, foundation year entry is suitable for many people.

How does foundation year entry work?

A foundation year is essentially just an extra year at the beginning of a university course. It helps prepare those who aren't quite ready to study for a full degree.

Typically, a foundation year leads straight on to degree study with the same university. However, it is usually possible to transfer to a different uni once you have completed your foundation year. To do this, you would need to re-apply to your new university of choice via UCAS.

It's important to note that a foundation degree is a different thing entirely to a foundation year.

While a foundation year prepares you to go on and study a full degree, and foundation degree is a qualification in itself, and is equivalent to the first two years of a three-year degree course.

Who is a foundation year for?

For many, a foundation year bridges the gap between further and higher education. If you resonate with any of these examples, a foundation year might be the ideal solution for you:

You're lacking the confidence to enrol on a university degree and would like to acquire study skills and some entry-level knowledge on your chosen subject.

You didn't manage to meet the entry requirements for your degree course, but are still committed to pursuing that path and enrolling on that degree.

You haven't been in education for a while and feel you might need a refresher before taking on a full university degree.

You're unsure whether university is for you, so would like a taster of uni life before committing to a full degree.

University

- In such a competitive job market, gaining a degree can increase your child's career prospects. Students often choose to study at higher education level to further an interest in a particular subject, or in a particular vocation. Some careers, such as those in medicine, nursing, architecture, law and pharmacy, cannot be practised without a particular vocational degree.
- Statistics show that graduates earn more than those without higher education qualifications.
- Allows students to develop transferable skills such as communication, presentation and problem-solving skills, while enhancing their ability to work as part of a team.
- University can help students to build their self-confidence and independence. Students will have plenty of opportunities to make new friends from different countries and backgrounds. Living independently can also nurture an increased level of responsibility.
- Students often choose to study a subject because they enjoyed it at school or college. University presents the opportunity to delve deeper into a subject they enjoy, creating the perfect foundation for a career that interests them.
- There are always dozens of extracurricular opportunities to get involved with at university, which will boost both enjoyment and employability throughout the higher education experience.
- University is an opportunity to make lifelong connections to fellow students from different backgrounds and cultures, as well as to the new city students will call home for the duration of their stay.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship summary

Annual wage

£23,487.00

Working week

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Total hours per week: 37

Expected duration

36 Months

Possible start date

01 Oct 2022

Date posted

08 Sep 2022

Distance

22.1 miles

What will the apprentice be doing?

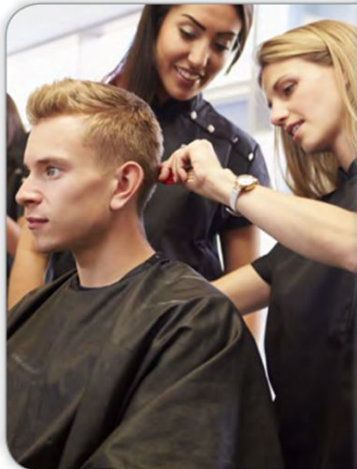
It is the responsibility of the Finance Division to manage the financial resources of the University. The Division is also responsible for maintaining the integrity of the accounting records, establishing best practices and for producing both statutory accounts and management information to assist in decision-making at all levels of the institution.

The role holder is a member of the Central and Research Accounting Section (8 staff including the role holder), which is part of the Finance Division and carries out a variety of accounting and financial management tasks, whilst

Gain a degree whilst also earning a salary

- You don't have to choose between working or further study. You can do both through our integrated programmes.
- We're offering you a "study first" or "work first" approach so that you can choose whether you want your initial focus to be academic study or on-the-job learning. Both routes will involve academic study as well as hands-on work experience.
- Whichever path you choose, you will gain a full Bachelor's degree and a Level 6 Digital Technology Solutions apprenticeship qualification. Combined with high quality work experience, these qualifications will provide the foundations for your career in tech, and showcase your technical abilities.
- You'll be expected to work hard both on the job and at university or college, but you'll be supported by PwC and your university or college throughout the degree apprenticeship and beyond. You'll have a buddy, career coach, an academic support team, as well as the apprentice community at PwC.
- You'll reap the rewards of accelerating your tech career and gaining a degree without the student debt.
- At the end of the apprenticeship, we expect that you'll continue your career at PwC as a graduate and beyond, using the skills, network and experience you've gained.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>



LEVEL 2 *Intermediate apprenticeships*

Typical length
12-18 months

Entry requirements:
None or few

Qualifications obtained:
GCSE, BTEC or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with limited or no academic qualifications.



LEVEL 4/5 *Higher apprenticeships*

Typical length
3-5 years

Entry requirements:
A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
Higher national diploma / foundation degree

Who's it for?
Mostly for those who want to qualify for professional career paths without attending university / college. Sometimes referred to as 'school leaver' or 'non-graduate' Programmes.



LEVEL 3 *Advanced apprenticeships*

Typical length
12-24 months

Entry requirements:
Usually 5 GCSEs

Qualifications obtained:
A levels or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with reasonable academic achievements but who don't want to study in sixth form.



LEVEL 6/7 *Degree apprenticeship*

Typical length
3-7 years

Entry requirements:
At least 2 A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
A BA or BSc degree or higher

Who's it for?
Mostly for those with excellent sixth form results that want to study for a degree or similar whilst working. Aimed at attracting high-calibre candidates to bridge professional skills gaps.

Degree apprenticeships (levels 6 and 7)

- Developed by universities, professional bodies and employers, they offer the chance to qualify with a bachelors or masters degree whilst working.
- Time is split between work and study (80%/20%). This can be an attractive alternative to attending university.
- There are no tuition fees to pay (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the apprentice will receive a salary to cover living expenses, paid holiday and sick leave.
- Salaries usually range between £7k-18k p/a, although some employers offer more. This should significantly contribute, if not totally cover, living expenses (such as accommodation, food, travel and entertainment) way beyond what their university peers can achieve through part-time work.

Links to universities

Most organisations partner with a small number of universities so the choice of apprenticeship must be driven by the apprenticeship type (and reputation of the company offering it) and not location or university.

A word of Caution

Flexibility Apprenticeships are designed to be flexible. An employer may offer a level 6 or 7 apprenticeship without it resulting in a degree – although the qualification earned would be considered equivalent to a degree.

It's important your child checks the qualifications on offer before applying for an apprenticeship.

There is usually an element of academic learning during an apprenticeship, but degree apprenticeships are a specific type of apprenticeship (Level 6 and above) that include study at university resulting in a degree level qualification (BA or BSc).

Be warned! Not all apprenticeships that include study at university result in obtaining a degree.

Typical entry requirements for degree apprenticeships

- Applicants for degree apprenticeships can live anywhere in the UK;
- Must work at least 30 hours per week – which includes teaching time;
- Must have a Grade 4 “GCSE” (or equivalent) in English and Maths or be studying towards it;
- Must have Level 3 qualifications (minimum two A level passes or equivalent). Sometimes more is required;
- Some employers have specific entry requests;
- Should commit to the full term of their apprenticeship (which may be three to four years, or longer if part time).

Degree apprenticeship or University?

Pros of a degree apprenticeship

- You'll get real-life experience working alongside your degree.
- Your degree is fully paid for, so there's no cost to you.
- You'll get paid a salary just like a normal employee.

Cons of a degree apprenticeship

- You'll need to balance working and studying at the same time.
- You won't qualify for any student loans.
- Apprentices don't always get the traditional 'university experience'.
- Not as many subjects on offer

University or Apprenticeship?

Traditional degrees offer far greater variety in the range of courses, subjects and modules available:- choose from over 1,500 different titles.

Traditional degrees enable students to study subject areas that interest them and to tailor their degree during their study by opting for certain modules as their interests evolve.

In contrast, degree apprenticeships are far more focused and industry-specific and the university and location of study is limited to the universities working with the employer.

The student experience 'Student life' will be different for an apprentice compared to a full-time student. Whilst degree apprentices will experience some aspects of campus life, it will be different to those students fully immersed / living on campus.

Most university degrees offer plenty of flexibility with how students manage their study time, but times for study will be limited when also working.

Holiday periods are a significant differentiator. University students will have around 14 weeks' holiday each year, but apprentices will have only four or five.

Some university apprenticeships offer the opportunity of full-time academic study during university term time, and full time work during the holiday periods.

One of the biggest advantages apprentices achieve over their peers who have similar level qualifications obtained through university is that they will have developed many commercially desirable soft skills. First-hand experience of meeting work deadlines, forming professional relationships with colleagues at many different levels, building rapport and trust with external stakeholders, and corresponding (whether by email, phone call or in meetings) in a work environment is highly valuable to future employers.



Thank you for coming

Should you wish to speak with a member of the team please do email;

Sixth Form Team

Mr L Huckle – Associate Principal – Head of Sixth Form

Mrs S Hoad – Assistant Head of Sixth Form – Year 13

Mr C Tonking - Assistant Head of Sixth Form – Year 12

Mrs C Bonham – Pastoral, Attendance and Academic Support Officer

Miss L Collins – Sixth Form administration, bursary and admissions

Mrs R Jackman – Head of Sixth Form Enrichment

Miss A Corbishley – HPA Inclusion & Diversity Lead

Miss L Freeman – Careers and apprenticeships advice

Email first initial and surname@bestacademies.org.uk

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