

19 January 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Year 13 UCAS Update

According to my records you have a child in Year 13/14 who has applied, through UCAS, for a place at university. The aim of this letter is to provide further guidance about the remaining key stages of the application process:

- All applications from students have been submitted and students are receiving offers of places. If students haven't received an offer yet, they need not worry. The universities have until mid-May to respond to students. The majority of offers given are conditional and will set out particular entry requirements. Where offers are "unconditional" I urge students and parents to exercise caution. Whilst an unconditional offer can remove some of the pressure of summer examinations, national data shows that many students in receipt of an unconditional offer fall a grade below that expected, as they experience reduced motivation. The students will use their final A Level qualifications on all future applications for employment, and it is vital that they aim for the best possible outcomes.
- Some of the students have applied for courses that require an interview with the university. These may be online, or in person. I am happy to offer interview practice for any student in this position. They will just need to let me know if this is something they want.
- Once students are in receipt of all their offers, they must choose two that they will confirm as their choices. They must choose a "Firm" choice and then their "Insurance" choice. It is usual that their insurance choice may have slightly lower grades than their firm choice, so that they have a fall-back option, should things not go entirely as planned on results day. They can register their intentions on their UCAS Hub at any point but must do so by Wednesday 6 May.
- Between now and 6 May, many universities will invite students to "Applicant/Offer Holder Days". These are another opportunity to visit chosen universities to help with the decision about which two choices to make. Students don't have to attend these, but they can be really helpful to confirm things.
- Once students have chosen their firm and insurance offers, they then just need to wait until results day to see if they have met the entry criteria and have had their place confirmed.
- If students have not received any offers (an extremely rare occurrence) then the student is eligible for "UCAS Extra" where they can add additional options. This is available from Thursday 26 February and remains open until the end of June.

- The dates by which students can apply for accommodation at their chosen university vary hugely. Some encourage students to book accommodation early, whilst others don't allocate things until the summer. It is worthwhile checking with the website of each university to confirm their particular timeline. In recent years it has become much more competitive to secure accommodation, so I would advise not leaving it too late.
- The final and most important part of the process is the application for student finance. Usually this opens at the end of February/start of March. The application is done online through Student Finance England. The student completes part of the application and then parents receive a link to be able to complete part of it too. To help with this process I will host a short meeting, for parents who are unfamiliar with the student finance process, regarding applications for student finance on Thursday 26 February at 6 pm in the East Hall.
- On 26 February I will also be available from 4.30 pm until 6 pm for any parent who would like an opportunity to discuss potential destinations for any student who is currently unsure about what to do next. If you would like to meet during this time, please contact me by the email address at the bottom of this letter.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this communication and if you have any additional query, please don't hesitate to contact me on darren.andrews@driffieldschool.org.uk and I'll do all I can to help.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Andrews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Andrews
Head of Sixth Form