



23 February 2021

## NEXT STEPS PROGRAMME 2021-22

### Introduction

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic means that some elements of our next steps support for current Year 12 students will have to be delivered in a different way from previous years. We will be guiding students to use a variety of complementary resources to explore their post-AHS options, among them:

- National virtual information fairs
- Online content from universities and other providers - some generic, some delivered solely to AHS
- Guidance and support delivered by AHS staff to whole year group, tutor groups or interest groups
- 1:1 support on request as needed (from Sixth Form team, form tutors, Careers Adviser)
- Unifrog
- UCAS Hub

### So far...

- 20 January 2021 - virtual talk to the year group on “Is university for me?” by John Wilson from Solent University Southampton
- 28 January - virtual talk from University of Sheffield for prospective Medicine and Dentistry applicants (and parents/carers)
- 9 February - virtual session with University of Nottingham for prospective Veterinary Medicine applicants (and parents/carers)
- Regular directed use of Unifrog, overseen by form tutor
- Introductory online group meetings with students interested in finding out more about applying to Oxford or Cambridge, and/or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine
- Resources shared on Year 12 Google Classroom and separate Google Classrooms for specific areas of interest

### Going forward: researching options

Attending a **virtual information fair** is an excellent way to investigate options at this stage of Year 12 and **we would like everyone to attend at least one such event**. There are three particular events coming up in March/April which we would encourage students to choose from:

#### 1. **UCAS Discovery Day**

These are new online events - you can find out more [here](#). The event for the South East of England will be live from 10:00 - 18:00 on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 April (later than

originally advertised) - details [here](#). There will also be UCAS Discovery Days on 23-24 March and 27-28 April and in May.

UCAS say participants will be able to:

- explore over 100 UK universities
- get inspiration and explore different career opportunities
- understand if an apprenticeship is right for them
- take part in live sessions and get their questions answered by the experts
- get practical help on personal statements, accommodation, student loans, and more
- hear from real students

## 2. **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair**

This event will be live on Wednesday 17 March from 12:00 - 18:00 - details [here](#). This is due to feature over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. These will include Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist universities, as well as higher and degree apprenticeship providers.

There will be a virtual Exhibition Hall with booths for each exhibitor, where students can learn more about them and then join the organisation's chat room and ask any questions. Visitors can view information and videos, link directly to virtual campus tours to explore university facilities and accommodation, and download prospectuses and other resources into a virtual bag.

The event will also feature a virtual Auditorium where students can join live webinars on topics such as Writing a Personal Statement, Choosing a Course, and how Degree Apprenticeships differ to traditional degrees.

On-demand content will remain available for two weeks after the event so students can return to access material and recordings of the webinars during this time.

The event is completely free of charge to students, parents/carers and teachers/advisers.

## 3. **What Career Live? & What University Live?**

This virtual event will be live on Friday 19 March 10:00 - 15:00 and Saturday 20 March 11:00 - 15:00 - details [here](#). There will be a wide range of exhibitors, together with a programme of live and on-demand talks. Future Skills workshops aim to help you to increase your employability.

## **Oxford and Cambridge Virtual Student Conference**

Students interested in finding out more about applying to Oxford and Cambridge are also encouraged to attend this virtual conference which will be live from Tuesday 23 - Thursday 25 March 12:00 - 18:00, with on demand content available from 15 - 26 March.

The event offers:

- webinars on applying to Oxford and Cambridge (including student experience)
- opportunities to chat live with course academics and current undergraduate students
- videos of current undergraduate students talking about their experiences of applying, settling into life at both universities and their course of study

The conference is free to attend but students need to book to attend - details [here](#).

### **Unifrog UK University Series webinars**

Between 1-11 March, Unifrog is running a series of webinars, each focusing on study at universities in different areas including London, South West, Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire/North East. The webinars will support students to decide which universities they may like to attend and how to determine what's a good fit for them. Click on the orange [Webinars](#) tile on the home dashboard of Unifrog to find out more and book a place.

### **Making the most of these events**

On Wednesday 10 March during Current Issues in period 1, the University of Sheffield will give a virtual talk to all Year 12 students about how to prepare for virtual fairs and how to get the most out of these events.

We will designate time during Registration for students to prepare for these events and work out who they might want to talk to; for example, by using the UK Universities and Apprenticeships tools on Unifrog.

Wherever possible, students should not miss lessons in order to attend virtual fairs and conferences. However, if, for example, they wish to attend a live webinar that clashes with a lesson, they should ask permission from the teacher concerned to miss that lesson. If this is given, the student should notify Mrs Dalby.

There will be other virtual fairs during the year and we will also promote these to students so they can choose to attend what suits them best. As well as national events, there is a wealth of institution and sector-specific material and we will help them to narrow down what to investigate.

### **School-specific virtual talks**

To complement the virtual fairs and generic webinars we will offer some [school-specific virtual talks](#) for students and parents/carers. These will include:

- Introduction to university application process and support available at AHS - this will be a pre-recorded video which will be shared on Wednesday 3 March. The Sixth Form team will then be available for a virtual drop-in session on Thursday 11 March from 17:30-19:00 to answer any questions about this.
- Apprenticeships vs higher education
- Applying to Oxford/Cambridge

### **Unifrog**

Unifrog will continue to be the key platform to support Year 12 students in exploring their options. There are regular activities during form time for students to explore its tools - so far, they have been introduced to MOOCs, UK Universities, Activities & Competencies and Apprenticeships. Guides to making the most of these tools are on the Year 12 Google Classroom. Students can access all of Unifrog's extensive resources whenever it suits them.

### **Ongoing support for specific types of applications**

- Oxford/Cambridge - via the relevant Next Steps Google Classroom (code to join t7tzaev)
- Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine - via the relevant Next Steps Google Classroom (code to join f53oqrq)
- MedSoc - student-run group for those interested in Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine

### **Future Success Activity Day: 9 July 2021**

Year 12 will spend this day participating in a number of different activities related to next steps, including drafting a personal statement and registering on UCAS Apply.

### **Conclusion**

This summarises the initial phase of our Next Steps support for the current Year 12, as anticipated in mid-February 2021. It will be adapted and enhanced as we move forward. Individual support is always available and students are always welcome to discuss their plans and questions with Mrs Sutton, Mr Ochiltree or their form tutor.