

# TAKE YOUR PLACE

## Parent and Carer Higher Education Information Evening



### 1 tip for attending open days (Virtual and face-to-face)

**Talk to current students.** The most honest feedback will come from them. Find out about them, ask what attracted them most to that course/ university, what's their experience been like so far, how many contact hours do they have, what is the support structure like, where do they live and how does that work, what do they love/ hate about it and if they could go back in time what do they wish they had checked/asked/known. Most will happily chat with your young person but make a list so you can ask questions too.

### 1 tip to help young people prepare for the transition from School/College to Higher Education

**'Fun Preparation'** However you feel about the move away, it's an opportunity for your young person to spread their wings and see a different way of living. By making the process fun you will make happy memories for you both and remain part of the journey. For us, this was booking a girl's weekend to the area 3 weeks prior to move day. We planned it together and made a list of places we wanted to see and things we wanted to do. We explored a few of the local towns and she did all the driving – it was brilliant – she had never driven on a motorway or up significant hills before, and we laughed about how different that is to Norfolk. I created an 'essentials box' for her move – toiletries, cleaning, and kitchen staples which she loved so much she asked for another at Christmas – the realisation of how much everything costs hits them in the first term! It might help to download a 'preparing for Uni' checklist (e.g., [www.theuniguide.co.uk](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk)) – we found it very helpful!



### Can you tell us about your daughter's decision to enrol on an Apprenticeship.

The first thing I would say is that apprenticeships can be a good choice for any young person.

My daughter chose an apprenticeship over her dream offer at Cambridge University (Trinity). I have to explain that statement to many people, as apprenticeships often have a reputation for not being an option for high academic achievers. Many organisations have brilliant apprenticeship schemes (Level 2-7) and so it is an option worth exploring.

My daughter applied to 5 Universities and 10 degree apprenticeship schemes. She was offered all 5 University places, and 3 apprenticeships. Yes, the top schemes are extremely competitive. My daughter chose Dyson not just because it offered a perfect balance of work (3 day/week) and study (Design Engineering degree – Warwick University 2 day/week), a highly competitive starting salary (Dyson also pay for her degree), a campus life experience, but above all, she felt valued, and she felt able to be herself. She knew it was the right decision as she knew she would be happiest there.

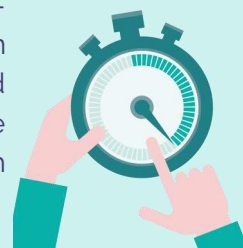


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### What are the differences between applying for University and a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship?

The main difference between University and Apprenticeship applications is the **timing**. UCAS have clear dates for all University applicants (15 October for Oxbridge, last Wednesday in January for all other applicants), although schools and colleges are likely to set earlier internal deadlines. The key assessment criteria are academic grades, strength of the personal statement, and the reference.



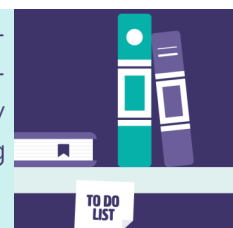
Apprenticeships are advertised by the employer (who then enrol successful students onto the course). Therefore, application windows and closing dates will occur throughout the year. A lot of degree apprenticeships close in December/January for September start, however this varies considerably and can be as early as October or as late as June.

The entry requirements for apprenticeships will vary considerably. For Level 2/3 apprenticeships the employer may also allow the student to continue to study for maths and/or English and will take into account whether a student can feasibly have gained prior knowledge and skills before applying.



For local apprenticeships try reaching out to employers directly – ask for an 'insight' day – find out if this is what you really want to do, and ask if they have an apprenticeship scheme/would they consider one?

If your young person is realistic about their grades, have researched their area of interest well and have taken care over their personal statement, they are likely to receive offers through UCAS for University (and if their grades are not as strong as they hoped, they will have the option to apply to University through Clearing or Clearing Plus, which opens at the start of July).



For apprenticeships, it is more akin to a job application and therefore they may need to apply for a lot of apprenticeships before they are successful – this can be demoralising and time consuming as it is so important to tailor the application to fit the Organisation/role. For an apprenticeship application they may be required to submit a supporting statement or cover letter, which can be similar to a personal statement.

It is therefore worth submitting University **AND** apprenticeship applications to allow your young person to keep their options open to them – nothing is an option until it is an offer. Stay positive and enthusiastic, with continual encouragement and aim to learn from each application/interview, it's all very useful experience and will help them with the next application or interview.

### Potential websites to find more information:

- [takeyourplace.ac.uk](https://takeyourplace.ac.uk)
- [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)
- [notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities/degree-apprenticeship](https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities/degree-apprenticeship)
- [icanbea.org.uk/](https://icanbea.org.uk/)

