

UCAS is the organisation that processes all full-time applications to UK universities and colleges. It is there to support you – as well as your son or daughter – through every step of the application process. UCAS sends all applicants a monthly newsletter, full of useful information, reminders, advice and competitions.

You can [sign up to monthly parent newsletters](#) quickly and simply online. They're completely FREE and contain timely information and advice about your son or daughter's journey to higher education and what **you** can do to support them.

For further information about the UCAS process, take a look at the [advice for parents](#) on [ucas.com](#).

Parents' Guide to UCAS – Applying to University.

At Strood Academy we aim to provide:

- A library of resources, including university prospectuses and UCAS publications.
- Information so that students can organise a trip to a university Open Day and to allow students to visit a number of universities if timetable allows – or encourage weekend/holiday visits.
- BIG Event – different universities, companies and apprenticeships stalls to gather independent advice.
- A visit to a UCAS higher education convention with information stands for many or all universities.
- Talks by representatives of one or more universities on general issues.
- A series of sessions giving advice about the UCAS process, with training in how to use the on-line application resources.
- Access to initiatives and activities such as Widening Participation/Outreach, Gifted and Talented, Master Classes and Subject Conferences hosted and organised by universities.
- A member of staff (Miss Bartlett) responsible for all this and available to provide assistance to both student and parents.
- Impartial advice without prejudice or outdated views on certain types of course or university.

You can support your son/daughter by:

- Encourage your child to gather all the necessary information. University websites contain a wealth of detailed information. For those who prefer a paper copy, a phone call, letter or email will generally result in the speedy dispatch of a prospectus
- Read up about the things you are interested in, even if they are not at the top of the list of most applicants' priorities. For example, many parents are concerned about the safety of the university environment and many universities have information about this on their websites or in special publications. Don't just assume that big cities are bad and rural campuses good. Some urban universities are in areas of their city with low crime rates; some out of town or small town campus universities may provide off-campus accommodation, which could be less accessible after dark if transport links are poor.
- Get to know the application process (more advice on this will follow) and keep a check that UCAS deadlines are met.
- Provide any information needed to make applications for student funding support.
- If you move house, alter your phone number or change network supplier for email make sure UCAS is on your son or daughter's change of address list.
- When communicating with UCAS and their chosen university, make sure that they use an appropriate personal email address or their school/college.
- Offer transport or offer to pay for transport to university Open Days. Most universities now expect large numbers of parents to roll up on Open Days and make special arrangements for you.