



Godalming
College

Progression Booklet for Parents 2020

Foreword

Please note that this information was put together before the announcement by Government regarding School and College closures and the cancellation of all public examinations that were due to take place in May/June 2020. Due to the current Covid 19 situation some changes to the Careers Programme may need to be made as we adjust to remote learning.

Contents

Progression Booklet for Parents 2020	1
Foreword	2
How we support your son/daughter	Error! Bookmark not defined.
University	4
Employment, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes	4
Gap Year	5
Other college courses.....	5
Art Foundation Courses.....	6
Drama and Dance Courses	8
Music Courses	10
Considering Oxford or Cambridge Universities?	11

Next steps after leaving College

We appreciate that the options open to your son or daughter when they leave Godalming College might seem complicated, especially if this is your eldest child, so below we have outlined the main options, together with how we aim to support the students.

The Careers Department and the Personal Tutors support students whatever their career plans.

Our Tutorial Programme examines all the progression options in depth so it is vital that your son/daughter fully engages with the Tutorial Programme. They also have regular one to one discussions with their tutor.

During the summer term tutorials focus on Personal Statement and CV preparation. Students will also start a UCAS application during this period, so that they can make progress with it over the summer holiday. We usually run UCAS workshops in September/October.

Extensive resources are available on the Careers Site of Godalming Online – All L6th students have registered for UNIFROG which is an impartial user friendly platform that helps students to make the best choices with regard to progression. Students can use UNIFROG to explore their career/job/apprenticeship/university options ideas and start to build a CV or Personal Statement. Do encourage your child to use these online resources.

It is important that students check their college emails regularly as we frequently send out details of opportunities.

Similarly, they should ensure they read the weekly Student Bulletin to find out about forthcoming events.

We also run workshops and arrange talks from outside speakers.

When College is open, The Careers Department is open to students every day between 9am and 5pm. Morning break is a good time for students to drop in. They can also email us at careers@godalming.ac.uk.

A word about deadlines. We set internal college application deadlines which are in advance of the UCAS/ deadlines. This is to ensure that there is plenty of time to check applications and attach references. The College guarantees to process and send UCAS applications within 20 working days from the date the student hands in their University Choices Form to their Personal Tutor and submits their online UCAS application. Please note that the College will be closed for 2 weeks for half term from 19th - 30th October.

Internal College Deadlines for Applications

Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry	16 Sept 2020
Advisory deadline for other competitive courses (eg Russell Group)	5 Oct 2020
All other UCAS (University) applications	16 Nov 2020

See www.ucas.com for final UCAS deadline dates

If your son/daughter does apply for university, it is important that they are in the country on Results Day (12 Aug 2021) to be able to communicate with universities if necessary.

University

A significant number of our Upper Sixth students apply to university, either during their time here or during a gap year. Your son/daughter can apply this autumn for either a Sept 2021 start or for a 'deferred entry' 2022 start.

www.ucas.com is the essential website for the university application process. Use their course search to find which universities offer the subject your son/daughter is interested in and what the entry requirements are. This may be a grades or a 'points' requirement. The Tariff Tables on the UCAS site explain how this works.

The UCAS site has an informative Parents' section <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduateadvice-parents-and-guardians> that explains how the application process works and how you can best support your child. You can sign up for regular Parent Newsletters and download a Parent Guide. You can also find links to information about Student Finance.

The UniGuide site (formerly Which?University) also has a helpful parents' section and university/course search <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk>.

Students apply for Student Finance in the spring before they start university through www.gov.uk/student-finance. They will pay nothing back until they are earning over a certain amount – currently £26,575 for 2020.

You may be wondering about the 'best' university for a particular subject. If you are interested in rankings, then publications such as the Guardian University Guide and the Times Good University Guide give a good overview, but do check the basis on which the rankings are made. The Discover Uni website <https://discoveruni.gov.uk> offers a course search where you can compare data on courses and universities, based on student surveys.

Above all, we would advise students to find the best and most realistic match for them. You can help by discussing with them factors such as location, distance from home, campus or not, availability and type of accommodation, graduate destinations, bursaries available and realistic entry requirements.

Attending an open day is an excellent way to get the feel of a place. You can find the dates of these at www.opendays.com. During the current lockdown universities are currently offering virtual online tours.

Participating in a Summer School or Taster Day can also help students decide if that subject is for them.

Applications for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry as well as Oxbridge have early deadlines and require a strong academic profile.

All applicants can apply for up to 5 courses and they do not need to choose a preference order until they have received all their offers.

Employment, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes

There are excellent opportunities available that lead to professional qualifications and even a degree – a genuine alternative to university. Sectors include Finance, Business, IT, Engineering and Retail. Sign up for sites such as www.notgoingtouni.co.uk, www.targetcareers.co.uk, www.milkround.com and www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk. Applications open for some schemes as early as November, so it is important to start early.

There are resources on the Careers Godalming Online pages to help with CVs, job applications and interviews, and workshops are held in college to support students.

Apprenticeships last between 1 and 4 years and allow trainees to earn while they learn. Available at 4 different levels, including degree apprenticeships, vacancies can be found at www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.

Gap Year

Taking a Gap Year is viewed positively for most university courses. A year out can help students gain maturity as well as money, although sometimes it can be hard to get back into studying again afterwards.

Some students work for part of the year and then travel. Others opt for an organised placement (voluntary or paid) either in the UK or overseas. Costs vary, so do check the details. www.yearoutgroup.org acts as a portal for finding out about a wide range of organised programmes.

Do encourage your son/daughter to make definite plans for their gap year. They can apply for university whilst at College and opt to defer their entry until 2022.

Alternatively, students can apply through Godalming College as an ex-student the following autumn. Before they leave College we will give them instructions on how to do this and will provide a reference for them.

Other college courses

Sometimes students opt for vocational college courses or continue their studies of A Level/BTEC courses at another local college. Student Finance loans are not available to cover living costs if the course is classed as Further Education.

Art Foundation Courses

The Art and Design Foundation Diploma is an introductory, bridging course that helps students make the transition from school or college to specialist art and design education, and many university art and design degree courses require applicants to have taken a one-year Art Foundation course first. Art Foundation courses offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of design areas – including painting, sculpture, graphic design, fashion & textile design, 3D design and computer-aided design - before putting together an appropriate portfolio for their chosen design area.

An Art Foundation course may be referred to as “Foundation Studies in Art and Design” or as a “Foundation Diploma”. It will be a Level 3 or 4 course and classified as FE (Further Education) not HE (Higher Education). Don’t confuse it with a Foundation Degree, which is something different.

How to apply?

Applications for Foundation courses are made directly to each institution, whether a university or college, and **not** through UCAS. Students can apply for as many Foundation courses as they like, although many finally choose to attend one near home for financial reasons. Formal entry requirements are likely to be reasonably basic – 5 GCSE passes and 1 A Level pass in a related creative subject (check each course website carefully for individual requirements) – as most require to see a portfolio of work and will base their decision on that.

More information is available to students in the Art section of the Careers’ pages on *Godalming Online*.

What finance is available?

No tuition fees are charged to Home and (currently) EU students who are under 19 years of age on 31 August of the year of entry, but you are normally expected to pay for the necessary materials for your course. This should be clear on the institution’s website.

However, Art Foundation courses are classified as *further education* and students **are not able to apply for a student loan to cover their living expenses**. Students need to think carefully about how they will fund their living costs before applying to a course at a college away from their home area.

What are the courses like?

The best way to find out is to visit. Check individual college websites (several are listed below) for details of their open days. These are often oversubscribed and you will need to book a place in advance.

Where to study Art Foundation Courses?

The following institutions have been popular in the last few years with Godalming students:

UCA - University for the Creative Arts (includes the colleges at Epsom & Farnham. Individual applications are made to each college.)

www.ucreative.ac.uk

UAL - University of the Arts London (There are two Art Foundation courses available at UAL – you can only apply to one.)

- **Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design** <http://www.arts.ac.uk/csm>
- **Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges (CCW)** based at the CCW Progression Centre at Camberwell College of Arts in South London.
<http://www.arts.ac.uk/camberwell>

Arts University Bournemouth

www.aub.ac.uk

Kingston University

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/art-design-foundation-diploma-design-foundation-diploma>

Oxford Brookes University

www.brookes.ac.uk

Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (MET) <https://www.gbmc.ac.uk/brighton>

Loughborough University (LUSAD) <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/aed/foundation>

Leeds Arts University

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Manchester Metropolitan University

www.mmu.ac.uk

Ravensbourne

www.ravensbourne.ac.uk

East Surrey College (Reigate School of Art) www.esc.ac.uk

Drama and Dance Courses

Help and Support from the Godalming College Drama Department

The Drama Department supports students through their applications and auditions for vocational schools. We run a +Explore nine week course specifically focusing on vocational school applications and mock auditions. We hold a masterclass event during the Summer Term of the student's first year, and past students who are currently studying at vocational schools are invited back towards the end of Term 1 in the second year for a networking event. We also invite tutors from a number of the top vocational schools into the Department. The Department will also endeavour to buddy up current students/applicants with an ex-student who is studying/has studied at the relevant schools. **There is a (non-exhaustive) list of vocational schools and a description of their application procedures on Godalming Online – ClassAction page.**

Where to research and apply to Drama and Dance Courses

You need to start your research early on the vocational courses you are interested in. There is a variety of application procedures and it is important to check these individually: some applications are direct to the school, some are through UCAS, and some are through CUKAS. This is an ever-changing list as more vocational schools offer BA qualifications and move over to UCAS.

1. The vast majority of courses at **drama schools** and **private colleges** are either applied to individually/via the specific school's website or through the UCAS system. Having looked at the GoL ClassAction pages, the links below should help you to research the course and the relevant application process. Your final check should be to visit each school's website and research their procedures (things change from year to year).
 - ❖ UCAS course search: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
 - ❖ Federation of Drama Schools (not all schools are represented here); <http://www.federationofdramaschools.co.uk>
 - ❖ Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT): <https://cdmt.org.uk>
2. Drama and Dance courses at **conservatoires** are applied to through the UCAS Conservatoires website using the CUKAS application scheme: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires> Most courses have a January deadline, but it is important to check each one. The following Colleges are part of this scheme (colleges with drama/dance courses):
 - ❖ Royal Birmingham Conservatoire: <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire>
 - ❖ Bristol Old Vic Theatre School: <https://www.oldvic.ac.uk>
 - ❖ Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: <https://www.rcs.ac.uk>
 - ❖ Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: <https://www.rwcmd.ac.uk>
 - ❖ Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance: <https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk>
3. Drama and Dance courses at **universities** are applied to via the UCAS application system: <https://www.ucas.com>

Funding for Dance and Drama courses

- ❖ Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA): <https://www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards>

Find related careers information at: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/home>

Find additional information online at: <https://www.thestage.co.uk/training/institutions>

SUMMER YEAR 1	<p>Research your favoured vocational schools. Visit schools / watch end of year productions. Begin finding appropriate speeches – READING SOME PLAYS. You should have some audition ‘monologues’ already. You should have attended our Vocational School Sessions. You should have attended Q&A’s and Workshops in Year 1.</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>Begin some kind of work, on some kind of speech – get working on this – get active. Work on texts yourself, do not get others to direct. Once blocked and once the speech has landed – then show to outside eyes. Know where you are applying and how each institution accepts applications.</p>
OCTOBER	<p>Get application forms. Have nearly completed your UCAS application – spend some time on the personal statement – build up your arsenal of speeches (check against prescribed lists). Get your applications in, if you are ready – if not - wait.</p>
NOVEMBER	<p>Serious final speech work. Be sending your private individual forms now.</p>
DECEMBER	<p>Keep things lively, confident and fresh. Do not let your speeches go soggy. All applications in by now.</p>
JANUARY	<p>Application deadline for UCAS/CUKAS. Think about changing speeches if they are not working for you, don’t be worried about doing that.</p>
FEBRUARY	<p>Most schools close applications next month. If you are making additional private applications this is the final moment.</p>
MARCH	<p>Most schools closed 31st March.</p>
APRIL	<p>Onwards > Offers > Acceptance. REVISION / COLLEGE WORK NOW.</p>
Onwards	<p>If you are into a gap year, keep yourself fresh and alive. Build a routine – whatever that needs to be financially BUT HAVE A ROUTINE. Think about attending classes at PROFESSIONAL institutions for example THE ACTOR’S CENTRE, PINEAPPLE DANCE, or short courses at places like Central, Rada, Fourth Monkey – keep your technique strong; do not lose faith or impetus. You need to put so much work into this.</p>

Music Courses

All courses at **conservatoires** have a strong vocational, performance orientation. To apply for these practical performance-centred music courses at UK conservatoires you need to apply through the **UCAS Conservatoires** website using the CUKAS application scheme.

- ❖ <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires>

Most music course deadlines are early October, but it is important to check these individually as they can vary. The following colleges are part of this scheme:

- ❖ Royal Birmingham Conservatoire: <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire>
- ❖ Leeds College of Music: <https://www.lcm.ac.uk>
- ❖ Royal Academy of Music: <https://www.ram.ac.uk>
- ❖ Royal College of Music: <https://www.rcm.ac.uk>
- ❖ Royal Northern College of Music: <https://www.rncm.ac.uk>
- ❖ Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: <https://www.rcs.ac.uk>
- ❖ Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: <https://www.rwcmd.ac.uk>
- ❖ Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance: <https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk>

Other **university** music courses, which focus more on academic study, can be found and applied to through the main UCAS application scheme:

- ❖ <https://www.ucas.com>

There are also **independent music colleges**, where courses are applied to individually or if they offer a degree level course, through the UCAS system. The links below should help you research these courses and the relevant application process. This list is not exhaustive.

- ❖ The Academy of Contemporary Music: <https://www.acm.ac.uk>
- ❖ BIMM (British and Irish Modern Music Institute): <http://www.bimm.co.uk>
- ❖ London Centre of Contemporary Music: <https://lccm.org.uk>
- ❖ SAE Institute: <http://www.sae.edu/gbr/homepage>

Support with your application

Conservatoire applicants are welcome to speak to Music staff about their audition programme, and are able to perform their pieces and receive feedback. Students who are required to submit a portfolio of compositions/sequences/recordings will also receive support in the construction of this. Staff from Music colleges often come to college to provide course information to our students and ex-students regularly return to the department to share their experiences and assist students with their applications.

Find lots of related careers information at: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/home>

Considering Oxford or Cambridge Universities?

Please ensure your son/daughter is in touch with Dave king, our Oxbridge Coordinator.

<p>Oxford and Cambridge - Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of resources • Quality of teaching • Support for students 	<p>Problems of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early application • Interviews • Course availability • Course structure • Qualifications • Very high demand 	
<p>Your UCAS application will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate range of FIVE choices • A well-structured and persuasive personal statement • A carefully completed application 	<p>Focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The skills required for the course – to be a successful historian, chemist, etc. and how this can be demonstrated • Choices in A levels, etc. and how they reflect aspirations and meet the university’s requirements. This may include an EPQ • Reading and pursuit of academic topics. How students go beyond the syllabus? 	
<p>Oxford Entry – Some Specifics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers usually from AAA to A*AA or A*A*A at A level • The UCAS form together with tests screen students – removing applicants before interview week • You will be competing against students with top grades in their GCSEs (flagged against school averages) • Emphasis on GCSE grades • Tests in various subjects taken in College including subject specific tests and TSA Oxford • LNAT test for Law taken with Pearson Vue (as with the Driving Theory test) and BMAT for Medicine • Examples of completed work – usually requested • Interview “week” (2-3 days?) including possible pool 	<p>Cambridge Entry – Some Specifics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers usually A*AA to A*A*A • Additional Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ) to be completed online • Cambridge has now adopted tests for most subjects, they have their own Law test and use BMAT for Medicine – TSA Cambridge is rarely used – these increasingly screen applicants • Examples of completed work • Interviews spread through December • Possible pool to mid/late January, one second interview requested then 	
<p>They are looking for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm for the subject • Knowledge of the subject • Intellectual interest and initiative • The confidence and capacity to respond to demands of tutorial/supervision systems • Evidence of forethought and research • Relevant work experience where necessary • Above all they want a “self-motivated learner” – someone keen enough to be able to show this degree of motivation 	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to support applications and applicants • Attempt to provide realistic guidance • Administer forms etc. 	<p>BUT WE CANNOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow or forbid an application • Provide everything needed • Tell students where to go, what to do • Liaise with <u>everyone</u>
<p>TO WORK TOWARD AN APPLICATION APPLICANTS NEED TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read around the subject – undergraduate students are primarily readers (in Arts and Humanities especially) • Consider college choices – although open applications are fine • Gather information from websites, Open Days, etc. – KNOW WHAT THE COURSE IS ABOUT – structure, content, etc. • Take some advantage of public lectures, courses, summer schools, Masterclasses, MOOCs etc. where available • Consider work experience (especially Law, Teaching, Medicine, etc.), and other related supercurricular activities 	<p>Some essential websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ox.ac.uk – Oxford University • http://apply.oxfordsu.org Oxford University Alternative Prospectus • http://www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk - St Hilda’s College, Oxford – our link college and a useful example • www.cam.ac.uk – Cambridge University • http://www.BeCambridge.com – student friendly site • https://www.applytocambridge.com - Cambridge Alternative Prospectus • https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk – Churchill College, Cambridge – our link college and a useful example • www.admissionstests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt – for potential BMAT and TSA entries • www.lnat.ac.uk – for potential law students • www.ucas.com – for all applicants • https://unistats.ac.uk • www.godalming.ac.uk <p>And see the dedicated Careers GOL site for the “Aspire” programme</p>	

Questions from Students

- **Can I apply to both Oxford and Cambridge at the same time?**
 - *No – only one application to one of these universities in any given year is allowed.*
- **My grade predictions are not strong, but I know that I will get through. Can I apply?**
 - *We cannot stop you, but you should not waste your time or choices. **The universities work on the evidence in front of them** and the UCAS system relies on grade predictions. In this college, these will be based on first year performance and the ARG. The universities rely on the professional judgment of your teachers.*
 - *There are just five choices on the UCAS form. These need to be used to best advantage.*
 - *If you do achieve appropriate grades, you can reapply in a gap year **through the college** (neither of these universities will appear in UCAS Adjustment/Clearing). **Guidance is issued to all students at the end of the second year.***
- **Do I have to have all A* at GCSE?**
 - *No – GCSE performance will be assessed against the school's overall success rate. If there is a specific reason for underperformance in GCSE then this needs to be explained in the application. More important by far is progress at college.*
However, with new A levels, GCSEs may be becoming more important to both universities.
- **My AS exams do not form part of my final A level grade do they matter?**
 - *They matter. All evidence of academic attainment will be used and you need the highest possible grades.*
 - *Universities will look at your complete academic profile.*
- **Do I need an EPQ? Do I need 4 A levels?**
 - *Neither Oxford nor Cambridge make specific offers regarding EPQ.*
 - *EPQs do allow students to demonstrate purposeful wider reading and research and are useful for personal statements and interviews.*
 - *Universities value the EPQ – others will also make reduced grade offers etc.*
 - *Except for Maths (when including Further Maths) 3 A levels will suffice as a minimum. But you should consider the competition, not the minimum grades required.*
- **Do I have to go on the Epsom Trip to apply?**
 - *No – but...*
 - *The trip may be very useful, particularly if deciding between related disciplines or to chat with students and admissions tutors.*
 - *It is an excellent starting point for planning open days and other activities.*
 - *The same applies to other College events or even the Aspire programme.*
- **Should I apply for an easier course and then transfer to a popular one?**
 - *A terrible idea – the tutors who interview will be able to tell pretty quickly whether or not they have a serious candidate for their course.*
 - *However, there is no reason not to give consideration for new or minority subjects – and if they really do appeal, then apply.*

- **Will the DofE scheme help?**
 - *Not here specifically, unless it can be used in the personal statement to demonstrate other things – e.g., the ability to cope under pressure (useful in Medicine, less so in English Literature). The Personal Statement needs evidence not just assertion.*
 - *BUT other universities value this sort of activity far more – and you will be applying elsewhere as well.*

- **Is a gap year a good idea?**
 - *Possibly. Oxford and Cambridge prefer deferred entry candidates to **apply in the year off**. However, Maths should be considered an **off-limits** subject for a gap year.*
 - *Gap years can be of immense benefit for you to grow as a person. It's not (or should not be) all about ticking boxes on this application.*

- **Are some Colleges easier to get into than others?**
 - *This might be so, but statistics give no indication – what may be a less popular college becomes an easier one another year (especially among candidates who spend too much time reading statistics!).*
 - *Some admissions tutors particularly value applications from state schools and sixth forms, but there are no quotas or other policies in place to make this happen. And they sometimes move on.*
 - *Consider entry routes. Colleges that ask for an essay or test give an extra chance to prove your worth and may deter some.*
 - *Pooling systems should mean that every candidate has a fair chance of entry – and many do not get their first choice. Oxford's pooling system varies from Cambridge's in that it occurs during interviewing.*
 - *Highly prized overseas student will be applying for the central "picturesque" colleges. This increases the competition.*