

Year 12 Summer Advisory:

Boosting Your Personal Statement, CV, or Apprenticeship Application

Summer is the perfect time to get ahead! Whether you're aiming for university, an apprenticeship, or going straight into the world of work, here's how you can use the break to strengthen your applications and build an impressive profile.

1. Super-Curricular Activities – Go Beyond the Classroom

Super-curricular activities show your passion for your chosen subject. They're key for making your personal statement or CV stand out.

Ideas to try:

- Podcasts: Listen to subject-related podcasts (e.g. The Infinite Monkey Cage for science, Talking Politics, The HistoryExtra Podcast).
- TED Talks: Watch talks related to your subject interests. Take notes and reflect on what you learned.
- MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses): Complete free online courses via:
 - SpringPod <https://www.springpod.com/>
 - FutureLearn
 - The Open University
https://www.open.ac.uk/?_gl=1*1f8r72l*_gcl_au*NjlwMDA5MzY2LjE3NTI2NjMwMDQ.

Tip: Keep a log of what you do and what you learned — this is gold for your personal statement or CV! Some online course will also provide you with a certificate to download. Keep this!

2. Research Universities and Courses (If You're Considering University)

Use this time to make informed choices about your future.

Tools to explore:

- UCAS: Compare courses, universities, and entry requirements.
- UCAS: Dive deep into course content, student satisfaction, and employment stats.
- Discover Uni: Search and compare undergraduate courses

Tasks:

- Shortlist 5–10 courses that interest you; Look at course content, assessment style and entry requirements; Start thinking about what kind of university experience you want (city vs. campus, size, support, etc.).

3. Research Apprenticeships (If You're Considering This Route)

Apprenticeships are competitive – early research will give you an edge.

Where to look:

- Find an Apprenticeship
- National Apprenticeship Service
- UCAS: Find apprenticeship information and guidance.

What to do:

- Research sectors you're interested in; Read real job specs and person requirements; Identify the skills and experiences you'll need.

Work on Your Personal Statement

Your personal statement is a key part of your university or apprenticeship application. Use the summer to get ahead.

Summer Targets:

- Plan your structure: Introduction – Subject passion – Super-curriculars – Skills and experiences – Conclusion.
- Reflect on why you want to study your subject or go into a specific career.
- Link your experiences to the skills needed.
- Have a first full draft ready by the first week back in September.

Suggested Weekly Summer Plan (Flexible)

Week Focus

1–2 Explore UCAS. Research 5–10 courses or apprenticeships.

3–4 Complete one MOOC or listen to 2–3 subject podcasts. Note key learning points.

5–6 Draft sections of your personal statement.

7–8 Finalise draft

Final Tips

- Be consistent – little and often is better than cramming.
- Keep a record of everything you do.
- Be reflective – think about what each activity taught you.
- Ask for feedback from teachers in September.
- Email Mrs Grant over the holiday if you need any specific help.

Start now and thank yourself later! This summer is your launchpad. Make the most of it – future you will be glad you did.