

5th October 2025

Year 13 Update – Autumn Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin such an important academic year for your child, here is the Autumn term update concerning Post-18 support and options for our Year 13 students.

Please continue to encourage your child to research courses, universities, apprenticeships and to work on their personal statements. All students will receive support with their plans and applications but please do encourage them to seek help with any of this, as and when they need it and to meet deadlines.

Post-18 provision and updates this term:

- Drop down lesson focusing on UCAS completed on Friday 24th September. All students worked with their Personal Tutors on writing their Personal Statements
- Continuation of focused UCAS workshops in Tutor Time (Transition Thursday) with Personal Tutors to support students through the successful completion of their UCAS applications. Students also receive one to one support from the Sixth Form Team on their personal statements as this can be a challenging process.
- Second Head of Sixth Form meeting on Friday 3rd October with Medicine/Dentistry candidates to support early UCAS deadline on October 15th.
- Students will receive a number of assemblies which focus on “next steps”, for example contextual offers (to include Access to Birmingham) applying for degree apprenticeships and how to select their top 5 universities.

Careers meetings and referrals

- Careers interviews can be requested. Meetings will give students the opportunity to discuss future career choices based on their interests, skills and qualifications.
- These careers interviews will be a chance to get help with making decisions about what pathway to take after Year 13 and will take place during student’s study periods.
- Predicted grades will be something that is discussed with students following their Mock Exams. We will use all data available to us to support student applications and the formation of predicted grades.

Key dates:

15th October – UCAS deadline for early applicants (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary). Internal deadline Friday 3rd October.

14th January - UCAS deadline for applications for 2026 entry. Internal deadline Monday 8th December.

Birmingham Labour Market Information (LMI) – Autumn Snapshot:

- The largest employment sector locally is health and social care, followed by retail.
- Professional and technical which includes professional services like legal and accounting and research and development are the next largest.
- Education has seen the largest increase in employment numbers in Birmingham. Public administration also saw strong growth, highlighting the city's continued growth as a business hub.
- Professional and technical activities and IT similarly saw strong growth. Growth in accommodation and food services rounded out the top 5 growing sub sectors.
- Employers are emphasising the need for both technical skills (IT, digital, cybersecurity) and soft skills like critical thinking and problem-solving.

Source: Workplace in Birmingham Employment Update. Use above QR code to access information and other useful links

Parent Guides & Resources

- University open days – www.opendays.com
- University Virtual Tours - <https://www.ucas.com/applying/before-you-apply/what-and-where-to-study/university-open-days/virtual-tours>
- Parent Guide to Apprenticeships - <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/>
- Find an apprenticeship - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- Birmingham careers service parent - <https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/parents-and-carers-info/>
- WIWIKAU: Parent/carer forum and Facebook Group - <https://www.wiwikau.co.uk/index.php>
- Talking Futures: Parent advice for careers conversations - <https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>

- UCAS parent information - <https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-for-parents-guardians-and-carers>
- Medic Mentor - <https://medicmentor.org/>
- Labour Market Information: information about the local jobs market - <https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Labour-Market-Information-2022-23.pdf>
- National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

All of these links and other useful information can be found on the Sixth Form section of our school website here: <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/ucas/> and <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/advice-for-parents/>

Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Grant

Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Parent/carer Support – Can You Help?

We are always looking to involve parents and carers in our careers programme. If you can support us by:

Offering work experience placements

Speaking at careers events

Providing insight into your industry

... please let us know by emailing Mrs Grant on grantl@ilsley.bham.sch.uk

Your support makes a huge difference!