

October 2024

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw  
Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs  
Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form) - Lisa Swan

Dear Students and Parent/Carer,

Please find below an update on the university application support and deadlines over the coming half term.

### University Applicants Intake 2025

The application process is well under way, and students have been busy attending open days, researching courses and finalising their personal statements with their tutors. Last term, students received several presentations on the application process, researching courses and student finance plus a workshop on how to write a strong competitive personal statement.

Students who are close to finalising their personal statement can submit their statement to the Portsmouth University **Personal Statement hub**, where they will be given feedback from a team of admission tutors. This is a fantastic service and was highly valued by our students last year. The feedback is detailed and includes advice on what admissions tutors are looking for in a competitive personal statement. This opportunity is open to all students, not just those considering applying to Portsmouth. Students will need to have a Gmail account to use this service.

[Personal Statement Hub Registration | Schools and Colleges | University of Portsmouth](#)



Students also have access to the **Highcliffe UCAS Hub** via 'My Highcliffe'. This site gives students guidance on the application process, researching courses, personal statement support, information on admissions tests, interviews, how to apply for accommodation, replying to offers and guidance on what happens on results day.

After half-term, students will be focusing on refining their university choices and sending their applications. The deadline set by UCAS is Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, however, we encourage students, who are sure of their course choices, to send their applications during November, with a minority of students sending applications in December. We appreciate that, in exceptional circumstances, some students will need to send their applications in January.

Please be aware that when students have finished their application and are ready to submit it, they will need to pay £28.50 by card to UCAS. At this stage, students should collect a submission form from the Star Room and meet with their subject teachers to discuss their predicted grades. After these grades have been recorded on the form, students can meet with their tutor to review their entry requirements and see their reference. Once this has been done, the tutor will send the completed application to UCAS.

## Students considering delaying their UCAS application

We would strongly recommend that students who are considering applying to UCAS in the future, do so this year, in order to receive specialist support from school through this process. Students are under no obligation to accept an offer in the current 2024-25 application cycle, but would have the option to defer their place, if one was offered, or to start a new application in 2025-26. They would also be in a strong position on results day to access courses made available through Clearing.

Any student who feels they would benefit from careers advice can request a careers appointment with Mrs Wilson via their tutor.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support during the next few months. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's UCAS application, please ring Mrs Bower on 01425 282322. Important key dates/deadlines can be found below.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lee  
Head of Year 13



Mrs J Chalmers  
UCAS Lead Co-ordinator

## Internal deadlines

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November:** *Internal deadline for all UCAS applications to be completed, however some students may still be refining their personal statement and/or choices.*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November:** *Internal deadline for applications to be sent to UCAS before the end of term.* Please note that students do not need to add all 5 choices before sending their application. Choices can be added after their application has been sent to UCAS although any additional choices will need to be made before the final deadline below.

## External deadline

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025:** Applications for all 2025 entry Undergraduate courses should be sent to UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025.