



# FRANCIS HOLLAND SLOANE SQUARE



## FHS FUTURES 2025



# Contents

2024 University Destinations.....	4-5
The UK University System.....	6
Oxbridge.....	7
European Universities.....	7
North American Universities.....	8-9
Apprenticeships.....	10
Post Qualification Applications (Gap years).....	10
Support Offered in School.....	12-15
What YOU need to do.....	15
Sixth Form Futures Pathways.....	16-18
This Year's Offers.....	18-19

# 2024 University Destinations

UK	
Loughborough University	Criminology
University of Exeter	Accounting and Finance, Drama, Politics
University of Exeter	Business and Management
University of Exeter	Business and Management with Industrial Experience
University of Exeter	Drama
University of Exeter	Politics
University of Exeter	Sociology
University of Exeter	Biology
Imperial College London	Materials Science and Engineering
King's College London	European Politics x2
King's College London	General Engineering
King's College London	Natural Sciences MSci
King's College London	European Politics
University of Bath	Natural Sciences
University of Bath	Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science B4SW
University of Manchester	Management (Marketing) with Industrial/Professional Experience
University of Manchester	English Literature
University of Manchester	Sociology and Criminology
Durham University	Finance
Durham University	Computer Science
Durham University	Sociology
Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)
Durham University	English Literature x2
University of Birmingham	Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Birmingham	Business Management
University of East Anglia (UEA)	Creative Writing and English Literature
University of Reading	Agriculture
University College London (UCL)	European Social and Political Studies (4 years)
University College London (UCL)	History of Art
University College London (UCL)	Ancient History
University College London (UCL)	Physics
University College London (UCL)	Biochemical Engineering
London School of Economics	History
University of St Andrews	Psychology



# 2024 University Destinations

University of Bristol	Social Policy and Politics
University of Bristol	English with Study Abroad
University of Bristol	Business and Management
University of Bristol	Psychology
City University	Business Management
Newcastle University	Business Management
Newcastle University	Classical Studies
The University of Edinburgh	English Language and Literature
The University of Edinburgh	Philosophy and Theology
The University of Edinburgh	Economics with Management Science
The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)
The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences with Management
The University of Edinburgh	English Literature and Classics
The University of Edinburgh	History
Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
University of Oxford	English Language and Literature
University of Oxford	Classics
University of Liverpool	Medicine
Royal Holloway University	Ancient, Classical and Medieval Studies
University of York	Education
Leeds Arts University	Art Foundation
Regent's College	Business

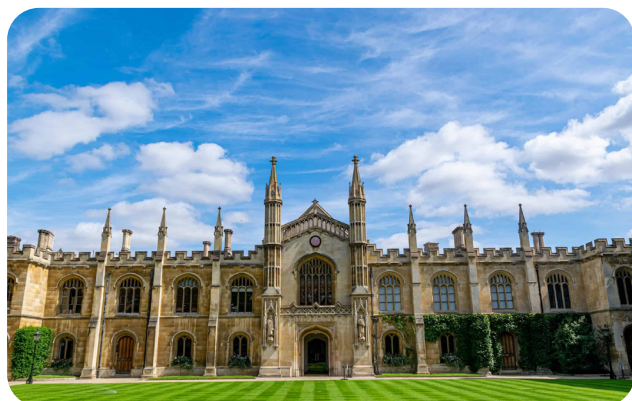
## USA & CANADA

McGill University, Canada x2	
Santa Clara University, USA	
University of Southern California	
Northeastern University, USA	
Georgetown University, USA	
Barnard College, USA	
Boston College, USA	

## EUROPE

IE University, Spain	
Bard College, Berlin	
Stockholm School of Economics	

# Destinations at 18: The UK University System



Applying to UK universities is a straightforward process. There is one application form, available to students on UCAS.com. We will show students how to complete this form. Students will pick five course choices; these should be very similar to one another or the personal statement that students write will be difficult. Students will pick their courses after going to university open days, additional reading and research, and talking to subject teachers at school. It is sensible to choose courses that are broadly in line with the student's predicted A-Level grades, which are published in September of the autumn term. Students can pick more than one course at an institution (we don't advise more than two) though should speak to a Futures team member about this as every university has a different approach.

The Sixth Form Team will write a reference for every student. These are always positive and highlight your good qualities. The most time-consuming part of the application for students is writing what is called the Personal Statement. This is where students can demonstrate to prospective universities their motivation for studying their chosen subject. The personal statement structure has changed slightly this year and is now divided into three questions as follows:

- *Why do you want to study this course or subject?*
- *How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject*
- *What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?*

We provide extensive guidance to the girls about how to complete these questions during Enrichment sessions and an off-timetable day in the summer term. Students who write the strongest personal statements (which is important for universities like LSE, Durham, Edinburgh and St Andrews) have carried out super curricular activities such as Olympiads, essay competitions, reading and research.

# Oxbridge

If you are taking your A-Levels in your stride **and** getting excellent marks, **as well as** undertaking additional subject reading, **plus** going to outside lectures, and are keen to do a substantial amount of **extra** independent work running alongside all of this, then you might want to think about an Oxbridge application. If, however, you're keeping your head above the water and the thought of doing any more work than you're doing now is anathema, then Oxbridge is probably not for you. We run an active and engaging Oxbridge programme to support and stretch applicants, but any potential applicant has got to be a self-driven, independent learner who is able, in the first instance, to steer her own research into specialist areas of the subject that she wishes to read.

We will offer lots of support and advice on personal statements, entrance tests, and interview practice, but we expect Oxbridge applicants to show initiative and to stay on top of the extra weekly academic commitments that are a compulsory part of our programme. Miss Boon leads the Oxbridge candidates group, which meets fortnightly in the late Spring and Summer terms, and weekly in the autumn term. Candidates work with their subject teachers – and independently – to prepare for admissions tests, which they must book separately as these are held outside school at independent Pearson Vue Test Centres.

Over the Lower Sixth summer holidays, you will need to do 60 to 80 hours of independent reading and research, coming back in September of Year 13 ready to be grilled on your area of specialism. We look forward to working with you if this is the sort of challenge that you would embrace.

## European Universities

A number of our students go on to study at top European universities. Past destinations include IE University, Bocconi, the University of Amsterdam, Bard College in Berlin, and the Stockholm School of Economics.

We provide students with the opportunity to explore European universities through the International Universities Fair, where we have hosted three fairs in the past two years, and a European Universities Workshop, run by *The University Guys*. As part of our Working Lunch Series, we also invite admissions tutors from leading European institutions, including IE University, to speak with students about their programs and application processes.

European higher education is typically structured around focused degree programs, following a model similar to the British system. Unlike some countries with a centralised application system, many European universities require students to apply individually through different portals, each with its own requirements. Additionally, many institutions require standardised tests such as the SAT or their own admissions exams.

As with US applications, we advise students to complete their SATs by the spring of Year 12 to avoid conflicts with school exams or, if necessary, at the start of Year 13 in the autumn term. Most European universities also require letters of recommendation and transcripts, which the school provides.

# North American Universities

We support around 15% of the sixth form to make a US application every year. We are delighted to write letters of recommendation for your daughter and we ensure that staff writing academic recommendations understand the nature of the US recommendation and the differences between an English and an 'American' reference which is more holistic, more superlative and more... American.

We can create transcripts of achieved and predicted grades and upload them to the relevant portals and platforms. We recommend that students complete SATs by the spring of Year 12 in order to avoid clashes with school examinations, or, if absolutely necessary, at the beginning of Year 13 at the start of the autumn term.

## Early Decision Applications

As a member of International ACAC, Francis Holland School has a commitment to operate within the NACAC Ethical Code of Conduct which covers Early Decision applications to US colleges. If you are planning to submit an ED application, we will ask you to sign an agreement confirming your understanding that an Early Decision contract is globally binding, that you have the requisite funds to pay the tuition fees and that, on receipt of an admission from a US college under an Early Decision contract, your daughter will then withdraw all other university applications including to the UK. Exceptions to this include pending applications for financial aid or the possibility that the student is not admitted to their first choice major and this is explicitly outlined in the offer letter.

In the event of a breach of these terms, Francis Holland reserves the right to disclose the breach to US colleges.

## Limiting Application Numbers and SATs

A US application is an extremely time-consuming undertaking. We do not advise that a US application is undertaken alongside an Oxbridge application as the requirements for both applications are rigorous, but not especially similar. Excessive numbers of applications eat into time students should be spending on A-Level study and can put coursework and examination preparation in jeopardy.

Starting early and completing a lot of essays over the summer of Year 12 is strongly advised to make the autumn term more bearable. We also don't recommend continuous resitting of SATs. We recommend an early start to SAT preparation in September of Year 12, with the opportunity to take SATs in December and if necessary, the following March. Subsequent resits usually yield very little in terms of an uplift in results, but have a detrimental effect on revision for Year 12 examinations, which form a significant part of students' potential grade estimates.





## Working with Independent Consultants (IEC)

We understand that you may wish to retain an independent educational consultant. We are very happy to speak to and work with any independent consultants you retain, but would reiterate here that the IEC may advocate action that is against the advice of the school, for example, retaking of an SAT at a time when your daughter is also sitting summer examinations, or asking your daughter to undertake additional work on top of an already significant A-Level workload.

We are also mindful of the fact that sometimes unscrupulous IECs will exaggerate the possibility of a student gaining a place at an extremely competitive institution, when, in truth, gaining a place at an Ivy League college or similar is significantly more difficult than getting into Oxbridge, and UK admissions are usually to elite athletes. We therefore recommend caution in working with IECs, and being mindful of the fact that your daughter is already doing a great deal of work with her A-Levels (if she's not, she's not doing enough!).

## Multiple Deposits

Your daughter should not hold multiple places at US universities and colleges. To hold places in several different countries is not illegal (unless she is holding an ED place), but it is unethical and can compromise our relationships with international universities.

# Apprenticeships

The world of degree apprenticeships is a small one! Compared to 750,000 applicants to UCAS every year, there were only about 25,000 degree apprenticeship 'starts' in 2024/25 - with latest figures suggesting only about 60% of apprentices complete their courses.

There is no single platform for applying for apprenticeships. UCAS are now supplying some information, so does *Unifrog*, and there are additional sites which can help such as [www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk). Apprenticeship applications are individual, and they take up a considerable amount of time. The window for most of them is the spring and summer term of Year 13 which does not help students who are preparing for A-Level examinations.

If you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship, please speak to one of the Futures team and we can point you in the right direction. Apprenticeships are quite common in the areas of finance, law, data science and engineering. A lot of apprenticeship opportunities are published in the Futures Newsletter.

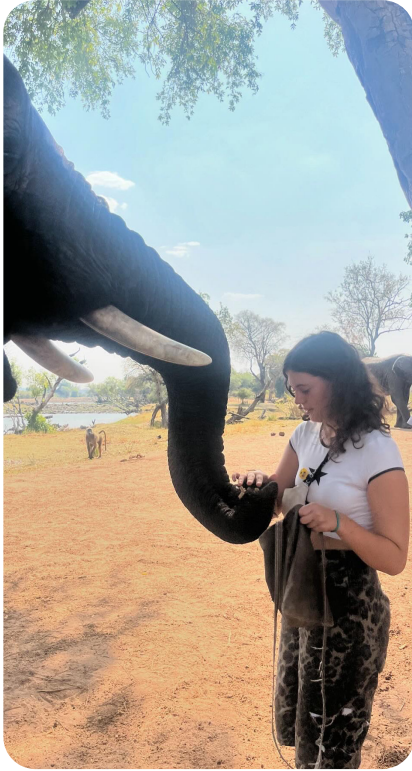
## Post Qualification Applications

Post Qualification Applications (PQA) refers to the process where students apply to universities after receiving their final A-Level results.

Around a quarter of our students choose to take gap year every year and apply to university in September after they've received their A-Level results. They receive exactly the same level of support as we offer to our current sixth form students and find the process less stressful, as they are applying to institutions whose entry requirements match their results. We often find PQA students are more successful with Oxbridge applications as they have more time to read and prepare for the testing/interview process. We can do this remotely if you're travelling; last September we sent an application off while the student was in New Zealand!

PQA applicants attend all the enrichment sessions in the summer of Year 12 and create a UCAS account in the summer of Year 13 so they are prepared to send their applications off soon after they receive their A-Level results. Last year's students who decided to take a gap year are working in London or abroad, including New Zealand! They're travelling all over the world and destinations have included Zambia, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. They have been offered places at St Andrews, Durham, Edinburgh, Bristol and Newcastle, having applied *after* receiving their A-Level results.







# Higher Education Applications- Support Offered In School

## Interviews

Every student in Year 12 has had an interview with a member of the Futures team to discuss their next steps. This allows us to offer bespoke support to students whether they are applying for Law, Medicine, Engineering or the Humanities.

## Enrichment sessions in Spring Term

Enrichment sessions take place once a week and for the first two terms of the year, Year 12 were offered electives for Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh, an introduction to law and medical ethics. In the summer term, these weekly sessions are dedicated to HE preparation. Students are helped to see the overall picture of how a university application works, what to look for at a university open day, and how to start thinking about writing the much-anticipated personal statement (with a changed format this year). Sessions are also offered on financial awareness, how to structure a gap year and there are several bespoke sessions for US applicants on creating a college list and writing a Common App essay.

## Unifrog

Unifrog is the 'universal destinations platform' which offers a huge amount of information to students, wherever they are applying to university. There are countless webinars on the platform along with details of universities, courses and subject information. Parents can log on to [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org) using the following code: HOJFPARENT

We strongly recommend that students take advantage of this platform, which is vast, and offers information and advice on any post 18 pathway that you can think of.

## Super Curriculars in School

*Speaker Programme, Working Lunches, Extra-curricular opportunities and Electives.*

The Futures and Sixth Form Team run a number of initiatives which help to inform and prepare students for HE applications.

All students in Year 12 attend the **Speaker Programme** which takes place on Thursdays at 3:30. They have heard from a wide range of people to date including war correspondents, politicians, physicists, writers, film makers and climate scientists.



Our **Working Lunch** programme comprises a series of lunchtime talks from alumnae parents and staff contacts, from a range of careers including medicine, advertising, marketing, finance and law. These allow students to ask questions and hear about the career paths of a huge range of speakers. Working Lunches so far this year have included:

- Scott Thiel, Investment Banker
- Giles Harris, Advertising, Marketing, Law
- Dr Raj Chandok, GP
- Dr Alistair Ludley & Dr Greg Leonard, Medical Workshop
- Alex Gore Browne, Knitwear (pictured above)
- Dr Anastasia Newman
- Maria Cristina Ramirez, Economist

Students in the sixth form have been invited by **Girls Are Investors** (GAIN UK) to a number of insight days at investment firms including UBS and Pacific Asset management- ten students took part in this in the autumn term. GAIN UK are also running an Investment Challenge which was opened to all students in year 12. Two teams are taking part in this competition and are preparing stock reports and a final pitch to take place at the end of the spring term. They are being mentored by a senior partner from an investment fund.

We have an active **Model United Nations** team and have taken part in two Model United Nations conferences this year at Reigate Grammar and St Paul's school

A team of Year 12 students are taking part in Young Enterprise this year; they've created a company from scratch and took their product to Spitalfields Market and will sell again at the Spring Fair.

Coming next term – the opportunity to develop oracy skills via a **TEDx** talk; students will pitch their 'idea worth sharing' and research, learn and present a talk which will be immortalised on the TEDx YouTube channel.

All of these activities inform students decisions and can be mentioned in HE applications and references going forward.



## **Futures Newsletter**

The Futures Newsletter is published every week and sent to all students and parents alongside the Sixth Form Newsletter. Please let Mrs Clarke know if you are not receiving this and we will check the email details that the school holds for you. The newsletter includes details about forthcoming open days, competitions, work experience opportunities, meetings with future employers and apprenticeship events.

## **UCAS Day**

After the summer examinations, Year 12 will have a day off timetable in June. They will hear from an expert in admissions, Jane Marshall, who worked in Admissions at LSE and Imperial College, on how to write a personal statement. They will then go into subject groups to begin drafting their statements with the help of subject specialist teachers which they can complete during the summer.

## **Early Entry Test Preparation**

Students applying for Law, Medicine, Oxbridge and Imperial College may have tests to prepare for. Oxbridge applicants should speak to their subject teachers and will receive test preparation in the summer and/or first half of the autumn term. Oxbridge and Imperial entrance tests are organised externally by Pearson VUE and students must apply independently for these – we cannot enter you. Potential medical school students must take the UCAT test. We strongly recommend that this is done towards the end of the summer holidays, to avoid it getting in the way of work during the autumn term of Year 13.

Medical school applicants in Year 12 will have a day of UCAT tuition at the end of March so that they will have the wherewithal to prepare and practise for this test individually. Law applicants will have to take the LNAT for some institutions and students will similarly be offered a half day of test prep in the summer term – the rest is down to practice.



# What YOU Need To Do!

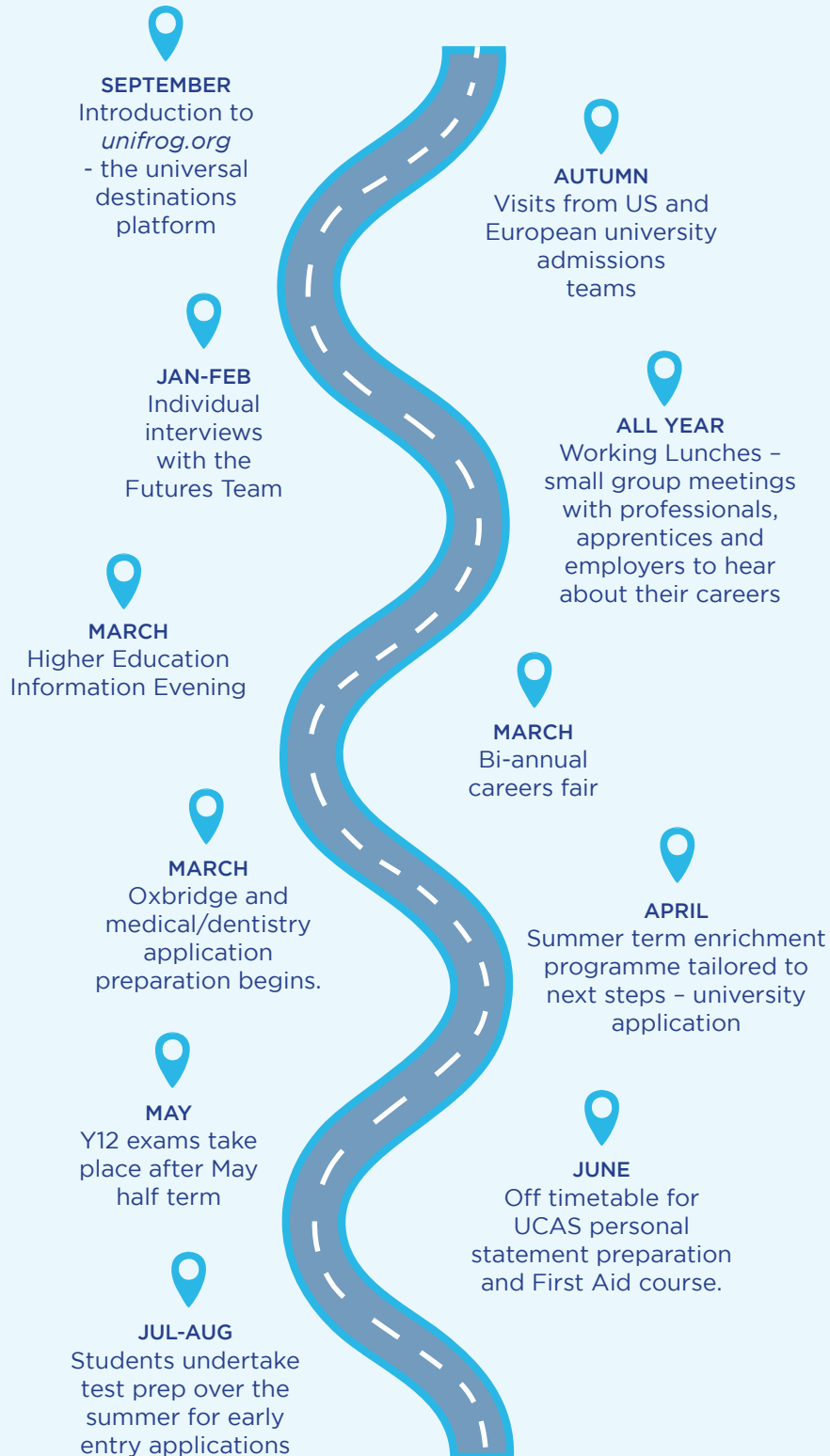
**Remember, this is YOUR future! We will do everything we can to support you but you also need to take the initiative.**



- Research universities and courses on Unifrog and university websites - it's YOUR degree (ask your subject teachers).
- Attend working lunches, extra lectures, clubs and societies like the ones outlined above to broaden your cultural hinterland.
- Take the opportunities outlined to you in the Futures Newsletter to enter competitions, and attend insight events hosted by employers.
- Attend open days and ask questions!
- Carry out additional reading/MOOCs/ volunteering to support applications.
- Prepare for entrance tests - SATs or individual university assessments such as IE, UCAT, LNAT - this will involve a certain amount of self-discipline as they require practice.
- Write your personal statement over the summer.
- Come to school! Our data shows that there is a correlation between attendance and achievement at A-Level.

# Sixth Form Futures Pathway

**YEAR 12** Students can speak to a member of the Futures Team whenever they like.

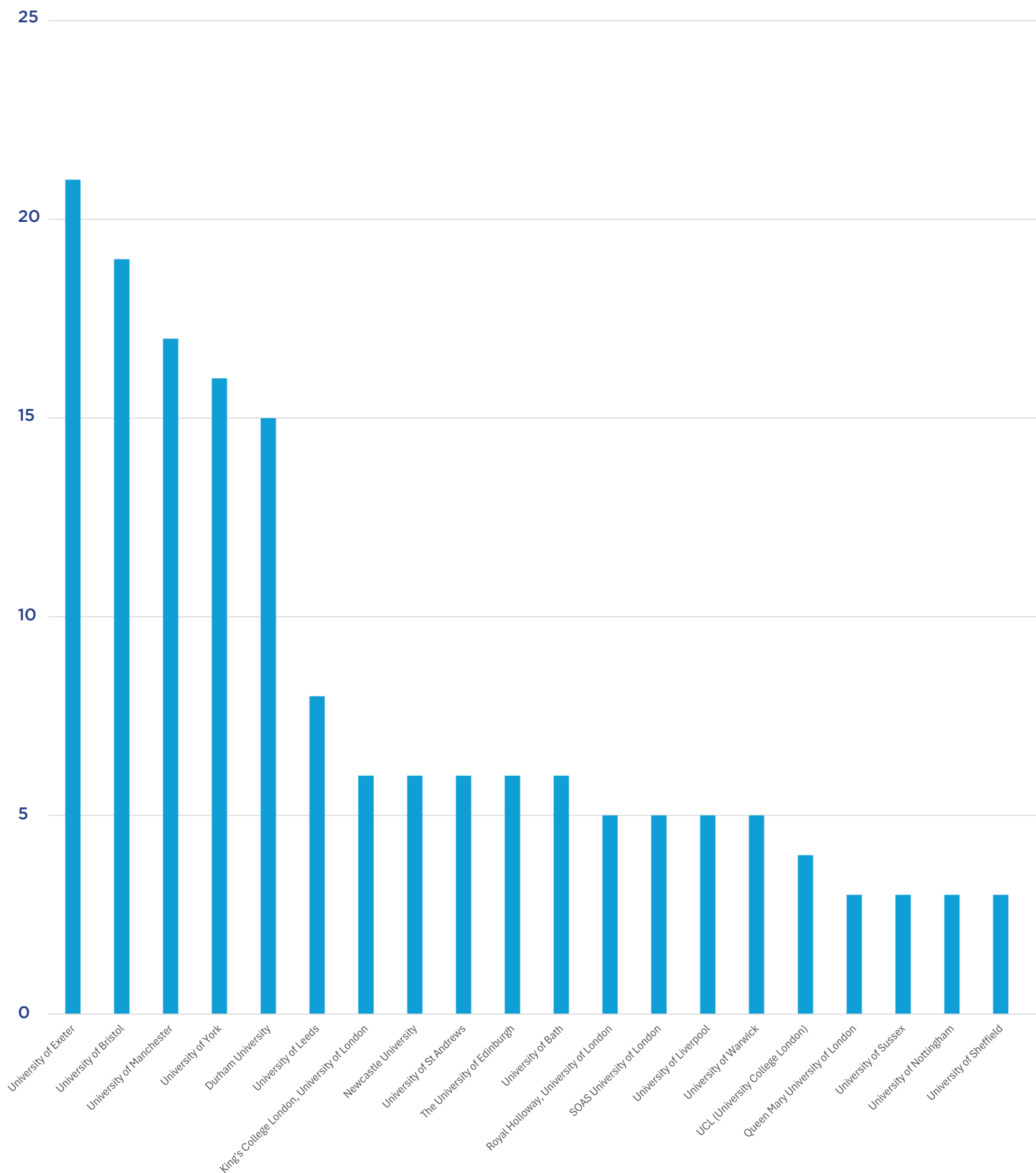


# Sixth Form Futures Pathway

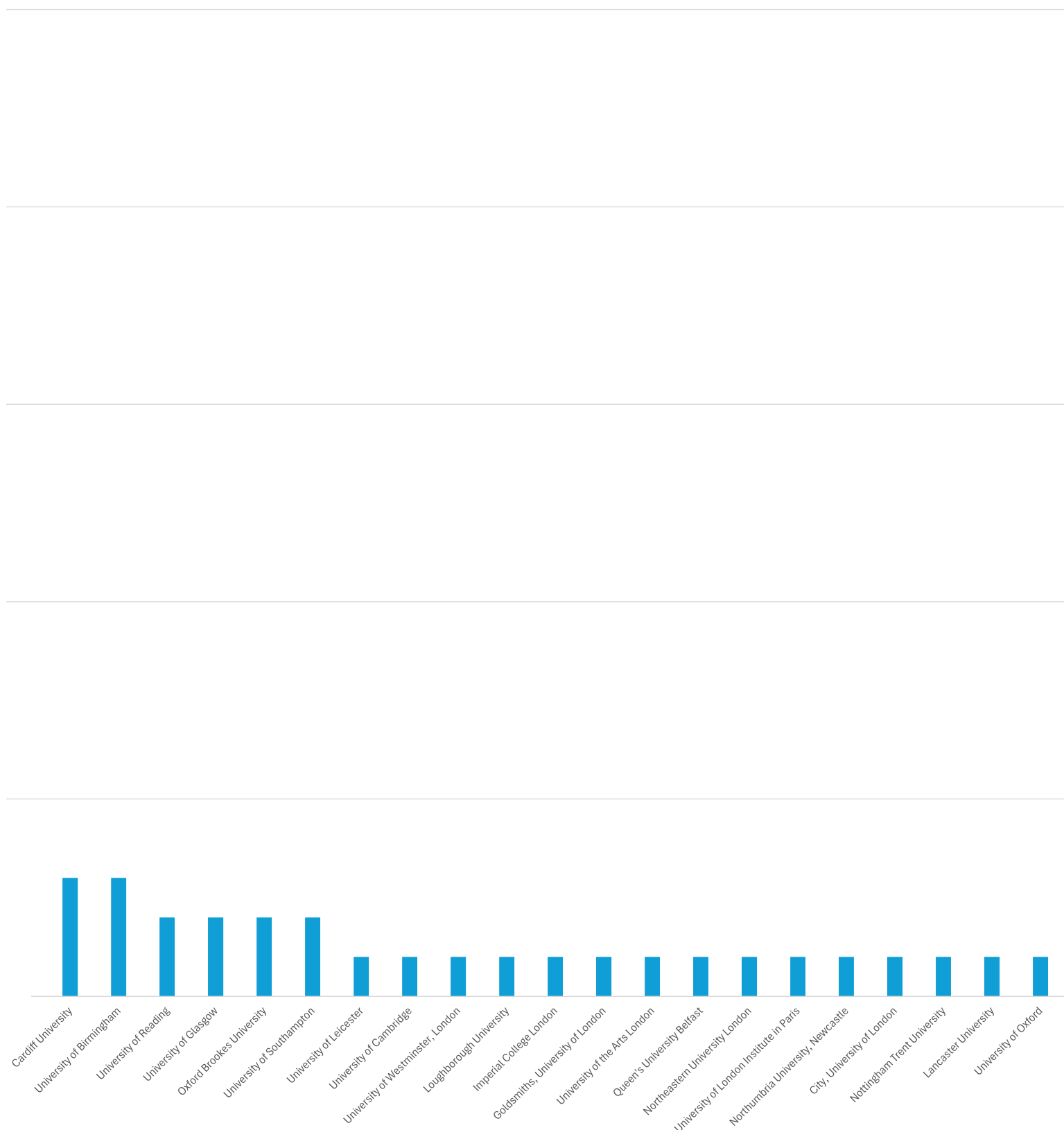
**YEAR 13** Students can speak to a member of the Futures Team whenever they like.



# This Year's Offers









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