

December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

UCAS Applications

For students applying to UCAS, the official UCAS deadline is Wednesday 25th January 2023. If your child has yet to submit their application to school for checking, please support them in sending this as soon as possible, so we have time to review and check it fully. Applications received after 18th January will still be sent by the school, but we will not be able to check them as thoroughly.

Once the UCAS application has been sent, universities will reply with one of the following decisions –
Conditional offer – students will have to meet the conditions of this offer to secure their place in the summer. Please read the conditions of this offer carefully.

Unconditional offer – means students will have a place, regardless of their summer results. Please check the details of this carefully as there may be some additional requirements in place.

Rejection – student has been declined a place.

Once students have received decisions from all 5 of their choices, they are able to reply to these decisions to make their firm and insurance choices. All other offers will then be declined. It is worth noting that universities do have until May to make their decisions, so students may find they are left waiting for some time. Students can only reply to their offers once they have received a decision from each institution, at which point they must decide on their firm and insurance choices. In the event that a student does not receive any offers from their choices, they will be able to go through UCAS Extra, further information about this will be shared with students next term, you can find out more about this [here](#).

When replying to their offers, a student's firm choice university is their first-choice university, if they accept a conditional offer and meet the conditions, they'll have a confirmed place there. The insurance choice is the choice they'd want if they didn't meet the conditions of their firm choice. If this is a conditional offer, they'll need to meet the conditions for their place to be confirmed. If a student does not get placed at either of these in the summer, they will be automatically placed in clearing. We will provide all students with information of the clearing process before result day. You can however find further information [here](#).

The deadline dates for making these decisions are as follows -

Last decision from universities by

18 May 2023

12 July 2023

Students' reply date is

8 June 2023 (except if using Extra)

17 July 2023 (including Extra)

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It is important to bear in mind that offers are usually based on UCAS predicted grades which tend to be an optimistic view of what we think students could achieve in their final exams, based on all available assessment data (including Year 12 mock exams) and teachers' professional judgement. This does not mean that they are the grades we feel students are working at right now, or even the grades we think they are most likely to get; rather, they are our best guess of the grades a student could realistically achieve providing they work hard all year, revise thoroughly and everything goes their way in the final examinations. Put another way, we tend to operate with 'benefit of the doubt' with UCAS grades and err on the high side where we are unsure. The UCAS predicted grades differ from their emerging grades stated on their progress reports, with the latter intended to indicate the grade a teacher thinks a student is most likely to be achieved. Either way, parents and students should be aware that making accurate predictions, especially this early in Year 13, is very difficult – nobody can predict performance in exams with absolute certainty, even much closer to time.

For these reasons, it is really important that students have a sensible insurance choice, in case they do not secure these grades in the summer.

Applying the benefit of the doubt like this supports students seeking offers from universities of their choice. However, it can cause problems if students are not careful. In particular, it is very important that students, when making their firm and insurance choices, remain acutely aware that their insurance choice should provide a safety net, should results not go as planned in the summer. Whilst we have checked the choices students have made upon application carefully, please can I ask that you discuss the firm and insurance choice with your child, to ensure a very realistic insurance choice is made.

If you have any further specific queries relating to your child's UCAS Application, please email Mrs Hughes in the first instance on lhughes@lymmhigh.org.uk. Further information about replying to offers can also be found [here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional support; we look forward to supporting you and your child over the coming months.

Yours faithfully,



H JENNINGS (Mrs)

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form