

THE COMPTON SIXTHFORM

Post 18 Choices
Information for
parents and students



THE
COMPTON SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM



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Post 18 Careers Guidance

Introduction

The career options for students following the completion of their A Levels are now more varied than ever before. They include; University, School Leaver Programmes, Apprenticeships and Gap Years. There is a huge amount of careers information for students and parents to access. The key message at this stage is to complete as much research as possible in order to make informed choices about these options. The aim of this booklet is to give you a brief summary of the main options available with links to relevant websites to begin the research process.

A [recommended resource](#) to for students to start with is provided by Target Careers: <https://targetcareers.co.uk/>

And the accompanying [Parent Guide](#) is also very informative.

During tutor time, students have worked on the following:

- Researching the Labour Market to identify sectors where jobs are growing and understand how to evaluate jobs and career options
- Exploring their individual interests and personality style to identify jobs and careers which might suit them
- Completing career plans with their tutor on MS Teams
- Undertaking independent university and career research

Applying to University

Please refer to the [UCAS Parent Guide](#) for details on the application process.

Comprehensive information and advice can be found on the UCAS website: www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians

Open Days

Open Days are a valuable opportunity for students to properly evaluate whether a University is an appropriate fit for them. Open Days are advertised on individual University websites but details of these, along with a wide range of ‘taster’ sessions which can also help inform selections:

www.opendays.com

Student Finance

Useful, comprehensive information on the subject of financing Higher Education can be found at:

www.gov.uk/student-finance

www.savethestudent.org

Other useful websites for exploration:

www.discoveruni.gov.uk - good for: student feedback on courses

www.prospects.ac.uk - good for: finding out what graduates do with their degrees

<https://www.studentladder.co.uk/> - good for student work experience opportunities

School Leaver Programmes & Sponsored degrees

School leaver programmes offer an opportunity for your child to obtain professional qualifications whilst in full-time employment.

A number of large organisations offer a professional programme of training and qualifications with a structured path for development. Students may also gain degree level or professional industry qualifications as part of their training. They offer a good alternative to the University route, without the financial costs.

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/parents-and-teachers/344-is-a-school-leaver-programme-right-for-your-child>

Further information can be found in the '[Paths to Professional Careers - a Parents Guide](#)'

Other useful websites include:
[A Guide to Career Options 2021](#)

<https://targetcareers.co.uk>

<http://www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/school-leaver-advice>

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

Higher Apprenticeships & Degree Apprenticeships

Both of these offer an opportunity for your child to obtain professional qualifications matched to a National framework, whilst in employment. Successful completion of a Degree Apprenticeship will include the award of an Honours Degree.

One of the most attractive features of an Apprenticeship is that employers pay for all training and qualifications, meaning your child can become professionally qualified without having to borrow any money to pay for their training or studies. They will also earn a salary whilst working.

Examples of some organisations offering Degree Apprenticeships are: **Accenture, Barclays, BBC, BDO, Deloitte, EY, Fujitsu, Glaxo-SmithKline, HSBC, IBM, KPMG, PWC, Santander, SSE, Tech Data,**

Useful websites:

[Which University? Guide to Higher & Degree Apprenticeships](#)

[The Apprenticeship Guide](#)

www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/articles/article/70/school-leaver-programmes-vs-apprenticeships

Taking a Gap Year

A gap year can be a great opportunity to save money before University, gain work experience, volunteer or take time out to travel and see the world. It can be looked on favourably by Universities or employers as long as the time is used wisely.

Deferring a University place:

If your child wishes to take a gap year, they can apply in this year's cycle then 'Defer' their place for a year. This means they can enjoy their gap year with the security of having a University place already held for them. More information on deferring can be found here:

<https://www.ucas.com/deferred-entry>

Volunteering: in the local community or abroad

www.yearoutgroup.org

www.do-it.org.uk

www.frontier.org

Useful resources for further exploration:

<https://www.thebigchoice.com/>

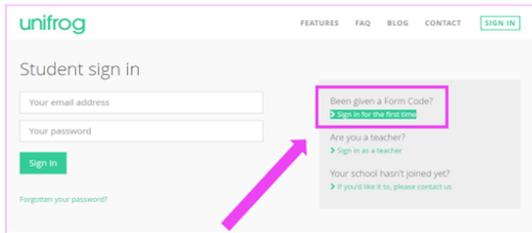
www.independent.co.uk/student/gap-year

<https://www.gapyear.com/>

Accessing Unifrog: Instructions for parents

1. Log onto the Unifrog website at www.unifrog.org and select the option to 'Sign in for the first time'

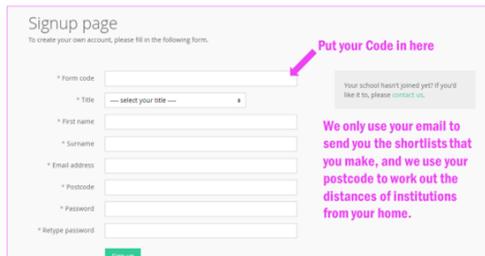
First time registration with Unifrog



2. On the Signup page, enter the form code:

comptonparentcode

Complete the Signup page



3. After this, every time you log into Unifrog, sign is as if you were a student.

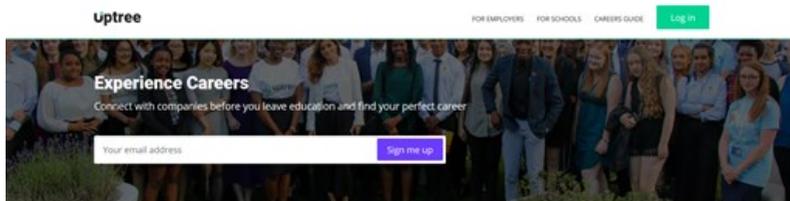
4. Follow the instructions on the PowerPoint to navigate the website

Uptree: professional networking for young people

We would encourage your child to register on www.uptree.co

This is a free, professional networking site for young people, offering opportunities for work experience and employer insight days.

These can all be hugely beneficial in helping students decide which future career pathway they may want to pursue.



How It Works

Step 1

Sign up and create your profile, include your interests and skills. Learn from our videos and discover companies.

Step 2

Apply to attend careers events and work experience. Build up your profile and meet professionals face to face.

Step 3

Access the best careers. You could apply for an apprenticeship or better understand your pathway through university into work.



Important dates

May-July: Course research/ Personal Statements / Open Days

June: **Virtual** Work Experience: Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th July

Summer holiday: Finalise personal statement; summer schools

Sept/Oct: Final checks and re-drafting of UCAS application

15th Oct: Deadline for Oxbridge applications/most courses in medicine/veterinary science.

27th & 27th Nov: Skills London Careers Event — Excel London

13th Dec: School deadline for UCAS applications

15th Jan 2022: UCAS Final application Deadline

Further Information & Support:

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Notes



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