

KS5 Independent Study Tips

Subject	Strategies	Extra support availability
General - all subjects	• Rewrite notes from class • Create mind maps of key information from each topic • Complete past paper questions • Complete all homework in good time and to the best of your ability	You can always speak to your teacher to get help. Just ask!
Art	• Complete additional research tasks to further develop ideas and the journey of your project/s. • Complete additional practical tasks in response to your research to challenge you - experiment with materials and processes (for instance complete an installation or a large scale piece of work outside of your book). • Carry out more interesting photoshoots - going to locations, using elaborate set ups and props, more complex lighting and compositions. • Going to galleries and exhibitions, workshops and talks - subject specific first hand research.	• After school session on either a Thurs/Wed 3.20-5pm • Any time your teacher is free • Welcome to use facilities during free periods, lunchtime and afterschool
Biology	• Ensure that notes are completed and filed suitably in a folder. • Read the relevant textbook chapter and annotate lesson notes with additional, relevant content. • Make a list of things not fully understood and discuss with a peer or a teacher before the next lesson. • Try to summarise the content of the lesson in note, flow chart or diagrammatic format to diagnose lack of understanding. • Try to commit factual information to memory immediately, rather than leaving it until revision. • Annotate a copy of the specification using marked and assessed work to show areas of weakness. • Seek out one of your teachers (or Mr Darling) for clarification on specific concepts or lesson topics that you have covered, attempted to revise but still do not make sense. • Suggested activities: ○ Active recall & spaced practice: Use flashcards (e.g. Anki or Quizlet) for definitions and processes, revisiting them regularly. ○ Cornell notes / summary sheets: Condense each topic into half a page using diagrams and key terms. ○ 'Dual coding': Pair diagrams with short notes (e.g. sketch lac opeon while labelling functions). ○ Glossary building: Keep a personal, alphabetised glossary of OCR-specific terms. ○ "Teach it back": Explain a process aloud to a peer (or to yourself) without notes.	Mr Darling's office (ground floor, Lower Science)
Business & Economics	• Business BTEC Students always have coursework to work on. You should use your time to ensure the work you are completing matches what is required in the BTEC specification. • If economics students have finished all work given to them you can use your time to regularly read and watch the news on reputable and recognised news outlets. Avoid using social media as a source of news • Read the FT on FT.com. This is free for Graveney students • Read the Economist on economist.com. This is free for Graveney students • Use Uplearn if you have subscribed • Borrow a book on Economics/Business from the department. This will enhance your knowledge and understanding of the subject.	Drop into B4 at lunch time or after school
Chemistry	• Make sure you have access to a textbook. A physical copy you have bought, there are copies in all the sixth form study spaces and library to borrow. • Use the resources (checklists/exam Q by topic on the A level Google classroom/Site) • Look at your Google classroom if you missed a lesson for the work and homework • Complete homework- find a study partner who you can work with (but not just copy from them) and talk to them about chemistry. One of you will know the answer • Review homework you have received back with teachers feedback vs the markscheme (or self assess if you have been asked to do so) • Review class tests or mocks with the markscheme • Use Up Learn if you have subscribed. Please do not buy this independently- Graveney have a preferential rate or can be free for tose on the Bursary • Year 12 - Review what you learnt at GCSE for the next upcoming topic(s)- use your old CGP/revision guide if you still have it • Year 13 - review your Year 12 notes on the next upcoming topic • Use the textbook- ○ Review your class notes in your folder.If they are not great or have gaps, use the textbook to fill the gaps or rewrite (or compare with a friend) ○ Make a summary sheet when you complete a topic to prepare for a test ○ Complete the review and exam practice questions in the textbooks. Answer to ALL the textbook questions can be found HERE ○ Past paper question by TOPIC can be found with markschemes in the A level Chemistry GC ○ https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/chemistry-revision/a-level-ocr-a/ ○ https://www.savemyexams.com/ also very good • Come to the support sessions every week (even if you are not timetabled to do so) • Follow a chemistry social media account like @chemistrycf or @chemistrydiaries on Instagram	Year 13 Extra Chemistry- every Tuesday P6 (after school) in SGC with Mrs Fennelly Year 12 Extra Chemistry every Wednesday P6 in LS2 with Mr Madhar Year 12- meet with your Yr 13 mentor Saturday/holiday School throughout the year (you will be able to sign up for these in class) Come to Upper School Science and find a chemistry teacher on the top of Lower School Science on the ground floor across from LS7.
Computing	• Regularly revise and rewrite class notes, ensuring that you understand key concepts such as algorithms, data structures, and programming techniques. • Complete coding exercises regularly to develop your programming skills. • Focus on important algorithms like sorting, searching, and Tress and Graphs. Break them down step by step and practice implementing them in different programming languages. • Use flashcards for memorising important definitions, programming syntax, and key principles of computational thinking. • Use online resources like YouTube tutorials or computer science textbooks to deepen their understanding. • Practice answering past paper questions, particularly on key topics such as programming, data structures, and algorithms. Focus on improving their problem-solving and time management skills. • Discuss challenging problems with classmates, attend study groups, or collaborate on projects to share knowledge and improve understanding. • Make use of the department's computers and software during free periods to work on coding projects and assignments.	• Come to the weekly lunchtime support sessions for additional help with challenging topics. • Drop-in during free periods to ask questions or get help with coursework and programming tasks.

	Ensure you access Google Classroom for lesson slides, homework, and additional resources. If you missed a lesson, you should be able to find everything they need to catch up.	
BTEC ICT	- Make sure you have access to the Pearson textbooks and specification for each unit. Use these to check your notes and ensure you have covered everything. - For Unit 2 (Databases), practise using Microsoft Access regularly. Focus on queries, forms, reports, and relationships. Work under timed conditions as the external assessment is time-limited. - For Unit 3 (Social Media), keep up with your coursework. Research how real businesses use social media campaigns, and analyse strengths and weaknesses. Use case studies to support your assignments. - For Unit 1 (Exam – IT Systems), create summary notes for each topic (e.g. cloud, legislation, security, social impact). Use past exam questions and focus on applying knowledge to scenarios. - For Unit 6 (Web Development), practise building websites, ensuring they are well-structured, accessible, and user-friendly. Learn some basic HTML/CSS to strengthen your understanding, even if using software. Document your design process with wireframes, testing logs, and evaluation notes. - Keep folders and digital files organised by unit. Each unit has specific assessment criteria. Make sure your work clearly matches them. - Ask for feedback on assignments before submission and act on it to move from Pass to Merit/Distinction. - Use independent study time wisely: coursework can build up quickly if you leave it until deadlines.	- Come to the weekly lunchtime support sessions for additional help with challenging topics/ assignment criteria. - Drop-in during free periods to ask questions or get help with assignment tasks.
Drama	- Drama online is a brilliant resource for watching plays the link is here https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/login If you watch a production independently, remember to make notes on it as these can be used in your coursework and exams The username is Graveney and the password is NTlive2020 - The library has a good range of plays and audition books; ask the librarian to guide you there - Consult the reading list at the back of your introduction to A level booklet - Make sure you folder is organised - Make independent notes on Love and Information, Machinal and Curious Incident (Year 13)/ Home I'm Darling, A Monster Calls and Small Island (year 12) - Make sure your Live theatre notes are up to date. - If we are rehearsing practical projects, learn your lines in your frees and meet up to rehearse.	Drop into the English office. Periodically there will be extra sessions at lunch and during holidays.
English Literature	- Make use of our online subscriptions for additional critical reading including: - Massolit (mini video lectures) login instructions here - EMagazine - login in instructions here - The English Review instructions here - Go to the Key Stage 5 English page of Google Classroom to find additional resources and productions of your set texts: KS5 English - Borrow critical books from the counter at the Library to further your understanding of set texts - Create chapter/scene summary notes/flash cards for your set texts - Create quotation banks for key themes/characters of your set texts	Speak to your teachers. Drop into Ms Thwaites' office on the ground floor at the back of Red House. Periodically there will be extra sessions at lunch and during holidays.
Film Studies	- Formalise notes taken in class - Ensure individual scene analysis is complete and detailed for every set film - Wider reading around each set text/context (articles/journals/academic books) - Practice questions (OCR website/Google Classroom) - Application of various theories to other set texts - Use the Mark Dixon Film Studies book to advance theoretical knowledge and understanding	- Drop into the dept office at lunch/break/etc - Use of dept computers whenever available
French	- Go over and learn vocabulary from recent lessons, also reread any texts you used in recent lessons and make a note of and learn any vocabulary that you didn't know. - Go over grammar notes from last year, particularly tenses and learn the rules and patterns. Check you understand any grammar points you have been taught this week. - Go back over any work you have been given back, make a note of your common errors with the correct French beside it and learn the correct version. - Do some research on the topic area you are studying that week by reading an article in French on it. - Learn facts on the topic as you go along ie each week - Use one of the websites you have been given to do extra practice. - Podcasts / radio: Journal en français facile (RFI), France Culture, or Transfert (narrative podcast). - Songs: analyse lyrics from Stromae, Angèle, Zaz, or Orelsan for idioms and cultural references. - Pronunciation practice: shadow (repeat simultaneously with) a French newsreader clip from TV5Monde - News: Le Monde, Libération, or 20 minutes. - Contemporary novels: No et moi (Delphine de Vigan), Un sac de billes (Joseph Joffo), Kiffe kiffe demain (Faïza Guène).	- Speak to your teacher by going to the relevant office - Language assistants will start working in November. They can also help
Geography	- Consolidate lesson notes by reviewing key terms and concepts after each lesson. Make flash cards and revision notes. - Use the lesson resources on Google classroom and follow any links to wider reading given. - Read the relevant pages in your textbook or the Oxford textbook (copy available in the library) - Re-write questions that you have previously been given feedback on to try and improve your answer. - Visit the exam board website to find additional practice questions - Complete revision tasks on Seneca learning- your teacher may set some of these for you, or you can sign up yourself and many resources are free.	- Speak to your teacher by going to the relevant office in Oppenheimer. - Periodically there will be extra sessions at lunch and during holidays. These will be advertised in lessons and on the information board in Oppenheimer.
German	- Review class notes - highlighting grammar, new vocabulary and key facts - Learn vocabulary: create revision cards / tests (either through an online app or on paper) to test yourself on topic related vocabulary - Create Fact Files for each topic as you learn - identifying changes in society and drawing your own conclusions. - Use the grammar book to consolidate understanding of grammar, and to complete practice exercises. - Do some research on the topic area you are studying that week by reading an article in German on it. - Learn facts on the topic as you go along ie each week - Use one of the websites you have been given to do extra practice. - Deutsche Welle podcasts – “Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten” or “Top-Thema mit Vokabeln”. - Songs – analyse lyrics (e.g. from Cro, AnnenMayKantereit, or Wir Sind Helden) for idioms or cultural	- Speak to your teacher by going to the relevant office in Lower School and they will happily make an appointment with you - Language assistants will start working in November. They can also help and maybe they will be happy to make

	references. • Pronunciation practice – record yourself reading a text aloud and compare with the Forvo pronunciation. • German films (with/without subtitles): Oh Boy, Barbara, Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage. • Research project – prepare a presentation on a German festival, politician, or historical movement. • Cultural enrichment – follow German YouTubers or influencers (e.g. “MrWissen2go” for politics/history).	occasional 1:1 appointments about specific things?
History	Keep up to date with notes using lesson resources, PPs or your textbook. • Consolidate lesson notes by reviewing key terms and concepts after each lesson. Make flash cards and revision notes. • Follow any links to wider reading given in PP links to podcasts or articles. . • Go to the library and find historical works on the period. Use the index to look up keywords and see what historians have to say about the events and people you are learning about. • Re-write essays or even paragraphs of essays that you have previously been given feedback on to try and improve your answer. • Visit the exam board website to find additional practice questions • Use Youtube and Pathe news and similar to watch key speeches or news reports from the past. • Watch documentaries or even feature films to give a visual dimension to your reading.	- Ask your classroom teacher for help whenever you need it. - We will run revision sessions at lunchtimes in the run up to exams
Maths	• Ensure all homework questions are completed (it is always okay to complete more questions than those set for extra practise if you are not getting them right first time) • If you are stuck on a topic - use TL Maths - click your year group, then select the topic. Watch his examples, and copy the steps clearly, before pausing and trying the next question yourself, the play to check. • It is really important that you try and do some questions yourself, not just copy the steps. • If you are still stuck - write down the topic name, exercise and question number(s) you are stuck on and bring it into class, or email it to your teacher. • If you are more confident with a topic, textbook questions are not enough, the next step is to complete exam questions on that topic here: Physics and Maths Tutor, A Level Maths Revision or Dr Frost Maths. • Remember, being able to complete independent exam questions is the ultimate goal.	Email problem questions to your teachers, or bring the questions into any lesson to ask for help. Maths drop in club after school in CG9 Drop into Maths office (College House downstairs corridor) at lunch with specific problem questions.
Media Studies	• Formalise notes taken in class • Ensure text analysis is complete and detailed for every set text with clear examples • Wider reading around each set text/context (articles/journals/academic books) • Practice questions (EDUQAS website/Google Classroom) • Application of various theories to other set texts not yet covered • Use the Mark Dixon Media Theory book to advance theoretical knowledge and understanding	• Drop into the dept office at lunch/break/etc • Use of dept computers whenever available
Music	• Practise your instrument • Work on compositions using feedback given in lessons • Listen to pieces on the wider listening suggestion lists (see Pupil Drive). Create exam-style listening questions and share them with your classmates. • Use resources on Pupil Drive to practise dictation/aural analysis • Create revision resources for set works (Haydn, Debussy, Poulenc) • Create essay plans (MT for AS; Symphonies for A Level)	• Drop into the dept office at lunch/break/etc • Use of dept computers whenever available • Book a practice room
PE	• Before each new topic use the EverLearner to watch the tutorials and write any questions. • Review class notes and ensure you have added application (AO2) throughout. • Complete practice tests on the EverLearner including weekly assignments. • Use practice questions via Google Classroom for exam technique. • Create extended answer plans for 10 mark and 20 mark questions. • Follow social media accounts for sport such as BBC Sport, Sky Sport to ensure your knowledge is up to date across a wide variety of sports. • Watch live sport or highlights to practise the Evaluative Comments action of the EAPI.	• Intervention drop in sessions on a Monday and Friday after-school in LM1. • If you’re struggling with a concept ask your teacher!
Philosophy	• Review class notes - use the PPT added to google classroom by your teacher and/or on the Philosophy resources website to clarify/check any areas you are unsure about • Use active recall revision strategies such as “blurting” to help commit the info to memory • Complete essay plans for past paper questions (ask your teacher for a copy of the ‘all past Qs’ document if you don’t already have it) • Hand in extra practice questions you complete for marking • Use the links on the google doc entitled ‘Philosophy - student recommended websites for revision and stretch and challenge’. These are all helpful websites and podcasts that are teacher-vetted, so we know they are good quality! • Come to the lunchtime/after-school support and revision sessions	• Lunchtime Thursdays drop in, OB3, Mr Udagawa • After-school Thursdays by invite or by appointment, OB10, Ms Ward • If you’re struggling with a concept just ask your teacher!
Photography	• Spending time in the darkroom and mastering the printing processes taught • Making specific experimentation with alternative processes relevant to their theme and area of interest • Photoshop - making use of the macs to further develop digital editing skills to enhance the complexity of their compositions • Photoshoots - beyond the usual locations, props, models, lighting • Creating an installation, in school or outside - coming out of their book • Attending specialist workshops/exhibitions - putting on their own	• After school session on a Thurs/Wed 3.20-5pm • Any time your teacher is free • Welcome to use facilities any time
Physics	• Make sure you own a physical textbook - AQA A Level Physics • Review your class notes in your folder. Are there any gaps? If so, use the textbook to fill the gaps • Start making your way through the CGP workbook for the topic you are studying in class. These problems should be a little more straightforward when compared to exam questions • Approach exam questions topic by topic on - umutech.net • Make good use of the resources made available on the AS/A Level Physics google classroom • Come to the drop in sessions	• Drop-In session - Tuesday lunchtime in SGP

Politics	Keep up to date with notes using lesson resources, PPs or your textbook. ● Consolidate lesson notes by reviewing key terms and concepts after each lesson. Make flash cards and revision notes. ● Follow any links to wider reading given in PP links to podcasts or articles. ● You must watch the news, read newspapers, keep up to date with political events ● Use the shared KS5 Google Classroom to find up to date stories and case studies ● Re-write essays or even paragraphs of essays that you have previously been given feedback on to try and improve your answer. ● Visit the exam board website to find additional practice questions ● Use Youtube news and similar to watch key speeches or news reports ● Watch documentaries or even feature films to give a visual dimension to your reading.	- Ask your classroom teacher for help whenever you need it. - We will run revision sessions at lunchtimes in the run up to exams to practice exam questions
Product Design	● Use topic question packs and practise answering timed questions using HPEE strategy - packs on G-Classroom ● Develop CAD skills using free student account Onshape; Solid Edge; Fusion 360 ● Drop-in technician support sessions at lunchtime ● Create essay plans for 12 mark questions using the structure provided ● Practise mathematics questions ● Attend P6 Monday Masterclass	● All welcome to daily lunchtime support sessions with staff on rota.
Psychology	● Review and annotate class notes to add further depth and detail using the textbook ● Complete a thorough and detailed essay plan sheet for every sub-section using the essay plan list provided at the start of the year ● Use active recall revision strategies such as “blurting” to help commit the info to memory ● Complete past paper questions from the AQA website (available under Assessment Resources) ● Complete Assessment Check questions from the textbook ● Complete the revision support booklets ● When all of above tasks are complete, watch the topic recap videos on the PsychBoost YouTube channel	● Thursday lunchtime drop in weekly in B7 ● Revision sessions during half terms eg Easter
Religious Studies	● Review class notes - use the PowerPoints added to google classroom by your teacher to clarify/check any areas you are unsure about ● Use active recall revision strategies such as “blurting” to help commit the information to memory ● Complete essay plans for past paper questions (ask your teacher for a copy of the ‘all past Qs’ document if you don’t already have it) ● Hand in extra practice questions you complete for marking ● Come to the lunchtime/after-school support and revision sessions ● Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Buddhism: consolidate your knowledge using the revision guides and table mats we have provided for you	● Lunchtime/after-school drop in and revision sessions, teachers will advertise the dates and times (sometimes school holidays too if enough people can attend) ● If you’re struggling with a concept just ask your teacher!
Sociology	● Review and annotate class notes to add further depth and detail using the textbook ● Complete a thorough and detailed essay plan sheet for every sub-section using the essay plan list provided at the start of the year ● Use active recall revision strategies such as “blurting” to help commit the info to memory ● Complete past paper questions from the AQA website (available under Assessment Resources) ● Complete Assessment Check questions from the textbook ● Complete all essay plans in the essay planning booklet ● When all of the above tasks are complete, watch the topic recap videos on Tutor2U (for example the Education topic videos)	● Thursday lunchtime drop in weekly in B7 ● Revision sessions during half terms eg Easter
Spanish	● Review class notes - highlighting grammar, new vocabulary and key facts ● Learn vocabulary: create revision cards / tests (either through an online app or on paper) to test yourself on topic related vocabulary ● Create Fact Files for each topic as you learn - identifying changes in society and drawing your own conclusions. ● Use the grammar book recommended to consolidate understanding of grammar, and to complete practice exercises. ● https://lightspeedspanish.co.uk/category/early-intermediate/ - has video grammar tutorials and exercises to consolidate grammatical understanding ● Complete interactive tasks on Kerboodle relating to the topics covered in class.	● Speak to your teacher by going to the relevant office in Lower School and they will happily make an appointment with you ● Language assistants will start working in November. They can also help and maybe they will be happy to make occasional 1:1 appointments about specific things?
Applied Science	● Make sure you buy the books for externally assessed units. Books can bought from school website ● Pearson Revision guide for Applied Science ● Pearson Revision workbook for Applied Science ● Go over class notes and add more depth to the notes using the textbook ● All past papers and mark schemes for externally assessed units are available on the GC page. Make sure to practice as many past papers as possible before the exams ● Make good use of the other resources available on GC to prepare for the external exams ● Use seneca for revision. You will be assigned work here. ● Make sure to use study time to complete coursework. At some point during the year, you will be working on three different pieces of coursework and will need to devote a significant amount of time outside lessons to completing the write-ups in order to meet deadlines.	Mrs Walia’s office (ground floor, Lower Science)

Year 12

Current opportunities

If you require any more information or assistance in applying to any opportunity, please contact the Sixth Form Student Development Officer:

Mr Smith	JBSmith@graveney.wandsworth.sch.uk
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Opportunity	Organiser	Information	Date & Location	How to apply?
Events	London School of Economics (LSE)	LSE is hosting a range of excellent upcoming events including: <i>A collectivist, economic perspective on AI</i>	In-person, various London events, September - December 2026	https://www.lse.ac.uk/events/search-events/ 
Virtual Insight Evening	Deloitte	Virtual insight evening for students considering apprenticeships	Online 7 th October 5pm – 6:30pm	https://mailchi.mp/young-professionals/insight-to-deloitte-business-and-accounting-event/ 
Festival of the Future	Beyond the Box	Social enterprise that is working to open up architecture and the built environment to young people too often left out of it.	Royal College of Art, Battersea 10th October	https://www.beyondtheboxcic.com/festival-of-the-future-2026/ 

Future Doctors Month	Premed Projects	Free medicine work experience.	Online on 11th, 18th, 25th October and 1st November	https://www.premedprojects.co.uk/free/ 
University Fair	Unifrog	Great opportunity to find out all about studying at University and get all your questions answered by experts.	Online 14th October 4pm - 6:30pm	https://webapp.spotme.com/login/eventspace/uk-university-fair-2026/ 
Meet the Russell Group	University of Nottingham	Five informative and inspiring webinars	Online 20 th – 29 th October	https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/fair-signup/russell-group-webinars/ 
Meet the Russell Group webinars	UK University Search	Webinars on important topics including personal statements, researching University options & student life	Online 20th - 29th October	https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/fair-signup/russell-group-webinars/ 

Mayor of London	Future Leaders Programme	This award-winning curriculum includes both online and in-person weekly sessions on topics such as apprenticeship support, also providing the exciting opportunity to visit important places like 10 Downing Street and Oxford University.	Online and in-person, on a weekly basis (over 1 year)	For more information and to apply, click here: https://www.futureleaders.uk/ 
Pathways to Professions	Sutton Trust	Completely free program, which helps develop students skills to get into highly-competitive careers including Banking & Finance, Consulting and/or Engineering.	Online and in-person	For more information and to apply, click here: https://pathwaysprogrammes.suttontrust.com/ Deadlines for applications vary by program (but most close by early December latest) 
Subject Masterclasses	The University of Cambridge	Subject-specific events that offer students the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at the University of Cambridge, and to learn more about a topic of interest.	Online, various dates in October - December (4:15 - 7pm) Examples: 20th October: Environment, Law and Economics 27th October: Economics 15th December: History	To find out more information and apply, click here: https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses/ 
Virtual Events	Unifrog	Every week, Unifrog offers a wide range of Virtual Events, providing invaluable information about a wide variety of professions, as well as guides on applying to opportunities.	Online Examples: Turn your passion for the planet into a career Monday 5th October 5:30pm Computer science taster: can AI save lives? Tuesday 13th October 5:30pm	Apply for all events here: https://www.unifrog.org/teacher/webinars/for-students/ 

Two types of Student Loan

Fees Loan: £9,790 per annum

- not means-tested
- covers tuition fees
- paid directly to the university

Maintenance Loan:

- Means-tested based on parent and spouse/partner household income (household taxable income = gross income less pension contributions)
- Paid in three termly instalments directly to the student
- Depends on where you live while at university

	<i>Minimum Loan if your household income exceeds</i>	<i>Minimum Loan</i>	<i>Maximum Loan (household income < £25,000)</i>
<i>Live at home</i>	£58,384	£4,013	£9,118
<i>Live away (not London)</i>	£62,409	£5,048	£10,830
<i>Live away (London)</i>	£70,131	£7,039	£14,135

Repayments

- Depends on how much you earn, not how much you borrow
- Does not affect credit score
- Repay 9% of earnings above £25,000
- Loan balance cancelled after 40 years
- Interest rate is RPI or prevailing market rate if lower (3.2% for 2025-26)

Apply in year 13, Apply Online, apply early, open January to May

You don't need a confirmed place to apply for student finance, and you don't have to take the loan even if you apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

The cost of university

Typical cost: £29,350 in fees, £41,230 (average) in other living costs

Varies by both university and region.

Accommodation is your single largest cost. Every university offers a variety of price points, service levels and availability.

- Catered Halls / Semi-Catered / Self-catered
- En Suite / Shared bathroom
- Separate Flat / Single room / Shared room
- Contract length: 50 weeks / 39 weeks
- Guaranteed accommodation? / Private rental?

Bursaries and Hardship funds are available – research and apply!

Learn to budget / Avoid commercial debt / Get a job!

UCAS and Next Steps Student Support Timeline – Graveney Sixth Form

Activity	Details	When
Course Selection & Guidance Meeting	The CSGM meeting with an experienced member of the Sixth Form Team begins by ascertaining what the students intentions are for future progression in terms of their education, whether that be applying to university or otherwise. This informs the information, advice and guidance they are given at this early stage.	Year 11 – Summer Term
HE and Next Steps Parents Event	This event is designed to ensure that parents and students have received early signposting of this milestone which is on the horizon.	Year 12 – Autumn Term
Opportunities advertised	The range of opportunities mean that students can play an active role in the school and local community. Students are aware that universities are looking for engagement outside of their academic learning.	Year 12/ Year 13
Careers advice	Students are able to request referrals to the careers team if they would like to have early discussions about their next steps and which pathway they may wish to take.	Year 12/ Year 13
Coaching meetings	Students have 1:1 'coaching' meetings with the tutors – these meetings not only support academic progress but also explore the range of options that are available to students after leaving sixth form.	Year 12/ Year 13
Student survey	Students are surveyed on their areas of interest for progression. We use this information to invite in an appropriate range of external speakers and contributors to our HE Day/ Next Steps Event (details below).	Year 12 – Spring Term
Tutorial Programme	The UCAS/HE Tutorial Programme then commences to continue to support students in the decision making process. The sessions are as follows: • Preparing for Next Steps Day • Next Steps Day • Registering on the UCAS website • Locations and Institutions • Apprenticeships and Alternative Pathways • Writing a Personal Statement	Year 12 – Summer Term
HE/Next Steps Day	This day forms the cornerstone of the support on offer. Year 12 students are off timetable for the day and a huge number of external visitors are welcomed to the school. Students attend a number of 'keynote' speeches from external providers including: • How to write a personal statement (whether to use for UCAS, or as a covering letter to employer to support a traditional job application) • How to apply to UCAS • Student finance and managing your money • Searing & Applying for Apprenticeships Following this, they are able to select from a large number of subject-specific talks from the providers on offer covering a very wide range of subject specialisms.	Year 12 – Summer Term
Graveney Guide to Higher Education published to parents and students	This comprehensive document is our in-house, step-by-step support document for students and parents and explains how to make a successful application. It is updated annually and issued to parents and students so that they can plan ahead and over the summer break.	Year 12 – Summer Term

Personal Statements	All students are added to Google Classrooms which are monitored by their form tutor, HOY and DHOY. These are used for students to begin drafting personal statements using a private assignment through which they can receive feedback.	Year 12 – Summer Term
Subject References written	Subject tutors write detailed subject references for all students	Year 12 – Summer Term
Early Entry Students	Expression of interest are received via a Google Form so that we can ascertain how best to target support for this group of students (this is revisited in Autumn Term of Year 13 when more students tend to come on board).	Year 12 – Summer Term
Post-Public Exam Results Support	Sixth Form Team and Careers Advisors on hand in August to support students in light of their Public Exam results and to support their decision making on next steps.	SUMMER HOLIDAY
Tutorial Programme	Following a re-cap session of the Y12 sessions – these are posted on Google Classroom so students have easy access to refer to them when needed. The tutorial programme continues with the following sessions: • Personal Statements – Session 2 • Alternative Pathways – Session 2 • Gap Years • UCAS Referees – their roles and responsibilities in supporting you	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Predicted Grades	Students are allocated their predicted grades by their teachers in 1:1 meetings with their subject teachers.	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Early Entry Applicants Meeting	Early Entry Applicants are identified and an information meeting is held by the HOY. Specialist, experienced, referees from the Sixth Form Team are allocated to students who are making an early entry application in line with their subject specific needs.	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Referee Allocation	Referees are allocated to all students and a schedule of 1:1 support meetings begin to take place. The referee provides advice and guidance, helping the student make their choices and application, as well as then writing the reference.	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Entrance Exams	Information about entrance exams is disseminated to students and support is signposted to them to prepare for the assessments.	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Interview Preparation	Interview practice is held with all students who require it using experienced, senior staff within the Sixth Form Team and also using HODs to support this process. Assessment Centre practice for Apprenticeships and applications to employment.	Year 13 – Autumn Term
Communication with parents	Letters sent to parents at regular intervals to ensure that they are kept updated as to what is happening in school around UCAS and Next Steps Support and to remind them of deadlines approaching.	Year 12 / Year 13