

## LARGS ACADEMY

### S6 INDUCTION 2016 – SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS



#### **MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION**

You need to start thinking NOW about your plans for leaving school so that you can start working towards this. Think carefully about your options and make sure that you are equipped with the appropriate information and advice to set realistic goals for your future.



#### **FURTHER / HIGHER EDUCATION**

If you want to continue your studies at university or college you need to consider which option is best for you given your exam results, your area(s) of interest and, most importantly, what your plans are for your future career. Some courses at college (mainly HNDs) can lead into university degrees, so some of you may feel that this extra step is more appropriate rather than going to university straight from school. Indeed, some college courses may be better preparation for the job you want to get into.

#### **APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY (UCAS)**

You will be hoping to get a place in an UNDERGRADUATE degree course. You have the choice of doing:

- Ordinary degree (usually 3 years) / Honours degree (usually 4 years)
- Single honours (1 subject) / Joint Honours (2 subjects)
- Vocational degree (related to a particular career, e.g. accountancy, engineering)
- Non-Vocational degree (not leading into a particular career, e.g. English, history – you may need to do a further course when you graduate)



#### **Importance of Research**

You need to start researching *now* to ensure that you pick the course(s) that is/are right for you. Your first and main resource will be [WWW.UCAS.COM](http://WWW.UCAS.COM). In addition the following will also be useful:

- UCAS TV
- University websites
- Prospectuses
- Open day

### How to Apply

- On-line applications are made through the UCAS website: [WWW.UCAS.COM](http://WWW.UCAS.COM)
- You are allowed one application per year
- You have a maximum of 5 choices per year (some restrictions for Medicine /Veterinary /Dentistry)
- Cost is £24 for multiple choices or £13 for 1 choice
- Watch out for information on the UCAS noticeboard regarding further UCAS meetings. The timeline for applications is attached to this handout. It is your responsibility to meet these deadlines. If you are serious about going to university then you **will meet these deadlines**.
- There will be a UCAS conference for early applicants (CUKAS and law) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Greenwood Conference Centre, Dreghorn, and a conference for all other applicants on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Places are limited so you will need to see your Guidance Teacher if you wish to attend.

### How to improve your chances

- Qualifications
- Experience
- Skills
- Testimony – Personal Statement / Reference

# QUEST



As well as meeting the entry requirements in terms of grades, universities also like to see that you have made the effort to gain relevant experience, that you have the skills and qualities to cope with the course and university life and that you have a personal statement and reference that clearly detail all of this information.

### High Tariff Courses

- The closing date for applications to Oxford/Cambridge and courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine at any UK university is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- Applicants to medicine and dentistry have to complete the UKCAT test (UK Clinical Aptitude Test). You can register now but please do not sit the test until after the UCAS conference in August
- Some Law applicants need to sit the LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law). Glasgow University is the only Scottish University that asks for it
- Applicants to Oxford/Cambridge will have additional admissions tests to complete
- Work experience for these courses is absolutely essential and you should try to organise a range of placements/visits during your S6

### Applications to a Conservatoire

Applications to a conservatoire, including the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, are made through the UCAS website. A lot of music, dance and drama courses have an early deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

# UCAS Applications for entry in September 2017

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## June 2016

- Preliminary briefing to all S6 pupils
- Pupils applying for courses requiring an early entry deadline (15 October) or Law at Glasgow University will be provided with information about the admissions tests which must be completed

## August 2016

- Calendar of internal procedures and internal and external deadlines produced. (See UCAS noticeboard)
- All UCAS applicants to register with UCAS (at home)
- Pupils applying to courses with early deadline will be briefed and given access to the system
- Early entry deadline courses are: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Science at any UK university, and all Oxford or Cambridge applications
- Applicants make their own arrangements for sitting LNAT and UKCAT admissions tests

## August – October 2016

- Early deadline applications must be completed with particular attention to references and personal statements. All of these courses will be high tariff and highly competitive. These applications must be received by UCAS on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> October. A few days safety margin is recommended.
- All other applicants will be given an initial briefing and instructions on how to access the system and set up their own forms – dates and times of seminars will be posted on the UCAS noticeboard
- Guidance Teachers will hold briefing meetings with their own applicant group and establish their own House procedures
- All applicants will be issued with a UCAS pack
- Note: when you are completing your application forms remember funding is from the SAAS – Student Awards Agency Scotland. They pay your fees so enter the correct code on your application form.
- Applicants give estimate forms to their teachers who complete them and return them to Guidance Teachers
- Applicants complete their reference forms and return them to Guidance Teachers
- **Applicants conduct their own research to find the course they want. Careers Advisers will see UCAS applicants in school, if required**

- Applicants write their personal statements and add them to their on-line forms
- Guidance Teachers begin the process of consultation with applicants and writing references

### **October –November 2016**

- Applicants should complete their forms by **mid-November**, sign them off to their Guidance Teacher and pay for their forms by credit/debit card on-line.  
To apply to UCAS for 2015 entry the cost is £13 for a single course choice and £24 for 2-5 course choices.
- Guidance Teachers continue the process of writing references and monitoring the progress of forms
- UCAS co-ordinator continues the process of overall monitoring and sending applications to UCAS on a weekly basis

### **December 2016**

- All remaining applications should be completed and sent to UCAS by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.**



**H McClelland**  
**June 2016**