



SIXTH FORM

Friday 26th
September 2025

Welcome to our third Sixth Form Newsletter. Here you will find a summary of the week, useful tips, dates and celebrations of successes!

UPCOMING DATES

Thurs 2nd Oct:

- Last lesson ends at 12.30
- Whole School Open Evening (6-9pm) - all Year 12 and 13 students expected to help

Fri 3rd Oct: INSET Day (work from home day)

Tues 7th Oct: Trip to ExCeL Centre to learn about careers in the creative sector – *letters have gone out to Parents. We are initially giving priority to students who study at least one creative subject. If all the tickets don't go, we will then open them up to all students*

Tues 25th November 6-8pm: Careers & Higher Education Fair at school



Year 12

As we are approaching mid way through the first term, it is time to check in with the goals you set yourself on day one of year 12. Have you managed to stick to those goals? Do you need to reflect on any bad habits that are starting to form in your approach to your studies? As tiredness kicks in and the honeymoon phase is over, it is very easy to forget what you promised yourself at the start. Therefore, this week we will be revising some of that best practice. Below is a reminder of the checklist from the start of term, try and identify what you have done and what you may have stopped doing!

1. Organised a folder with dividers
2. Put a list of the assessment objectives/course requirements in your folder
3. Spent an additional 4-5 hours a week of independent study on each subject Consistently taken notes in lessons
4. Experimented with different ways of recording information/ note taking
5. Reviewed your notes after each lesson (if you haven't yet then get into the habit) Conducted additional research for your subject before lessons to aid your understanding
6. If you have struggled with a new concept, have you asked your teacher for help or advice
7. Contributed to a class discussions
8. Created a weekly study schedule to aid time management
9. Organised a space at home to study effectively and store schoolwork
10. Reflected on how you use your time across the school week
11. Identified distractions and thought about how to remove them

Moving into next week, which of these could you implement into your lessons?

If you need me, you can:

- Contact me directly on kate.kalinowski@furzeplatt.net
- Book a clinic session with me afterschool on Wednesday between 3.30pm and 5.00pm by emailing sixthformadmin@furzeplatt.net



Year 12

This week on Tuesday form time, Year 12 were tasked with debating for or against the death penalty. The winning debate would win breakfast for their form. Thank you for all the excellent debates. Below is this week's winner!

Winning debate by Piper Webb

The death penalty is a government sanction killing of someone who has been found guilty of serious crimes, the act to abolish it started in 1965 and was fully authorised in 1969. I mostly agree to its termination because myself and many others view it as inhumane as it takes away human life. This is a problem as I don't think we should have a say in if anyone deserves to die. In its place I think criminals should be sentenced to life in prison in hopes they truly repent for what they have done.

Aside from my moral standpoint I also think it would be a waste of money as it can cost up to \$1,000,000 due to the legal aspects, this can be used in so many other ways, for example, it could be used to help reduce the rates of poverty or even to help fund overcrowded prisons. Some people may argue the death penalty deters future crimes from taking place however previously recorded statistics show there was no significant rise in crime rates after it was banned, in fact, Canada's homicide rate declined by 44% in the following years, giving no foundation to these claims.

Most of my arguments are about the people involved in the crimes yet I feel the need to also mention the jury of innocent people that are forced to choose if they want to condemn someone to death. It could be a lot for someone to deal with and I think it's just unnecessary strain on their mental health.

While I mainly think the death penalty is too extreme a part of me agrees that a harsh punishment like that is needed in the sense that victims may be able to finally feel justice against the perpetrator and the families of victims who passed could hopefully be more at peace.

Overall, I see both sides of the argument however, I think the negatives outweigh the positives and I think the death penalty should stay illegal, yet I also think the justice system is not what it should be, and we should be focusing on improving it instead of reintroducing such drastic measures.

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Year 13

As we get to the end of September, it's worth taking stock of how much time has already gone in Year 13. Before you know it, you'll be at half-term! To that end, we need to ensure that we use time effectively.

I've been really impressed by several students this week who have used time effectively:

- 1) Students taking the time to arrange meetings with teachers to ask for help – this proactivity is excellent and shows that you are in control and want to understand and improve.
- 2) Students creating and keeping to study timetables – planning your work and life is a hard skill to learn but it enables you to reflect and enjoy those breaks knowing that you've done the hard graft.
- 3) Students selecting when to work with others (and collaborating successfully on plans/mindmaps etc.) and when to sit down and silently hit the books. Each study period should have a clear objective!

All of this shows me that these students are managing their workload. Follow the following steps if you're struggling with this:

Managing workload:

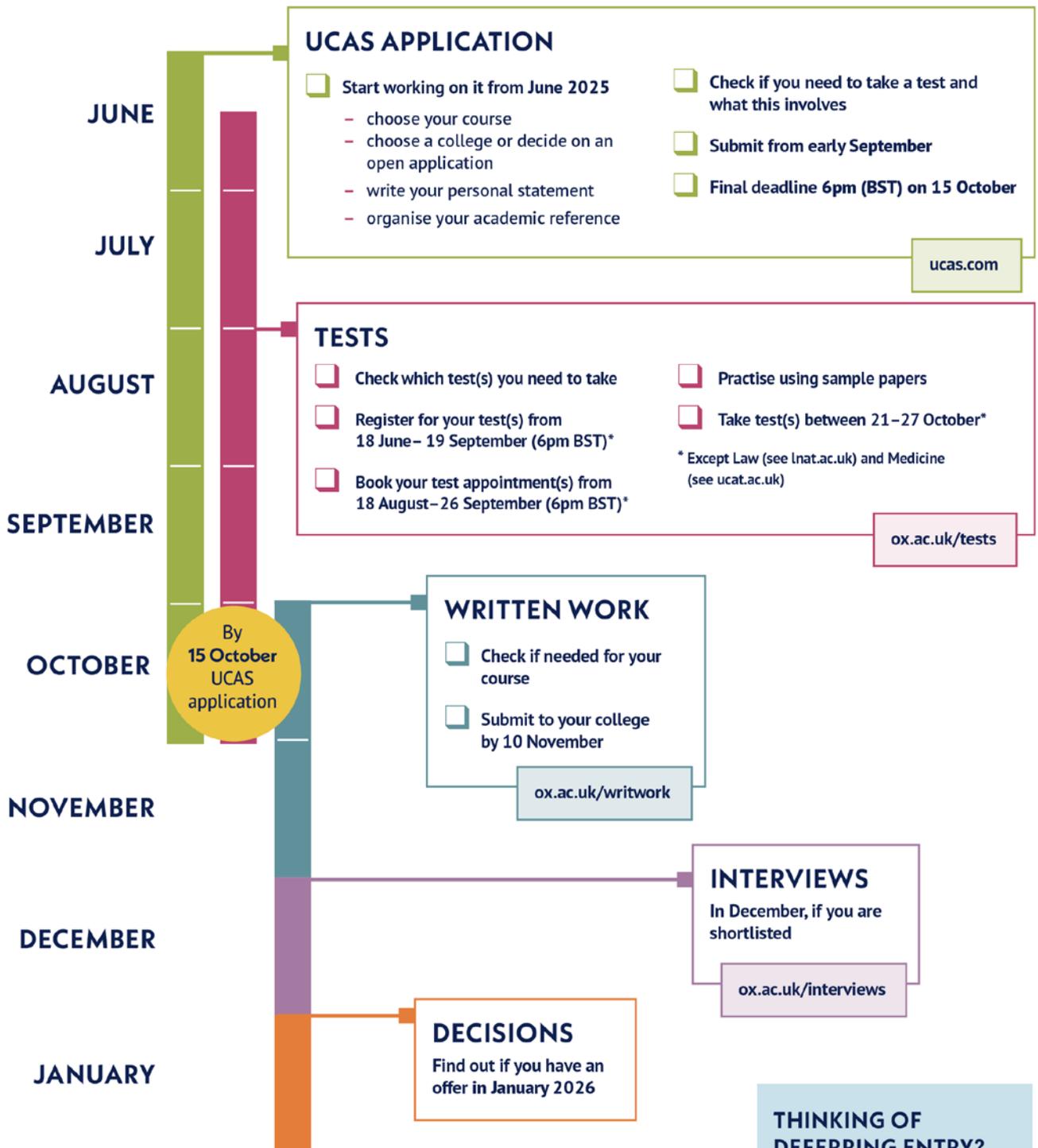
- Identify where you have time (you'll realise that you have more than you thought!)
- Break down the big projects into short and meaningful tasks.
- Use your time effectively. It might be worth reflecting on whether or not you are working in the best environment or whether or not your peers are distracting you.
- Make wise choices that enable you to be successful and get to the end of the week having done what needs to be done!

If you are struggling with balancing things and would like to talk to someone about this, then please don't forget to seek help. We're here to help.

HOW YOU APPLY

2026 ENTRY

Early Entry – The Oxford process



Cambridge Dates can be found here

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/application-dates-deadlines>

THINKING OF DEFERRING ENTRY?

This is not always possible so we recommend you check with your course department first.

Tutor resource of the week – note taking.



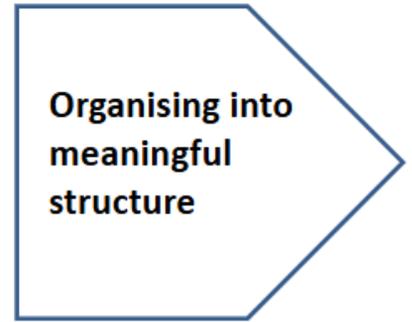
Key Ingredients for Great Note Taking



LISTEN



TRANSFORM



ORGANISE

Cornell Notes

Cornell Notes	Topic/Objective:	Name: Hour: Date:
Essential Question:		
Questions:	Notes:	
Summary:		

Summary

Cornell Note Taking is one way of breaking down and recording information, also identifying **further questions**

Main title or question

Can be used for main ideas, key points, dates, any questions

Main Notes – leave spaces to add in or code later

If you were going to explain this to someone, what would you say?



Careers

Claire Beale, Careers Adviser

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[School LinkedIn](#)

This week's Talk on Higher Education with Lauren Davis from Activate Learning – in summary

You are currently at Level 3 doing A-Levels, BTECs or a combination of the two. This is known as **Further Education**. If you continue with your studies after the age of 18, it is known as **Higher Education**.

After Sixth Form, some students go to university, some go to college, some do apprenticeships and some go straight into work. Others take a Gap Year.

If you go to **university**, this is known as *Higher Education*. You do an undergraduate degree for at least 3 years. The fees are £9,250 per year for the course alone. On top of that you may have accommodation if you are at university away from home. There are loans available. After you have finished your degree, you will gain a BA or a BSc qualification. There are certain jobs that require these qualifications and the only path is to go to university. For example, medicine.

However, more and more jobs are accepting other pathways in. For example, you could do an **apprenticeship or go to college**.

Many of you may hear the word “college” and be confused. You may think college is for people aged 16-18, but many colleges offer courses for students who are aged 18 and over. Remember, this is known as *Higher Education*.

- You can do a HNC – which is the equivalent of your first year at university.
- You can do a HND – which is the equivalent of your second year at university.
- You can leave after each of those years and you will have a qualification OR you can go to university for the third and final year and finish your degree.
- The fees are cheaper than university (£6,500 per year instead of £9,250 and you can still get loans) and classes are much smaller

Lauren will be at the Careers Fair on 25th Nov if you want to meet her and ask her more questions. We also have leaflets in the Sixth Form and we will always try our best to answer any questions you have.

Most important message: remain open minded and consider all options. University is great for many reasons and a very good option for some students. But it isn't right for everyone and it is good to be aware there are alternatives.

If you would like to find out more, Reading Activate have an Open Day on Sat 8th Nov. Book your place [here](#)





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For Year 13s - Current local apprenticeships

Chartered Manager & Retail Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship with the supermarket chain Morrisons (offices nationwide – closest likely to be Londo)

Find out more and apply [here](#) by November



Marketing Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship with Zenopa (offices in Penn near High Wycombe/Beaconsfield)

Find out more and apply [here](#) by 24th December

Company website: <https://zenopa.com/>



It does say January 2026 start for this – so I would encourage you to call Max McGarvie and clarify this with him.

Power System Engineer – Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship (offices in Wokingham)
Find out more and apply [here](#) by 31st December

Company website: <https://www.neso.energy/>





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Current local job opportunities



'Calling all 6th Formers'

Are you available in the afternoons?

Are you aged 16 - 19 and would like part time employment at our thriving After-school club situated at Cookham Dean primary school?

Can you commit each week from around 3pm to around 6pm to listen to reading and most importantly play and have fun?

If so, then we need you!

Please contact the manager Sandy on 07741551665

HELP Or email cookhamdean@wraparoundcare4u.com



M&S Part-time Customer Assistant (Fashion, Home & Beauty) - Maidenhead Store

Pay: £12.60 per hour
Apply by 15th Oct [here](#)

Hours:
Tues 3-7pm
Sat 11-3
Sun 11-3





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NHS Careers Talks at Stoke Mandeville Hospital



Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust offer various careers talks at Stoke Mandeville Hospital from 5-7pm.

AUTUMN TERM 2026	DATES
Discover careers in the allied health professions Focuses on: dietetics, music therapy, occupational therapy, operating department practice, orthotics, paramedic science, physiotherapy, podiatry, prosthetics and orthotics, radiography (diagnostic), speech and language therapy	Thursday 4 December 2025
SPRING TERM 2026	
Discover careers in pharmacy	Thursday 12 February 2026
Discover careers in biomedical science	Thursday 12 March 2026
SUMMER TERM 2026	
Discover careers in nursing and midwifery	Thursday 30 April 2026
Discover careers in psychology	Thursday 2 July 2026
Discover careers in medicine	Thursday 16 July 2026

Click [here](#) to reserve your free space





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REMINDER: Trip for Y12s to The University of Sheffield



University of Sheffield

Want to visit a Russell Group University with a strong reputation for research and teaching?

We are potentially looking at organising a trip for Year 12s to The University of Sheffield and they may be able to help towards the cost of the transport there.

Please look at the university website [here](#).

And for more information on the university from the Russell Group website, click [here](#).

If this is something you would be interested in doing, please fill out this [form](#) so we can look at planning this.

REMINDER: Trip for Y12s and 13s to Create Your Future Exhibition at the ExCeL Centre

Tues 7th Oct 10am to 4pm

Cost £15 - please see Mrs Pasa if you on the bursary

We are organising a Careers trip to find out more about the creative industry including roles available, apprenticeships, universities, conservatoires and more.

Letters have gone out via ParentMail.

Priority will be given initially to students studying at least one of these subjects: *English, Art & Design, Design Technology, Drama, Fashion & Textiles and Media.*

Click [here](#) to find out more

