

# Post-18 Options

A high proportion of Borden students continue onto university after their 6th Form studies, although with the growing number of degree apprenticeships and apprenticeships available, it is important that this is the right decision for you and that you choose a course and university you are going to be happy with. It is crucial that you put sufficient time and effort into researching your options so that you make the right choice.

## Post-18 Resources

In addition to resources and prospectuses in the Borden Careers Library and Sixth Form work room. There are a number of on-line resources available to help with your careers research, including;

[UCAS](#) – Your one-stop-shop for searching and applying for UK university courses. Here you can compare course content at different universities to make sure you are considering those that best match your interests and ambitions.

[UniFrog](#) - This enables students to create short lists of potential universities and courses as well as being able to search and shortlist apprenticeship opportunities.

[What Uni](#) and [Which University](#) enables you to look at which universities offer subjects that interest you. They also have advice about all aspects of your higher education choices.

[The Guardian University Guide](#) and [Complete University Guide](#) provide league tables that can be filtered and sorted to suit individual searches and preferences.

[Career Pilot](#) and [Prospects](#) offer advice about university and apprenticeship options. These sites also show you what you can do with different degree subjects, in terms of career ideas and employment opportunities.

# How to put together strong applications to UCAS/Apprenticeship

**Read around your subject:** Don't just restrict your knowledge to what you are taught in lessons. Universities want to see that you are sufficiently interested in a subject to devote additional time to finding out more about it. You will be spending three years of your life studying a subject at university so need to demonstrate genuine commitment and passion for it.

You can access MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses) on the [UniFrog](#) website as well as on [MOOC.org](#) Most of these are free courses to extend your knowledge in particular subjects of interest.

**Communication skills:** It is really important to demonstrate that your written and verbal communication skills are on par with your academic ability. Use opportunities available to develop these skills, e.g. engage in academic conversations with teachers and peers, work on your presentation skills, undertake mock interviews, get involved in activities such as debating and becoming a prefect.

**Develop other personal skills and interests:** Universities and employers want to see good "all-round" students who have something to offer other than just academic studies. Taking part in extra-curricular activities both in and out of school is a good way of developing valuable skills of teamwork, leadership, time management etc. Volunteering time as a prefect can also enhance these skills which will contribute to a strong application.

**Work Experience/Volunteer/Part-time Jobs:** Organise some work experience or volunteering to find out if a particular occupation is right for you and to develop essential employability skills. Relevant work experience will make a big difference to your application.