



Pate's Grammar School

Supporting our students beyond Year 13

Year 14 students

Whether you're taking a gap year or reapplying after Year 13, we're here to support you. Some students choose to apply with achieved grades, after a change of heart, or to strengthen a previous application.

We offer guidance on UCAS applications, references, and deadlines - but we expect good communication and commitment in return.

While we are committed to supporting Year 14 applicants, we are unable to offer the same level of support as we do for current Year 13 students. Please read the information for ***University Applications for Year 14 students*** below, for detailed advice on retakes, deadlines, and what to expect from the process.

Important note for Year 15 applicants and beyond

While we are happy to offer some support for university applications beyond Year 14, please be aware that this support is necessarily more limited due to staffing and capacity constraints. As such, we are unable to provide the same level of guidance and feedback as we do for current students or even Year 14 applicants.

A one-off **administration fee of £100** will be charged to cover the processing of your application, including reference updates and administration charges.

University Applications for Year 14 students

People apply to university at many different stages of their lives, and you need to decide on the right course of action for you. A gap year (or two!) can be a useful time to work, think and decide on the next step.

Most universities are very positive about gap years and say that students who have taken a gap year tend to be more mature and focused.

If you are planning a gap year, you have **two** chances to apply. You can apply for a deferred place while at school. If you secure a place, you can then go on your gap year knowing that you have a university place sorted. Or, if you do not get the place you want, you have the option to reapply during your gap year.

Each year we support a group of students who make a Year 14 application.

People apply in Year 14 for different reasons:

1. I decided to wait and apply with achieved grades.

You may be unsure what you want to apply for, or you may want to spend Y13 consolidating the strongest grades you can before making an application. This can result in a stronger application overall: achieved grades plus more time for work experience.

2. I applied last year but did not get an offer

You may have applied for a very competitive course and been unsuccessful. A fresh and updated application with realistic expectations may be more successful.

3. I received offers but did not meet the grade conditions of the offer I was holding

You have the option of retaking some A levels and making a new application for the same subject. In this case our advice is to include at least one choice where your achieved grades meet the requirements.

Or, you have the option of making a new application for a different course where the grades you have achieved meet the requirements.

4. I changed my mind about the subject I want to apply for

You can make a new application. We will adjust and update the reference we wrote for you last year.

5. My achieved grades exceeded my A level grade predictions, so I plan to withdraw from an offer I am holding and make a new application

You can make a new application. We will adjust and update the reference we wrote for you last year.



What we expect from Year 14s making a University Application

- **Good communication**

Please stay in touch with us! You should use your personal email account to contact Mrs Wright or your Head of Year to let them know your plans. We need to know as early as possible if you are making a UCAS application.

Mrs Wright will then send out instructions as a reminder to you on how to fill out a UCAS form.

- **Ability to meet deadlines:**

Internal Deadline for Early UCAS Applications (Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Medicine) is **11 September 2026**. We expect applicants to complete a reasonable draft of their UCAS form by 11 September. Let us know when this has been done. We will check the form and, while we are updating or writing your reference, you can edit your personal statement and choices.

Internal Deadline for Regular UCAS Applications is **16 October – 17 November 2026**. We expect applicants to complete a reasonable draft of their UCAS form in this time frame. Let us know when this has been done. We will check the form and, while we are updating or writing your reference, you can edit your personal statement and choices.

What you can expect from school:

If you stay in touch, listen to advice, and stick to deadlines, we will support you in your application. We will:

- Check your UCAS form
- Provide a new or updated reference in support of your application
- Provide some advice on choices
- Send your form to UCAS

Please be aware that subject specific support will not be available beyond marking and moderating coursework due to staff capacity.



Important additional information

Predicted grades for Retakes

In Year 13 internal assessments together with students' performance throughout the year, is used to formulate predicted grades. Year 13 predictions hold for applications made in Year 13, they do not necessarily carry over to a Year 14 application.

If a student chooses to apply after achieving grades, and retakes A levels, our policy is that unless there are very specific extenuating circumstances, we predict **one grade higher than the achieved grade**. For example, a student who achieved grade B in 2026 and decides to retake that A Level in 2027 will be predicted a grade A.

A Level Retakes

The Exams Office register students for A Level retakes in January each year. There are **deadlines** for registration, and there are **costs** involved in registering to retake exams. The cost for retaking **one** subject can range from £150 - £200. The bill for retaking **three** subjects can be £400 – over £500.

Students can be registered for retakes but cannot attend classes, attend mocks or have work marked by staff. It is the student's responsibility to revise or find a tutor. It is a challenge to study for retakes, so they need to be very self-motivated. For these reasons, we advise students to think carefully about whether to retake exams and how many exams it is realistic to retake.

Achieved grades must be entered on the UCAS form.

Retakes are added by entering Pate's a second time and adding the subject with 'grade pending 08/27'.

University Admissions Tests

These are taken outside of school, so it is the responsibility of the student to register and attend.

University Interviews

If you are invited to Oxford or Cambridge for interview, please let your subject department know. They will do their best to provide support.



If you are invited to a Medicine, Dentistry or Vet interview, please contact Mrs Wright. We will do our best to provide support.

Additional Applications

Please note that we do not have the capacity to support additional University applications – those outside of UCAS - by Year 14 students.

