A LEADERSHIP SPECIALIST

WWW.CALUDONCASTLE.CO.UK



Information Evening

Year 13
September 2026

Welcome

- ★ Sixth Form Team
- ★ Attendance and punctuality
- ★ Mobile phone policy
- ★ UCAS Hub
- ★ Applying to university
- ★ Student finance
- ★ Apprenticeships
- ★ Mock exams and data collections
- ★ Key dates

Our Sixth Form Intent

‘To provide a safe and nurturing environment for students that encourages a curiosity for both academic learning and personal development, regardless of their starting point.’

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Sixth Form Team



Mr Carter
Deputy Head



Mrs Carter
Head of Sixth Form



Miss Thomas
Deputy Head of Sixth Form



Narinder Gill
Admin support



Pam Griffiths
Admin support

Why attendance matters

Yearly attendance	Yearly days missed	Yearly learning hours missed	Learning hours missed during school life
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	360
95%	10	50	600
90%	20	100	1200
80%	40	200	2400
50%	100	500	6000

Students who made the most progress

The top 6 performing students all had >96% attendance

3A*, 1A - 98% and 0 lates

3A*, 1A - 96% and 3 lates

A*, A*, A – 98% and 2 lates

A*, A, A - 98% and 0 lates

A*, A, A - 96% and 5 lates

A*, A, B – 100% and 0 lates

All got into their first choice university or apprenticeship

Reporting absence

- Parents or carers contact the school, either by phone on extension 818 or via email at sixthformteam@caludoncastle.co.uk on the morning of every day of a student absence.

- Medical appointments need to be arranged outside of school time where possible.

Attendance and punctuality

- Parents or carers contact the school, either by phone on extension 818 or via email at sixthformteam@caludoncastle.co.uk on the morning of every day of a student absence.

- Medical appointments need to be arranged outside of school time where possible.

Mobile phone policy

Students in the sixth form are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school but must adhere to the following best use policy:

1) Students may use their mobile phones in the **sixth form common area** and **sixth form study room**.

2) Mobile phones/headphones **may not be used** on the corridors or in communal areas outside of the sixth form common room and study room.

3) Communication between students and their parents via students' mobile phones must take place in the sixth form common room or study room.
4) Failure to adhere to these rules will result in items being confiscated.


UCAS

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the central online application system for most university applications.

Not just for university - It also includes lots of information for post-18 options.

UCAS Hub

Discover options







Higher education

APPRENTICESHIPS

STUDYING ABROAD

GAP YEAR

GETTING A JOB

Head to UCAS to understand all your options and make the right choices for you.

What is it?

With your very own UCAS Hub, you can plan your next step. The best bit – you can save your progress and carry on whenever you want.

We've created lots of handy tools to help you make choices and prepare your application:

1. The explore tool – where you can search subjects and discover courses.
2. The notepad – so you can keep all your thoughts about your next step in one place.
3. Apprenticeship finder – for the latest vacancies, locally and nationally.
4. The personal statement builder – to help you structure your writing and introduce yourself to universities.
5. The Tariff calculator – for tallying up your UCAS points to see if you meet entry requirements.

Your Hub is your space. Organise the widgets, remove the ones you don't need, and tick off your to do list. However you use it, make it yours.

Key dates for 2027

28 April 2026

UCAS search displays courses

12 May

UCAS application opens for 2027 entry

1 September

First day we can receive a completed application

15 October 2026*

Deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge

13 January 2027*

UCAS equal consideration date

13 January 2027*

UCAS equal consideration date

25 February

UCAS Extra opens

30 June

Last date to send an application

2 July

Clearing opens

* 18:00 UK time

What support can you offer?

- Look at their UCAS hub with them
- Discuss what they enjoy and what further education plans they have?
- Discuss moving away from home or staying at home whilst studying
- Discuss finance: your support, jobs, budgeting.
- Encourage them to use the course and institution search.
- Research job opportunities in the subject area and destinations.
- Visit universities both physically and virtually.
- UCAS Parent, Carer and Guardian Guide
- www.unitasterdays.com

Support from school

- PD sessions in year 12 have focused on students' options after sixth form.
- **Next Steps** programme gave an overview of the application process, including how to draft personal statements. UCAS also has subject specific help.
- 2 university visits
- Sixth Form tutors will support students with their personal statements
- Sixth Form admin team check all applications
- Final check by a member of the Sixth Form team before the application is sent to UCAS
- Applications can be sent off now
- PD sessions in year 13 will focus on applying to university and apprenticeships, as well as advice about finance and budgeting, accommodation and living away from home.

Personal Statements

- Focuses on 3 key questions
- Limit is 4000 characters
- Students are need to write at least 350 characters in each section

WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS?

Why do you want to study this course or subject?



How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

You'll want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this might include:

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all.
The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to your subject or course(s), examples could include:

How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education – think school, college, training, or short online courses.

What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all.
The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

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Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for your subject or course(s), this could include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you've attained outside of the classroom.



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all.
The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

Cost

- £34.50 for 1-5 choices
- Most students will use all 5 choices
- Paid online
- Students who have been in receipt of free school meals over the last 6 years will have their fee waivered

Offers

Some universities ask for **specific grades** for the subjects being studied at A level.

Others will ask for a certain amount of **UCAS points**.

A levels

A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

AS levels

AS and AS VCE

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

EPQ is an AS qualification and, it is possible to get an A* which is worth 28 UCAS points.

Level 3 vocational courses

Pearson BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

Offers with grades

Psychology at University of Birmingham BSc - 3 years

Typical qualification requirements

A level	**AAA-AAB**

Entry requirements: AAA for applicants who do not have a science subject. AAB for those who do have a science subject (Please note that Psychology is a science subject).

Specified subjects excluded for entry: We do not accept General Studies, Critical Studies, Critical Thinking, Science in Society, World Development, Communication and Culture, Citizenship Studies and Use of Mathematics.

UCAS Tariff	**Not accepted**

They also offer an MSc – 4 year course

Offers with grades

Psychology at University of Birmingham BSc - 3 years

Historical entry grades data

This section shows the range of grades that students who received offers were previously accepted on to this course with (learn more).

It is designed to support your research but does not guarantee whether you will or won't get a place.

Admissions teams consider various factors, including interviews, subject requirements, and entrance tests. Check all course entry requirements for eligibility.

Grades held by accepted students

BBB
Most common

A*AA
Highest grades

BBC
Lowest grades

Offer rate for UK school & college leavers

80%

Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

Offers with grades and points

Psychology at Coventry University - 3 years

Typical qualification requirements

A level — **BBC**

Excludes General Studies.

UCAS Tariff — **Offer: 112**

4 qualifications for tariff points allowed. May also include AS level and EPQ.

GCSE/National 4/National 5

Maths GCSE grade 4 or above.

Offers with grades and points

Psychology at Coventry University - 3 years

Historical entry grades data

This section shows the range of grades that students who received offers were previously accepted on to this course with (learn more).

It is designed to support your research but does not guarantee whether you will or won't get a place.

Admissions teams consider various factors, including interviews, subject requirements, and entrance tests. Check all course entry requirements for eligibility.

Grades held by accepted students

DDD
Most common

BBB
Highest grades

DDE
Lowest grades

Offer rate for UK school & college leavers

99%

Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

Offers with grades and points

Accountancy at Coventry University - 3 years

Typical qualification requirements

A level — **BBB**

Specific A Level subjects not required

UCAS Tariff — **Offer: 120**

[1] 4 qualifications for tariff points allowed
[2] May also include AS Level and EPQ
[3] Specific subject not required

Offers with grades and points

Accountancy at Coventry University - 3 years

Historical entry grades data

This section shows the range of grades that students who received offers were previously accepted on to this course with (learn more).

It is designed to support your research but does not guarantee whether you will or won't get a place.

Data from: This course and 1 other accounting course

Date range: 2023-2025

Grades held by accepted students

CDD
Most common

BBC
Highest grades

DDE
Lowest grades

Offer rate for UK school & college leavers

99%

Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

Offers with points

Accountancy at Coventry University – Foundation course – 4 years

Typical qualification requirements

T Level — **Pass (D or E)**

Overall grade of Pass (D or E on the Core) in the T Level Qualification in any subject.

UCAS Tariff — **Offer: 64**

5 GCSEs at A-C/4-9 including Maths and English, and at least one A2 level or a BTEC equivalent qualification.

Four years of tuition fees!

Predicted grades

- Predominantly based on how students have performed in their end of year assessments
- Students are advised to choose their courses wisely and be realistic
- Unrealistic predicted grades do not do the students any favours
- UCAS advice is that predicted grades should be ***aspirational*** but ***achievable***

Admissions Tests

- Some courses require students to take admissions test as part of their selection criteria.
- These include Medicine, some Dentistry, some Veterinary Science and some Law courses.
- Oxbridge also have admissions tests for specific subjects.

Unconditional offers

- Some universities offer students **unconditional** offers in a bid to attract them to study at their university.
- This does not mean that students should stop working! To do so is likely to impact later-on in life. Bursaries and job offers are often dependent on A level results.

Getting offers!

- Students need to respond to their offers once they have had a decision from all of the universities.
- They can pick up to 2 of the offers they have received.
- **Firm** offer - usually has the highest grades.
- **Insurance** offer - usually lower grades than the firm choice.
- If students have an **unconditional** offer, they only need to make **1** choice.

No offers?

- This can happen!
- However, if students get rejected from all the courses they have applied to, they can select a further course via UCAS Extra from **Thursday 25th February 2027**.
- If they are unsuccessful then they can apply for further courses.

Top ten tips

1. Start research early – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
2. Register in the UCAS Hub and browse through courses – so they can work out what they would enjoy or be interested in.
3. Know the deadlines – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
4. Go to UCAS events and course provider open days – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
5. Check entry requirements – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
6. Redraft their personal statement – get plenty of feedback and refine it until they're happy.
7. Understand student finance – so they can make the best arrangements to fund their studies.
8. Be prepared for results day – make sure they're prepared for all the possible outcomes.
9. Understand how Extra and Clearing work – different ways to apply for more courses.
10. Visit our Facebook and Twitter regularly to get advice and ask questions.

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Student Finance is changing!

- Applications usually open in Feb/March.
- Student finance.gov.uk

Student Finance

For courses starting on or after 1 January 2027, you may need to apply for student finance through the new student finance system. The new system is called your Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE). It replaces previous higher education and some further education funding.

You'll need to apply through LLE funding if you study certain courses and modules from levels 4 to 6 or some courses from level 7. This includes most undergraduate and some postgraduate and further education courses.

Student finance video 1
Student finance video 2

What you can get

You may be able to apply for:

- Tuition Fee Loans to help pay your course tuition fees
- Maintenance Loans to help with your living costs

The amount of Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans you get partly depends on the number of credits you study.

Tuition Fee Loans

Depending on how much previous study you've done, you can apply for Tuition Fee Loans up to a total amount of £39,160. This can be for a full course or split over multiple courses. This amount is based on current rates and may change over time. £39,160 represents around 4 years of full-time study or 480 credits.

Maintenance Loans

You can only apply for Maintenance Loans to help cover your living costs when you:

- still have at least £1,587.50 left from your Tuition Fee Loan amount
- attend your course in person

You may be able to apply for Maintenance Loans after you've used all your Tuition Fee Loan amount if you study certain degrees which last longer than 4 years.

You normally cannot get a Maintenance Loan for distance learning courses. If you cannot attend your course in person, you can only apply for a Maintenance Loan if you have a disability or long-term illness.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships

University is not the only route to take in life. It has lots of positives but there are also alternatives which offer a different but equally good set of next steps.

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is a real job where students learn, gain experience and get paid. They are an employee with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- By the end of an apprenticeship, they will have the right skills and knowledge needed for their chosen career.
- It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one they choose, what level it is and their previous experience. It's funded from contributions made by the government and the employer.

Apprenticeships

- 80% of the working week is at the place of employment, and 20% at the place of study.
- They will earn a salary, and their course fees will be paid by the employer and the government. They will need to manage their time between work and study.
- There are many different apprenticeships they can apply for depending on their existing qualifications across a broad range of different industries

Types of apprenticeships

- There are four levels of apprenticeship available, each offering different levels of qualification: intermediate, advanced, higher, and degree.
- Traineeships are also available to those who do not have GCSEs.

Level 1	Grades 1-3 at GCSE	Level 4	First year degree
Level 2	Grades 4-9 at GCSE	Level 5	Second year degree
Level 3	A Level/BTEC level 3	Level 6	Third year degree
		Level 7	Masters degree

	Intermediate level apprenticeships (Level 2)	Advanced level apprenticeships (Level 3)	Higher level apprenticeships (Level 4+)	Degree level apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7)
Equivalent to	Five GCSE passes grades 9 – 4 or A* – C (e.g. NVQ/BTEC First Diploma)	Two A level passes/BTEC National Diploma	Foundation degree, Higher National Diploma, NVQ Level 4	Bachelor's or master's degree
Qualifications needed	May need two+ GCSEs including English and maths, but it's also possible to study these while doing your apprenticeship	Typically need five+ GCSEs at grades 9 – 4 or A* – C, including English and maths or a BTEC First Diploma	Typically need Level 3 qualifications like A levels, NVQs or a BTEC, ideally relevant to apprenticeship	Typically need A levels or significant work experience in a similar sector if you're a mature applicant
Length of study	12 to 18 months depending on the apprentice's ability	Approximately two years	Up to five years	Three to six years
Great option for	•16 year olds who don't want to study A levels. •Practical learner looking to get an early foothold in the job market. •Has a career in mind.	•People who already have Level 3 qualifications such as A levels or BTECs, and are highly competitive. •May also have to compete with existing employees who want to gain a qualification. •Knows what job they want or career sector.	•School or college leavers looking to enter into a work environment and gain a higher qualification, but not necessarily a full degree. •However, expect to compete with employed adults and, maybe, existing employees.	•School or college leavers looking to gain a degree qualification without the university fees, while also gaining valuable work experience. •However, expect to compete with employed adults and, maybe, existing employees. •Mature students with work experience.

Finding an apprenticeship

- Google: "Find an apprenticeship"
- Some companies have their own apprenticeship websites.

What to look for in an advert

- When looking at an advert for an apprenticeship, there are some key things to look out for.
- The obvious ones are: Wages, working hours, job role, qualifications needed
- Less obvious are: closing date, duration and qualifications.

What to look for in advert

The drop out rate for apprenticeships is 45.4% (this is much higher for level 2 and 3 course than level 4+)

The drop out rate for degree courses is just 2.7%!

Mock exams and data

- Mocks 1 - December
- Mocks 2 - March
- 2 Data collections – November and February
- Subject evening – February

Key dates

Friday 18th September 2026	Internal deadline for Oxbridge and Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Science
Wednesday 15th October 2026	UCAS deadline for Oxbridge and Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Science
Friday 20th November 2026	Internal deadline for UCAS applications
W/b 30/11/26	Year 13 Mock exams 1
Wednesday 13th January 2027	UCAS deadline for equal consideration
Thursday 11th February 2027	Year 12 and 13 Subject Evening and Careers Fair
W/b 01/03/27	Year 13 Mock exams 2
Monday 10th May – Friday 18th June 2027	Provisional A level/Vocational exams period
TBC	Sixth form prom

Contacting the sixth form team

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the year team directly, either by

Phone (02476444822)

or

through the email address below:

sixthformteam@caludoncastle.co.uk