



Princethorpe
College

What happens after Princethorpe: a parents guide

Jacqui Quinney

Head of Careers & UCAS Coordinator

Where do our students go?

- Most go to university [University Placements 2017 110118 RFU.docx](#)
- Many choose a 'gap year'
- Increasing attraction of degree apprenticeships

A Levels and alternatives...

- A Levels are largely academic qualifications
 - Still the gold standard
 - Lots of subject choice
 - Only 3 taken - narrow choice
 - Linear assessment
- Alternatives are available – still allow progression to higher education e.g. BTEC Level 3
- Apprenticeships and employment with training at 16

University??

- The experience and learning process
- Essential for some professions
- Higher earning potential – at least £100k over lifetime
- Independence and maturity

Applying to University

- Process starts in Y11 – choose right A Levels, possibly make visits
- 5 choices – no order of preference
 - **156** Universities in the UK
 - **384** Institutions altogether
 - **37,000** Courses in the UK
- 1963 – 216,000 applications;
- 2015 – 3.6 million applications

Degree Apprenticeships

- Introduced September 2015 – big growth area
- Areas with skills gaps e.g.:
 - Engineering
 - Chartered surveying
 - Laboratory science
 - IT and digital skills
 - PR
 - management

How do we prepare our students to make decisions:

- Y9 GCSE options: Life Skills sessions on decision-making skills, knowing yourself, how to choose etc
- Y10/11 – individual one-to-one interviews with Careers Team. Help investigate which careers may be suitable/interesting, Princethorpe Careers Fair
- Y11 – interviews continue
- 6th Form – individual interviews, talks from universities and employers, visit to UCAS Conference, Princethorpe Careers Fair.
- <https://www.unifrog.org/>

What can you do...?

- Talk about careers including your own
- Encourage independent thinking skills early
- Help with setting up meaningful work experience placements
- Take pupils to Open Days – possibly start in Y11
- Talk about university, leaving home etc.