

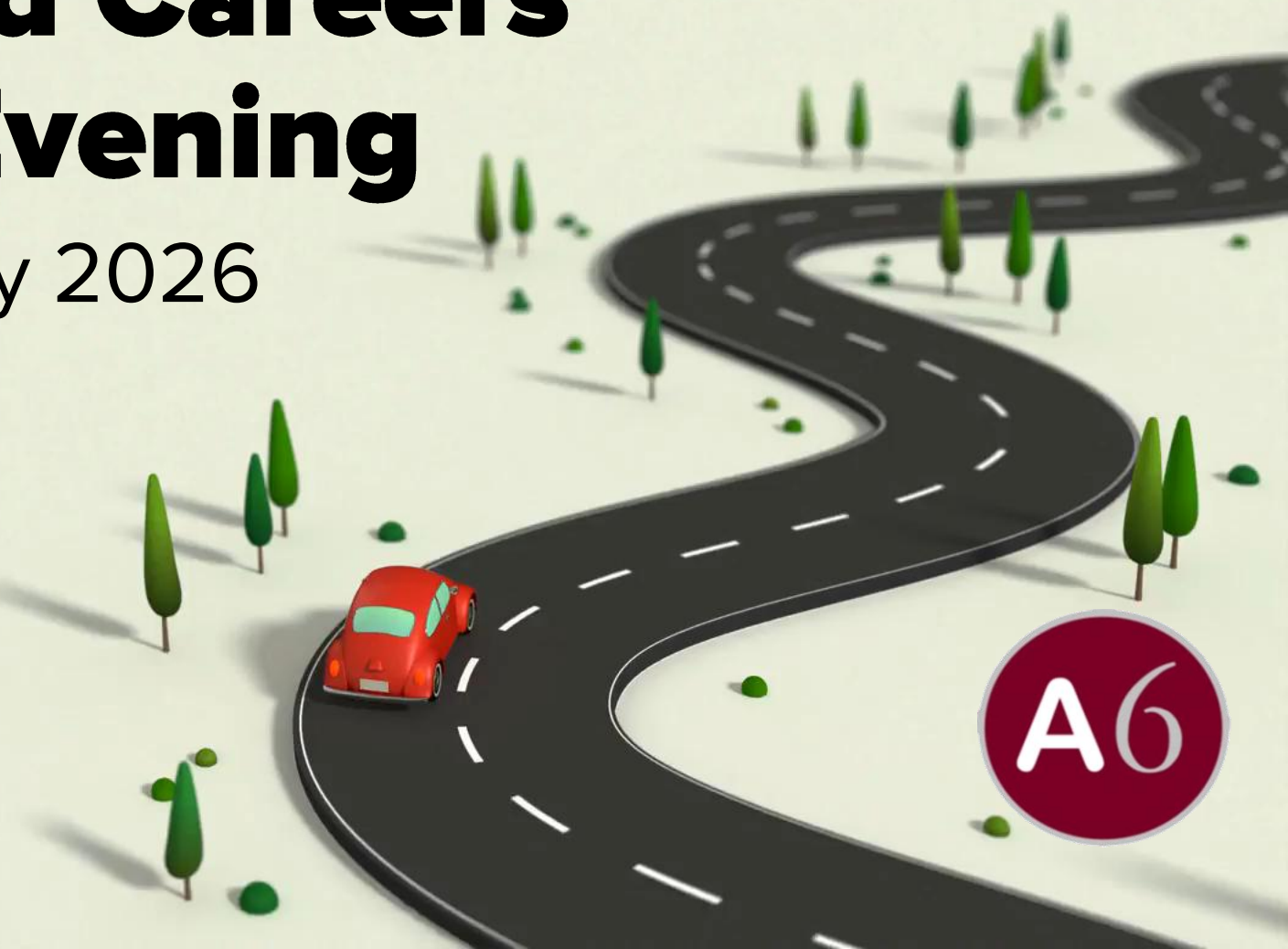
Year 12 Parent and Carers University and Careers Information Evening

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Refreshments



Please help yourself to a drink.



This evening our aim is...

*To support you in supporting your young person
in researching, making decisions about and
successfully applying for their post-18
destination.*



University

- 395 providers offering 50,000 courses!
- Anything from Accounting to Zoology
- Full-time, part-time, distance learning



What makes university the right pathway for a student?

- Degree requirement for a specific career/profession.
- Desire to undertake academic learning at a higher level.
- Experience of independent living and moving to a different area of the country (potentially).

Introduction to the process of applying for University

UCAS





The Big Picture!

University applications typically consist of up to 5 choices, specifically referencing:

- Course (inc. form the course will take - undergraduate)
- University
- Campus





The Big Picture!

Information provided to UCAS when applying:

- Personal information
- Grades for qualifications you currently hold e.g. GCSEs
- A 'Personal Statement'





The Big Picture!

As a Sixth Form we provide:

- An expected grade for each of your subjects.
- A positive and accurate reference (written by student's tutor).





Year 12 Progression Exams

- Tuesday 14th to Monday 20th April.
- Exams set in full invigilated exam conditions.
- Papers marked in line with exam board expectations and grade boundaries.
- Grades awarded factoring in coursework/NEA grades, where completed.
- These grades are used as the starting point for the grade provided to UCAS for student references.
- Students should be dedicating a significant amount of time to prepare for the exams.

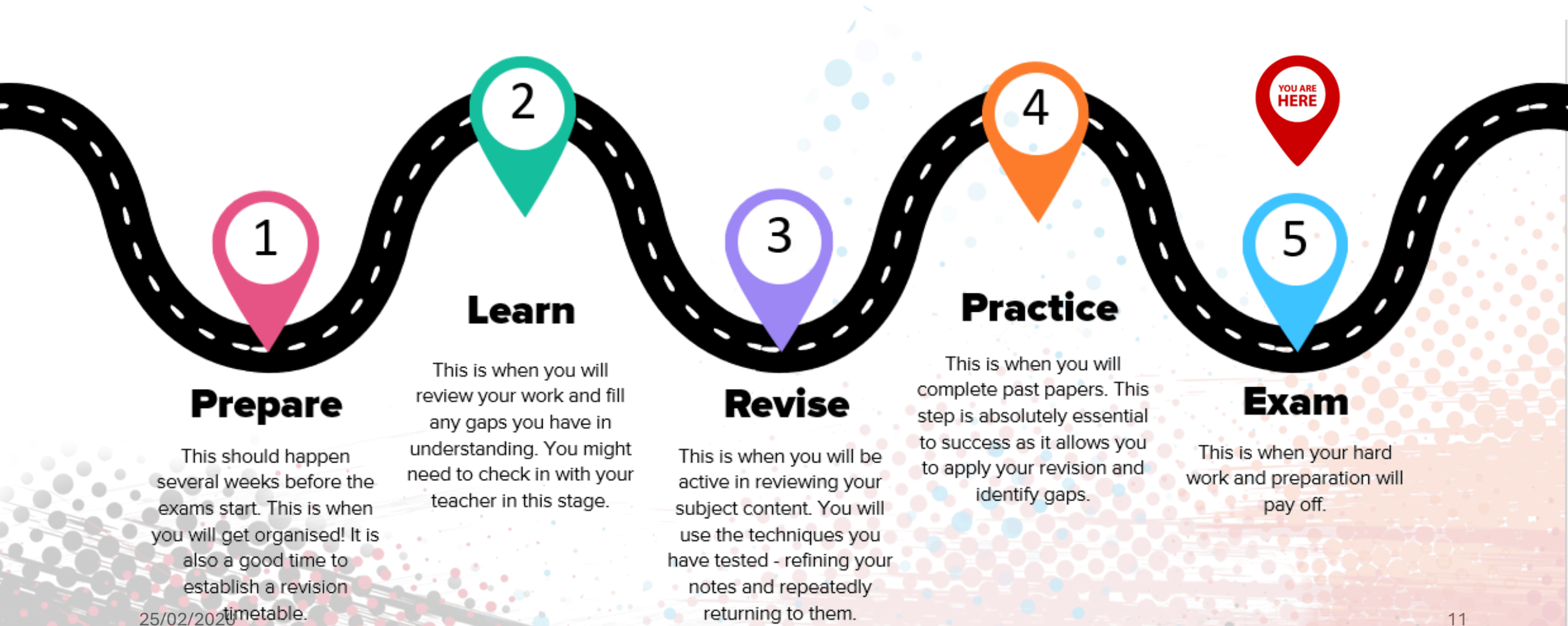
Morning learning reflections:

Prepare for progress



Morning learning reflections:

Prepare for progress





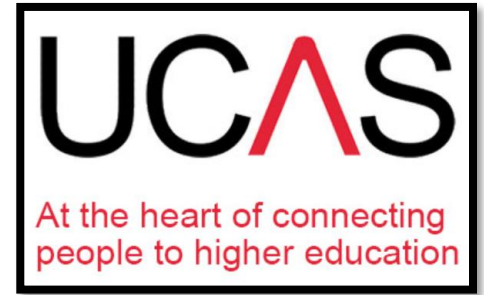
The Big Picture!

- 12th May '26 UCAS Open for September 2027 applications to be registered
- 2nd June '26 Start work on Personal Statement (using Unifrog)
- 3rd Oct '26 Deadline for submission Conservatoire (Music) TBC
- 15th Oct '26 Deadline for submission of Early Entry (OxBridge, Medics, Dentists, Vets)
- 30th Nov '26 **Alsager Sixth Form internal deadline for submission**
- 14th Jan '27 UCAS final deadline for submission





Student Finance



- Loan (Martin Lewis: Student Loans Decoded [Link](#))
 - Tuition fees - set amount for everyone - £9250 per year
 - Maintenance – means tested based on parent income (considerations: parent contribution, having a job to support university costs and scholarships)
- How is it different to a normal loan?
 - 9% contribution over £25,000, e.g. if you earn £25,100 you would pay back £9.
 - Loan is written off 40 years after first repayment is made.



University Application Roadmap

What are you interested in studying and which of the universities that offer the course is the right one for you? (**now**).
Tools: Unifrog (libraries), online tables e.g. What Uni?, Open days (in person or online events) UCAS Discovery, UCAS Hub.

Research

LINK:
UCAS
HUB

Attend open events, confirm course choices and finalise personal statement (October).
Tools: UCAS apply portal.

Start to apply

Submit application.
(1st December)

Apply

UCAS

Personal Statement

Self-development

Complete Apply sections on UCAS Hub. Drafting your personal statement and completing personal notes to help your tutor write your reference (July).
Tools: Enrichment workshop, Unifrog 'Know How' guides and personal statement tool, UCAS webinars.

Gathering and recording evidence for your personal statement (and interview) that supports your application (**now**).
Tools: Further reading/independent learning, Webinars, MOOCs, Work Experience.

The personal statement



The section they have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed

Three questions:

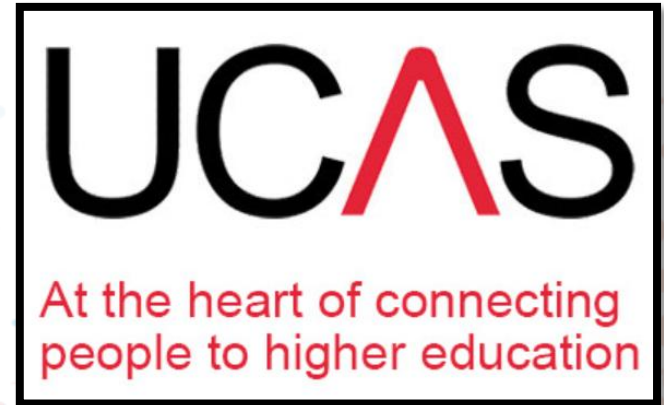
1. **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
2. **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course?**
3. **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences helpful?**

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.



What happens after you apply

- UCAS Track
 - Offers!
 - Interviews and applicant days
- Applying for student finance
- Accommodation
- Plan B if needed (extra and clearing)
- Results day – decisions from universities and support here if you need it.





UCAS Discovery Exhibition

- Manchester Central Convention Complex
- Wednesday 4th March
- Representatives from around 300 universities, employers, colleges and related organisations
- The event plays a vital part in helping students decide what and where to study within higher education.
- There will also be support for students interested in sponsored degrees, apprenticeships, the Armed Services and volunteering.





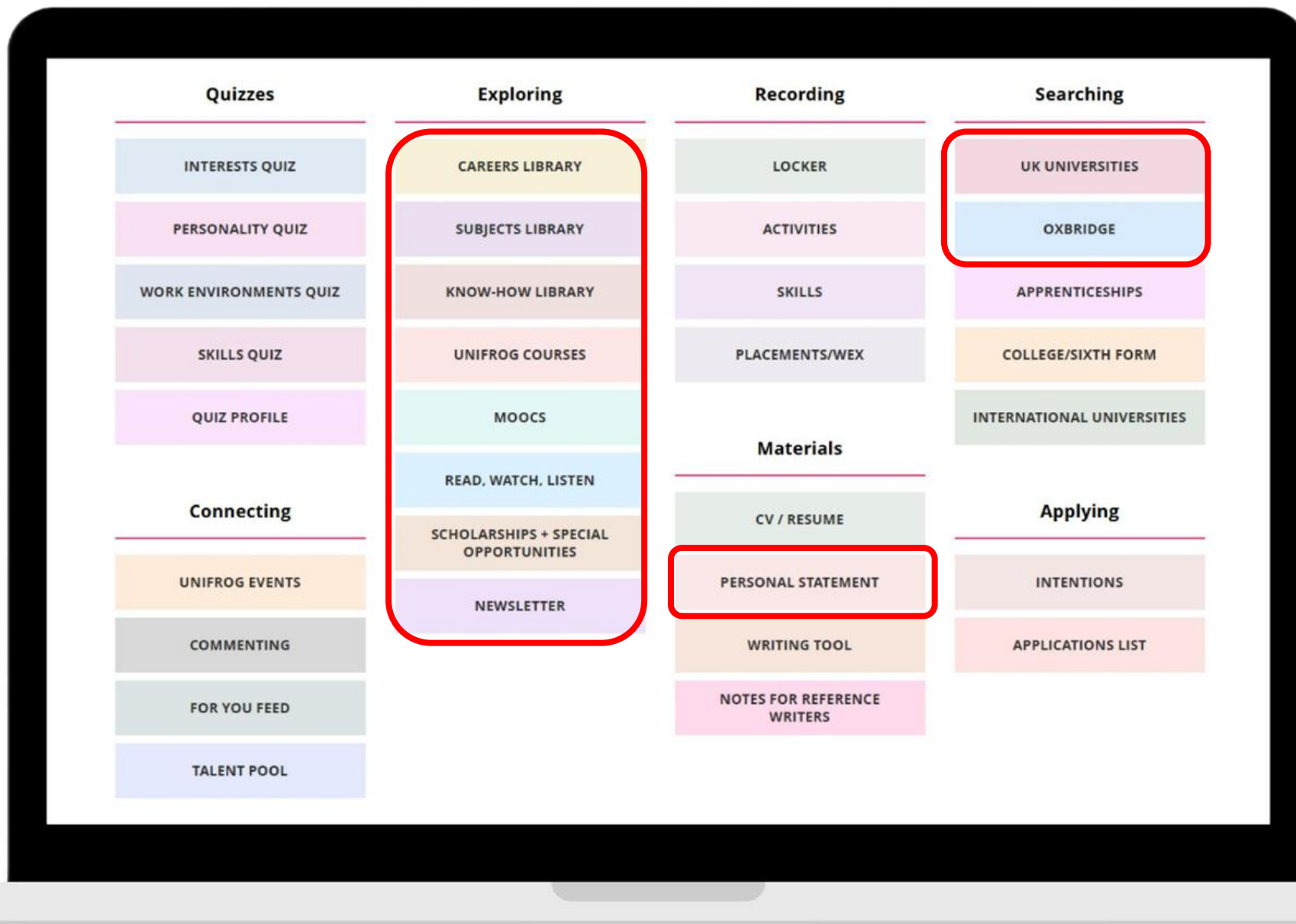
UCAS Discovery Exhibition

- Parent/Carer/Guardian consent is required – please help us with completing this on ParentPay.
- Coaches will leave after break and return in time for the school buses.
- Students do not need to follow dress code but are asked to dress sensibly.
- Food and drink available at the venue but students can bring their own lunch/snacks/drinks.



What is Unifrog?

- Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school.
- The Unifrog tools support students to:
 - Explore their interests
 - Research and find their next step
 - Apply successfully



Parents and caregivers: get signed up!

You can create your own account to see key details about your child's Unifrog journey, and to access the tools in the same way students do!

Scan this QR code or go to www.unifrog.org/parent and create an account using your email address or single-sign on (i.e. signing in with Google or Microsoft)

