

Year 12 Parent and Carers University and Careers Information Evening

Tuesday 24th February 2026





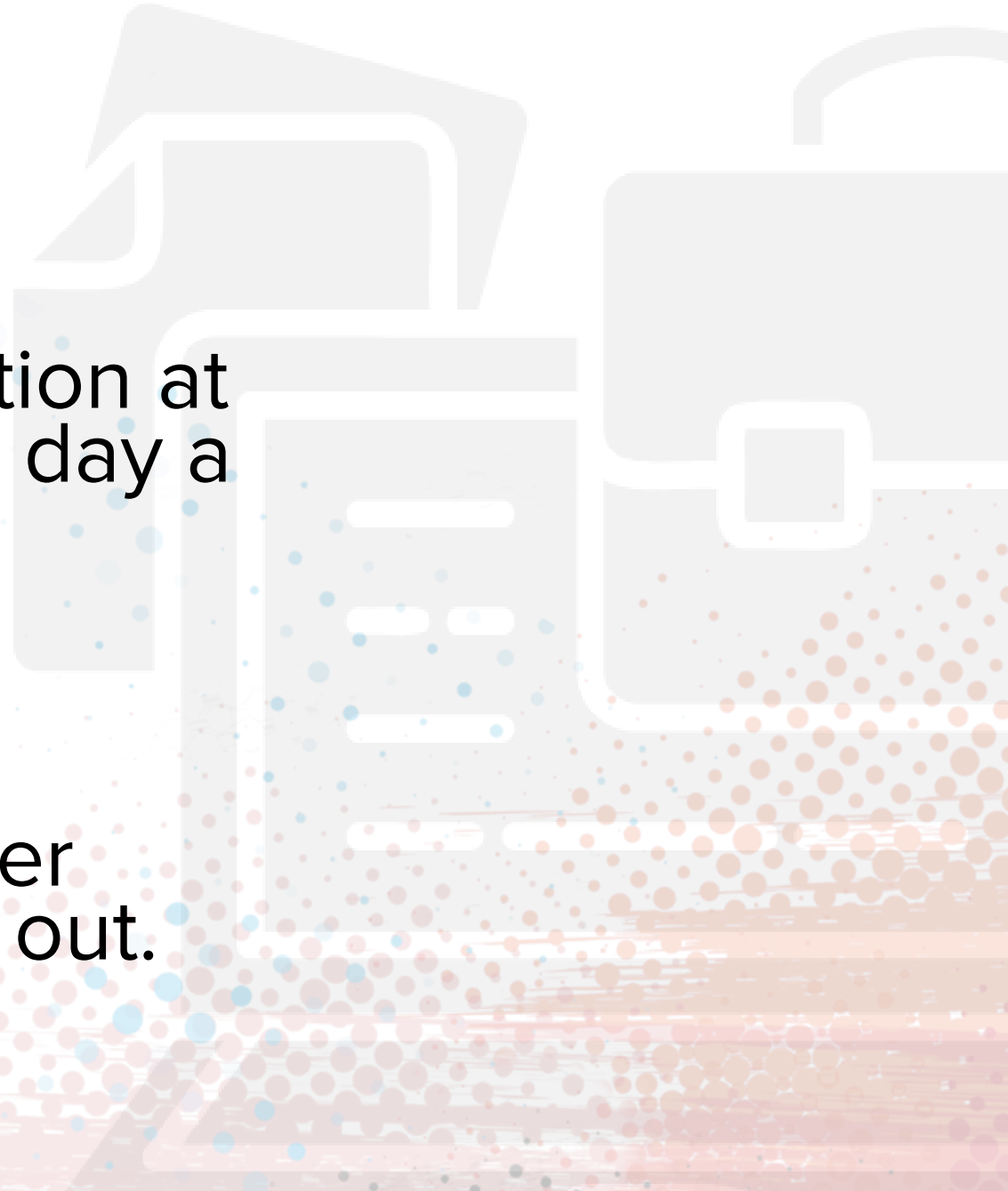
This evening our aim is...

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



Apprenticeships

- Employed to do a real job
- Studying for a formal qualification at the same time, usually for one day a week:
 - At a college
 - At a training centre
 - 'On site'
- Can be close to home or further afield with the option to move out.





What makes apprenticeships/ employment the right pathway for a student?

- The best path for a particular career or profession
- Ready for a change in environment
- A desire to earn money whilst avoiding entering into student debt.
- Ready for a different type of challenge



Levels of apprenticeships:

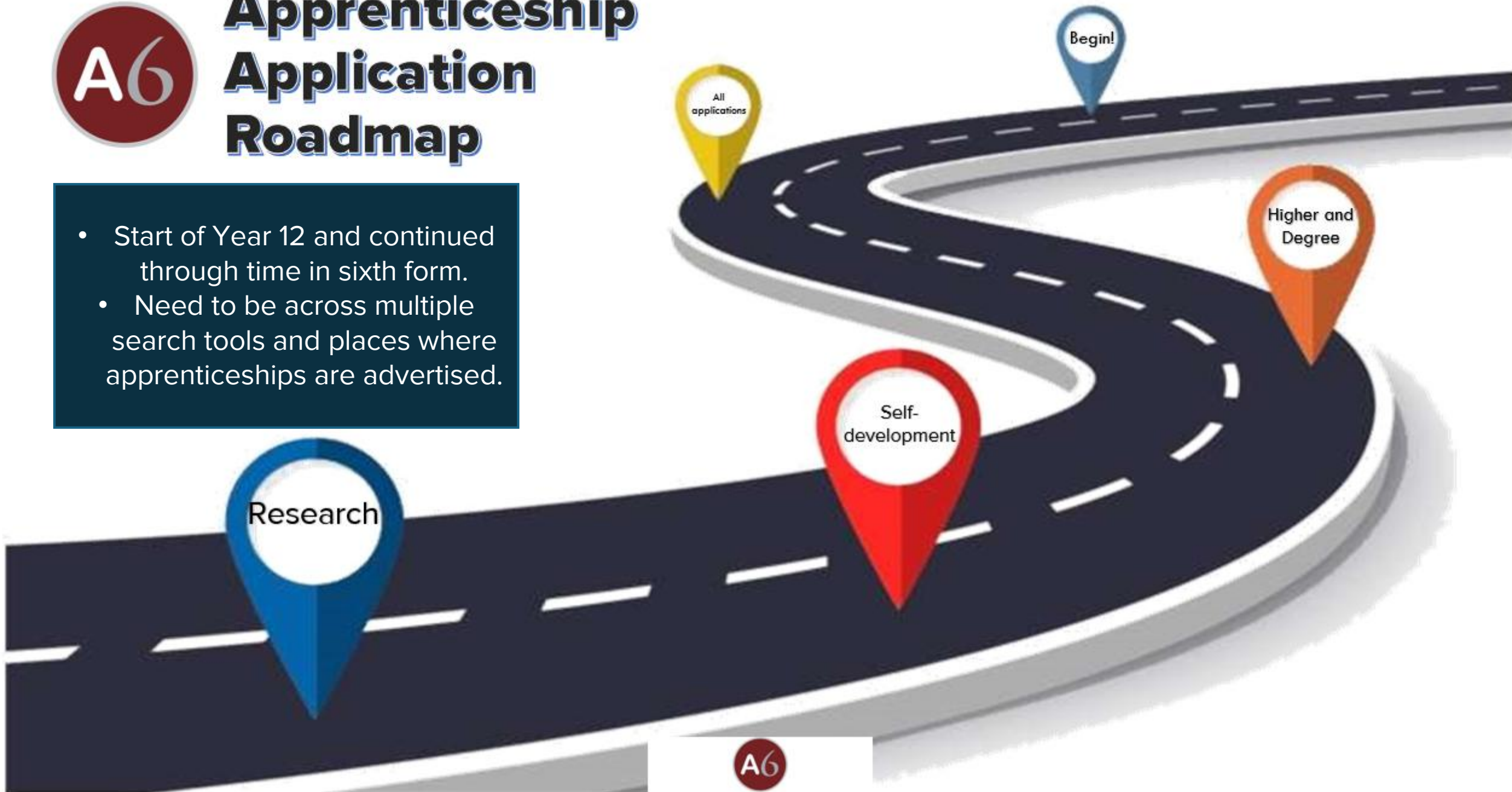
		LEVEL				
UNIVERSITY	8	Doctorate PhD				
	7	Master's Degree MA, MSc, MPhil				
	6	Undergraduate Degree BA, BSc			Higher Apprenticeships	Degree Apprenticeships
	5		Foundation degree FdA, FdSc	Higher National Diploma HND		
	4			Higher National Certificate HNC		
COLLEGE	3	AS / A2 / A level T Level	BTEC Nationals		Advanced Apprenticeships	
SCHOOL	2	GCSE Grades 9–4	BTEC Firsts		Intermediate Apprenticeships	
	1	GCSE Grades 3–1				

- The next incremental step from Sixth Form.
- Can go directly to degree level apprenticeships.
- The higher the level of apprenticeship the higher the pay and responsibility.
- Advanced apprenticeships may be worth considering as a stepping stone.



Apprenticeship Application Roadmap

- Start of Year 12 and continued through time in sixth form.
- Need to be across multiple search tools and places where apprenticeships are advertised.





Research

Where to look for apprenticeships

- Unifrog
- UCAS Hub
- Government websites
 - Indeed
- Specific businesses organisations with apprenticeship programmes, e.g. Astra Zeneca or Barclays.



“I don’t know what I want to do!”

Some useful questions:

1. What are your current interests? What employment sectors are linked?
2. What does the global market information and labour market information suggest about areas of employment need (<https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/digest/>, <https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/foresight-posters/> and <https://help.open.ac.uk/research-labour-market/labour-market-information>).
3. Links with your part-time job (if you have one)
4. Style of job:
 - Office or outside?
 - Paperwork/computers/practical?
 - Team of people/on your own/working from home?
5. Level of pay – work to live or live to work?
6. Do you want to stay at home? Move away? Work overseas?



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It is worth remembering that these questions still might not lead to a specific industry/job/role. Flexibility vs. specificity – allow preferences to **filter** opportunities but being open to a range of opportunities is a good thing.

Useful links for research

- Unifrog - [Unifrog - The universal destinations platform.](#)
- UCAS is updated daily
 - <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england>
- Government
 - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
 - <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/browse-apprenticeships>
- Indeed
 - <https://uk.indeed.com/Apprenticeships-jobs>
- If you are interested in a specific business/organisation, make sure that you look at their website. For example;
 - NHS - <https://www.combined.nhs.uk/working-together/apprenticeships/>
 - Astra Zeneca - <https://careers.astrazeneca.com/early-talent>
 - Bentley - https://careers.bentleymotors.com/content/Early-Careers/?locale=en_GB
 - EY - https://www.ey.com/en_uk/careers/students/programmes/schools
 - Barclays - https://www.ey.com/en_uk/careers/students/programmes/schools
 - JCB - <https://careers.jcb.com/early-careers/apprenticeships>





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Gathering and recording evidence of skills and experiences to support your application.





Evidence students should use to support job and apprenticeship applications:

- Work experience (placements and part-time work)
- Relevant supra-curriculars – reading, viewing, watching
 - Volunteering
- Examples of ‘soft skills’ embedded within your sixth form studies
 - Extra-curricular sports or clubs

It's important students record these – the activities log on Unifrog is great for this.



Work Experience 22nd to 26th June

- Highly valuable, enhancing employability skills and supporting the process of future applications.
- Students are required to find their own placement for this week.
- Tutors have been supporting students to:
 - Identify local businesses
 - Review their own contacts (friends/family)
 - Write an email to enquire/request a placement



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Research

Self-development

All applications

Begin!

Higher and Degree

September:
Applying for Higher
and Degree
Apprenticeships

Gathering and recording
evidence of skills and
experiences to support
your application.



September 2026 onwards: Higher and Degree level apprenticeships begin to launch although main push is January to March for start date of following September.

NHS: Between September and March

Astra Zeneca: January

Bentley: February (last year it was the 10th February)

Ernest Young: Between September and March

Barclays: Between October and March (however you can sign up for their '[Talent Pool](#)' at any time to receive updates)

JCB: Around November

Highly recommend that you email organisations and request to be kept informed/added to mailing lists.



Higher and
Degree

Self-
development



Apprenticeship Application Roadmap

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January onwards:
Active searching for all
apprenticeships and
employment
opportunities.

September:
Applying for Higher
and Degree
Apprenticeships

Gathering and recording
evidence of skills and
experiences to support
your application.





All
applications

- Make sure you are prepared and ready to apply:
- CV is up to date
 - Have a draft/general supporting statement/covering letter – remember to adapt this to the role you are applying for to meet the points on the required, desirable and person specification.
 - Have completed some research into the organisation you are applying for (and that you can link your skills, experience and character to their values).
 - Have researched likely processes involved with the selection process – interviews, panels, group tasks, assessment centres, psychometric tests.
- This may continue up to and beyond your exams – keep monitoring your emails as we will forward opportunities.



Information shared with students on preparing a job/apprenticeship application

- Items that are commonly used:
 - Application Form
 - CV
 - Covering letter
 - References
- Remember every aspect of your application will be noticed including errors, grammar (capital letters), untidy formatting etc. so double check your materials





Using A.I. – Some guidance

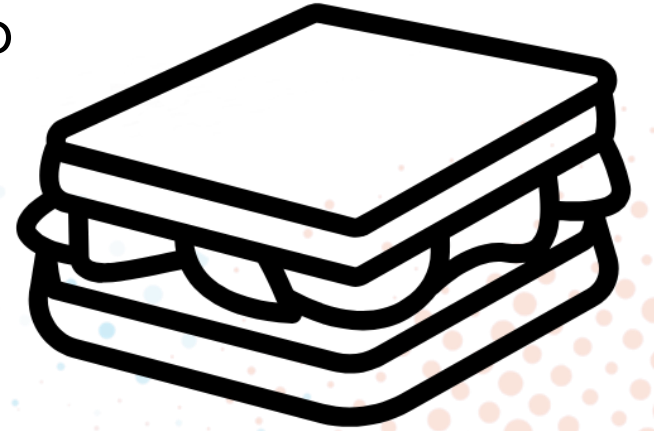
- Always avoid using A.I. to write wholesale statements or sections of your applications.
- Many organisations have highly effective A.I. checkers in place that will block applicants from being shortlisted. This may also lead to future applications not being considered.
- A.I. can though be useful to:
 - Clarify job requirements
 - Provide a 'jumping off point' to breakdown blocks in thinking
 - Check spelling/grammar and standards of writing.
 - Prepare for interview questions/scenarios.



Using A.I. – Sandwich Model

1. Personalised inputs:

- Specific information about the job role you are applying for – make a document with lots of information relevant to you and the role (including your table!)
- Information about your qualifications, skills, experiences, etc.





Aspect of person specification	My skills and experiences with examples
Communication skills	• Delivered presentations in my A-level Psychology lesson about methods of scanning the brain, explaining ideas clearly and answering questions from classmates. • Helped at school open evenings by speaking with parents and prospective students in a friendly and confident way.
IT skills	• Created spreadsheets in Excel/Sheets to track data for my business studies project. • Used online platforms such as Teams and Google Classroom to organise my work and submit assignments on time.
Attention to detail	• Followed instructions precisely during science practicals to make sure results were reliable. • Ensured stock labels and pricing were correct in my part-time retail job.
Problem solving skills	• Helped customers find alternatives when items were out of stock at work. • Resolved timetable clashes by speaking to teachers and arranging a workable solution.
Administrative skills	• Managed my own deadlines by keeping a clear schedule for homework, revision, and part-time work. • Filed and organised digital documents for my subjects so I could find notes quickly when revising.
Analytical skills	• Analysed data in psychology/business studies to identify patterns and draw conclusions. • Compared different viewpoints in psychology essays, evaluating evidence before forming my own argument.
Logical	• Broke down complex problems in maths/computer science into smaller steps to work through them methodically.



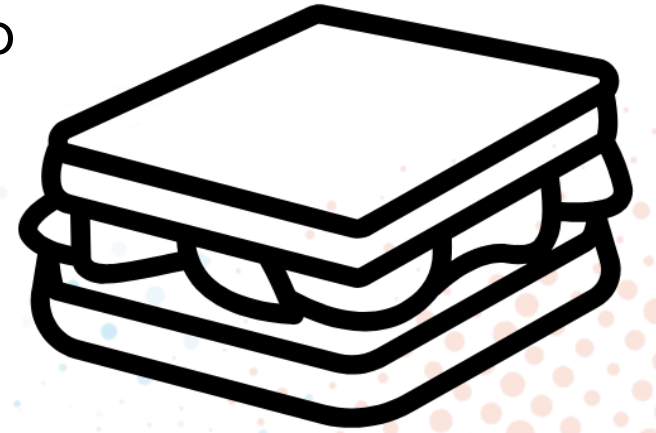
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- Information about your qualifications, skills, experiences, etc.

2. Use of A.I. with effective commands to manage the quality of the output.

3. Personalisation of the information generated by A.I. to further enhance the statement and the feel of the final result.





Support for students

There are a number of different people who can help support students through this process:

- Their tutor
- The Inspired Futures Team - Mrs Casewell and Mrs Brown
- Mrs Brookshaw, Mr Rayner and Mrs James
- Pledge – an organisation who provide a series of support sessions in the Autumn term for Year 13 students.





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)

