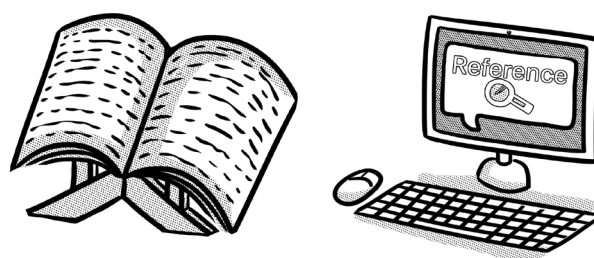


## For parents of students considering university

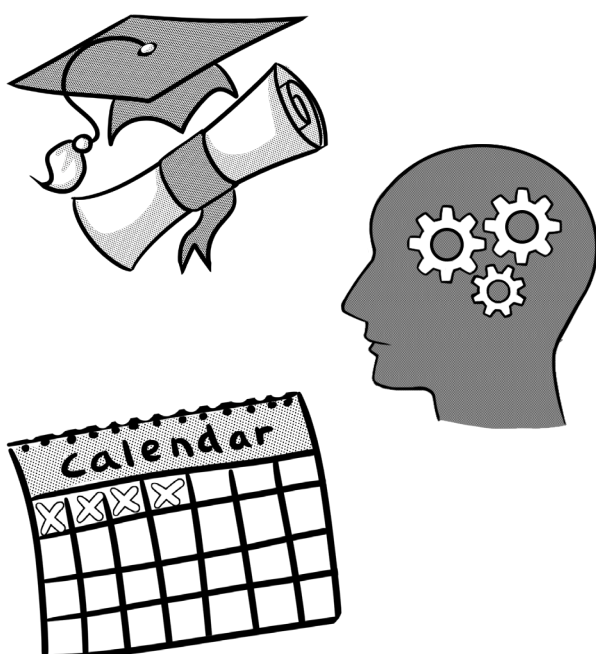
# The Process

With 350 institutions and 56,000 different courses to choose from, this can seem like a minefield so here are a few tips to help negotiate it:

1. Students should answer 3 key questions for themselves – WHY (go)? WHAT (to study)? And WHERE (to study)?
2. The sooner these are answered the better. Students can then concentrate on doing the things that will make any application a strong one, i.e. showing they are independent learners, are organised and can use their own initiative. What is achieved in Year 12 is crucial as this is what applications will be based on.
3. All courses are different so they'll need to do lots of research to find out which ones will suit them. Encourage them to discuss this with you.



4. There are Open Days and masses of online information. Find out what the school recommends. We strongly recommend Careers Mag and Unifrog.
5. From May (in Year 12) students should be drafting personal statements to go on their application form. These should be submitted well ahead of the official deadline of January 15th in Year 13, we recommend by November 15th. Some courses have an October 15th deadline.
6. Students can apply for up to 5 different courses. They are not rank ordered but there will probably be preferences. When offers come in, some may be easier to achieve but may not be a student's first choice. Go for the best place, not necessarily the easiest.



**Applications are made through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admission Service). Their websites are really useful:**

**UCAS**

**UCAS FOR PARENTS**