

Sutton Grammar School Information Letter Students looking to reapplication in 2024-5

The period following results day is an important time to reflect on your options and aspirations for the year ahead. If at this point you do not have firm plans for September, it is essential to understand your options, in order that you can make informed choices that will best benefit your long-term ambitions. Take time to talk to parents and friends about your options, in addition to seeking advice from the school where necessary.

One option available to students currently enrolled on UCAS for this year is to apply through Clearing. Whilst many students will have explored this option already, it is well worth spending time reviewing all options and courses available on the site as many universities have spaces on courses which do not immediately show up. Clearing is open this year until the 21st October.

A second option to students is to resit exams and either reapply on UCAS or start new applications via post-18 routes like degree apprenticeships. We as a school are happy to support students through allowing them to sit exams at the school site, though it is important only to embark on this route if it is linked to specific and achievable outcomes. For these students, UCAS Predicted Grades would be set the same as for your previous academic cycle, as there will be no further assessed material to review these. If you are looking to resit exams in the year ahead, please read through the outline of the process below before confirming the next steps with the Head of Year and Exams Office. The school deadlines for UCAS submissions this year are below. These deadlines are for all students and must be stuck to in order to guarantee submission before external deadlines. If after reading this letter you decide that you would like to re-apply, you will need to submit the section of the letter at the bottom to Mr Marris.

Early applicants – **20th September 2024**

Non-early applicants – **2nd December 2024**

For students looking to resit A level exams, we can:

- Allow entry to exams through Sutton Grammar School, providing you with a candidate number and allowing you to take all exams on site. Students will pay for their own exam entries, plus a small administration fee towards invigilation costs.
- Provide information and key dates on the application cycle for the year ahead.
- Allow students to be linked to the school on UCAS with a specific buzzword. This year, it is **Pobedonostsev**.
- Provide teacher references as part of UCAS applications.
- Read a draft of a personal statement draft by the Head of Year and offer feedback.
- Give continued access to information from key societies such as those linked to Oxbridge, medicine or law. This will include details of the UCAT and STEP tests through email communication from relevant teachers.
- Allow continued access to Unifrog, which is a fantastic resource for researching university and other post-18 options. It also offers tools like a CV builder and a number of relevant articles. Contact Mr Marris if you do not know your login details.
- Give initial advice on applications and choices in the period following A-level results day via meetings on results day or a subsequent telephone meeting.

Alongside taking resits, it is advisable that students plan how they are going to spend the majority of their year, in order to maximise the effectiveness of their future applications. Relevant work experience and study in fields where they may look to study in the future can prove invaluable in students developing a better understanding of their subject areas and also developing statements and applications. Links with more information on all of these options can be found below.

Work Experience and Study

- Gap Year Placement at Turpin, Baker Armstrong Accountants - <https://www.turpinba.co.uk/>. Let Mr Marris know if this is something you are interested in.
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/work-experience-and-volunteering>
- <https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/for-students-a-guide-to-placements-work-experience>

- MOOCs are an example of study courses that can help students to deepen their understanding in specific areas of interest alongside boosting their applications: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/moocs-massive-open-online-courses-explained> / <https://www.unifrog.org/student/moocs/start>

Gap Year and Travel

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about> (there are also links on here to give you some ideas for volunteering and experience)
- <https://independentgapadvice.org/> (Offering free and impartial advice on taking a gap year)
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year/gap-year-ideas>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/how-do-universities-view-gap-years>
- <https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/a-guide-to-gap-years> (Unifrog login required)
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/advice-on-a-gap-year>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year>

Parameters of resits

Unfortunately, due to the intense demands placed on the school and sixth form team in supporting all current students with their applications, we are unable to offer the same support to students resitting exams as those in our sixth form. As a result, students resitting exams will not have access to teaching in subject areas, preparation for interviews or tests or the ability to have papers marked. It is also not possible for students to have drop in sessions with staff on-site unless arranged through the school. The limitations on staff time also means that students are not able to sit mock exams in the run up to their A-level resit exams. This would mean that in the eventuality of a cancelled exam or student absence from a resit exam, the grade previously achieved in their A-level exams would stand as the final grade. Finally, we are also unable to extend the offer of resitting exams or the offer of formal support to students beyond their first year of reapplication. If students would like to reapply after the first year of application, or feel they need to apply with higher predicted grades, we would recommend they apply via a 'reference-only' route or as an independent candidate, in order that a tutor or teacher outside of school could be more directly involved in the process. <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/help-and-training/guides-resources-and-training/writing-references/reference-processes-and-terminology>

If you have any questions about your current options or situation or would like to move forward with plans to resit exams next year, please contact your Head of Year by email.

Kind regards,

Mr Marris
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher
Sutton Grammar School

Intention to re-apply

If you are intending to apply through UCAS again in the next academic year, please fill in this section of your letter and hand it in to Mr Marris by Monday 9th September. Alternatively, you can send this confirmation by email to him directly.

Name:

I have / have not read the information relating to reapplication through UCAS at SGS. I understand the support available to me and also the deadlines I have to meet in order for my application to be reviewed and sent.

Signed:

Date: