

Uxbridge College

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers – January 2017

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about Uxbridge College – we know choosing a college is an important decision. Our students are at the heart of what we do and preparing them for a fantastic future to achieve their full potential is our priority. We are proud to be one of the top colleges in London with consistently high success rates and an outstanding Ofsted grade. Our students go on to great things once they have completed their study programme and last year almost 800 students progressed to university with many more going into good jobs and apprenticeships - some into high profile companies such as Sky and TfL.

Study programmes

At Uxbridge College we offer more than just a qualification and we fully embrace the government's policy to provide students with a comprehensive programme of study. Our study programmes combine the main subject qualification with a range of transferable skills to enhance learning and help students develop. These include English and maths (at the appropriate level), employability skills, directed learning, work experience and Employability, Progress and Review (EPR) tutorial sessions on relevant topics to prepare students for progression into higher education, further training and employment.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA). Young people are now staying in education until they are 18, which means they can stay at school, come to College or take an Apprenticeship. For more information please ask for a copy of our information sheet on RPA or for details on the options available to your son/daughter please get in touch at enquiries@uxbridgecollege.ac.uk or on 01895 853333.

Why should our son/daughter come to Uxbridge College rather than a local Sixth Form?

Uxbridge College offers choice and subject combinations that school Sixth Forms may not be able to offer, including over 250 A Levels and career-focused vocational study programmes. Our extensive links with employers ensure that students are offered relevant work experience placements to prepare them for the world of work. Choosing college gives students a fresh start and the opportunity to make new friends, gain new experiences and prepare for higher education and their future career.

What do learners at Uxbridge College progress on to?

We help students prepare for a great future, whether that be going on to university, into an apprenticeship or straight into a good job, and we support them with a professional careers service providing advice and guidance on their next steps. During their time at Uxbridge College, students have regular tutorials and an entitlement to course and careers information. Student Services provide this through structured group talks on options for progression, as well as through one-to-one guidance interviews.

We want students to realise their potential and leave college with a CV that makes them stand out and includes all the extra opportunities they've taken part in. Students can get involved in lots of other activities including taking part in our volunteering scheme, joining our Enterprise Society and participating in our annual work week, which is attended by local and national companies and universities. We work with many large companies such as Rackspace, Sky, TfL and Balfour Beatty and smaller local companies to give our students the experience of work and prepare them for employment. The College prepares students to find employment if they do not wish to go on to university.

Our annual higher education fair is one of the largest in west London and attracts over 50 universities from around the UK, providing students with information on university courses and the costs of studying higher education.



www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk



My son/daughter received extra support at school. Is this available at Uxbridge College?

Yes, support is available. Please tell us on the application form about the kind of support your son or daughter currently receives. Our Learning Support team work closely with students and can assess and identify their needs, and let you know about the help we can provide. For more information contact the team on 01895 853422.

How can I be sure that my son/daughter is in College and studying?

An electronic register is taken at every lesson, so absences are immediately noted. Attendance is carefully tracked and followed up regularly by tutors who will get in touch if there is a concern. If you wish to, you can contact your son or daughter's tutor at any time.

How can I be sure that my son/daughter is safe at Uxbridge College?

The College promotes a culture of respect. All staff and students wear identification and this is checked on entry to campuses. We have dedicated security staff who maintain a visible profile across the College to ensure students study in a safe environment. They work closely with the Student Support team and are experienced in dealing with social and emotional difficulties. We also have a clear child protection and safeguarding policy and follow the government's Prevent guidelines.

Can I get any financial help for my son/daughter to study at Uxbridge College?

Grants are available according to your child's unique circumstances and the College's Student Support team can help you with queries on finance. All students aged 16-18 who are on low household income and are finding it hard to pay the costs of studying at the College, can apply for extra support payments. This can be up to £15 per week to help with the cost of college, subject to high attendance, punctuality and commitment to studies. The College may also help with the costs of books, equipment, and educational trips. There is also specific financial help of **£1,200** for 16-19 year olds who are either:

- in care
- a care leaver
- living independently on income support
- severely disabled and getting both ESA and DLA.

Students can also get free college meals if they qualify (under the same criteria as free school meals). For more information please contact the Student Support team on 01895 853380.

Will my son/daughter need any special equipment, kit or uniform?

Some courses may require protective clothing and your child may choose to do an enrichment option or sport, which requires extra kit. The College makes every effort to provide kit for students and those with financial needs can apply for funds to support this, but in some cases a contribution will be required.

How can I support my son/daughter during their time at Uxbridge College?

Leaving school can be an exciting, but also a daunting time. Your child will have the highest level of support at Uxbridge College and we welcome parental involvement. We will work with you to ensure your child gets the most out of their college years. It is important for parents to ensure that their child regularly attends the College and submits all work on time.

Will I be kept informed of my son/daughter's progress?

Uxbridge College holds regular parents' evenings where parents can discuss their son/daughter's progress with teachers and the Head of School. Two reports are issued each year recording progress. If there are any serious concerns parents will be contacted to discuss this. Parents are welcome to contact the college to arrange a meeting with the tutor and/or the Head of School. We also invite you to give us your email address so we can keep you informed.

How will I know if my son/daughter is having problems?

Uxbridge College has effective systems to pick up any difficulties your child may be having before they become problems. You will be notified in the first instance by your child's personal tutor if anything is preventing them from achieving and we can provide expert help in overcoming any difficulties. There is a list of contacts in our parent's guide, available as a PDF download from www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/parents

What if my son/daughter has a medical problem?

Uxbridge College has a team of qualified first aiders who can assist students, if required. If necessary the college will contact the parents. If your child has a long term medical issue and requires support or administration of medication please contact your child's tutor.

Will my child be attending Uxbridge College five days per week?

College attendance is different from school and study programmes do not necessarily run every day of the week. Some courses require 4 or 5 days attendance at College while others may require fewer. Most study programmes require private study and students can study in the Learning Resource Centres when they are not in classes.

Can my son/daughter work while they are at Uxbridge College?

We recognise that many students have part-time jobs, which are valuable financially, and develop their skills. However, students need to maintain a balance between their study and work commitments.

Fantastic facilities and highly-qualified staff

Our top-quality teaching, industry experienced staff and impressive facilities ensure our students achieve their qualifications and are ready for the next steps on their journey to a promising career.

In the last few years we have spent over £65 million improving and maintaining our teaching, learning and social spaces on our Uxbridge and Hayes Campuses, ensuring students have access to the latest equipment and facilities. Learning takes place in well-equipped classrooms using the latest technology including smartboards, PCs, Macs, iPads and Chromebooks and our vocational courses are taught in industry-standard facilities, providing a realistic working environment.

Our Learning Resources Centres offer full library services including books, e-books and access to a large range of online resources, DVDs, newspapers, journals, trade magazines and audio-visual information. Students can also borrow from Hillingdon borough libraries – providing access to over half a million resources!

Alongside this our e-Learning team will help students to gain confidence in using information technology to enhance their studies with devices and PCs available in classroom based activities and in drop-in study areas around the campuses.

Students learn the skills employers need from our highly-qualified staff. They share their knowledge of the workplace and use their industry experience to provide practical tips and advice so students benefit first hand from industry professionals.

Updated January 2017. All information and costs are correct at time of publication.