

# Herefordshire Community Network

## Support for Ukraine – information for guests

### What is primary education in the UK?

In the UK, primary level education covers students from the ages of 4 to 11. This is within primary schools, which is split up into the year groups from Year 1 to Year 6 as well as Reception in England.

Applications typically open in September each year and close on 15 January!

### The online application process is now closed.

You can email [schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk) or contact the Primary School Admissions Officer on 01432 260926 or 01432 261574 to request an application form.

In primary school, you won't gain any official qualifications. Despite this, you may still need to do exams. At the end of primary level education in England students are expected to complete exams called SATs.



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### What is secondary education in the UK?

In the UK, secondary education refers to the education of students between the ages of 11 and 16.. Secondary schools are split up into year groups. These are from Year 7 to Year 11 in England.

Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils living in Herefordshire will receive a letter from the Pupil Admissions Officer through their child's current primary school. The letter will detail how and where to apply for a secondary school place.

All applications can be made online at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions)

If you live in Herefordshire and your child is due to transfer from primary Year 6 and start secondary school in Year 7 in September 2025 then you must apply for their school place between 4 September and 31 October 2024.

To request a late application, contact:

- [schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk) or
- Dawn Skyrme, Admissions officer on 01432 260925

### What education level is GCSE?

**GCSE level** education is a part of the secondary education stage. In England it marks the end of secondary education with students typically taking these exams at the end of Year 11. This is also made clear as the term GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education.

You'll need to book your GCSE exam yourself and can do this by **contacting your local exam centre**. Exam centres are usually schools or colleges that also have their own students sitting exams. It's best that you book your exam about six months in advance, so you can be sure you'll get a place.

GCSE exams in 2024 start from the week commencing **Monday, 6 May and finish on Friday, 21 June.**

Students can leave secondary school with qualifications. In England these qualifications are GCSEs.

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Normal Registration Period 14 December 2024 **14 February 2025**. Late Entry Period 15 February 2025 10 April 2025

### What is further education in the UK?

In England, it is compulsory for you to be in further education until you are 18.

There are several different types of further education qualifications that you can do, making further education a lot more flexible than the earlier stages of education. For example, you could stay in school or go to college and continue studying.

All applicants should apply directly to the College via **online application form**. There will be no closing date for the receipt of applications, but we strongly advise for you to submit your applications by Friday, 16th February 2025 to ensure the offer of a place in September.

[Apply - HLNSC](#)

If you encounter any issues with the online application or if your desired course doesn't have an online application link, you can download the relevant application form from their website. Contact their enquiries team at 0800 032 1986 or email them at [enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk) if you need assistance

You could also leave school and still do other types of further education such as an apprenticeship. This option is a lot more practical as you are learning by working.

### What is an apprenticeship?



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**An apprenticeship** is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences. Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

An apprenticeship includes:

- paid employment with holiday leave
- hands-on-experience in a sector/role of interest
- at least 20% off-the-job training
- formal assessment which leads to a nationally recognised qualification

### Who can apply?

An apprenticeship is a great paid work opportunity for people over the age of 16 in England who are:

- early in their career
- looking to upskill in their current job
- looking for a career-change
- not in full-time education





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### Apprenticeship benefits

Apprenticeships are an exciting paid option for anyone wanting to gain experience, upskill or change career because they offer the chance to earn a wage whilst they work and study.

There are many benefits to completing an apprenticeship, which include:

- experience and skills development
- a nationally recognised qualification (with no tuition fees)
- employee benefits and a wage
- exposure to industry professionals

### Finding an apprenticeship

All accredited apprenticeship vacancies can be found on

[Find an apprenticeship \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](https://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

By creating an account, you can sign up to be alerted of opportunities in your area of interest and desired location.

You can also use this website to browse what types of apprenticeships are available across different sectors.

### What is higher education in the UK?

In the UK, higher education is any type of education that is done after or beyond further education. Generally, students will be at least 18 when they reach this stage. There are many types of higher education and a range of levels.

**The registration process for Universities in England involves several key deadlines. Here are the important dates for courses starting in 2025:**

UCAS Extra Opens: If you received no offers or rejected any offers, you can add an extra choice starting from 28th February 2024. Visit the UCAS Extra page for more information.

For 2025 entry, you can start your application from 14th May 2024, but you cannot submit it to UCAS until 3rd September 2024. Remember to check your chosen university or college's website for specific registration/enrolment instructions at the start of your first term each year.

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### Registering to study at university in the UK

- **Research Your Options:** With over 100 universities to choose from, each offering a unique student experience, it's essential to explore your options. Consider factors like location, course offerings, and campus life.
- **Apply for University:** For undergraduate programs, you can apply for up to five courses at once through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Start by registering on the UCAS website and filling out the application form. Additionally, write a personal statement that highlights your interest in the course, relevant skills, life experiences, and achievements.

[Applying to University - learn about everything involved \(ucas.com\)](https://www.ucas.com)

UCAS allows you to manage your applications efficiently. For postgraduate programs, apply directly to the university via their website.

Remember that each university may have additional requirements or specific procedures, so it's essential to visit their official websites for detailed instructions. Good luck with your application!

- **Accept Your Offer:** Once you receive an offer from a university, accept it promptly.
- **Arrange Funding:** Explore scholarship opportunities, student loans, or other funding options to cover tuition fees and living expenses.

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- Prepare for Your Stay: Plan your accommodation, travel arrangements, and any other logistics for your arrival in the UK.

Information correct as of 31.10.2024