The Holt School UCAS application process

- The online UCAS application form opens around the end of May
- Students will be provided with all the information on how to complete their application
- Their application is linked to the school so we can track their progress
- The cost to apply is £27 for 5 courses. The application cannot be sent until this is paid for and must be paid directly online via a credit/debit card.

The UCAS application process

Different sections of the UCAS application:

1. Personal Details
2. Choices
You can make up to five choices, and you don't have to use them all. There is no order of preferences for choices when your first apply. You only put your first and second choice when offers have been received.

Take predicted grades into account when making your choices. If students apply for a course with an ABB entry requirement and you are predicted CCC, it's unlikely that they'll make you an offer, and it will be a wasted choice. Take on teacher advice and experience about suitable courses

•While variation in entry requirements is important, lots of variation in subject choices should be avoided! There is only one personal statement that will be sent to all of the institutions. Writing a Personal Statement is challenging enough without it needing to be appropriate for History and Computer Engineering!

3. Education
All the qualifications you've achieved since age 11 need to be included, It's helpful to use exam certificates for this section as you need your grade, the subject, and the examining body (i.e. AQA, OCR, etc.) for each one. You also add any upcoming qualifications - like your current courses.

The UCAS application process

Different sections of the UCAS application:

4. Employment
If you've had a part or full time job, add the details to this section. If your work was voluntary or part of the courses you are studying, you shouldn't add them. You'll be able to write about this in your personal statement instead.

5. Personal Statement
The most exciting and challenging part of applying to university in the UK! As part of your application you have to write a supporting statement that goes to all your chosen institutions, demonstrating how you are a suitable candidate for the courses you have chosen. You only have 4000 characters on 47 lines of text to do this which might sound like a lot, but once you get started, you'll realise just how limiting it can be!
You might not know this, but UCAS runs all Personal Statements through a plagiarism detection software that checks them against all previously submitted statements, published books, and the internet. This means you can't copy and paste from **anywhere**. It will also detect if you type out things you have read online and change a few words - it's a smart programme! If your Personal Statement has been plagiarised in any way, UCAS will contact you and will also inform all of your universities.

6. Reference
This will be written by your tutor. Your reference is a way for your teachers to verify what you have written in your Personal Statement, and to demonstrate that you are a good candidate for your chosen courses. It will include your predicted grades, and any contextual information universities should know about you. You do not need to mention any of this in your Personal Statement - your teachers have got this.
The reference gets sent straight to UCAS. To make sure you tutor has all the information they need- we ask everyone to complete the 'activities' and 'competencies' on Unifrog to list all of the achievement and skills they have built so this can be used in the personal statement.

Entry requirements for university

Either grade requirements (e.g. ABB) or tariff points

A* 56

A 48

B 40

C 32

D 24

E 16

Sometimes EPQ and other exams (music etc) can carry some tariff points - check for individual universities

Timeline

March/April:

- Start to research courses/pathways
- Virtual open days/ weekend open days
- Look at building activities/experiences
- Log and record activities onto Unifrog
- Personal statement workshop - March
- Writing first draft personal statement
- UCAS discovery exhibition- April/May each year
- Year 12 PPEs

May:

- UCAS opens
- Refine choices

June/July:

- First draft personal statement submitted and feedback provided by tutors
- UCAS predicted grades sent to students and parents

Early October: Early Entry deadline

Internal deadline Early December: To pay and send to UCAS