



DISCOVER
BECKY HIGH
Sixth

**GUARANTEEING
SUCCESS
AT A-LEVEL AND
BEYOND**

2025 - 2026



Maximising your GCSEs for future success

Beaconsfield High School welcomes sixth formers who have a minimum of 46 points from their best eight GCSEs; and who meet the subject entry criteria – found [here](#).

Bear in mind that grades below Grade 5 in key subjects for your chosen degree could be a problem if applying to the top universities. You will need a minimum of Grade 5 for English and maths, but for many Russell Group universities a Grade 6 is preferred.

If you are desperate to do a particular A-Level course, start your GCSE revision early to get the best grades and secure your place. Plan your revision with a timetable and don't forget to include breaks and relaxation. Remember, little and often is always better than cramming for hours the night before.

Get plenty of sleep at night and eat well! At least eight hours sleep a night and healthy, brain boosting foods will give you plenty of energy and help you stay focused.

Come results day, if you do not meet the entry criteria for your subjects, you may be offered an alternative course, and you will be invited to meet a member of the Senior Team to discuss this.





Choosing your A-levels - an evolving landscape

The dynamics of both the university and job markets are in constant flux, and the era has passed where securing a 2:1 or first-class honours from a specific university would ensure a graduate job. The emergence of higher and professional apprenticeships presents students with diverse post-18 options, intensifying the competition for graduate positions in a novel manner. From my perspective, the significance of selecting subjects aligned with personal interest and the likelihood of achieving high grades has never been more crucial.

I find the prevailing belief that limiting oneself to three A-Level subjects, without including mathematics, restricts opportunities, fundamentally flawed. For instance, a student opting for art, English, and French is unlikely to pursue a course or venture into a workplace where A-Level Mathematics is a prerequisite. Conversely, a student selecting two sciences and mathematics is highly likely to apply for a course and workplace necessitating those specific skills; it is a matter of tailoring choices to individual aptitudes

It's vital that you enjoy what you are studying. Pick subjects that complement each other, but that you also love - you will get more out of the course if you are passionate about it, and this can lead to all sorts of exciting degree or career choices.

Use [Unifrog](#) or [Informed choices](#) website to further help guide your decision.

Top tips for A-level success

Start consolidating your notes as soon as possible; find out from staff where to find extra resources and work your way through them; teachers will give you feedback on extra work too.

Make use of our silent Sixth Form Study Area or 6HUB collaborative study area to maximise your working time in school and free you up for wider reading and extracurricular activities in the evenings.

Read the *Sixth Form Weekly* and check your emails - there are many work experience and volunteering opportunities advertised.

Join an academic society - if there isn't one to suit your interests, then start your own! Many socs at Beaconsfield High School are student-led.

Give back - volunteer in the community either in school or outside; we offer a wider range of mentoring opportunities for our students and for local primary students, as an example.

Talk to your teachers - get to know them and build strong relationships that will support you over the next two years. If you are struggling, open up to someone, everyone is friendly and supportive; we can help.





Your university journey starts now

Believe it or not, getting your GCSEs is not just a stepping stone to study at A-Level. Many universities take a keen interest in both GCSE and A-Level grades as a broader indicator of your capabilities.

It's no secret that universities are hugely oversubscribed. Applications to all university courses are competitive – especially Russell Group and Oxbridge universities – so you need to be at the top of your game and prepared to put the work in from now to achieve your further education goals.

The **Russell Group** is a key group of the top 24 British universities (see next page) and their offers usually range from ABB to A*A*A at A-Level. The Russell Group does not require four A-Levels and will not make an offer based on four A-Levels.

For **Oxbridge** you will need a minimum of six grades at 8/9, preferably in your chosen degree subject, including strong English and maths. There is an entrance test, generally sat at the end of October in Year 13; this is followed by an interview if you are successful. Oxford tends to invite fewer people to interview than Cambridge – this means if you get an interview, you stand a greater chance of an offer.

Typical offers at Cambridge range from A*AA to A*A*A; at Oxford AAA to A*A*A.

Russell Group Universities

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Liverpool

London School of Economics and Political Science

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York

russellgroup.ac.uk





Which university and course are for you?

There's no time like the present to start thinking ahead, as your GCSE grades are likely to impact your university choices. Use [What Uni](#) or [The Complete University Guide](#) to help you start looking at university courses.

Decide the kind of feel you want – big city or campus? Close to home or miles away? Russell Group, Oxbridge or other? If Oxbridge, you will need to start your research and wider reading early. Oxbridge universities don't want extra-curricular, they want supra-curricular so tailor your spare time to this. It is crucial to explore options beyond Oxbridge and the Russell Group as other universities also provide an excellent learning environment for your chosen subject. Perhaps you are more interested in an Art Foundation course or a Degree Level Apprenticeship? Start to visit universities too – many universities offer Saturday open days, so you won't miss any lessons: [University open days UCAS search engine](#)

Look outside the Russell Group universities. [The Complete University Guide](#) ranks subjects in order of quality in the UK and globally – a great way to see if you will get value for money.

If you are desperate to attend a particular university but you know your course is oversubscribed, choose a joint honours course. They are often overlooked by other applicants but are a great way to ensure you receive an offer at your favourite university.

Take a risk! You have five university choices on UCAS so pick one that has an aspirational offer slightly higher than your grades, three that meet your predicted grades and one that is an insurance and therefore slightly lower.





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For enquiries relating to sixth form admissions:

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