



Christ the King College

# SIXTH FORM NEWS

December 2025

Apologies for the delay in publishing this newsletter the end of term is always frenetic.

Please be aware that Wightlink have provided us with travel vouchers, with their Youth Travel Scheme, which means that all of our students are entitled to two free foot passenger returns to the mainland. This is designed to support young people from the Island to build their cultural capital on the mainland and enjoy experiences that they can't access here. Please encourage them to use these for university visits, museums, galleries, shows etc...

We are wishing you and your families peace and joy this winter break. We thank our wonderful community for their ongoing support of the college and look forward to seeing the students again (refreshed and ready) on the 6th of Jan, 2026 (the 5th is a staff inset day).

Mrs Conway-Hughes

## Dates for your Diaries:

- ⇒ **6th Jan**, Back to school all students
- ⇒ **7th Jan**, Internal UCAS deadline
- ⇒ **14th Jan**, External UCAS deadline
- ⇒ **12th-22nd Jan**, Year 13 Mock Phase. Lessons periods 1-3, mocks in the afternoon.
- ⇒ **28th Jan**, UKMT Maths Challenge
- ⇒ **11th Feb**, Criminology Talk (Solet University)

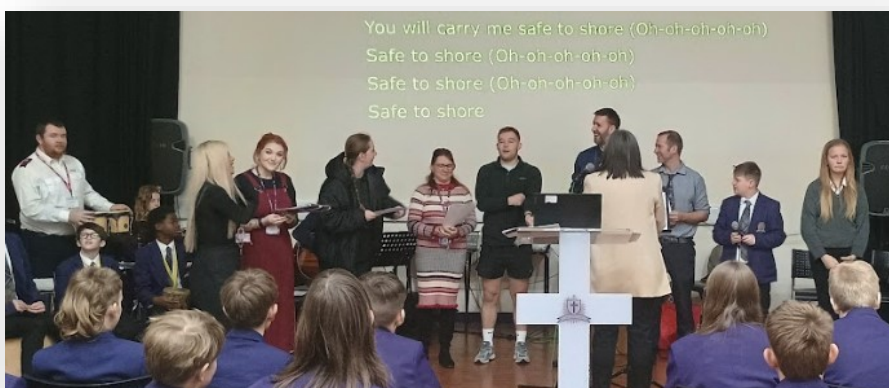
## Reflection

The advent wreath  
with its evergreen  
stands for eternal life,  
the circle stands for  
the continuous love of  
God; love without end.



## In this edition

- \* Highly Commended
- \* The Court Competition
- \* The EPQ Trip
- \* The MP Visit
- \* UCAS Info
- \* Maths Challenge



To see all  
those  
nominated  
for awards in  
our  
celebration  
worship  
[please click  
here.](#)

# HIGHLY COMMENDED

## News

Thank you to **Oliver Flood, Amelia Heal, Darcey Morgan, Joshua Brenchley, Bethea Wells, Alesia Gidley, Dean Castillo, Eleanor Maart & Mia Norris** for supporting younger students as pastoral mentors this term.

Thank you to: **Annabelle Acutt, Oliver Simpkins, Thea Ricketts, Amber cousins & Rebecca Beeney** for supporting young student as numeracy mentors this term.

Very well done to **Isabelle Willis and Lucas Watson** who have both signed up as DofE Student Ambassadors this year.

A belated thank you to all of the Sixth Form students who supported our big Sixth Form open evening event this year and a special thanks for Sophia McKenna for ordering the chips!

Congratulations to **Oliver Flood & Eric Williams** for participating in the Multiple Mini Interviews offered by St Mary's Hospital to support students seeking medical pathways and completing applications for Medicine.

Huge congratulations to **12KST** for winning the Big Quiz Showdown on Thursday—it was an incredible performance from them!

Please see to the left of this message for all those who achieved certificates this term in our celebration assembly.

## SIXTH FORM GYM



Open for Sixth Form Students

Monday - Women

Tues, Thurs - All

Friday - Men

Lunch A & B

Gym induction required with  
Miss Simmonds or Mr Haydon first





# We Won!

On Saturday 6th of December 18 students in year 12 represented the college in an Island wide mock trial competition. Our students competed against teams from 8 other schools playing roles like lawyers, witnesses, courts clerks, ushers and jurors. In the end CtK ended up on top with every student who took part proudly representing CtK. Competitions like this are vital in helping improve students' public speaking and analytical skills as well as providing key insights to the legal system.

Mr Morgan & Mr Hare



# The Court Competition

The day was 6th December, 2025. Both the prosecution and defence teams had been practicing for a month now, and it all lead up to this day. Our Defence team, composed of Amber Cousins and Darcey Morgan as the lawyers, Bonnie Watson as the defendant, Vlad Ignatenko as defence witness 1, and Finnan Hall as the usher, were on at 9:30 sharp. Up against the Island VI, the defence team had successfully managed to gain the verdict of not guilty. After a successful cross-examination, examination-in-chief and speech from both lawyers, it was evident that the team had prepared to the best of the abilities. While there were slight difficulties with the witnesses cross-examination, in the end, they were both able to swiftly recover and stand their ground.

Moving onto after lunch, at 2pm, the prosecution team, composed of Phoebe Arnold and Helena Szymanowska as the lawyers, Vincent Vaughan as prosecution witness 1, Melvina Namirimu as prosecution witness 2, and Anthony Fuoss as Court Clerk, were against Ryde Private. The jury had ended up coming to the verdict of not guilty, however this is not a measure of their talent, as Judge Kerry Maylin had gave them excellent feedback, highlighting their strengths. An amazing cross-examination was conducted, and it was clear that the examination-in-chief was well practiced, as well as the speeches delivered from both lawyers. The witnesses also did an excellent job in standing their ground against the opposition.

The jury, composed of Aria Melody-Bamford, Bethea Wells, Florence Wells, Hannah Buckthorpe, Kelechi Maxwell-Opete, Lyla Peach, Mariella Penn-Sampler and Rose Green, as well as the bonus members of Amber Cousins, Bonnie Watson, Anthony Fuoss, Finnan Hall and Melvina Namirimu, the jury declared the final case between Cowes and The Bay of not guilty.

Overall, all the teams had gained a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to experience what it would be like to be in court. A few have come out of this with the aspirations of going into law, and others can agree that even if they don't want to go into law, that it was still a memorable experience.

Now, at 4pm, the judges gathered and tallied up the scores they had given. In 3rd place was The Bay, in 2nd was Cowes, and in **1st.. WAS CHRIST THE KING!** The team gathered and celebrated, taking a photo with the judges, which you can see below. Thank you to Mr Hare and Mr Russell, the two teachers who had given up their time to assemble a team together, as well as the organisers of the High Sheriff Court Competition!

Amber Cousins



# MP Visit

Students at Christ the King College were visited by local MP Richard Quigley on Friday 28th November. He joined a Politics class in the Sixth Form before leading the Year 12 Enrichment session. During these times, Richard responded to a wide variety of questions from our students (and enthusiastic staff!), covering everything from his favourite foods to the nitty-gritty of the recent budget, or life as an MP to his vision for The Island. In the afternoon, he met our newly appointed Form Rep team and once again took questions (from potholes to pollution) and encouraged them to take part in democratic processes, whether that is in school as on the House Council or beyond.

It was a privilege to have him come along, and we look forward to his return, as well as hosting politicians from other backgrounds and parties as part of our mission to enrich the life of our students and ensure they are informed enough to be great future citizens.

What the students thought about meeting MP Richard Quigley



MP Visit - Richard Quigley.

\* I think it was very useful that Mr Quigley visited because it meant I could ask him all my questions about how the Island will change under his MPship and Labour's rule. I am also grateful for the opportunity to understand how Parliament works and the day to day life of an MP. It was also useful to hear his thoughts on the budget and budgets for the future.



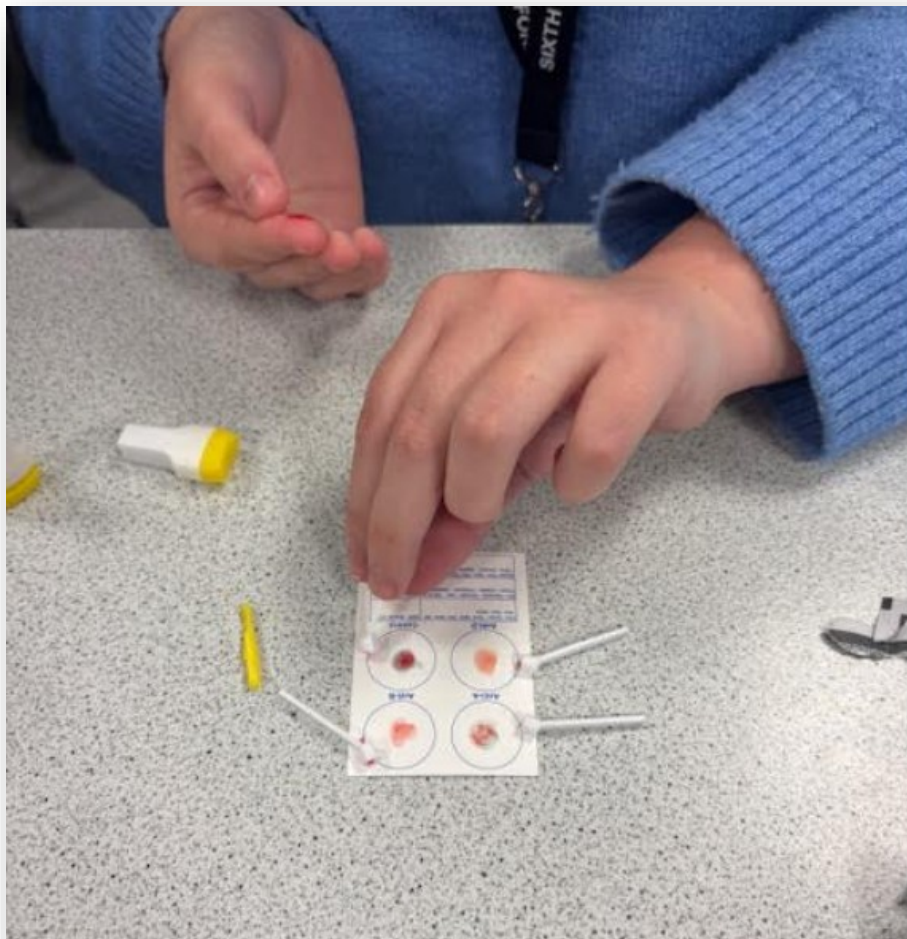
# Biomedical Sciences Visit

On Friday 7th November, Christ the King College hosted a team of research Scientists from Solent University. Whilst here, they allowed us to participate in a biomedical research programme involving blood types. We all used analytic haematology techniques to extract our own samples and determine our blood group.

Interestingly enough, in our small sample we did not have any students with the most common occurring blood type of O. As a member of the blood group type O, Mr Montrose gracefully stepped up to demonstrate his results to allow for a comparison.

We also used high powered microscopes to look at samples of cell cultures from healthy and infected examples. This allowed us to understand the difference in appearance and histology of these samples.

Thankyou to all of the brave students (and staff) who participated in the lab



# UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

On Thursday 10th October thirty seven of Christ the King's post-sixteen Mathematics students took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge.

Two of our students, **Vincent Vaughan and Deepak Loganathan** achieved a Gold Certificate in their age group and have subsequently been invited to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo 2025 follow-on round, which will take place later this month. Only 8000 students nationally go through to this next round

This is a huge achievement for these young mathematicians. Christ the King College is extremely proud and excited for these students and to see how far they can go in the competition.

Other notable achievements from the competition were:

Silver certificates: **Boris Hare and Finn Woodford.**

Bronze certificates: **Abigail Fancourt, Thea Ricketts, Amber Cousins, Oliver Flood, Nathaniel Wells, Martha Debuse, Xander Craggs, Ebosetale Abhulimhen-Iyoha, Andy Luo, Dylan Walker, Matteo Marengo, Lewis Edgerton, Imogen Rayner, Eric Williams and Jared Tout-Walters.**

Certificates of participation were also awarded. Miss Inglis and Mr Gifford are thrilled with the level of participation and how well the students performed. Well done!

In another exciting development happening later this month, Ryde Lift is hosting a UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge for our younger students. Team Challenges are usually hosted by mainland schools, so having one in our community where travel will be minimal will give students the opportunity to compete against other Island schools and peers.

More news on this and other UKMT challenges later.

Miss Inglis and Mr Gifford

# Christian Union

**COME ALONG TO  
CHRISTIAN UNION!**

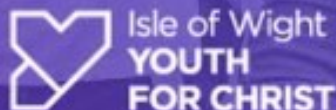
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**COMMUNITY. FRIENDS. FAITH.**

**WEDNESDAYS  
12:40–13:10**

**ROOM: S24**

**ALL WELCOME!**



Christ the King College



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a typical day at Taizé?

**8:15am** Morning prayer then breakfast  
**10 am** Bible reflection / activity led by a Taizé brother followed by international small group discussion.  
**12:20pm** Midday prayer then lunch  
**2pm** International small groups—practical work / activities then socialising  
**5:15pm** Drink and snack  
**5:45pm** Themed workshops / meetings  
**7pm** Dinner  
**8:30pm** Evening Prayer  
**9:30pm** Free socialising time at 'Oyak'.  
**11pm** Back in the dorms  
**11:30pm** Lights out. Silence

### What is the accommodation like?

You will be staying in single-sex shared dorm rooms with students from Christ the King College. The rooms are basic but adequate.

### What else will I need?

A suggestion for spending money is £75 - £100 (in Euros) to cover snacks or gifts.

### Who is leading the trip?

Mrs Rennie is leading the trip with and dedicated staff. She is experienced in leading the pilgrimage and supporting students in Taizé.

## Where and What is Taizé ?

### Come along to Info. Evening



The Taizé Community was founded as an ecumenical monastic community in France in 1940. It includes more than 100 Protestant and Catholic brothers from countries across the globe. Tens of thousands of pilgrims of all denominations, the majority of whom are young people, visit each year.

**All are welcome** — of any faith or no faith.

### Taizé Trip Info. Evening

Come along on

**Tue 2nd Dec. 6—7pm CTKC Auditorium**  
**Talk to students & staff who went last year.**  
**Refreshments & snacks provided.**  
**Any questions? Ask Mrs Rennie**



## Christ the King College

### Pilgrimage to Taizé - France

**27th June—5th July 2026**

You have the amazing opportunity to join this pilgrimage to Taizé in France from **Saturday 27th June – Sunday 5th July**. This is when all of the GCSE and A level examinations are finished. The dates do not clash with the year 11 prom, the year 13 prom or the Isle of Wight Festival.



**Total cost? £325 inclusive** of travel (coach and ferry), food and accommodation. The Diocese of Portsmouth are making a substantial financial gift to subsidise the costs for our young people and we are very grateful for this support.

**How do I pay?** 1st payment of £26 by 19 Dec. 4 payments of £74.75 end Jan, Feb, Mar & Apr.

**How do I sign-up?** Your parent / carer has received an email via Compass. Sign up there.

**Documents needed?** A passport & GHIC card by the time we travel. Plus a UK residency card if you are not a British citizen.

## Student feedback from Christ the King College students

*"It was an amazing experience. I enjoyed meeting so many young people from all over Europe as well as getting to know the people in our own group better. There was such a friendly atmosphere".*



*"An overall very good experience, the chance to live a simpler way of life for a week was a great way to relax after a busy school year, and I got to meet tons of incredible people from all over the world".*



*"I got a brand new experience having never left the UK, with people whom I'd never spoken to as such and met new people from all over the world. The pilgrimage definitely helped me explore faith in a new way that I hadn't considered before".*



Watch the 2024 pilgrimage video.



Read the 2025 pilgrimage article from the Diocese of Portsmouth.



*"The worship was heavenly in every form. It was a unique experience singing in Latin, German, and some Polish (along with French and English) and it helped with connecting others who weren't from the same country".*



*"I feel as though I found an even deeper understanding of myself, as well as being more confident and making so many new friends". "I found the worship calming—a very different form of worship which I liked".*



## Will YOU be going this year?

Do ask students or staff if you have any questions.

*"When I first came to Taizé, I was a bit worried at first, but when I arrived here, I found it was the place where I could express myself the most. I would definitely like to go back next year".*



*"When I signed up for the pilgrimage to Taizé I expected to experience a new style of worship and new languages. What I experienced, especially in meeting new people, was so much more". I can't wait to go back.*



*"I found that the pilgrimage was a really enjoyable and relaxing trip especially after exams. It was good to spend time with friends but also socialise and meet new people from different cultures. It was also a time where I could explore my own faith".*

# UCAS



## Resources to share with parents this month

1. [TikTok Live on 13 February: Discover Apprenticeships](#) 🚀
2. [Youtube series: Getting ahead with apprenticeships](#): Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to current apprentices, experts from universities and employers and finds out what it's really like to be a degree-apprentice.
3. [4 things to do while they wait to hear back](#): While they wait for responses, there are a few things they can do to get ahead and take their mind off the process. Here are four top tips from a past applicant.

**Parent newsletter sign up**

The January equal consideration deadline will be **Wednesday 14 January 2026**, keeping the mid-week scheduling to avoid conflicts with weekends.

UCAS is also reintroducing the end of March advisory deadline to encourage earlier decision-making.

**The reject by default deadline is set for 13 May 2026.**

Recent UCAS data highlights that some applicants are experiencing delays in receiving decisions. For example, by 1 April 2024, 90,000 UK 18-year-olds were still waiting for at least one decision.

In cycles where the end of March advisory deadline was previously in place, significantly fewer applications were left pending at this stage. While it's inevitable that some applicants may still face delays, we expect the adjustment to pre-pandemic norms will reduce the number affected during the critical pre-exam period.

Looking ahead, UCAS will continue to review cycle dates and deadlines, with details for the 2027 cycle to be shared no later than December 2025.

Please note, these updates apply only from the 2026 cycle; deadlines for the 2025 entry remain unchanged.



# Use of AI; The Rules



## Information for candidates AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)

### What is AI?

AI stands for artificial intelligence and can be used to create text, images, videos, music and artwork based on instructions given to an AI tool.



### What is an AI tool?

AI tools are applications, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat My AI, Google and Google translate. There are many more!



\*The list of certain suppliers of AI-related products is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by JCQ and awarding bodies. It is each centre's responsibility to investigate and verify any suppliers they use, including any terms and conditions which govern the sale or use of the supplier's products. The list provided is not exhaustive.

### When can I use AI?



- Your teachers may use it in class when teaching the course, but remember teaching in the classroom is not an exam!
- There are some assessments where you can use AI – your teachers will tell you if you can or cannot use an AI tool.
- Remember, the rules are different for different assessments and subjects, so always check with your teachers first!
- When an AI tool is allowed, **you must acknowledge\*\*** the AI tools and the material produced by the AI tool that you have used in your work. If you do not acknowledge AI use, it will be **considered as cheating**.

### When can I not use an AI tool?



- AI tools cannot be used in an exam or any other assessment where exam rules apply.
- This is what exam boards call **AI misuse and is a form of cheating**.

\*\*Acknowledgment – When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as referencing. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words, for example, ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025.

**IF YOU USE AN AI TOOL, YOU CANNOT GET MARKS FOR WHAT THE AI TOOL HAS PRODUCED, AS IT IS NOT YOUR OWN WORK**

### If I'm allowed to use AI, how is this breaking the rules?

- AI misuse is when you use an AI tool in an exam or assessment where you are not allowed to; and/or
- Where you use an AI tool to create work and then say it's your own.



### How to make sure you don't misuse AI

#### DECLARE

- Remember to sign your declaration form when handing in your work for final assessment.
- Your signature on the declaration form tells your teacher and the exam board that you are saying all the work you're handing in is your own.
- If you have used an AI tool, **you must declare\*\*\*** that you have used it before signing the declaration form!

\*\*\*Declare – this means that when you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

#### ACKNOWLEDGE

If you are allowed to use an AI tool in your assessment (remember to check!), you must do the following:

- reference the AI tool you have used
- give the date of when the AI tool generated the content
- give details of how you used it.
- save screenshots of what you have asked or instructed the AI tool to do and what answer the AI gave you, and include this with the work submitted.

LAST  
CHECKS



Know  
the rules



Check with  
your teachers



ACKNOWLEDGE  
and DECLARE



EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

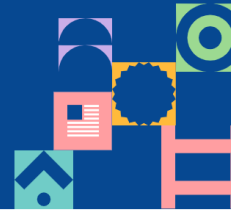


# The Sutton Trust



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## US Programme: Discover your path to studying in the United States



Our Sutton Trust Fulbright US programme gives state school students the chance to explore studying in the US

### Introduction to the US Programme

#### About the programme

The US Programme introduces students from across the UK to the American higher education system.

[Find out more](#)

#### Applications

Applications for the 2026 programme are open until 11:59p.m. on Sunday, 11 January.

[Start your application here](#)

#### Eligibility

Is the US Programme right for you? Find out if you are eligible.

[Find out more](#)

#### Expert guidance

The programme is run in partnership with the Fulbright Commission, a leading expert in US college admissions and exchange between the US and UK.

[Find out more](#)

## About the programme

The Sutton Trust Fulbright US Programme is an opportunity to explore what studying in the US is like, by giving students a taste of what it's like being an international student in the US, to help them see if it could be the right fit. This year's programme includes UK-based residentials and virtual programming, expert advice throughout the application process, in-depth admissions test preparation, training and guidance for teachers supporting students applying to the US and expert insights into US universities.

Students supported by The Sutton Trust Fulbright US Programme have gone on to attend 85 different US colleges and access over 200 million dollars of financial aid. Don't let your students miss out on this fantastic opportunity - encourage them to apply today!

[Find out more](#)





GKN AEROSPACE

**MAKING THINGS FLY**

## GKN Aerospace Cowes – Site Open Day Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026



To register for this event please  
scan the above QR code

GKN Cowes welcomes you to an event where we open our factory to the public and for those interested in the following opportunities:

- ✂ Apprenticeships
- ✂ Aircraft Fitting
- ✂ Composites
- ✂ Operations Leaders
- ✂ Programme Management
- ✂ Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- ✂ Design, Stress & Manufacturing Engineers
- ✂ Procurement
- ✂ Quality & Inspection
- ✂ Corporate Functions

During the event you will be given an overview of GKN Cowes and an exciting tour of our factory at Falcon Yard



*Our Business*



*Our Future*



*Our Island*



GKN AEROSPACE

**MAKING THINGS FLY**

## GKN Aerospace – Cowes Apprenticeship Vacancies 2026



To find out more details and  
apply, please scan the QR code

GKN Cowes welcomes applications for the  
following apprenticeship opportunities:

- ✈ Advanced Operations Craft
- ✈ Advanced Technical
- ✈ IT Business Analyst
- ✈ Operational Leadership

**Applications close on  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



*Our Business*



*Our Future*



*Our Island*



# Unloc

**NHS**  
Hampshire and  
Isle of Wight Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

## £500

to improve health & wellbeing in  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight

- Aged 13-21?
- Passionate about helping others in your community?
- Want £500 to spend on a project that improves health and wellbeing?

We are looking for passionate young people who have an idea to help improve the health & wellbeing of people in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight.

Apply now for a £500 grant to help make your idea a reality.



## APPLY NOW

Click or scan the QR code to find out more and apply

**DEADLINE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**



I am very pleased to share that applications for the Youth Health & Wellbeing Grants 2026 are now open!

In partnership with Unloc, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are again funding five £500 grants to help any young person aged 13-21 to improve health and wellbeing in their community.

This is a great opportunity for students, or groups of students, to try something new and make a positive difference in their community. Working independently on their grant project boosts their skills and adds experience to their CV, college or UCAS applications. We welcome applications from all passionate young people with an idea to improve health and wellbeing in their community, whether that's in your school community or further afield.

## Younger Persons Support Worker

Our initiative is dedicated to improving the financial stability and mental wellbeing of younger people.

**1 2 1 Support with financial stability (benefits, budgeting and debt) and with mental wellness (anxiety, self esteem, confidence and social isolation)**

**Targeted support and guidance:**

Finances  
Mental Health  
Empowerment  
Engaging with services  
Housing security  
Employability  
Resilience  
Life Skills

**Supporting Young People age 16–25 with Financial and Mental Wellbeing**

Funded by:



Sovereign  
Network  
Group

**It's easy to self-refer  
Call or email**



01983 716020  
reception@lweh.org.uk  
aspireyde.org.uk

LW  
QHS





# Scholarships & Bursaries

## New Scholarships tool: Helping your students find additional support

Five ways the UCAS Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants search tool can help you support your students.

Posted Tue 2 December 2025

Financial worries are one of the biggest barriers to higher education. Almost half of prospective students (48%) say money concerns limit their choices. Scholarships and bursaries can make a real difference — yet finding reliable, up-to-date information about them can be difficult.

The UCAS Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants search tool is a new feature designed to help prospective students discover financial support opportunities offered by UK universities. It enhances visibility and accessibility of funding opportunities during the discovery and application journey.

As an adviser, understanding the range of funding schemes available can make a powerful difference in how you guide and support your students.



### Here are five ways this new service will help you do just that:

#### 1. Easier access to comprehensive financial support information

Quickly find relevant funding opportunities across UK universities, tailored to your students' academic background, personal circumstances, or financial needs. This centralised resource will save you time and simplify the search process for both you and your students.

#### 2. Accurate and effective guidance

Each listing will clearly outline the eligibility criteria, award amount, and application requirements — helping you provide precise, up-to-date advice that students can trust.

#### 3. Supporting widening participation

For students from disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds, visibility is key. By showcasing targeted scholarships and bursaries directly on UCAS.com, advisers can more easily identify opportunities that help break down financial barriers and encourage students to apply with confidence.

#### 4. Reducing financial anxiety and enabling informed decisions

Access to clear, trustworthy information can transform how students feel about funding their studies. When advisers can point to a single, reliable source of financial support information, uncertainty is reduced, trust grows, and students can make decisions with greater confidence.

#### 5. Highlighting additional benefits beyond funding

Some scholarships go beyond financial aid — offering internships, networking opportunities, mentoring, or even accommodation discounts. By showcasing these wider benefits, advisers can help students see the full value of what's on offer.

**We've gone live with 789 funding opportunities and this will continue to develop as more providers use the tool.**

[Find out more](#)



**Thursday 29 January 2026 | 09:30 – 13:30**

## What's in store for your students?

**Hands-on Experience:** Try out essential nursing techniques and explore social work practices in action.

**Exclusive Campus Tour:** Visit our state-of-the-art facilities, designed to replicate the real-world environments students will work in.

## Why attend?

- Gain valuable insight into studying Social Work and Nursing at Southampton Solent University.
- Engage with industry professionals and gain hands-on experience.
- Network with like-minded peers and academic mentors.

Book your place today!

Students can attend individually and can book via this form: <https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00j3t6lflu00alr978edp3>

No parking on campus (unless blue badge),

