

THE EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR EDGBASTON HIGH SIXTH FORM

Cover art by Martha Abbott V11



EDGBASTON HIGH
SIXTH

LEAVERS EDITION **2024**

WELCOME



Welcome to this special Leavers Edition of the Sixth Form magazine, where we hope to give you an exciting insight into the next steps beyond EHS and focus on careers and future opportunities. We also aim to show you how well-supported you will be during your time in EHS Sixth, both academically and pastorally. Our tutorial programme in Years 12 and 13 is designed to provide you with all the support, tools, and skills you'll need for your future career paths and personal development.

Throughout Sixth Form, you will have regular opportunities to discuss your aspirations with your form tutor and Heads of Year, who will offer guidance along the way. We are also supported by our Futures Team – Mrs. Chambers and Mrs. Coley – who frequently organize guest speakers to talk to the Sixth Form about specific career pathways, apprenticeships, and other next steps. We also welcome our alumni back to school to share their experiences beyond EHS.

In this edition, we visit three of our alumni in their first few weeks at university, giving their insights into how they've transitioned to university life. They also offer advice on making final decisions and meeting new friends at university.

Mrs Parsons and Mrs Ehioгу



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CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE

Degrees and Apprenticeships

Starting Year 12 might make leaving Sixth Form feel like it's far off, but it's never too early to start thinking about what comes next. Once you've finished your A Levels, you'll have lots of options for your future and your career. Here are some pathways you can explore:

Degree

A degree is a qualification you get from a university or college to show you've completed a course or reached a certain level of academic achievement. When you pursue a degree, you get to dive deep into a subject you're passionate about over three or four years. It gives you the knowledge and skills needed for specific careers and can help set you up for a job you'll love.

How to Pick the Right Degree

- **Think about what you enjoy** – Could your favourite subjects or hobbies turn into a career?
- **Explore job sites and look at graduate career options.** This will give you a sense of what jobs are out there and what qualifications they need.
- **Set your career goals** – What jobs are you aiming for? Check what qualifications or skills are needed.
- **Check UCAS subject guides** (see link in resources). They'll help you see what you can study and where these subjects can lead you.

To find courses by subject, check out the UCAS website.

UCAS 2025 Application Timeline



CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE

Degree Apprenticeships: A Different Path

If you'd rather jump straight into work while still getting a degree, a degree apprenticeship could be for you. It takes three to six years to complete (depending on the level) and lets you earn a salary while learning.

How it works

- You spend 80% of your time working and 20% studying. That could mean going to university one or two days a week, or in short bursts (like a week at a time).
- You can earn between £15,000 and £20,000 a year while gaining real-world experience in your chosen industry.
- There's no strict application cycle like with uni. Apprenticeships pop up all year round, so you have to keep an eye on vacancies.

You can apply to university and for degree apprenticeships at the same time to keep your options open.

Pros of a degree apprenticeship

- ✓ You'll get real life experience working alongside your degree.
- ✓ Your degree is fully paid for, so there's no cost to you.
- ✓ You'll get paid a salary just like a normal employee.

Top Tips

- Choose a uni where both the course and city vibe suit you.
- Work experience is a great way to boost your chances for a degree or apprenticeship.
- Reach out to local businesses or ask family and friends for opportunities. You can also use Springpod, an online platform for virtual work experience with top employers.
- Attending lunchtime career talks is another way to explore your options. Our school offers many, so don't miss out!
- Both work experience and career talks will strengthen your CV and personal statement.

Check the **Useful Resources** section on page 11 of this guide for more links to UCAS Course Search and degree apprenticeship opportunities.

Cons of a degree apprenticeship

- ✗ You'll need to balance working and studying at the same time.
- ✗ You won't qualify for any student loans.
- ✗ Apprentices don't always get the traditional 'university experience'.

TAKING A GAP YEAR

Is a Gap Year Right for You?

Taking a gap year can be an amazing way to grow, build confidence, and gain new skills. It can be a rewarding and transformative experience that can lead to personal growth and maturity, giving you a broader perspective of the world.

Whether you want to take a gap year between A-Levels and your next steps, after your degree, or during university summers, the choice is yours!

So, if you're unsure about your next move, a gap year could help you figure things out. You can work and travel abroad to explore new cultures and learn real-world skills.

Not interested in traveling? That's okay too! You can gain experience through industry placements, learn new skills (like a language), volunteer, or get a job.

Here are some options to consider:

Gap 360 A leading UK gap year travel specialist with over 200+ programs in 50+ destinations. <https://www.gap360.com>

One World 365 A travel directory with trips, jobs, and volunteer programs worldwide. www.oneworld365.org/gap-year

Camp America Spend your summer working at a camp in the USA. <https://www.campamerica.co.uk>

CCUSA (Australia) International work, camp, and volunteer programs. <https://ccusa.com.au>

The Mighty Roar Safe group travel adventures with structured itineraries. <https://themightyroar.com/gap-year-programs>

Global Work & Travel Get paid to travel and stay abroad longer. <https://www.globalworkandtravel.com/>

Korea Gap Year Unique programs designed to boost personal happiness and confidence. <https://koreagapyear.com/program/global/985>



A-LEVEL RESULTS DAY

An occasion to remember

A-Level Results Day is one of the most anticipated days as a Sixth Former. A mixture of nerves and excitement runs through the last few days of term, and in the holiday run up to such a special and memorable occasion. This year, on Thursday 15 August, staff and students

once again celebrated the remarkable achievements of another fantastic cohort, as they received their A-Level Results. Headmistress Clare Macro expressed her pride in the girls' accomplishments, commenting, "We send Year 13 our warmest congratulations and share their

joy in seeing their hard work come to fruition. Our goal is to equip students with the skills to pursue the future they desire and to not put a limit on their ambition."

This year's cohort are undoubtedly ready to take their place in the world and we are delighted to be sending off prospective medics, lawyers, architects, physiotherapists, accountants and fashion designers. The range of destinations and degrees is as wonderfully unique and

individual as the pupils who study at EHS.

Mrs Macro added, "Year 13 have been fantastic role models for our younger students, showing qualities of leadership, resilience and tremendous care and kindness. We encourage them to move forward with confidence and approach their university courses, apprenticeship degrees and other choices with their characteristic energy, enthusiasm and determination."

But what were the results?

*This year's cohort has truly shone, with **40.3% of grades at A*/A** and an impressive **70% of grades at A*/B**.*

*Among those brilliant results, **20% of students achieved all A*/A grades** – an absolutely incredible achievement.*

89% of students will be heading to their university of choice.

*Degree Apprenticeships in prestigious organisations and companies such as **BBC, PWC, BDO and KPMG**.*



FROM EHS TO UNI LIFE

Freshers' first weeks – unfiltered

Starting university is one of the most exciting and nerve-wracking times. You've packed your bags, said your goodbyes, and now the real adventure begins. Whether it's your first time living away from home or the thought of making new friends after years of school is giving you butterflies, you're not alone! We caught up with three of our recent Year 13 leavers to get the lowdown on what their first few weeks at university have been like, so you can get a sneak peek into the experience.

Tea's Day at Newcastle University

Tea is settling into life at Newcastle University, where she's currently studying Food Business Management and Marketing. She sent us some pictures of her day for you to get a feel of what a day looks like at University.

- **Morning: My cosy dorm room.** Tea's room may be small, but it's filled with all the essentials to make her feel at home.
- **Online lecture from my dorm room.** Uni life includes studying, and sometimes that means attending online lectures from her room. With three lectures a day and Fridays off, Tea's week is packed yet balanced.
- **View of the campus.** Newcastle's campus has some beautiful spots to relax, whether in between lectures or for some weekend downtime.
- **Stunning campus buildings.** This building is a Newcastle favourite, complete with a grassy area perfect for unwinding.
- **In a lecture.** Tea's focused and ready to learn in a bustling lecture hall.
- **Nightclub at the student union.** Uni isn't just about studying! Tea enjoys the nightlife, with evenings spent dancing at the student union. Nothing beats a good night out, with music that keeps the energy high.

Tea's also shared how she's been balancing her time at Newcastle between social life, netball, and settling into cooking healthier meals. Being part of the Netball Club has kept her busy with training, fitness sessions and even trials during Freshers' Week. It was physically and mentally challenging, but it's been worth it. Between all that activity, Tea's loving the Newcastle social scene and making new friends along the way. Sounds like she's off to a flying start!

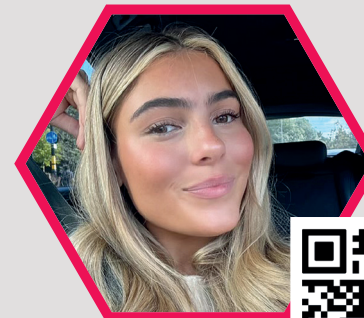


Mollie's Accommodation Experience at Leeds Beckett

Mollie, who's studying Sports and Exercise Therapy, shared her experience of the accommodation process at Leeds Beckett, and it's full of great advice. Here's how she made her flat feel like home. Mollie chose to live in the cluster flats at Carnegie Village on Headingley Campus, where 12 students share a kitchen and living area, but each has their own en-suite. It's all about working together – each person has a designated fridge shelf, and they all pitch in with cleaning. “When moving into your flat, be chatty, engage in conversation, and break the ice with a game of cards. It really helped me bond with my flatmates.” One thing Mollie swears by is not limiting yourself to just your own flat. “Some of my best mates are from neighbouring flats—we hang out all the time, even if it's just for a chill night.”

Lucille's Uni Life at Exeter

Lucille made the leap to Exeter University, where she's studying Communications. She gave us an inside look at what her typical day looks like, vlog style. Expect to see glimpses of campus life, her classes, and how she's balancing it all.



Top Tips for Uni life from Mollie, Lucille and Tea

- Choose a uni where both the course and city vibe suit you.
- Try to visit your potential universities before making a decision.
- Don't rush into deciding your final offer. Take your time to weigh up the pros and cons.
- Make sure your insurance choice has lower grade requirements than your firm one.
- Don't be afraid of clearing—many people find courses and universities that they end up loving through this route.
- That long summer between exams and results? Enjoy it – it's going to be one of the best summers of your life!
- Be as social as possible during Freshers. Join societies, and make an effort with your flatmates—and the ones across the hall too!
- Most importantly, don't stress! Everything works itself out in the end. Good luck!

We hope this glimpse into uni life gives you a heads-up on what to expect when your turn comes. It's an exciting chapter—embrace every part of it!

UCAS

Destinations of Leavers 2024

After A-Levels, our Year 13 students study a broad range of degree courses at the country's most sought-after universities – from Medicine and Pharmacy in Birmingham, to Journalism in Bournemouth.

Destination	Courses	No.
Aston University	Economics; Law LLB	2
Birmingham City University	Psychology	1
Bournemouth University	Multimedia journalism	1
Brunel	Psychology with placement	1
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Graphic design and communication	1
Degree Apprenticeship	BBC; BDO; KPMG; PWC	4
Durham University	Classics, Psychology	2
Keele University	Chemistry with foundation year; Rehabilitation and exercise science	2
King's College London	English; History	2
Leeds Beckett University	Sports Coaching	1
London School of Economics	International relations and history	1
Manchester Metropolitan	Forensic psychology, Fashion Art Direction	2
Newcastle University	Food business management and marketing	1
Northumbria University	Fashion design and marketing	1
Queen Mary University London	International relations	1
UCL	Architecture	1
University of Bath	Social work and applied social studies	1
University of Birmingham	Business management; Chemistry; Classics; English Literature with digital media and communications; International business with language; Law; Medicine; Pharmacy; Psychology	9
University of Bristol	Psychology in education	1
University of Exeter	Classical studies; Communications	2
University of Gloucestershire	Healthcare Science (Vascular science)	1
University of Leeds	Food science and nutrition	1
University of Liverpool	Accounting and finance with a year in industry; Business economics with year in industry; Business management; Physiotherapy Business accounting with industrial/professional;	4
University of Manchester	Fashion buying and merchandising; History; Mathematics and statistics	4
University of Nottingham	Medicine	1
University of Reading	Geography (Human and Physical)	1
University of the Arts, London	Fashion design technology – womenswear; Fashion design and development	2
University of York	English; Human Geography and environment; Physical Geography and the environment	3

USEFUL RESOURCES

UCAS Course Search: Find a Course

<https://digital.ucas.com/coursedisplay/results/courses?>

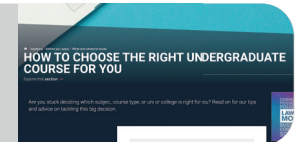


FIND YOUR NEXT UNI
WITH OUR VIRTUAL TOUR



UCAS Degree Information: What to Study

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/you-apply/what-and-where-study/how-choose-right-undergraduate-course-you>



UCAS Subject Guides: A-Z of Degree Courses

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/subject-guides?>



Compare Universities and more: Unifrog Website

<https://www.unifrog.org>



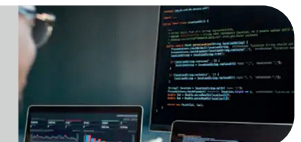
Virtual Work Experience: Springpod Website

<https://www.springpod.com>



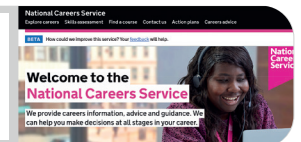
Online Open Courses: MOOCs

<https://www.mooc.org>



Careers Information, Advice and Guidance: National Careers Service Website

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>



EHS Social Media

For details of events and workshops follow **@ehscareers**
To see what our Laurels are up to and to get involved,
follow **@ehs_laurels**

BECOMING A LAUREL



The Laurels Association

Each year, as the latest cohort of girls leaves Edgbaston High School, they automatically become Laurels, marking their place in the school's rich history. You've already made history as part of our prestigious school community – now, consider extending that connection by joining the Laurels Association.

What is the Laurels Association?

Becoming a member of the Laurels Association at Edgbaston High School opens doors to lifelong friendships, professional networks, and cherished memories. As part

of an expansive community spanning across continents, alumnae gain access to reunions, social events, and exclusive updates through the termly Laurels News Bulletin.

Membership offers the chance to reconnect with peers, stay involved in school events, and build connections with former staff and alumnae who share the EHS experience.

The Laurels Association fosters a unique bond that celebrates the EHS legacy, allowing members to support and inspire each other continually.

What have our most recent Laurels been up to?



Kate Buxton 2012-2019

I left EHS to study Stage Management at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Straight after I graduated, I was lucky enough to get a job with Kenny Wax (the maker of *Six*), who I stayed with for a couple of years working on several different productions. In March this year, I joined the UK and Ireland tour of *Grease*. Currently my job title is Technical Assistant Stage Manager, which means I work closely with both the cast and crew to ensure the shows run smoothly. It's a fast-paced, fun environment where no two days (or shows) are ever the same!



Natalia Barrios-Majia 2015-2022

I fell in love with physics and mathematics at EHS and that has evolved into me going into my third year of a master's in aerospace engineering at the University of Birmingham. This year I am the Team Principal for the university's Eco Racing Team. We are building an electric car to compete in the endurance competition, Shell Eco Marathon, held in Poland. Alongside my studies I have had the opportunity of traveling to Spain to play for the University's women's basketball team, flying a glider, and learning how to weld! My studies in material science found me being awarded a bursary by the Worshipful Company of Founders and even becoming an artisan member of the company.