



Your Child's Future: A Parent's Guide to Higher Education Choices

Why This Matters

Helping your child navigate their post-16 and post-18 options is one of the most important roles you'll play. Whether they're considering university, apprenticeships, or other pathways, your support and guidance can make all the difference.

Key Things to Consider When Exploring HE Options

- **Start Early:** Encourage your child to begin researching courses and universities in Year 12. Open days, taster sessions, and virtual tours are great ways to explore.
- **Match Interests to Courses:** Help them identify subjects they enjoy and excel in, then explore courses that align with those strengths.
- **Understand Entry Requirements:** Each course and university has specific grade and subject requirements. Make sure your child is aware of these early on.
- **Explore Career Links:** Some degrees offer clear career pathways, while others are more flexible. Look into graduate destinations and employability stats.
- **Consider Location & Lifestyle:** Campus vs city universities, distance from home, accommodation options, and student life all play a role in the decision.
- **Financial Planning:** Learn about tuition fees, student loans, bursaries, and scholarships. Budgeting for university life is essential.

Spotlight on Russell Group Universities

The **Russell Group** is a prestigious network of 24 UK universities known for academic excellence, world-class research, and strong graduate outcomes. These include:

- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- Imperial College London
- University College London (UCL)
- University of Manchester
- University of Edinburgh ...and many more.

[Click here for more information about Russell Group Universities](#)

Why Consider Russell Group Institutions?

-  Internationally recognised degrees
-  Strong links to employers and industry
-  Cutting-edge research and teaching
-  High graduate employability rates

Things to Know:

- Entry is competitive—top grades and strong personal statements are essential.
- Some courses may require admissions tests or interviews.
- Not every student thrives in a high-pressure academic environment—fit matters more than prestige.

How to Support Your Child's HE Journey

- Talk regularly about their interests and goals
- Attend open days together
- Help them explore [UCAS](#) and course comparison tools [The Complete University Guide](#) & [WHATUNI?](#)
- Encourage them to speak to teachers and careers advisers
- Support them through the application process, including personal statements and deadlines

Next Steps

- Visit [Choose your future | UCAS](#) for course listings and application guidance
- Explore Russell Group Universities for detailed info on each institution
- Attend local university open days and careers fairs
- Reach out to the school careers adviser Mrs Askew for personalised advice. P.askew@garstang.fact.org.uk

Together, we can help your child take confident steps toward a bright future. 🌟