



UCAS Evening October 2019



Lord, as we gather at the beginning of this new school year,
we ask you to send your Holy Spirit among us:
the Spirit of knowledge and wisdom,
that we may be guided and enlightened in our studies;
the Spirit of good judgement,
that we may make good choices and strong friendships;
the Spirit of courage,
that we may stand up for what is right
and be confident to make the best of new opportunities.
May our lives together this year be filled with your Spirit,
as we follow the way of your Son, Jesus Christ;
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



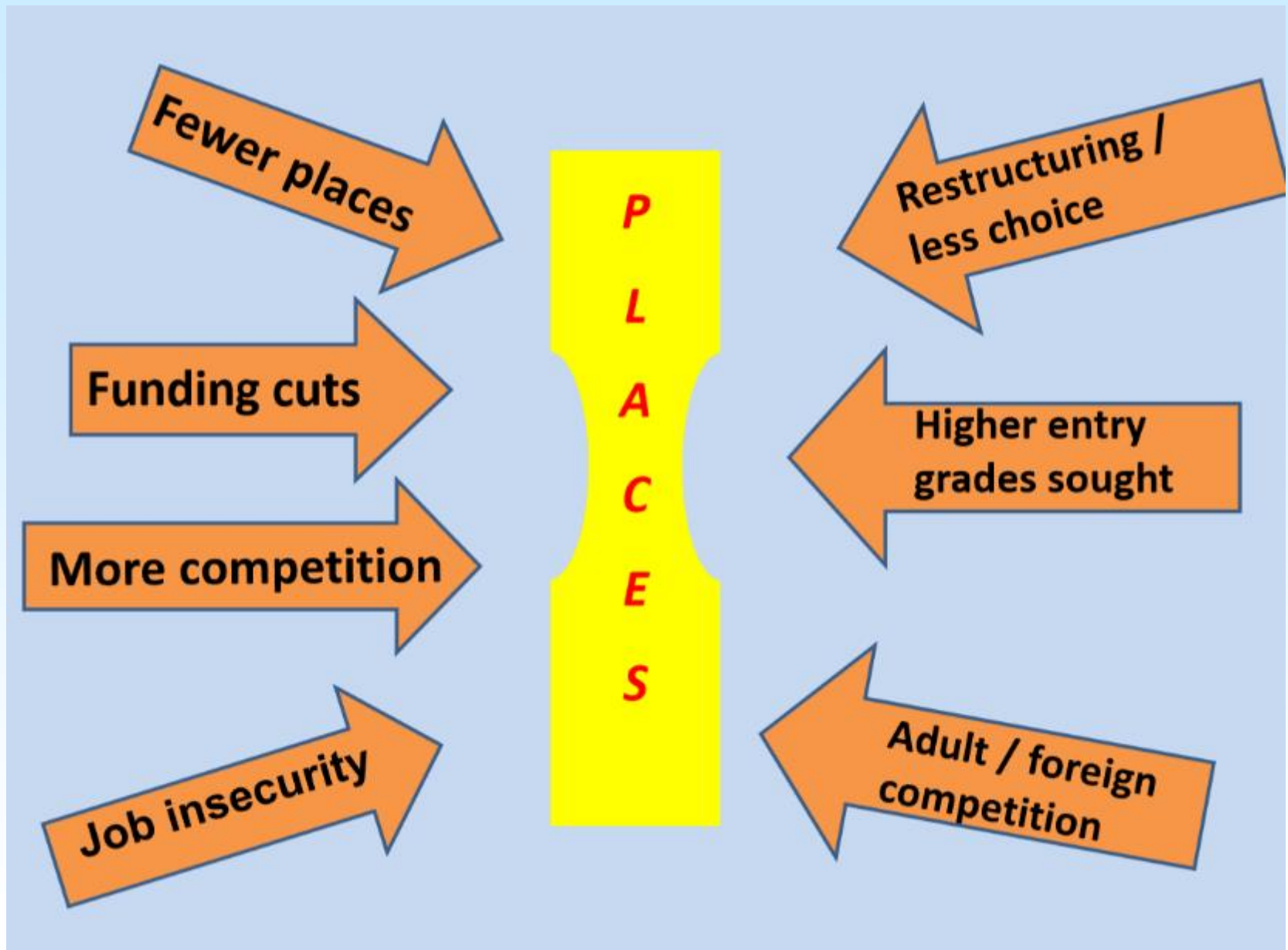
The purpose of tonight's meeting

- To help parents assist our students to make a more informed decision about post school route
- To give parents information on UCAS process, especially how they can work with us.
- To inform parents of **school deadlines.**



Ongoing Support

- Talk on induction day about options post school.
- UCAS Training Sessions – how to write personal statements – post school day & in PSHE.
- Release for Open Days.
- Meetings with Pastoral Teachers
- UCAS Information nights.
- Mock interviews where appropriate and if possible



- Recession leading to return to education to develop skills and employability and enhance their knowledge base
- Value attributed to a UK degree
- Society's perception that a university degree is a 'must have'
- "Grade Inflation"

Consequences of these pressures

- S5 attainment is often not enough, Universities increasingly want to see progress in S6 Higher Education is now a “buyers’ market” – several Universities did not enter clearing.
- Candidates need to focus clearly on what they want to do and why
- Personal statements are becoming more important for many courses eg Teaching Nursing Law Engineering ‘people centred’ / ‘vocational’ course.

Think about personal preferences

Collect Information

Read and think about information

Consider other factors- eg. realistically expected qualifications

FINAL DECISION

**Decide on
your course
and
institution**

**Complete
Form by
deadline**

**Send to
UCAS**



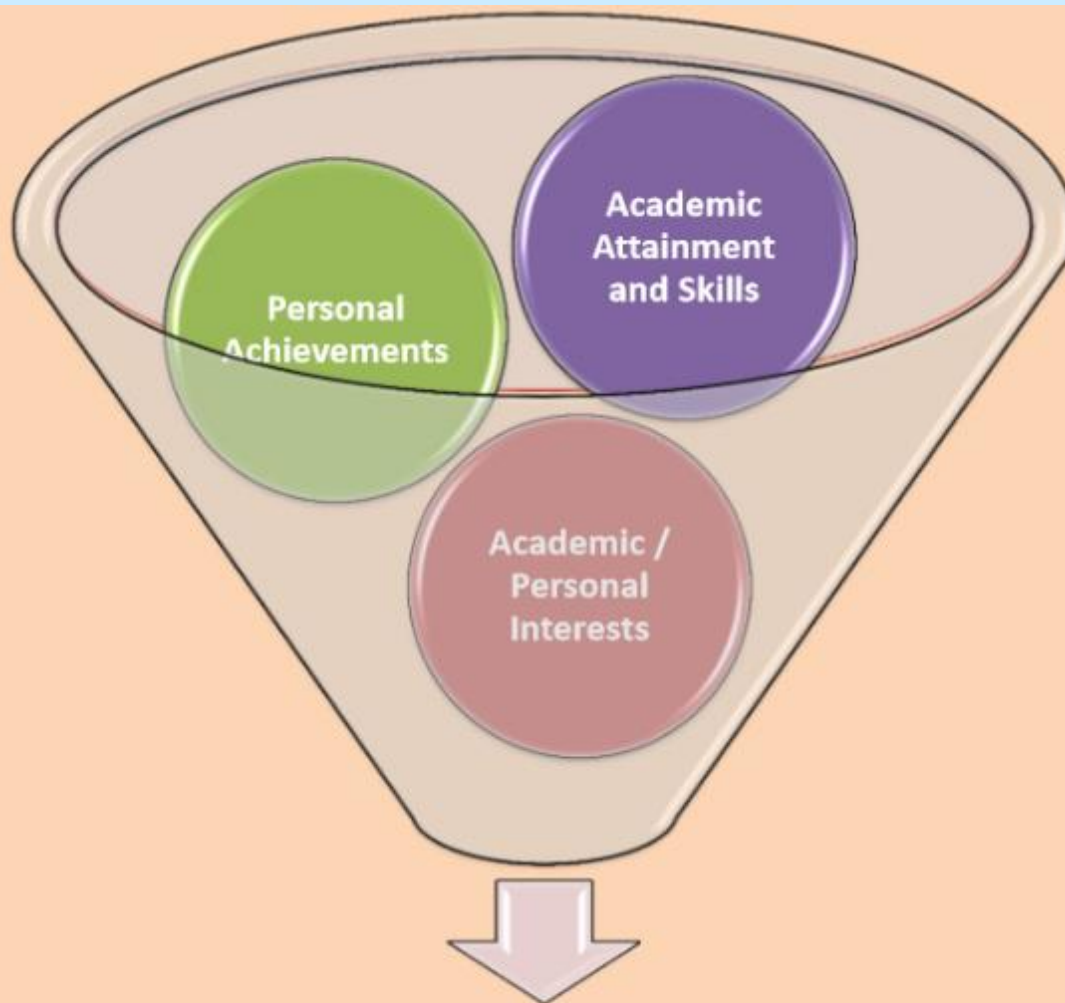
**Oct/Nov
2019**

**09 Dec
2019**

**16 Dec
2019**

Factors to consider.





Personal Statement

Structure of Personal Statement

- Introduction – why do you want to go to University.
- Why do you want to study that particular subject.
- What **ACADEMIC SKILLS** do you have.
- How do these relate to your intended course
 - REFLECTION NOT NARRATIVE
 - NOT A LIST OF EXAM RESULTS

Personal Attributes

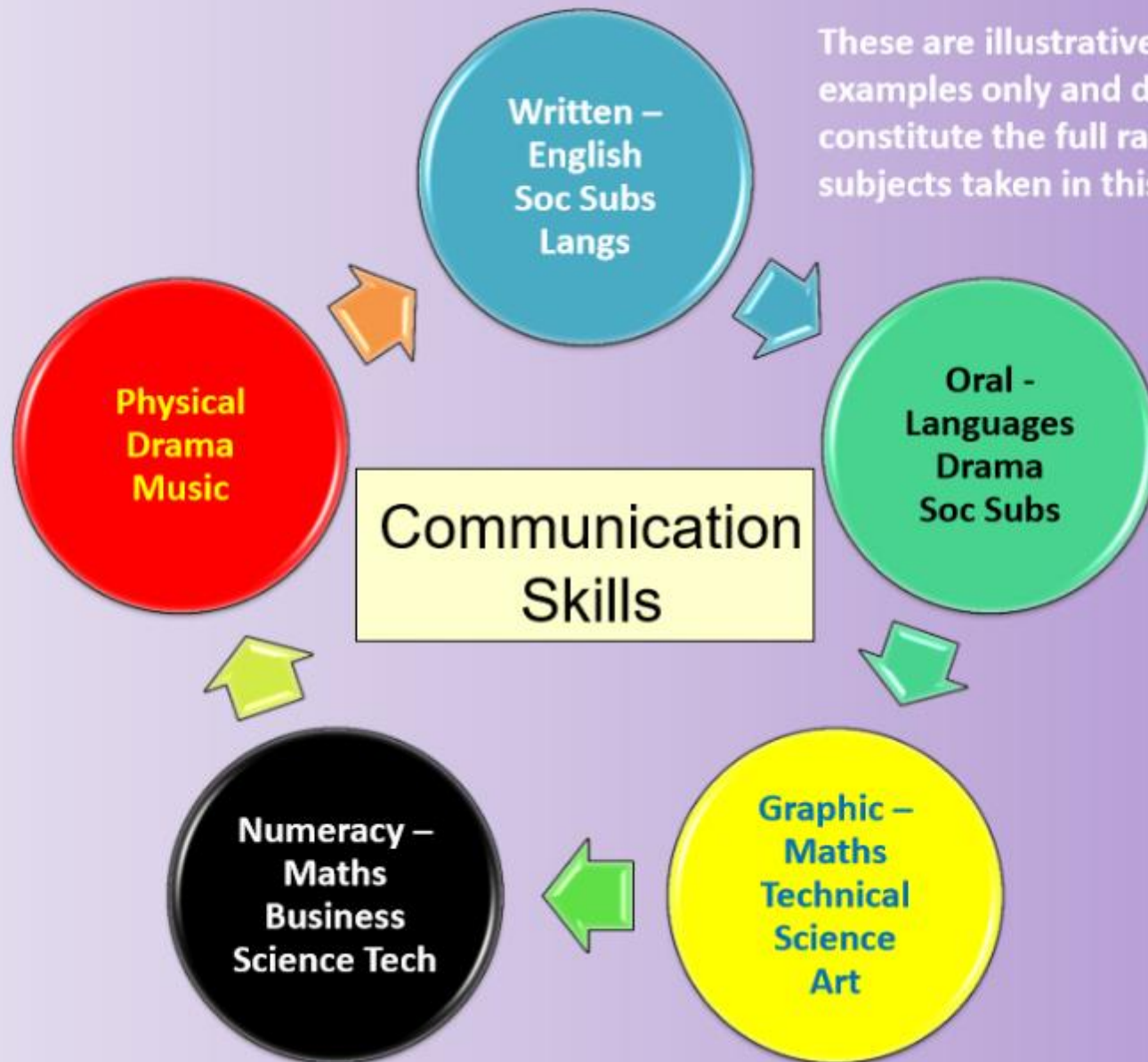
Universities consistently tell us and our S6 students that they are looking for people who:

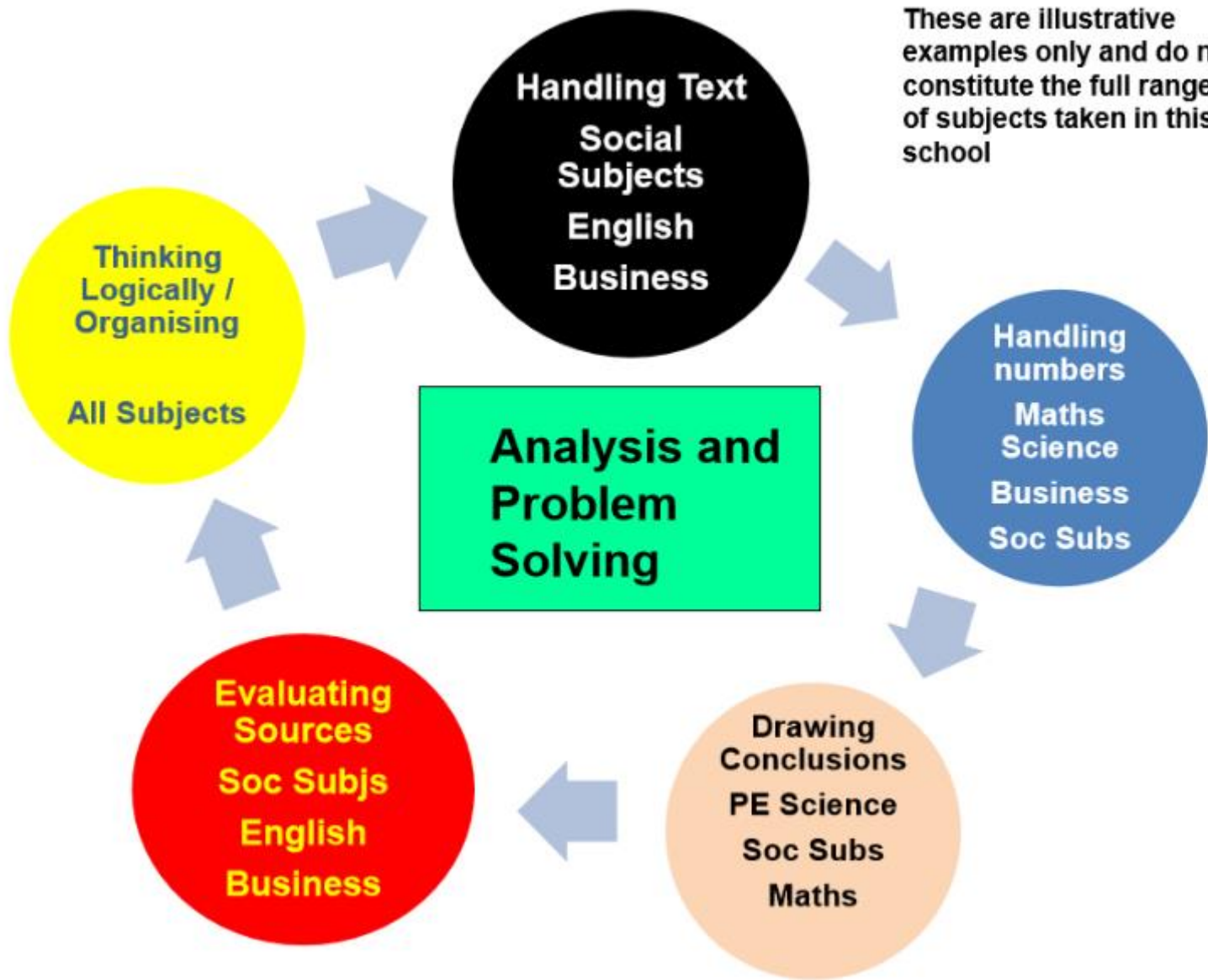
- Are clear about their proposed course of study.
- Have demonstrated an ability to organise and learn independently.
- Will contribute to University.
- Show initiative and creativity at school and in personal lives.

Personal Statements – Clichés to Avoid

- *“As Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai have both said.....”*
- *“From a young age / childhood / infancy I have dreamed of.....”*
- *“XXXX is an extremely challenging career.....”*
- *“I have had a lifelong passion for.....”*
- *“As I now reflect upon my life it is obvious that...”*

These are illustrative examples only and do not constitute the full range of subjects taken in this school.





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Sports Leadership P7 Sports Day	Helping with Concerts / Discos	School Teams	Talented Athletes	Helped at Ardentenny	Sports outwith school
Dance Lessons	Guide for Visitors / Parents	Volunteer – PPOfW / Cosgrove etc	Eucharistic Minister	Mini Trials – Law Society	Pupil Council Member
Worship / Liturgy Group	Charity Fundraising	Blood Donor	Maths Challenge	P7 Liaison Visits	European Parliament
Head Boy / Girl Prefect	Performed in talent show / concerts	Duke of Edinburgh Award	SNAG	Arranged Work Placement	Drama
Committee Member	Caritas / Diana Award	Buddying / Mentoring	Retreats	Part time employment	Film Club Reviewer
School Teams	Public Speaking	Subject Certificates	External Awards	Work exhibited eg Art / Tech	Focus Group Member

How can you help

Know what your son or daughter is applying to study.

Help them to set realistic goals...look at ALL REALISTIC OPTIONS and be aware of different course structures and contents

Read personal statements – does it reflect achievements

Does the personal statement relate to the proposed course.



How can you help

- Be aware of the deadlines set by the school and by UCAS and nag them to work on personal statement / UCAS form
- Be aware of any tests for which they need to register and ensure that they have done so and school informed – Eg LNAT ELAT BMAT etc
- If any problems contact Mr Cumming / Pastoral Support ASAP

How can you help

- Ensure that they have or are potentially able to achieve the grades required and that they have the subjects needed
- Ensure that the personal statement is appropriate

How can you help

www.gla.ac.uk

www.strath.ac.uk

www.gcu.ac.uk

www.dundee.ac.uk

www.st-andrews.ac.uk

www.ed.ac.uk

www.hw.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk

www.unistats.direct.gov.uk

