

# The Pre-Results Edition

Student sentiment update by The Student Room

3 July - 6 August 2023

The Student Room logo, featuring the text "The Student Room" in white on a blue speech bubble background.

The  
Student  
Room



# Sharing the student voice

*As the UK's largest online student community, we are privileged to witness the support, reassurance and advice young people share with one another everyday. What we learn about their experiences and concerns guides us in the support we provide.*

*We started writing these student sentiment updates back in January of 2021, when schools were closed to most students and traditional exams were cancelled. In 2022 we shared 13 of these updates, showcasing 108 community polls, with over 23,000 votes from students.*

*We have an incredible opportunity (and responsibility) to raise the voice of students and share it with people like you who are there to support them. It's by listening to students and working across every sector together that we can make a real difference in students' lives.*

# Highlights in this update

- The majority of Year 13s felt they'd missed their grades for their university offer
- Three weeks out from A-level Results, students were already peppering The Student Room forums with questions - hear what they need support with
- 73% of students' summer plans are impacted by rising cost of living
- Over half of students feel financial skills are missing from the school curriculum
- Only 30% of Year 12s have been given information about future options in addition to university

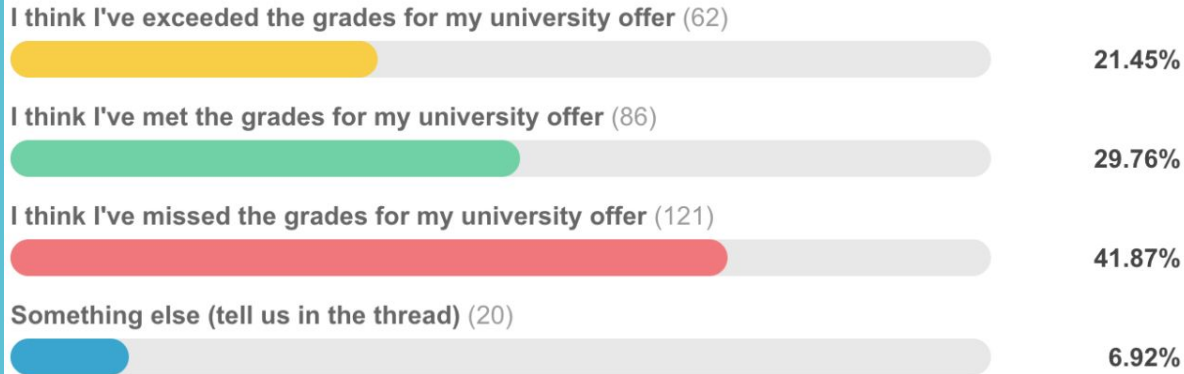
# Majority of Year 13s felt they'd missed their grades for their university offer

Less than a month out from results, 42% of Year 13s felt like they'd missed the grades they need for their university offer. However, 30% feel they've met their grades and 21% feel they've exceeded them.

It will be interesting to see whether these worries are normal pre-results nerves or a reflection of actual performance this year.



**Poll:** Yr 13s: How are you feeling about getting the grades you need for uni?



*Need bbc, think im getting ccd not ashamed to admit that i really messed up. i always thought uni was the one path for me but a levels have been a real wake up call, so who knows*

*I'm taking a gap year so I don't even have a requirement of grades to meet but I'm still terrified lol. I wish we didn't have to wait so long for results day, I just want it to be over!!*

# Students questions ahead of Results

Here are some of the questions students were asking within just one 24 hour period three weeks out from A-level results day.

If I get rejected by my firm am I able to call them for clearing to ask to be on the foundation course of the course I already got rejected from

Is it possible to ask a uni for deferred entry after you get results? Or does it have to be done before that? I've been told by some it's better to do it before but some people say it's better to do this after you've got your results and confirmed your offer...especially for a course like dentistry or medicine

I received an offer for a course through Clearing. I already have my qualifications, and no conditions for the offer were described in the offer email, and there was no mention of an interview. I was told if I wanted to accept the offer, I should do so by adding the Clearing choice on UCAS which I have now done. I've now been told that I need an interview for the course, and I will receive an offer if I am successful in the interview. I've now given notice at work for a course I don't technically have a place on yet. Is there anything I can do or do I just need to accept that they made a mistake by sending me an offer email and I need to do the interview?



# Students questions ahead of Results

Can I go through clearing? For context, I have an offer for Law from both Royal Holloway University (Firm) and University of Reading (Insurance). I now find myself inclined towards BA Politics and International Relations at Reading and I don't think I'll have a problem meeting the entry requirements (bbb) / it's also available in clearing. Do you think on results day I'll be able to switch to that course at Reading regardless of whether I get accepted to both my firm and insurance choices?

I've been offered an apprenticeship at maccies for 6yrs long however, also have a place at uni for only 3 years. As much as I'd love to do the apprenticeship I don't want to be there for 6 years but I don't know what to do?? Anyone help?

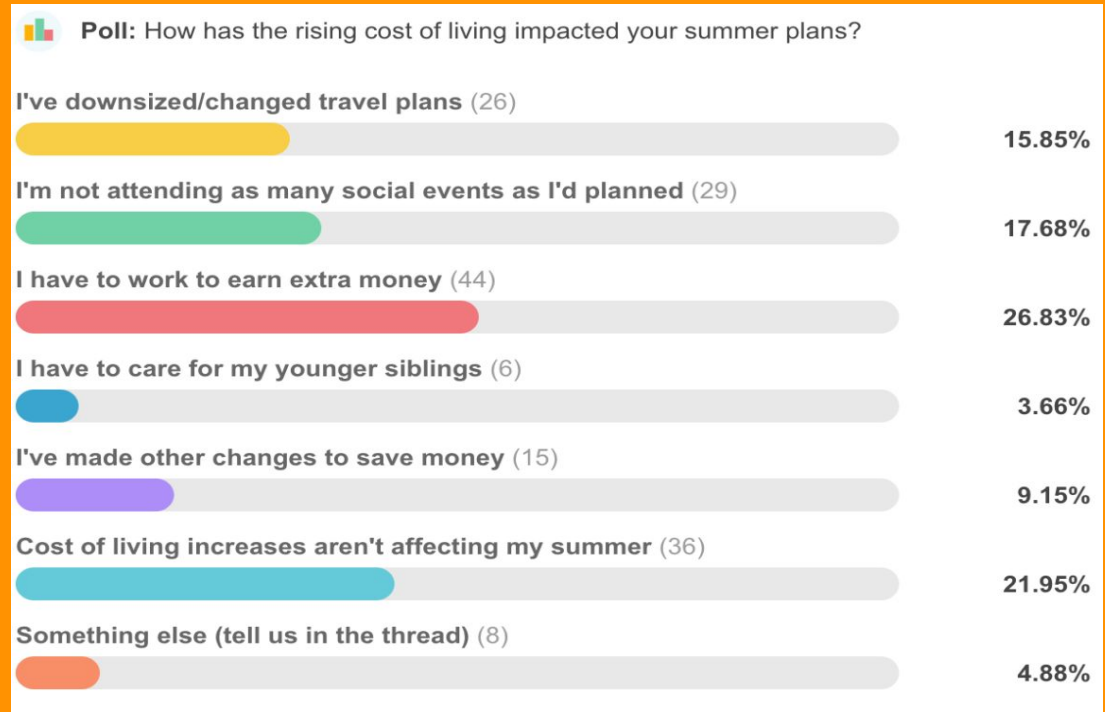
Will the courses currently on clearing for intl students be the same on A level results day? Until when do they continue to update, if at all

If I miss the entry requirements for a course, but the course is in clearing, is it still possible to get into that course through clearing? I've seen no mention of this option.

Which clearing unis 2023 are good for biochemistry?

# 73% of students' summer plans are impacted by rising cost of living

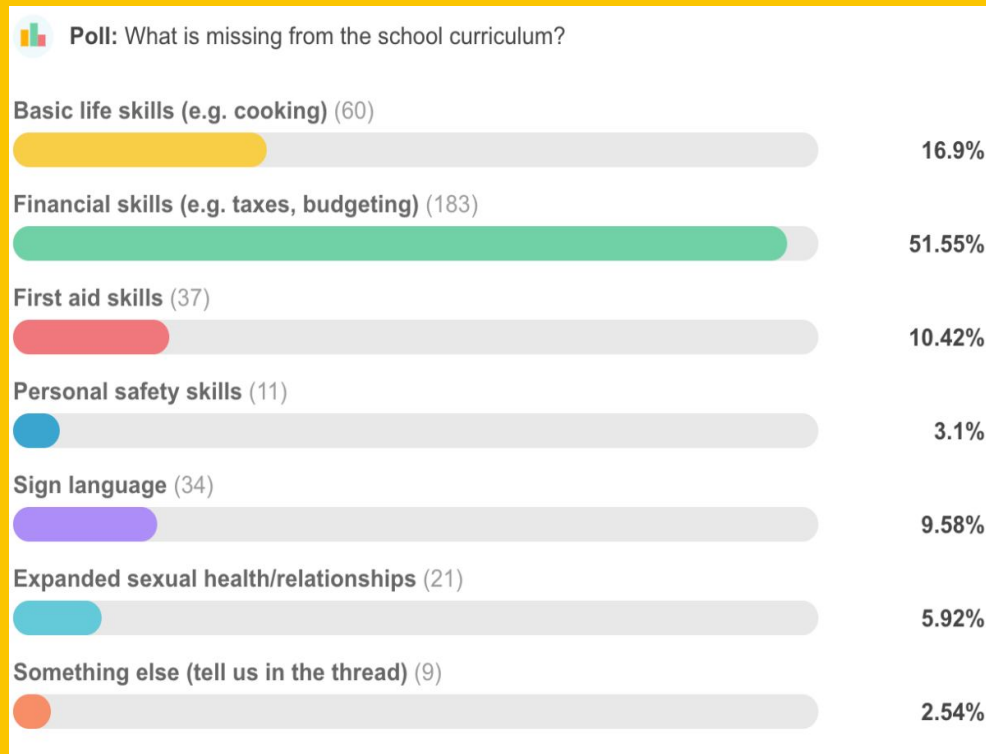
The rise in cost of living is impacting the majority of students summer plans this year, with only 22% of students not affected. The biggest change is that more students are having to work to earn extra money this summer. One student is [counting down their money](#) until they receive their student finance in September, while another is [finding it tough paying bills for shared accommodation](#) over the summer while they're not there.



# Over half of students feel financial skills are missing from the school curriculum

Students' concerns about money are confirmed in our recent poll showing the majority of students feel the financial skills they gain in school are lacking or non-existent. The proportion of students rating this the biggest gap in the curriculum has increased by 3% compared to when we asked the same question in [2022](#).

Often, it's the quality of the education that's the issue, but it's not just finance students feel is lacking...





# Over half of students feel financial skills are missing from the school curriculum

*I think the SRE curriculum definitely needs updating, especially to cover LGBTQ+ topics.*

*Philosophical dialogue and debate should have more emphasis going forwards I think, one of the internet/ social media's biggest pitfalls is the inability to acknowledge or attempt to understand the different sides to an argument. Building learners to become stronger critical thinkers with more open minds would lead to more more compassion in the long run, I think.*

*I've never learned budgeting in maths (how to save, how to manage your money, how to invest it well, how to spend your money efficiently etc) it was simply a case of "does John have enough money to buy this food?", "how much money does Mary need to put tiles in her house?". Lol adding and subtracting is not all there is to budgeting.*

*I have a long list of skills that I think should be taught in schools (whether schools have the time and budget to teach these extra skills is another matter). These would include: DIY, cooking and food hygiene, self defense, basic first aid, meditation...[etc]. I would also have to point out that life is often not as idealistic as when you have parents who are expected to know all of the above or be able to attend to the children all of the time. Equipping the children with these necessary skills earlier in life can foster their independence as well as reducing the risk of them being unprepared in certain unfortunate events or circumstances.*

# Only 30% of Year 12s have been given information about future options in addition to university

A year out from when they'll be receiving their results, only 30% of Year 12s feel they've been given as much information as they'd like when it comes to the full range of future options available to them.

While the majority have been given lots of information about university (36%), there's also more than 30% who don't feel like they've been given much information about university or other directions. 2024 will be a crucial time for these students to form their future plans.

