

Welcome to the Year 12  
Post-18 Progression Evening  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Mrs Radford



# Aims of tonight

- Second in a series of three HE talks;
  - Builds on the last HE Evening from February
- Focus is on the **personal statement** as a key part of the UCAS process for HE option
- Reminder of **apprenticeships** as a Post – 18 option and the process involved in applying



# HE launch in February

- In the last session we included;
  - Introduction to the UCAS process
  - Introduction to Unifrog as a search tool
  - Outline of various Post -18 options



# Tomorrow

- A Post - 18 Progression Day for students (tomorrow)

## **Morning**

- External company coming to lead on Writing a Personal Statement session
- Apprenticeship talk (GE)
- Breakout rooms for Apprenticeships/Life at University/Oxbridge/Medicine/Studying in the USA

## **Afternoon**

- Start drafting the personal statement on Unifrog
- Log on to UCAS and begin their application



# A reminder of the UCAS process



# 1. UNIFROG

- We use Unifrog until October 2022.
- On Unifrog students will do their course searches and create a short list of universities you are considering.
- They will draft their personal statement on here too.
- Their subject references will be written on here.



## 2. Create a UCAS account

- Tomorrow students will start their UCAS account by registering and inputting their personal details and your education.
- They can complete all sections apart from personal statement.
- DO NOT write the personal statement on UCAS as it times out and you lose everything.



### 3. YOUR UNIVERSITY CHOICES

Every student can **choose 5 courses** on UCAS.

Aim to divide them into;

**Aspirational choice /realistic choice/insurance choice.**

Make sure the insurance choice is:

- Completely achievable in terms of UCAS points or grades
- A place you will be happy studying – you must visit to make sure.





## 4. YOUR REFERENCE

- Once students have completed their personal statement and uploaded it on UCAS, tutors will write their reference.
  1. First the subject teachers are asked to write a reference for you on Unifrog.
  2. Tutors will draw on this when writing the overall tutor reference.
  3. When the tutor has completed the reference the application is ready to go!



# 5. Your offers

- Students will receive one of the following responses:
- **Conditional:** This offer is based upon attaining the entry requirements set by the university and specific course
- **Unconditional:** This offer means that you have a place on that course at that university if you want it.
- **Unsuccessful:** Unfortunately you have not been accepted by this university. The university will either provide feedback at this stage, or you can contact them directly to discuss feedback



# UNDERSTANDING THE OFFER: UCAS TARIFF

A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
<b>A*</b>	56
<b>A</b>	48
<b>B</b>	40
<b>C</b>	32
<b>D</b>	24
<b>E</b>	16

Size band: 4

Grade bands: 4-14

Offered by AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel and WJEC



# BTEC vs A level tariff points

Extended Diploma	Diploma	Foundation Diploma	Extended Certificate	Certificate	AS level	A level	UCAS tariff points
D*D*D*							168
D*D*D							160
D*DD							152
DDD							144
DDM							128
DMM	D*D*						112
	D*D						104
MMM	DD						96
		D*					84
MMP	DM						80
							78
		D					72
MPP	MM						64
			D*			A*	56
PPP	MP	M	D			A	48
						B	40
	PP		M			C	32
				D*			28
		P		D		D	24



# Once offers are in

FIVE AND TWO

- Now narrow down the five to the final two
- Students need to make sure that they are happy to attend both the Firm and Insurance choices – they could end up at either of them!
- Once students have put a university as their FIRM choice and get the grades to go, they cannot then change your mind and choose the insurance option.
- To make the best use of the insurance choice, this university should have lower grade requirements. The insurance choice should act as a backup.



## 6. FINANCE

Universities and colleges can charge fees of up to £9,250. Tuition fee loans will also increase with inflation.

- Tuition fee loans lend students up to £9,250 and is paid directly to the course provider.
- They pay this back after the course and when they earn over a certain amount (currently £25,725 per year).
- Maintenance loans **may** depend on the household income, where students study, where they live and for how long they study.



## MEET THE DEADLINES:

### KEY DATES:



- Complete **personal statement** – submit draft to **tutor 17th June 2022.**
- 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022: Submission deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary Medicine/Science, Medicine, Dentistry applications
- **FINAL personal statement due Friday 14th October – submitted to tutors**
- Internal Gordon's deadline for final applications/personal statements
- November 2022: Applications sent off
- 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023: Deadline for applications to be guaranteed consideration, except those listed above.



# Oxbridge/Medicine

Mrs Wright





- UCAS grades- first draft has now been issued. Is Oxbridge still suitable?

- Next steps:

Personal statement – meeting students tomorrow and online workshops

Reading and research over summer for a strong application

- Early UCAS deadline: internal - **Friday 16th September**



# Oxbridge/Medicine/Veterinary/Dentistry

DATE	EVENT
September: Friday 9th September 2022	Final draft of personal statement to be emailed/handed to Mrs Wright <b>by this date</b>
Friday 16th September 2022	<p>UCAS form to be complete.</p> <p><b>Ensure entry for admissions tests with Mrs Clinch (except for UCAT)</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.admissionstesting.org/">https://www.admissionstesting.org/</a></p> <p>Please note: this early date is to allow for the references to be collated and a final reference written, and to allow for corrections to be made.</p>
Tuesday 24th May 2022	Registration opens for UCAT
Monday 20th June 2022	Booking for UCAT begins
Wednesday 22nd September 2022	Booking closes for UCAT ( <i>medicine and dentistry</i> )
Date not announced	BMAT entry closes ( <i>medicine and dentistry</i> )
Wednesday 28th September	Last test date for UCAT
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	<p>UCAS forms submitted to UCAS (UK deadline 15<sup>th</sup> October)</p> <p><b>LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.</b></p>
15th October 2022	<b>BMAT register deadline with Mrs Clinch</b>
Wednesday 2nd November	BMAT Admissions tests take place

# SUMMARY

- RESEARCH: Check the grades/UCAS points you will need to get accepted. Be realistic about what you can achieve.
  - Check that there are **no GCSE subjects/specific GCSE grades or other qualifications** required.
- Work on your personal statement – you need to evidence claims and show why they should choose you.
- Have an insurance choice. You might want options later on.



# Apprenticeships

What else do you need to  
know?

Mrs Hughes



# What are apprenticeships?

A REAL JOB WITH A  
REAL EMPLOYER

PAID A SALARY

QUALIFICATIONS AND  
EXPERIENCE

CONTRACT OF  
EMPLOYMENT,  
HOLIDAY, SICK

SUPPORT FROM  
TRAINING  
PROVIDER/UNIVERSITY

3-6 YEARS



# Typical Apprentice Employers



Cabinet Office

Allianz 

 **Capgemini**  
CONSULTING. TECHNOLOGY. OUTSOURCING

 **HM Revenue  
& Customs**

**B B C**

 **ERNST & YOUNG**  
*Quality In Everything We Do*

**MORRISONS**



**Sponsored  
Degree**

 **Southern  
Water**

 **gsk**  
GlaxoSmithKline

  
**edf**  
ENERGY



## Degree Apprenticeships at Russell Group Universities



### **Queen Mary University of London**

- Chartered Manager
- Software Engineer

### **University of Exeter**

- Civil Engineering
- Applied Finance (J.P. Morgan)

### **University of Birmingham**

- Computer Science with Digital Technology

### **University of Warwick**

- Engineering
- Social Work



# Where do you find them?

- Unifrog
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- <https://www.multiverse.io/en-GB>
- <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships>
- Research individual companies
- Speak to the careers department at Gordon's School.





# What are employers looking for?

Flexibility and adaptability

Tact and diplomacy

The ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines

The ability to be proactive and work on your own initiative

Honesty and reliability

Attention to detail

Discretion / understanding of confidentiality issues

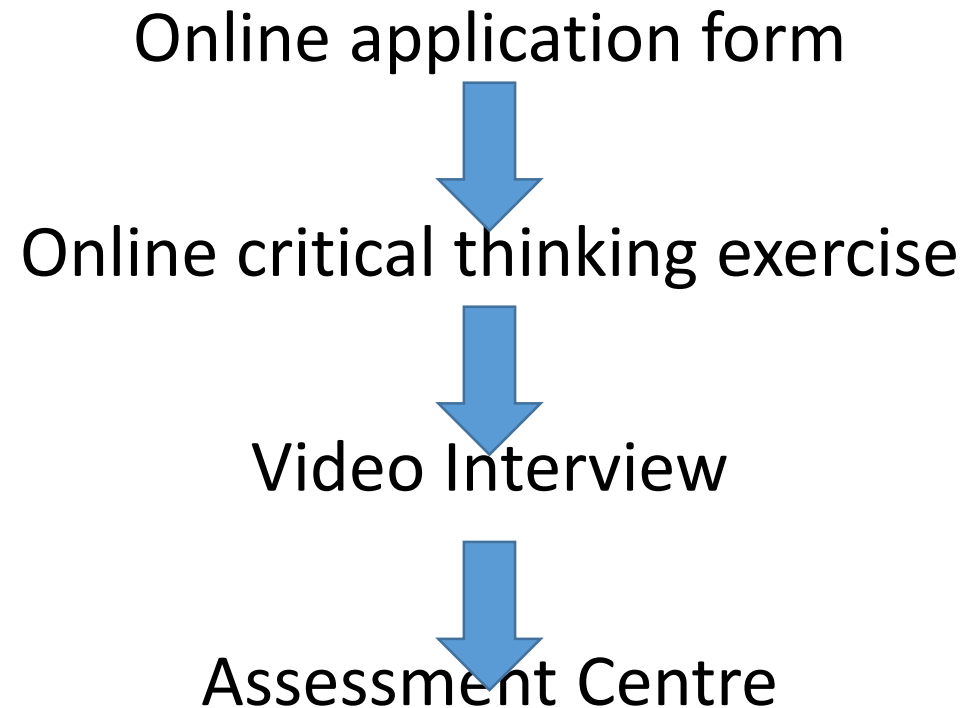
Remain calm under pressure and to think quickly in a crisis

Adapt quickly to change



# Application Process Example 1

## Dentons - Solicitor Apprenticeship



# Successful applicants:



Take time over the application



research the organisation in advance



attend an Insight Day



have relevant work experience and are proactive



can articulate how they have the skills and qualities the employer seeks



are enthusiastic!



# University of Cardiff

The Personal Statement



# The UCAS application and personal statement

Schools and Colleges Liaison Office

## The application form

- **Personal details and additional information** – includes funding, scholarships and residential options
- **Choices** – can choose up to 5 options in no order
- **Education** – all grades you have received from secondary school onwards and predicted grades
- **Employment** – information on any paid part or full-time job
- **Statement** – your personal statement
- **Reference** – a written recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- View all details before you pay and send the application (£22.50 for one course and £27 for anything more)

Welcome	
Personal details	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reference	<input type="checkbox"/>
View all details	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pay/Send	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help	
Options/Opslynnau	

**Key**

- Completed
- In progress
- Not started

Welcome

Welcome John,

Your Personal ID is: **114-123-6804**.

Please make a note of this number and keep it handy. You will need to quote this number if you call our Customer Contact Centre.

Need guidance? Watch the video advice below [\[Hide video\]](#)



(Unable to view videos here? You can watch them at [www.ucas.com/TV](http://www.ucas.com/TV) instead)

[\[i\] Verify your email address](#)

## Personal statement

- 4,000 characters or 47 lines
- A structured statement all about you and why you are suitable for your chosen course
- Can be used during the admissions process
- Take your time as some courses are very competitive

# How to structure the statement

Why do you want to study the course?

What have you done that makes you suitable for the course?

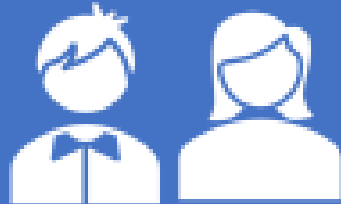
What else have you done?



# What should you include?



Reasons for application  
Academic Interest



Work  
experience



Career  
aspirations



Hobbies and  
responsibilities

- Why do you want to study this subject?
- Think about what inspired you
- Any reading or research? (**EPQ**)
- What experience do you have?
- What skills have you developed that will help you on the course?
- What do you hope to gain from the course?
- What else do you do? (**Sports**)



CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY  
PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD



ABC guide

**Activity**

What you've  
done

**Benefit**

What skills it  
has given you

**Course**

How these relate  
to your course



## Example

“ As captain of the school football team, I have developed excellent team working skills. I also feel that playing football has provided me with the experience of successfully balancing my academic and social life and I plan to continue this balance whilst at university.

”





## Do:

- Detailed research
- Take time and plan properly
- Include academic qualities as well as hobbies
- Be positive
- Check spelling
- Print a copy to check for errors and ask for feedback

## Do not:

- Give excuses
- Copy others
- Leave it to the last minute
- Name universities
- Sell yourself short
- Waffle - make sure it's relevant to your chosen degree
- Lie!

# Personal statement planner

Use our Personal Statement Planner which includes tips and guidance, help with planning and information on what to include:



[www.cardiff.ac.uk/applying](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/applying)

## Open Days

- Get a feel for the place
- Chat to staff and students
- Explore the campus
- Learn more about university residences
- On-demand resources often available between events
- Important for parents too

Our next open days are on  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/openday](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/openday)





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Any  
questions?

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

02920 874455



# Support at Gordon's

A Guide for Parents & Students  
Personal Statement Writing  
Carl Bezuidenhout





# unifrog




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## The Complete Destinations Platform



# Where should I be now?

- University [Shortlist](#)
- Higher Apprenticeship [Shortlist](#)
- *[Blog of achievements, MOOCs, wider reading, work experience](#)*

UK UNIVERSITIES			
Medicine	 Open	 Forward	 Comment
A Level / Ucas Range: 144 - 168 16 June 2020 13:27			
1. Medicine (6 years)	UCL (University College London)		Aspirational
2. Medicine	University of Oxford		Aspirational
3. Medicine	The University of Edinburgh		Solid
4. Medicine	University of Exeter		Solid
5. Medicine	University of Glasgow		Solid
6. Medicine	Imperial College London		Solid
7. Medicine	University of Southampton		Solid
8. Medicine	University of Manchester		Solid
9. Medicine (6 years)	University of Southampton		Safe
10. Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)	University of Bristol		Safe



# Drafting Tools

Drafting application materials

<p><b>UK Personal Statement</b></p> <p>✘ Subject added</p> <p><a href="#">Go to tool &gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Classes</b></p> <p>✘ No Classes selected</p> <p><a href="#">Locked 🔒</a></p>	<p><b>Subject References</b></p> <p>✘ 1 References, <a href="#">1 missing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Locked 🔒</a></p>
<p><b>Writing tool</b></p> <p>✘ 0 writing items added</p> <p><a href="#">Start &gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Notes for Reference writers</b></p> <p>✘ 1 notes missing</p> <p><a href="#">Go to tool &gt;</a></p>	

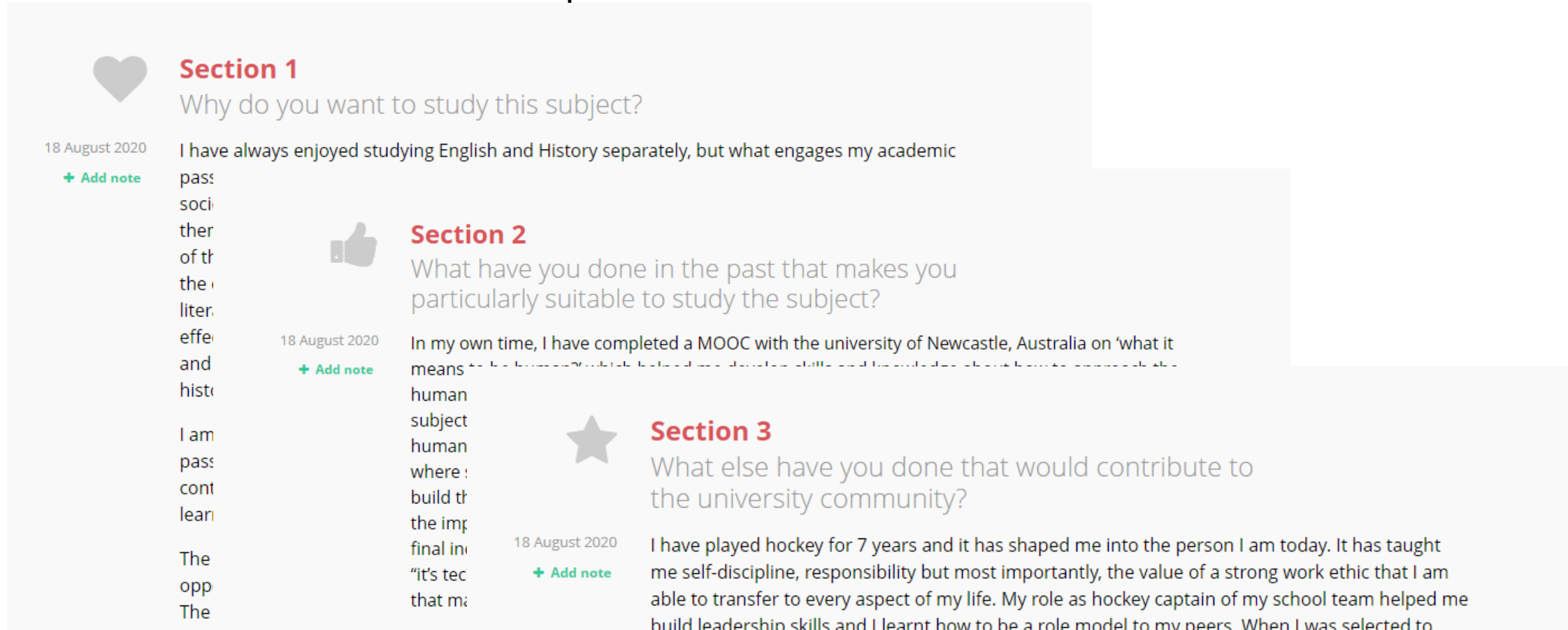
Making applications

<p><b>Locker</b></p>	<p><b>Applications list</b></p>
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# Personal Statement Drafting

- Completely **online** – no more lost drafts on paper
- Saved **drafts and comments**
- **E-mail notifications** of completed drafts and comments



The screenshot displays a user interface for drafting a personal statement. It features three distinct sections, each with a unique icon and a question prompt. The first section is marked with a heart icon, the second with a thumbs-up icon, and the third with a star icon. Each section includes a date (18 August 2020) and a '+ Add note' button. The text of the statements is partially visible, showing the user's responses to the prompts.

**Section 1**  
Why do you want to study this subject?  
18 August 2020  
+ Add note  
I have always enjoyed studying English and History separately, but what engages my academic  
pass  
soci  
ther  
of th  
the  
liter  
effe  
and  
histo

**Section 2**  
What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?  
18 August 2020  
+ Add note  
In my own time, I have completed a MOOC with the university of Newcastle, Australia on 'what it  
means to be human? which helped me develop skills and knowledge about how to approach the  
human  
subject  
human  
where :  
build th  
the imp  
final in  
"it's tec  
that m:

**Section 3**  
What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?  
18 August 2020  
+ Add note  
I have played hockey for 7 years and it has shaped me into the person I am today. It has taught  
me self-discipline, responsibility but most importantly, the value of a strong work ethic that I am  
able to transfer to every aspect of my life. My role as hockey captain of my school team helped me  
build leadership skills and I learnt how to be a role model to my peers. When I was selected to

# Feedback

In year 12, I completed the triple BTEC diploma In sporting excellence (DISE) with England Hockey on top of my 4 AS levels which meant I had to be highly organised and manage my time effectively to meet every deadline I was set. In order to balance my schoolwork with DISE on top of a

gruelling hockey habits that will I clubhouse as p: believe that I an balancing a high

I believe that th passions, but a compliment my simultaneously

2326 of 400 charact

Edit >

Comment >

Version history >

## Comment from Miss Nash

on 13 July 2020 at 13:09

Have you won any subject prizes etc?

## Comment from Miss Nash

on 13 July 2020 at 13:08

Para 1 - 'prompted passion' then 'passion' next sentence, consider different words. also prompted? maybe ignited? social aspect - perhaps also reliance on you of elderly and children? trust? Love para 2 - ensure you know your stuff and wider reading as anything in here can be picked out at interview for further discussion! Especially Oxbridge! fascinating why? para 3 - 'During the Covid-19 pandemic'? Care homes p consider the other side of the argument as this may be picked upon - many care homes are private and make millions in profit a patient can be charged thousands/ week. Could they get their own PPE? what about their own structures and protocols (devil's advocate). Para 4 - is this the kind of dr you want to be? say so. is it about having empathy whilst also being systematic? para 5 - expand on teamwork characteristics - what was your role? para 6 - you are personable and fun and make people laugh - you would be an asset to the profession! More of your character needed I think. This is a very good statement Emma - just a few tweaks to make it outstanding. Ensure you are in comms with Ms Wright too!

Edit >

Comi



Last word...  
Mrs Radford



# HE Day tomorrow – Personal Statement Writing and Key Competencies

- Students should come prepared with an idea of a **subject area/industry they're interested in** (*not expected to know exactly what course/job*).
- **Firefly** - *Students should have made a record on their personal blog!*
- **They will leave the day with a first Personal Statement draft.**



# Key Dates

Dates	Deadline for
17 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Personal statement draft to tutors
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Internal deadline for Oxbridge/Medicine applicants
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	All other students to have completed UCAS form and personal statement
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	National UCAS deadline for applications

