



CLAREMONT FAN COURT SCHOOL

# HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

## Higher Education Support

Universities particularly want to see that you have an independent interest in the subject for which you are applying. A significant proportion of your time should be spent developing this interest, which you will need to demonstrate in your UCAS application and interview (if applicable). You should be independently reading widely and critically around your subject, follow the news (from different sources) and keep up to date with the latest developments in your subject area.

You should take every opportunity to attend lectures (online and in school), university summer schools, to gain work experience, to participate in academic enrichment activities and to enter competitions. The Joyce Grenfell programme will help with this and you should take full advantage of what's on offer.

Although many teachers will provide you with guidance and suggestions throughout the application process, remember that this is your application - the strongest applications are the ones that are clearly driven by a student's interest and enthusiasm for their subject.

If you are uncertain what you should be doing at any point, or would like some advice, do come and speak to Ms Smart, Mrs Jones, Ms Coombs, Mrs Wells or Miss Joyner.

Good luck!

## **Timeline**

Throughout the year

### **Academic enrichment and competitions**

Taking part in internal and external competitions and the enrichment opportunities (as published each term JGP booklet), will stretch you and develop your interest in the subject beyond the curriculum. This will provide evidence of your interest and ability as well as giving you discussion points for UCAS applications and interviews.

### **Wider reading and academic enrichment**

Discuss with your teachers, UCAS subject contacts, Oxbridge mentors and Librarian, Mrs Roberts suitable books for extending your knowledge and interest beyond the curriculum. Good starting points are:

Unifrog: read, watch, listen tool

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/resource-hub/>

<https://explore.org/>

<https://myheplus.com/>

[Libby App: Free ebooks & audiobooks from your library | by OverDrive](#)

[uLibrary App | Take your library anywhere](#)

<https://www.jstor.org/>

<https://www.edx.org/>

### **Lectures/seminars**

Attending internal and external lectures and talks is a great way to extend your knowledge and demonstrate enthusiasm for your subject and help to develop your critical thinking skills and intellectual curiosity. There are a wealth of online lectures and talks from many universities. Internal speakers, competition and talks will be published each term in the JGP booklet.

Gresham College has been one of the world's leading hosts of academic discourse and debate since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century – you can visit their YouTube Channel and range of Podcasts here - <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>

## Year 12 Autumn Term

- September/October*     **Academic enrichment courses/qualifications:**  
Decide on additional enrichment qualification/course through Joyce Grenfell Programme
- October/November*     **Applicant webinar series Cambridge University**
- Ongoing*     **Areas of interest:** Identify courses/areas of interest to begin researching and exploring

## Year 12 Spring term

- Throughout*     **Taster courses:** Universities run a range of taster courses which provide an excellent insight into university-level study. These will be advertised on university websites and Unifrog.  
**Online/JGP lectures and talks**
- Jan/Feb*     **Academic enrichment assembly:** having an understanding of your subject that goes beyond the syllabus is key to a successful application. This assembly will give you ideas about what you should be doing and sources of information.
- Jan/Feb*     **Organising work experience:** Gaining relevant work experience can really enhance your application. It will take longer than you think to set up, so start organising this now!
- February*     **Careers and UCAS evening**
- March*     **Oxford University visit for interested students**
- March*     **Oxford and Cambridge student conference:** The Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences are joint, regional events for Year 12 students. This will give you the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into what living and studying at Oxford and Cambridge is like, an understanding of how both universities assess applications and the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

## Year 12 Summer Term

- April*     **Y12 Internal exams**

May/June            **Oxford/Cambridge open days**

*June*                    **UCAS application workshop/aptitude test preparation:**  
Required preparation will be discussed and personal statements launched. We will also focus on assessments/aptitude tests for relevant pupils, giving you time to look at papers and practise them.

*June*                    **Oxbridge written work:** For a number of courses at Oxford and Cambridge, you may be asked to submit examples of your written work from a relevant A-level course. These should be pieces of marked work and you should start to think about which pieces you will want to submit and collect these pieces of work early.

\*The deadline for submitting written work is relatively early in the autumn term. You may be starting new topics at the beginning of year 13, which means you may not produce enough pieces of work of sufficient depth in this time. Therefore, ensure that you identify suitable work from your year 12 topics to ensure you have options.

*June*                    **Personal statement writing workshop**

*June/July*            **University open days**

*June/July*            **Work experience**

*June/July*            **Sign up for summer subject masterclasses run by universities.**

Summer holidays between Y12 and Y13

**Independent reading and research**

**UCAS personal statements**

The autumn term can be very busy with NEA work, preparation for aptitude tests, admissions assessments and interviews (if applicable). You should therefore ensure that a draft of your personal statement is completed over the summer, ready for discussion with your mentor on your return to school.

**Work on aptitude tests**

1 August -15 September: Register and book your LNAT test slot (in order to sit the test before or on, 15 October if applying to Oxbridge)

Year 13 Autumn term

<i>September/October</i>	<b>Admission test and interview preparation/Mock admission tests</b>
<i>23 September</i>	<b>Admission test applications to the exams office (all except LNAT)</b>
<i>23 September</i>	<b>UCAS Oxbridge personal statements completed</b>
<i>15 October</i>	<b>Medicine and Oxbridge deadline for submission of UCAS forms</b>
<i>October/November</i>	<b>Admissions tests</b>
<i>TBC</i>	<b>Oxbridge practice interview evening</b>
<i>December</i>	<b>Oxbridge Interviews:</b> these will take place online and not face to face
<i>31 December</i>	<b>KCL/UCL/LSE applicants must sit LNAT by 31 Dec</b>

Year 13 Spring term

<i>January</i>	<b>Y13 A-level mock exams</b>
<i>25 January</i>	<b>Deadline for all other LNAT universities EXCEPT Bristol &amp; Durham</b>
<i>31 January</i>	<b>UCAS deadline for applications AND deadline to sit LNAT for Bristol and Durham</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>Oxbridge interview results</b>
<i>Throughout</i>	<b>Decisions from universities</b>

Year 13 Summer term

<i>Throughout</i>	<b>Decisions from universities</b>
	<b>Make firm and insurance choices</b>

*May/June*

**Sit A-level exams**

*August*

**Results day**

### Admissions tests and submitted work

The vast majority of courses at Oxford and Cambridge now require formal written assessment, usually prior to selection for interview. With the exception of law, pre-interview tests are sat at school.

You can find details of the assessments by looking at the entrance requirement tab for the relevant course on the university webpages.

### Support available

There is a vast range of support in school to help students make good choices, prepare excellent applications and develop in to outstanding undergraduates and professionals.

Mrs Jones is our **Higher Education Co-ordinator** and meets with all members of the Sixth Form – she will guide students through the application process, offer support with their course and institution choices as well as give advice about matters such as university accommodation and student finance. Mrs Jones will also be able to support students through the application process for US universities and degree apprenticeships.

Ms Coombs is the **Head of the Joyce Grenfell Programme** and acts as our Oxbridge Co-ordinator – she will be able to advise students on course and college choice and will liaise with the Oxbridge mentors about preparation for entrance tests, interviews and the submission of written work.

Mrs Bennett is our **Careers Co-ordinator** – she can support students on talking to professionals and industry experts, supporting applications for apprenticeships, advising on work experience. Mrs Bennett also organises our annual Student Futures Evening.

We have a wide range of teachers acting as our **UCAS Subject Contacts** – they give students subject specific advice about personal statement content and academic enrichment opportunities in their specific subject area but also course and institution choice. They are the first port of call if a student has a query about specific subject at undergraduate level.

Each applicant for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine also has their own **Oxbridge Mentor** – they give specific guidance on academic enrichment, interview preparation, pre-interview testing and the submission of written work. Oxbridge Mentors are assigned to students typically at the beginning of the Summer Term in Year 12.