



Getting Ahead of the Game Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry & Oxbridge Applications

Dear Year 11 Students and Parents/Carers,

If you're considering applying for **Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry**, or to **Oxford or Cambridge**, now is the perfect time to get ahead. Using your summer wisely can make a real difference when it comes to competitive applications.

Aspiring Doctors

Start by exploring Medic Mentor <https://medicmentor.org/> —a fantastic resource packed with reading lists, medical news, podcasts, and application guidance for all healthcare careers. Work experience is essential, so begin contacting organisations and enquiring about opportunities now. It may take persistence, but it's worth it!

In-Person Volunteering Ideas:

- GP surgeries
- Hospitals (e.g. [Barts](#), [King's College](#), [Hillingdon](#), [West Herts](#), [Bucks](#), [Royal Brompton](#))
- Care homes or local pharmacies
- Charities like Age UK, St John Ambulance, British Red Cross

Virtual Work Experience Opportunities:

- <https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE>
- <https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>
- <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/your-career/work-experience#observe>
- <https://www.imperial.nhs.uk/careers/career-paths/work-experience>
- <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Aspiring Vets

Explore these resources to deepen your understanding of the veterinary field:

- British Veterinary Association (BVA) <https://www.bva.co.uk/>
- Vet Times <https://www.vettimes.co.uk/>
- RCVS Knowledge <https://www.rcvsknowledge.org/>

This October, the Royal Veterinary College in London is offering a unique chance to explore comparative physiology in the animal kingdom. However, places are limited to just 32 students, and they fill up fast! If you meet the criteria (and many of you likely do), don't miss out—secure your spot now! https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/rvc-is-open-for-all/visit-us/visit-the-rvc/afternoon-anatomy?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwLcJudleHRuA2F1bQ1xMQABHhkwiC-eP4xb8nQPxFUSIO211Me-Ef5szbwaLggQOUolNHZcrFxug9gZH_7r_aem_Jfza7fj7nFWm6OEFDycpDg

Aspiring Dentists

Stay informed about developments in dentistry through:

- British Dental Journal (BDJ) <https://www.nature.com/bdj/>
- Dental Tribune UK <https://uk.dental-tribune.com>

Thinking About Oxford or Cambridge?

If you are thinking about applying to Oxford or Cambridge or any other research intensive university, it is worth starting to explore the broader hinterland of your subjects even before starting your A level courses. Wide reading beyond the A level curriculum will add depth to both your understanding and your appreciation of your subjects, and is invaluable both for making an informed decision as regards which university course to apply for, and for demonstrating the mixture of proactivity, drive, independence of mind and profound intellectual curiosity and ambition that all of the top universities, and in particular Oxford and Cambridge, look for when reading UCAS personal statements. Consider keeping a reading journal, in which you can reflect briefly on what (if anything) in each book or article excited you or grabbed your imagination, and about which theories, arguments, and ideas (if any) you were not wholly convinced by, and why.

If you are not sure where to start, Oxford and Cambridge provide some initial starting points here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/suggested-subject-resources>

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/super-curricular_suggestions.pdf

This excellent BBC podcast covers an astonishing range of topics, and all recent episodes include a full reading list which you can access by clicking 'show more' just above the download button.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl>

Once you join us in September, keep an eye out for emails from Dr Millington, who will be advertising and supporting you in developing entries for a wide range of essay competitions throughout Year 12, as well as providing further recommendations for super-curricular reading and supporting your applications for masterclasses and workshops.

Here at Becky High and from the Sixth Form Team, we all wish you a lovely Summer break, and look forward to welcoming you in September for the next stage of your journey.

King regards,

Ms Ganachaud

Assistant Headteacher: Director of Sixth Form