



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

**Early Entry Information Evening**

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**March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020**



# Agenda

1. Who does it affect?
2. What is involved?
3. The application process
4. Preparing for a competitive application
5. The interview
6. US Applications
7. Recent results



# Who will be applying early?

1. Applicants to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge
2. Students of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry in the UK
3. US University Applicants (Early Decision/Early Action 1<sup>st</sup> November, Regular Decision 1<sup>st</sup> January)



# Deadlines

- The deadline for early UK entrants is 15 October.
- Students need to get their applications completed by middle of September.
- It is unlikely that it will be correct at the first go – so we need to see the application in early September.
- This allows us to make changes and still get the UCAS forms in by the deadline.
- Our work can take up to two weeks so it is vital that the students work to a mid-September completion.



# Extra forms, essays - Cambridge

- University of Cambridge: an additional form to complete - SAQ.
- SAQ to arrive **before** 18:00 hrs on the 22 October 2018. There will be a similar deadline for 2019.
- Sent out in October after receipt of UCAS application - even more reason to get UCAS application in before 15 October to increase time available for SAQ
- Some Colleges require essays to be submitted for some subjects. This should be work that has already been completed and marked – deadlines vary, early to mid November.



# Additional exams - Subject specific tests

- Oxford University have written assessments for various subject areas, under the acronyms of LNAT, HAT, PAT etc. This is a long established situation and we have many past successes supporting our students in this process.
- The Colleges of the University of Cambridge have introduced a system of common format written assessments for applicants, specifically tailored to each subject.
- These are undertaken either pre-interview (in November at school) or at-interview, depending on the course applied for. We have had good feedback from Cambridge that our students have done well in these assessments in the first three years of the process.



# Additional exams – Medics, Dentists, Vets

- There are additional examinations which may be required.
- Medicine and Dentistry – UCAT (sat between July and October, taught in school during Y12) and/or BMAT (sat in early November Y13). Constantly changing landscape with universities altering their criteria.
- UCAT & BMAT are being used to select the students for interview or rank their application overall – vital to do well in these tests.
- Veterinary Medicine – none require BMAT anymore.



# Extra forms – Veterinary Science

- Veterinary Science applicants will need evidence of work experience. Assessment differs for each Veterinary School.
- **Surrey** - On submission of a UCAS application all applicants will be asked to upload to their online applicant portal references to cover our work experience requirement. We require references to be on headed paper, dated, signed by an appropriate member of staff with their details printed below the signature and include dates worked in the main body of the letter.
- **Nottingham** - Applicants are requested to complete an on-line further information paper in order to supply further information for Widening Participation criteria and work experience. The request for the online survey to be completed will be sent within one week of the UCAS form being submitted to the University. At this stage, the application is reviewed to ensure that the applicant has gained at least four weeks' experience of working with animals. The School does not wish to receive portfolios associated with work experience. An applicant has 1 week to complete the further information online survey;





# Additional information - Applications

- Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry: applicants can only apply for 4 places.
- Their remaining option can also be filled in e.g. biomedical sciences, veterinary sciences or oral sciences. They could fill this in later and may need a separate personal statement sending directly to this course choice. Not too much later as courses can fill very quickly.
- A totally different subject can be put in 5th place – but the students need to be aware that their personal statements will be focused at medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry and therefore it may not be advisable to have history as choice 5.



Some students have already visited Oxford and Cambridge, some have taster days and summer schools already organised for either university in the coming months. (UNIQ, Sutton Trust, Headstart)



# Academic Performance

- It is important to understand that all courses which are applied for as early entries are very competitive.
- This means that very high GCSE (A\*- A/7-9 grades) and A level (A\*AA/AAA or even A\*A\*A\*) grades are required. GCSEs have acquired even more significance with the demise of AS levels.



# Work Experience/Courses

- For medicine -Hospital/GP Practice Experience programmes
- For medicine - a range of medically related activities e.g. St. John Ambulance volunteer, volunteer work in care homes, volunteer work at St Francis School, etc.
- Similarly, for veterinary medicine – kennel work, veterinary surgeries, veterinary hospitals, animal rescue centres, etc.
- It is also important for dentistry e.g. work experience with a dentist.
- ‘Medlink’ or ‘Vetlink’ courses
- Work Experience not needed for Oxbridge, except YINI for Engineering.



# Competitive Applications

- Why all this?
- **Any** student applying for these competitive courses is likely to be predicted at least 3 A grades at A Level *or better*
- Therefore our students have to earn excellent predicted grades at the end of Year 12
- They should be at or very near the top of their class in their chosen subject(s)



# The Interview

- For all Oxbridge applicants and all Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine\* places, there will be interviews.
- We have a successful programme to prepare the students. This includes
  - Early Entry activities throughout Year 12
  - Practice MMI day with all Medics/Dentists/Vets
  - Practice one-to-one interviews with Mr Stones/Mrs Griffin/Mr Milner and school alumni
  - An interview with the Chief Executive of the Federation, Mr Ian Jones



# US University Applications

- US study is very expensive (up to \$70,000 pa) and many universities are private.
- The usual study period is 4 years and leads to a degree in Liberal Arts, with a major in one or two specific subjects, such as Maths, German or Computer Science.
- There is a great deal of financial aid available to students from low to middle income families direct from the universities themselves.
- The process involves extra exams (ACTs and SATs) and preparation starts now.
- Excellent if you like lots of school subjects.



# Recent Performance

- 2014-15 Medicine, Vet Science and Dentistry– 7; Oxbridge – 8
- 2015-16 Medicine, Dentistry- 6; Oxbridge – 6
- 2016-17 Medicine – 4 ; Oxbridge – 9; USA – 1 scholarship (Bowdoin College)
- 2017-18 Medicine -7; Vet Science -1; Oxbridge - 4; USA – 3 scholarships
- 2018-19 Medicine - 9; Vet Science - 5; Oxbridge – 7
- 2019-20 Medicine – 9 offers; Dentist - 1 offer; Oxbridge - 4 offers; USA – 1 application, still awaiting outcome.





# If not successful with Oxbridge?

- Durham – 12 offers already this year
- Lancaster – 17 offers
- Warwick – 8 offers
- Edinburgh – 7 offers
- St Andrews – 2 offers, with 4 waiting
- Imperial, Bristol, UCL, King's, LSE
- Leeds -63 applications, Sheffield 56, Newcastle 51
- Our students are very successful at getting into the top UK institutions



Thank you.  
Any Questions?



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