



**Altrincham Grammar
School for Girls**
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**Dr Susan Haines, Admissions Tutor, Murray
Edwards College, Cambridge**



Summary of Oxbridge help in school:

- Super curricular reading (ask subject teachers)
- Personal statement completed over the summer
- Sign up to Mrs Stokes' door (first week back) to discuss personal statement for Oxbridge
- Subject teacher to review your personal statement (approach early)
- Seminars, support, 1:1 interview practice
- Exams officer deadline for forms/take outside school



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Applying to HE for the Medical Professions

Mrs Edmundson



Outline

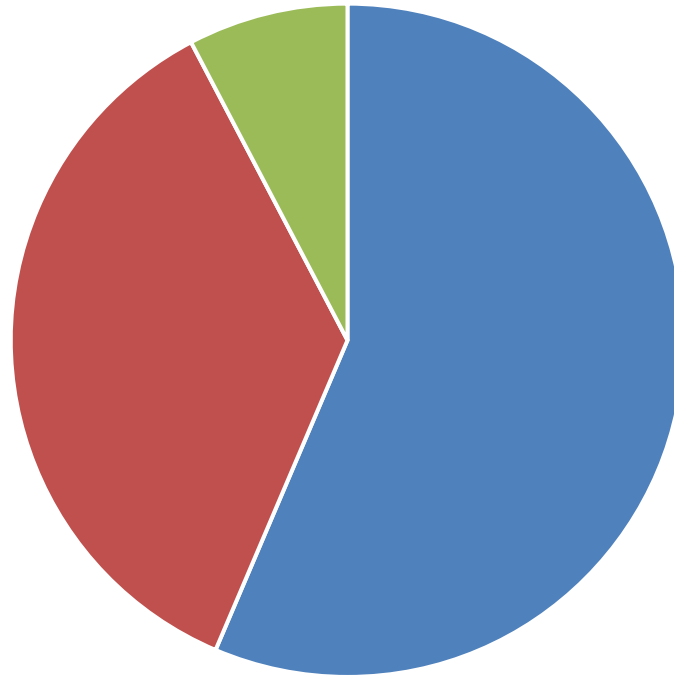
- What's the process?
- What do I have to do and when do I do it?
- What help can I get?
- What are my chances?

What are my chances?



Current picture

2020 Picture



39 total applications

22 Offers
14 Awaiting
3 Rejections

■ Offers ■ Awaiting ■ Rejected

UCAS Form

- **Research, research, research**
- Choose four
- Fifth backup choice (or add later)
- Complete Jul – Sep
- Submit by **Friday 18th Sept**



Research



Location



Campus



Course Structure

Factors affecting choosing a medical school



Year Size



Finance



Reputation



Research

Academic Reference

AAA
prediction for
A level

Chemistry
is most
important



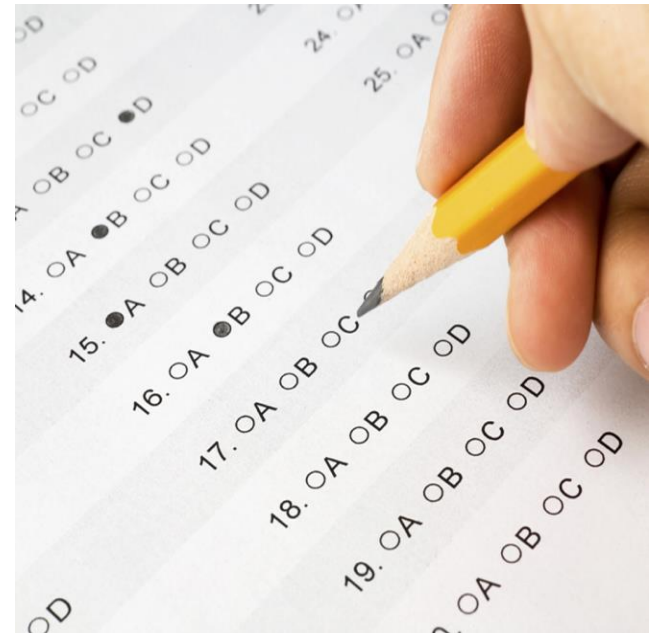
EPQ valued
(not offered
upon, but ...)

Year 12
mock results
and work
ethic

Choosing University Clip

Admissions Tests – UCAT/BMAT

- Sit UCAT from 1 July to 1 October
- Register and take it yourself at Pearson centres
- BMAT registration September
- Exam in school **4 November 2020**



How we can help

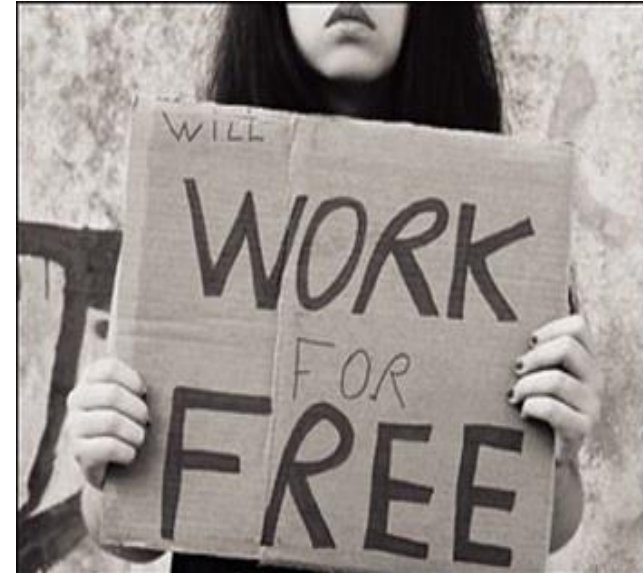
- BMAT organised and conducted in school
- Extra science support for BMAT
- Essay writing support from me
- UCAT sessions arranged
- A few books of practice questions to borrow in 6th form office
- Online papers



UCAT/BMAT Video

Work Experience

- Politely persistent
- Keep a **diary**: skills observed (and preferably demonstrated)
- Don't ignore charity, paid work and volunteering
- Medics: sustained commitment caring beats 'shadowing' docs
- Vets/dentists: more job focus dexterity & min. requirements



How we can help

- We have a few contacts and offer places
- If you are politely persistent you will find a place that will take you
- Use MedSoc and other talks



Work Experience Clip

Personal Statement by 1st Sept

NOTTINGHAM: Personal Statement score: 70%

“We look for:

- a realistic interest in medicine;*
- relevant life skills;*
- a wide range of interests;*
- acts of altruism and voluntary work;*
- communication and interaction skills”*



Unique to the university e.g. Sheffield do not read the personal statement!

Do and Don't

DO

- Start early – that means July
- Think about what your experiences evidence
- Get advice from many places
- Write the main body first
- **Demonstrate skills**

DON'T

- Wait until you have all your experience
- Try to put in everything you've ever done
- Keep changing it and end up with a dozen drafts
- Fret about the start and end

How we can help

- It's *personal* – they will find you out in interview if it's not: but we can ...
- Advice and workshop in July
- Sign ups in September
- Add to your reference (in Tutor section) any experience that won't fit
- Proof-read a final draft



Interviews



Some Things to Prepare

Practise skills
tested in
multi-minis

Prepare for
rejection

Standard
questions –
why dentistry?

Prepare for
stress

Self-awareness
*“It’s like, sort of,
important,
y’know, ok?”*

Academic
subject
knowledge

Reading –
journals, news
stories ...

How we can help

- Mock interviews inc. 1:1, MMI (Nov – Jan)
- Library
- Sixth form careers office
- External ‘courses’ available
- Debrief / more practise if not successful early
- Mindfulness



Interviews & Rejections Clip

Summary – Recipe for Success

- Research and preparation
- Outstanding academic **results** (including tests and reference)
- Convincing **personal statement**
- Qualities & commitment shown in **interview**



Summary – Next Steps 1/2

Stage 1 – Now

- Dazzle teachers with your work ethic in all subjects
- Get strong A grades in your Year 12 exams

Stage 2 – After Year 12 exams

- Thoroughly research universities/courses
- Choose a 'backup' course you are happy with
- Start to prepare for UCAT/BMAT
- Work experience

Summary – Next Steps 2/2

Stage 3 – Summer Holiday

- Keep a diary of any more (work) experience
- Finish your personal statement by Sept 1st

Stage 4 – Next School Year

- UCAS form finished in September
- Interview prep during October
- Real interviews & BMAT November onwards
- Additional interview practice following rejections
- Your final deadline, everything finished by **18th September**



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Questions?

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