



**PRACTICAL TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE
YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT.**

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 – 2022.

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Practical advice and suggestions to help Toot Hill College students prepare and write their Personal Statements for inclusion on their UCAS university application forms.

For the students at Toot Hill College for whom the future holds many bright and exciting opportunities.



What is a Personal Statement?

- It's a succinct statement written by you in which you explain why YOU are exactly the sort of student the University wants on their course.
- Its sole purpose is to convince the University Admissions tutor why you should be given a place on the course.
- It forms part of your UCAS Application form.

My suggested plan for writing your Statement starts on page 10.

But before you start writing it, read through these notes and advice. They **will** help you write a better Personal Statement.

Before making a start on your Personal Statement:

Read and take note of this advice:

Make sure you are absolutely sure which course you wish to study at university and which university is your first choice. Consider *all* the following points:-

- Research your chosen university course(s) and its future profession/career possibilities in detail.
- Check the University website – many include advice from their admission tutors on what they are looking for in personal statements.
- Make sure you know the answers to the following questions:-
- What specific topics do they include as part of their course?
- Which topics are compulsory?
- Which topics do you choose (“electives”) and which ones would you choose from the choices given?
- Do they mention any particular skills you will need to have (or develop)?
- Do they mention what qualities they are looking for in a candidate?
- How is the course assessed? Is it all exams? Is there any course-work involved and what information do they give about writing your dissertation?

Once you have done your research, it should give you a good idea on what particular qualities you have that you need to emphasise in your own personal statement.

Your Personal Statement

- It is the only part of the application process written by you, apart from your personal details.
- Is read by the University Admission Tutors. It needs to impress them!

- It forms a major part of the evidence they use to decide whether or not to offer you a place at their university.
- **It has a length limit of 4000 characters, or 47 lines.**
- **(n.b. the space between each word counts as a character and any space between paragraphs counts as one of the lines.)**

What should I include in my Personal Statement?

- Everything must be relevant to the question: “Why should we (the university) give you a place on this course?”
 - There is no set formula for a Personal Statement.
 - However, below I have listed the areas that should usually be included:-
1. A short, strong opening to engage the reader
 2. A clear explanation of why you want to study this course
 3. Your proven achievements that show you are capable of studying this course
 4. Evidence that you have taken an interest in this course/subject beyond the classroom. (e.g. work, reading or activities that have been undertaken independently and have not been set by your present subject teacher.)
 5. Additional knowledge relevant to the course. (e.g. do your other A-level subjects relate to the course?)
 6. Additional transferable skills relevant to the course.

Some examples of transferable skills

- Working independently
- Taking on responsibility
- Meeting deadlines
- Teamwork
- Communicating effectively
- Curiosity to learn and taking on a challenge
- Ability to learn new facts quickly
- Leadership
- Logical thinking
- Public speaking
- Being well organised
- Being positive
- Problem solving
- Teaching others
- Enjoying a challenge

This list is not exhaustive but shows you the kind of skills in which universities are interested. You do need to **provide evidence** of any transferable skill you mention.

Then you need to include relevant “Enrichment” activities which have helped develop your character i.e Activities in which you have learnt something about yourself.

Some examples of “Enrichment” activities.....

- Sports Teams
- Student Union Officer
- Student voice in Lower School
- World Challenge
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Playing musical instrument(s)
- Drama
- Mentoring younger students
- Scouts
- Guides
- Cadets
- Toe-by-Toe and 12-4-8
- Part time employment
- Responsibility at home e.g. Carer
- Voluntary language classes
- Other hobbies.

Again, this list is not exhaustive but should give you an idea of the kinds of things that may be included.

This is not the time to be modest! You need to “advertise yourself”!

- Approximately **75%** of your personal Statement should be focused on your academic ability to study this course at University.
- Only **25%** should be about additional enrichment activities.
- Always be specific. i.e. Give a specific example to support everything you say about yourself.
- Always explain why everything you mention is relevant to *why YOU should be given a place on THIS course.*

- Lead with your strongest points. Include your greatest achievements first, don't leave them to the end.
- Say what is special and unique about *you*. What do you have that no-one else has? How do you stand out from other students studying the same course? (in a good way of course!)
- **Proof read your work.** Spelling and grammar mistakes are a big NO !

What to avoid when writing your Personal Statement.

- Incorrect spelling and bad grammar
- Long sentences
- Names of Universities (remember, this application goes to every university to which you have applied)
- Rhetorical questions
- Repeating academic details
- Talking about "when I was young"
- Being formulaic and stilted vocabulary and sentence structure
- Flattery
- Overuse of the phrase "I am *passionate* about....."
- Cliches
- Trying to be funny
- Random lists and sweeping statements and claims about yourself
- Plagiarism, exaggerations or lies about your achievements

And remember the length of your Personal Statement is limited to 4000 characters (including the spaces) or 47 lines.

BUT.....

Before you start writing, you need to think through your ideas. Try using the following 'IDEAS GENERATOR' on the following pages to help you 'brainstorm' your ideas. Jot down ideas and thoughts in the appropriate boxes as and when you think of them.

PERSONAL STATEMENT - IDEAS GENERATOR.

(If some questions don't apply to you, don't worry, leave them blank.)

From the university websites, research ALL the courses for which you are applying.

What exactly are the entry requirements from each of the universities to which you are applying? Do they mention any specific skills they are looking for? What topics (compulsory/optional) will be included in your course? How will your performance be assessed?

What topics have you already studied that may be relevant to your chosen subject area?

Which of these have you been particularly good at? What evidence do you have? Which of these have you particularly enjoyed and why? Which of these are most relevant to your course?

What *additional* work have you done related to your subject outside the classroom? i.e. work that was *not* set by the teacher. e.g. Additional reading you have done? Newspaper articles? Magazines? Internet Web Pages? TV programmes? Trips? Public lectures? Museums? Documentaries? Debating Societies? Performances? Theatre trips? Concerts?

What other experience have you had of independent study?

EPQ? Coursework, Personal Study, Experiment, other situations of study where *you* decided what and how you would study and not directed by your teacher.

What relevant work experience have you had?

How did your work experience give you more of an insight into your chosen subject and what did you learn about yourself?

Any other academic achievements you can mention?

Academic prizes? Competitions? Full marks in a piece of Coursework? Are you a "Subject Ambassador"?

Have you been involved in teaching or mentoring other pupils or students in Lower School or College?

What have all these experiences taught you about yourself?

What other subjects are you studying in College (or elsewhere?)

Which of these subjects might be relevant to your chosen degree course and how?

Have you been involved in Student Voice during your time in school and College?

**What additional ENRICHMENT activities do you take part in now/ have done recently?
Student Voice, Student Union Officer, Sporting activities, Performance, Debating
Societies, Concerts, Music, NCS, DofE, Cadets, Scouts, World Challenge, etc.**

What have you learnt about yourself by taking part in these activities?

Use your bullet points from the boxes above to help you write each paragraph.

Before writing your own Statement, you might like to read some of the Personal Statements in the Appendix.(page 12.) These were written by previous College students, they may give you some good ideas.

******Start writing your own Personal Statement******

Once you have read a few of these to see the sort of things other students have written in the past, you can make a start on your own. **Keep referring to the relevant bullet points you made previously in the boxes above.**

Suggested General Plan.

Paragraph 1.

- A general opening statement or quotation about the subject you wish to study at degree level or straight into:-
- What/who/when was it that first made you interested in the subject?
- How have your A-level studies developed your interest in the subject?

Paragraph 2 + 3.

- Mention how your other A-level subjects are relevant to the subject you wish to study at Degree level.... the content *and* the skills you have gained by studying them.
- What books and articles about the subject have you read that you enjoyed and you learnt from? (i.e. articles *not* included as part of the A-level course.) Quote something from one that impressed you.
- Any lectures attended, TV programmes/documentaries etc you have seen that are relevant? What specifically did you learn from them?
- Other experiences of independent study, e.g. EPQ evening classes etc.
- Any other academic achievements you can mention? (mentoring younger pupils, academic prizes, subject ambassador etc.)
- Talk about your relevant work experience and what you learnt from it. Also what did you learn about yourself?

Paragraph 4.

- Talk about “enrichment” activities in which you are involved both in College and out of College.
- Are you an officer in the College Student Union?
- What sport, if any, do you play? Do you play for any teams? Any major sporting achievements? Any special qualifications in your sport?
- Do you play any musical instrument and if so to what level (if relevant)
- What have you gained by being involved in these extra-curricular activities?
- What have you learnt about yourself by taking part in these activities?

Paragraph 5 (short)

- Where do you see your career going after you have graduated?
- Last sentence to sum up = something along the lines of:
“I hope I have shown I have the skills, experience and passion to make me the ideal candidate to study at your university where I look forward to developing my academic experiences further”.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do break up the text into paragraphs.• Do try to avoid the use of “I” at the start of every sentence.• Do mention your gap year plans if you are applying for deferred entry. Try and say how it may be relevant to your future studies.• Be positive throughout.• Read your statement at the end and imagine you are the admissions tutor reading it – after reading it, would you give yourself a place at this university?• Do ask for advice.• Do give yourself plenty of time to write your Personal Statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don’t feel you have to stick to a formula.• Don’t keep using exclamation marks!!• Don’t be afraid to mention how you have overcome a disability but don’t “milk it” and don’t ask for sympathy.• Don’t write about the things you are going to do – write about the things you <i>have</i> done.• Don’t use txtspk• Don’t leave writing your Personal Statement to the last minute.• Don’t panic!
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Other considerations to be taken in some special cases.

What if I am applying for different courses or joint/combined courses?

- **If you have chosen a mixture of courses** you will need to blend your Personal Statement very carefully so that all five admissions tutors will feel that it is relevant to their specific course.
- **If you are thinking of applying for totally different courses, then you should seek advice from Mr. Lawrence as to how you go about that.**

- **If some or all of your choices are joint or combined courses** then it is important to engage with both subjects in your Statement. If the two subjects have some quite strong connections with each other, it is a good idea to draw some links between them.

If some of your choices are single honours and others are joint or combined, or if they are all joint but some of the combinations are different, it's important that you blend your Statement in such a way that it will be relevant and appeal to everyone who reads it.



APPENDIX A.

First, here are some examples of opening paragraphs designed to grab the interest of the reader.

1. Physics at Oxford.

Physics, by definition, is the study of light and matter in the universe and how they interact. I struggle to recall a more elegantly simple statement from any of my studies. What interests me, however, is the complexity and challenge involved in becoming enlightened on

such topics. Throughout my academic career I have been fascinated by the intricate and complex interactions between light and matter and how these can be perceived in the real world. I hope that, by studying Physics, I can attempt to understand and continue to wonder at the workings of our universe.

2. Law at Cambridge.

My passion for Law was sparked by an inquisitive resolve that has inspired me to pursue my interest in topical issues. As a leading member of my College Debating Society I have discovered a fascination with crime and justice, enjoyment of arguing a challenging case and an innate ability to speak with confidence to a critical audience. These attributes, second only to my keen interest in the law and its relevance to everyday life, are why I aspire to study Law.

APPENDIX B.

Now some actual examples of Personal Statements.

N.B. These examples are reproduced to give you an idea of the sort of Statements that have been written by students in the past (not all in the same year). Of course, their styles of writing do differ, as indeed will yours. Check them out, some are better than others, what do you think about them?

Your Statement is personal to you, and therefore you must adopt your own style of writing.
Good Luck!

Thank you to the students who allowed me to publish their own Personal Statements. From the content of their statement, you may well recognise some of them. Please respect their request to remain anonymous.

Student A: Physics at Oxford University.

Physics, by definition, is the study of light and matter in the universe and how they interact. I struggle to recall a more elegantly simple statement from any of my studies. What interests me, however, is the complexity and challenge involved in becoming enlightened on such topics. Throughout my academic career I have been fascinated by the intricate and complex interactions between light and matter and how these can be perceived in the real world. I hope that, by studying Physics, I can attempt to understand and continue to wonder at the workings of our universe.

I have had much success academically. The quality and breadth of my grades indicates my passion and adaptability for learning across all areas. I decided to study five subjects at AS level to continue my development in a variety of skills that will facilitate Physics at a higher level, from detailed analysis to extended writing, as well as demonstrating my commitment

to learning. My attainment of over 98% in Physics and Maths demonstrates this commitment and my ability to effectively deal with large workloads. Studying five subjects provided me with aspects of both the sciences and humanities helping to develop skills as a well-rounded academic. My choice to study Further Mathematics also reflects a commitment to gain the level of mathematical proficiency required for university study. Aware of the limitations of college study, I am always keen to extend my understanding of Physics. Using MIT OpenCourseware, I am participating in online university classes for Calculus. I undertake wider reading as part of my enrichment covering a variety of topics especially in Cosmology and Astrophysics. "A Brief History of Time" is a favourite of mine and the way it brings together ideas from Quantum and Particle Physics to explain such a dramatic phenomenon as black hole formation. The elegant symmetry of special relativity when describing constant velocity motion from separate perspectives, though initially counter-intuitive given classical physics, is interesting, especially in the process of its derivation given the constant velocity of light and the principle of relativity.

I am involved in a range of enrichment programmes, such as an Extended Project assessing the feasibility of future travel to Mars and Proxima Centauri. As well as extending my knowledge of this aspect of applied physics, the project was also in developing skills in research and academic writing.

I have also been involved in the Engineering Education Scheme working with engineers from Boots' Pharmaceuticals. This involved a sixth month project, examining ways to improve the efficiency of Boots' industrial cooling systems. This gave me invaluable experience of applying physical principles learned during my studies to real world problems, as well as expanding my knowledge in new areas such as Fluid Dynamics. Through my work during the scheme I was able to complete a work experience at the Boots' Engineering Department, where analysis of efficiencies I produced was used in presentation to company executives. I enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities, from regularly camping and walking as part of the Scout Association and the Silver Duke of Edinburgh award, to playing in a variety of music ensembles from Brass Band to Ska Band! For a period of six years I wrote a monthly column in a local magazine distributed to 5,000 households, which I feel demonstrates my commitment, ability to work to strict deadlines and versatility. These activities help to develop wider, more socially orientated skills which cannot be taught, such as team work, flexibility and confidence.

I feel that my skills and passion make me an ideal candidate to study Physics at degree level, as I have the academic ability to gain the knowledge required, and the interest to develop an intricate and detailed understanding of the mathematical description of physical processes.

Words = 626, Characters including spaces =3,931, Lines 47

.Student B: Law at Cambridge University.

My passion for Law was sparked by an inquisitive resolve that has inspired me to pursue my interest in topical issues. As a leading member of my College Debating Society I have

discovered a fascination with crime and justice, enjoyment of arguing a challenging case and an innate ability to speak with confidence to a critical audience. These attributes, second only to my keen interest in the law and its relevance to everyday life, are why I aspire to study Law.

I have a specific interest in Criminal Law, although I wish to secure a broad understanding of the law to satisfy my inquisitive and challenging mind. I regularly listen to the BBC podcasts “Law in Action” and read The Guardian’s law supplement. Critical debates discussed in these and other publications, such as “What About Law?” (Barnard et.al.) and “Law & Modern Society” (Atiyah) have provided a fascinating insight into the study of Law and its relevance. Visits to the Crown Court public gallery have provided me with a real appreciation of the perception of law, linking legal theory to practice. A work experience placement with a barrister in private chambers in Nottingham allowed me to value the impact of the law. I observed different interactions within the court room; most poignantly the incessant need for criminal lawyers to remain objective. Similarly I learned to appreciate the importance of being able to think quickly, to retort and follow a line of questioning, along with trying to manipulate different pieces of evidence to your advantage. These skills are not too dissimilar to those I have gained from the debating society and academic study. I was invited to an observational work experience with Chatterton’s Solicitors, thus giving me an insight into another legal profession. Both opportunities opened my eyes to a diverse range of legal concepts. Whilst taking part in the training of Lay Magistrates I was able to further understand the breadth of legal provision. This experience informed me of the processes and priorities when handling criminal cases involving young offenders. I particularly enjoyed the chance to communicate with interesting and dedicated lay people from a variety of backgrounds.

My Extended Project question “The after effects of homicide and rape on victims and victims’ families and to what extent support is provided”, has augmented my preference for independent learning. My analytical ability and critical reasoning enabled multi-faceted arguments within the project to develop. Likewise for my History Personal Study I enjoyed investigating social, historical and legal issues relating to cases of Witch-hunts in early modern Europe.

As an active member of my school community, I initiated and subsequently led a “Student Ambassadors’ scheme”, to give students an active voice within the school. As a main feature of this scheme I was asked to make presentations to prospective parents and organise focus groups. The scheme provided me with exciting new experiences such as an interview by Radio Nottingham. These opportunities allowed me to speak more confidently in public, which I feel is one of my strongest attributes. The role of ambassador also helped me to manage some testing situations and challenging questions with poise.

I enjoy seizing opportunities; running the Robin Hood Half Marathon, organising a Christmas Party for less privileged children; writing the College Panto and waitressing to fund my independence. Currently, I am raising funds to participate in a World Challenge Expedition

to Morocco, which I hope will enrich my cultural understanding along with contributing to the Moroccan community through project work.

As a determined, committed, intelligent individual with a passionate social conscience, I am keen to embrace all the challenges and opportunities of a University and legal career.

Words = 609, Characters including spaces= 3845, Lines=46

Student C: Business at Manchester.

“An Investment in knowledge pays the best interest” (Benjamin Franklin). I strongly believe I am well-suited to a career in finance as I am keen to utilise skills which I have acquired through my academic studies and past experiences. Maths, Business and ICT are subjects which compliment each other and all address major areas of finance in their content. I am a methodical thinker who pays particular attention to detail, and I appreciate that these skills are essential in finance.

My first real interest in Finance was triggered by the study of Business at AS level, an area in which I thrived and thoroughly enjoyed. Through this I learnt of the fundamentals of bookkeeping within an organisation. Alongside my studies I also undertook a work experience placement with Coca-Cola. From this I gained a new perspective on how large organisations operate and how crucial teamwork is to the success of a company. My academic studies allowed me to gain experience of analysing financial data, assessing the performance of a business by interpreting final accounts and carry out ratios. However, I am keen to gain further insight into investment within organisations. Working in the hospitality industry has allowed me to understand the dynamics involved in effective teamwork. I always try hard to work collaboratively with others, whether this involves helping other staff with their workload, or simply performing my job to the best of my ability. From working in a kitchen I have learnt to be well-organised. This is an important attribute for any working environment, whilst I also appreciate communicating with other staff is critical to increase efficiency in the kitchen. During my work experience placement at Coca-Cola, I had the opportunity to work within the largest factory in Europe. Having the opportunity to observe and take note of the functions of a large organisation made me further aware of how important teamwork is in any business. I also got a glimpse of the financial side of the organisation through looking at the yields of the business, as well as asset care. These two sectors focus on the costs of the business coupled with the performance and I found it fascinating how the finance team primarily measure company efficiency and work on keeping costs low.

I consider myself to be a well-rounded individual and taking part in a range of activities has always been important to me. I have always loved football and have played for my local youth team for many years and have recently begun playing for the senior team. The standard I have reached highlights my team spirit and determination to succeed. I joined the Scouts at the age of six and I have moved through all of the levels of scouting, from beaver to explorer. I feel that my involvement in this organisation has helped me to work in teams whilst also helping to develop my individual skills. As a keen musician, I enjoy listening to

music and attending music festivals. Such festivals have been great experiences and have heavily relied on me being mature and independent.

I have also undertaken voluntary work. This included my involvement with the “Be clear on Cancer” campaign by the NHS. Here, I helped to raise awareness of kidney and bladder cancer, by approaching people in the streets and conducting research on the public’s knowledge of the symptoms of these cancers and issuing information on the medical symptoms. Running is another interest of mine. In October 2012 I ran the Robin Hood Half Marathon to raise money for the charity Cardio Myopathy, which is very important to me. After Higher Education I would like to find a graduate scheme within the financial section of a large organisation where I could explore different areas of the business world and widen my knowledge of it. Ultimately, my driving ambition is to travel worldwide where I believe a career in finance could open up a world of opportunities for me within the global economic scene.

Words = 662, Characters including spaces = 3952, Lines = 47

Student D: Languages.

I firmly believe that no one language has a greater worth than another and as I have been fortunate enough to travel abroad frequently, I have become fascinated by language across the globe. It seems incredibly unfair to assume, as many people do, that everyone speaks English and there’s no need for native English speakers to learn another language. Making an effort to speak a foreign language abroad is appreciated by locals and creates stronger tie between speakers. Being able to speak a foreign language is a life skill, one that I believe everyone should strive to possess. I have a passionate desire to study Spanish and Portuguese at university not only to develop my current understanding but also to embark on the challenge of learning Portuguese.

My enthusiasm for languages developed after I took n Spanish as a second language at GCSE, having already studies French for three years. At this point I realised that it wasn’t just learning French that excited me, but also the idea of being able to eliminate the communication barrier that exists between those who speak different languages.

Studying a language from scratch will broaden my perspective of languages and Portuguese appeals for many reasons. Having studied Spanish for three years, I will also enjoy immersing myself in Portuguese, as they share similar roots. What’s more, I have become increasingly fascinated by Brazilian culture and have a strong desire to discover that culture first hand. Although all languages are worthy of learning, Portuguese would be particularly relevant due to the ever-growing economy in Brazil and therefore a greater demand for foreign speakers.

I am aware of the commitment needed for this course, especially with regard to studying Portuguese ab initio. However, I believe my previous studies in French and Spanish will aid my learning. Also studying English has meant that I have a greater awareness of how my

own language is constructed, enabling me to better analyse and manipulate complex structures within foreign language. My understanding that I am, ultimately, responsible for my own learning is reflected in my trip to Strasbourg in 2010 to stay with native French speakers. There I was able to visit the European Parliament. This along with a previous visit to the EU in Brussels inspired me to consider becoming an interpreter; it also highlighted to me the importance of foreign languages within such organisations.

I have opted to take part in the World Challenge project in Morocco in July 2013. From trekking in the Atlas Mountains to partaking in a community project, this experience will offer me insight into a completely new culture. Particular areas of interest for me are the variants of language spoken throughout the world. Therefore travelling to Morocco will allow me an insight into the Francophone world in North Africa. Whether it is studying Spanish or Portuguese, this aspect of language is one that I hope to study further at university.

Throughout my school life, I have participated in schemes that highlight my maturity and responsible attitude. As an ambassador during year 11, I gave presentations to prospective parents and held focus groups with students to address concerns that they may have. From this I was able to develop confidence in presentation skills, both highly important for communication in general and in the study of foreign languages. I have taken on the role of a language ambassador, aiming to promote a love of languages to younger students. Witnessing them develop an enthusiasm for languages is rewarding and I particularly enjoy helping them to improve their understanding, whilst simultaneously my own.

While at university I hope to take advantage of every available opportunity to develop my linguistic abilities, with the view that one day, my fluency in such languages will become a secure part of me, just as English is.

Words = 635, Characters including spaces = 3892, lines = 47

Student E: Business at Lincoln.

With rapid growth in the business sector, one has to be equipped with knowledge and experience, as well as ambition. Business is and always has been my passion and from a young age I have always wanted to be involved in business with a future ambition to run my own. Since GCSE, it was always my favourite subject as it is so involving. At present I have my own on line business and have started to build it through gaining contacts abroad. I feel that the course you offer will give me the skills and understanding to progress in running a successful business. I believe that the experiences I have had so far have been invaluable to me and could potentially help me to establish an extraordinary career.

Since taking Business Studies at A-level, my enthusiasm for business has increased exponentially and has made me realise that this is the professional environment I would dream of working in. My A-level course has prepared me for such a career as I have learnt of different management systems and their structures.

I recently participated in the Young Enterprise Scheme. The objective was to create a business alongside classmates and sell a product or service to the general public. Within the

team I adopted the role of Operations Manager which was a very challenging role and demanded complete focus to get the products that we would be selling ready for sale on the stalls that we had. I believe that this experience was very worthwhile and gave me a clear insight into the real world of business. My passion for business was both on a practical and theoretical level and fuelled my desire to study this subject at university. I am committed to expanding my knowledge of the subject further and believe your course will benefit me greatly in this respect. At GCSE level, the Business and Economics course that I completed was both worthwhile and enjoyable for it provided the skills I needed to develop my own business ideas and motivated me to go further in my study of business.

Over Christmas (2012) I will be managing a stall in my home town, selling various Christmas homeware products to the public. I intend to promote my online business during this time in an endeavour to further my company. I am using this, not only as a way to gain further business experience with interactions from customers, but also to help fund my university studies.

Studying ICT in conjunction with Business Studies has enabled me to analyse the criticality of technology in giving businesses a competitive edge. Additionally, by relating to my study of Physics I am able to use the analytical skills and problem-solving with scientific reasoning to be better adapted to problems that could occur in business. I can now appreciate how issues such as being in a “time crucial” atmosphere and managing people effectively are fundamental in fulfilling the overall objectives of the business. Furthermore, by cross examining these three subjects, I am able to apply knowledge combined together to benefit my overall understanding of business in everyday settings, giving me further invaluable experiences.

Outside of College, I have a keen interest in computing and have enjoyed building my own desktop computers. Coupled with this, I have also completed an Open University course in robotics. This was a ten week course that had both practical and theoretical elements, with the result of doing basic programming and analysing the finished design to create a virtual robot, resulting in an Open University award. I am also very enthused by adrenaline sports such as inline skating and love getting outdoors as much as possible which I have been doing for many years now.

I am looking forward to continuing my education in Business Studies and undoubtedly believe that my natural drive for success would be well suited to studying Business Management at university.

Words = 650, Characters including spaces = 3851, Lines = 47

Student F: Primary School Teacher.

“The most informative years for a child are in the early years of primary education.” These words have inspired me to become a Primary school Teacher.

Whilst studying Child Development at GCSE I was able to appreciate the importance of imaginative play in these informative years. In addition, my A-level Combined English course has helped me to understand the importance of parents reading to their children and telling

them stories. It helps to develop their listening, concentration and imagination; skills which are fundamental to their wellbeing and future enjoyment of books and education. Reading 'I Am Malala' (M Yousafzai) confirmed my belief that every child deserves the best possible education reinforcing my desire to become a teacher.

Alongside studying my A-Levels, I completed an EPQ in 2019 on 'The Advancements in Liver Transplants in the Last Ten Years' for which I gained a grade A. In my English coursework, I analysed the novel 'Rebecca' and the undertones of jealousy that run throughout it. By completing these independent study projects I have shown that I am hard working, organised, reliable and able to work to deadlines.

I volunteer regularly at Kinoulton Primary School where I help with the reception children at lunchtimes helping them to feel more confident and reassured. During my work placement there I helped by taking children out of class from Reception and KS1 to help them with their reading. I also volunteer at the Radcliffe Primary School where I read stories to the class and organise other activities for the children. I find it very rewarding helping the children develop their foundation skills. Here at Toot Hill I volunteer in Lower School by helping in the 'Toe-by-Toe' scheme when I work with individual children helping them with their reading, building their confidence and challenging them to read more complex word. I also work in the School Library helping at Open Days and Parents' Evenings in addition to annual Book Fairs held during the week of World Book Day.

Having undergone two liver transplants, one at ten months old and the second at three years, I have become a stronger and more determined person. I love swimming and train three times a week. I have completed The British Transplant Games for several years and, in August 2015, I was selected to compete in the GB Swim Team at the World Transplant Games (WTG) in Argentina. I won three Gold Medals, one Silver Medal and a Bronze.

I have completed my Level 2 Sports Leader qualification where I have demonstrated my confidence in leading sports events for primary children and communicating clearly whilst doing so. I am in the final stages of completing my DofE Gold Award having completed my Bronze and Silver awards. Completing these awards has shown that I work well as a team member sharing my ideas and helping solve problems. In academic year 2014/15 I was very humbled to be awarded 'Toot Hill Head Teacher's Award', 'The Heroes Bright Young Thing Award' and 'The Young Achievers Award'.

I wanted to give something back to the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) as they have supported me and my family throughout my transplant journey. I climbed Mount Snowdon to raise money for CLDF.

I am honoured to have been chosen out of 250 nominees to take part in this year's (2019) Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge. This will be a great challenge and accomplishment raising awareness about transplantation and money for the Children in Need charity.

Studying for my degree will be a fascinating and enriching experience for me. I hope I have demonstrated that I have the ability, enthusiasm and confidence to study at you university thus enabling me to become a teacher of children during 'Their most informative years'.

Words =624, Characters including spaces = 3742, Lines = 45.

Student G: Geography.

“Climate change, demographics, water, flood, energy, global health, women’s empowerment – these issues are all intertwined. We cannot look at one strand in isolation.” (Ban Ki-Moon). I am fascinated by these themes and how their causes and solutions are linked. To tackle any of these global challenges, we must consider all of them collectively to begin to improve the way our world works. The way people and the environment affect each other is, to me, what Geography is all about.

Learning about places, people and cultures has always intrigued me. To observe this directly I visited Japan, representing the East Midlands for a youth event in 2015. I had the privilege of staying with a Japanese family. Here I got to witness the unique aspects of their culture. I further experienced the diversity of people from all over the world on a 10 day camp, where I met young people from Nigeria to Australia to Nepal. It was incredibly interesting to observe and hear about how their lives differed from mine. I also attended day sessions on global development, culture and science, where charities and international specialists talked about advances, issues and changes in these fields. These experiences confirmed my desire to learn about our world (its problems, people and development) through living and learning abroad.

I am interested in inequalities; how and why they exist. Whilst studying AS-level Geography, I learnt about health inequality within and between countries. To further this interest and knowledge I undertook a week’s work experience at Nottingham City Hospital. I spoke to medical professionals of all ages and positions in the NHS, the provision of healthcare in Nottingham and the UK and the strain our healthcare system faces. The current problem of changing demographics and limited resources are examples of how many of our planet’s problems and their solutions are interlinked.

I would like to attend a research intensive university, where I will have the opportunity to collect my own data through fieldwork and expeditions, as I experienced during my week long trip studying river characteristics at Blencathra Field Studies Centre, Lake District. I especially enjoyed engaging with new technologies, such as GIS, which helped deepen my understanding. My aptitude for Maths and Statistics allowed me to draw conclusions from qualitative and quantitative data and plot my outcomes effectively. Through the mix of scientific experiment, social enquiry and a passion for discussing ideas, I have a wide range of skills valuable for Geography. I also hope to study in a vibrant, diverse city as I am fascinated by how a city and its people interact This will enable me to link my study of human geography to me own enjoyment.

Geography has always been the subject I have excelled at and enjoyed most. I have strong skills in essay writing, data handling, Maths and Science shown by my AS-level results. I scored 196/200 UMS points in AS Geography. I love the concept combining Science with Social Science in matters like climate change and how the personal choices of humans have a direct impact on the world we live in. I received the Head Teacher’s Award for the best GCSE results in my school, showing my academic strength across a wide range of subjects. I

have strong abilities in team work through many years of playing for a successful women's football team, which I can use in group projects and debates. Working in retain for the past 18 months has developed my organisational and interpersonal skills, as well as providing an opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds. My leadership qualities have led me to volunteer at a Brownie Group for many years and as a coach for a football team, inspiring and helping young girls. I am a conscientious and sociable person; a hardworking, ambitious student and a keen, passionate geographer. I think these qualities make me an excellent candidate to study for my Geography degree at your university.

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Where can you get more help and advice?

- Ask to attend one of the Personal Statement Workshops as advertised in College.
- Ask your Tutor or Mentor.
- Ask Mr. Lawrence.
- Ask Mr. Waterland. - "Open Door Sessions" in the UCAS office. (Days and times will be announced.)

Your teachers and mentors are here to help you but we cannot write it for you. It is easier for someone to help you if you have already written something that they can help you edit; it is much harder to give advice when presented with a blank page.

Remember, don't feel you are struggling, ask for advice and help, that is what we are here for.

FINALLY

- Do use the Personal Statement Ideas Generator to "brainstorm" your ideas.
- Once you have collected ideas together, make a start on your personal Statement.
- Once you have written it, leave it for a couple of days or so and then come back to it to proof read it. Make any improvements.
- Ask someone else to read it through and possibly make suggestions.

- Start work on your Statement sooner rather than later.
- **In Toot Hill College, we have proved that those students who hand their UCAS applications in to Mr Lawrence early in the Autumn term are the ones who receive offers of university places within a couple of weeks, sometimes even within a few days. They beat the rush.**

GOOD LUCK!

**Peter Waterland.
College Advisor.
April 2021**