

Higher Education bits and pieces!

Information for parents

Unitasterdays have some things aimed at parents, like this webinar series from QMUL:

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/60270/parent-and-carer-webinar-series>

Birmingham University

Year 13

- University of Birmingham [student blog](#) - content written by current students about the University and making the transition to university life
- [Skills4uni](#) helps prepare for the transition to university study
- Our offer-holder events have been moved online and we will keep in regular contact with students who are impacted by this. These will appear on our [online events platform](#) as they become available.
- We are also posting updates on COVID-19 and how this affects applicants on our [FAQ page](#)

Year 12

Pre-recorded videos:

- [The benefits of higher education](#)
- [Student finance](#)
- [Choosing courses/universities](#)
- [Writing a personal statement, hints and tips from admission tutors](#)

Open Days:

- Our June Open Days are likely to move online, and we will be running additional online events for prospective students so they can continue to find out more about studying with us at Birmingham. These events will be listed on our [online events platform](#)

Ideas for enhancing your application

- Subject based courses
 - There are a number of universities that offer MOOCs. Some can be picked up at any time, many of them have specific start times so check carefully
 - The University of Cambridge has some good pre-university courses [here](#).
 - See [here](#) for a list of US Ivy League courses that are currently free during this crisis.
- Pre-university reading – why not start a subject-based book group?
- Preparing for university MOOC (UEA offers a [6-week course](#))
- Mini-research project or extended essay: something to bridge the gap between Sixth Form and university study on a topic that's particularly relevant to your course
- There will be many options 'not taken' in a number of A Level subjects that could be useful to look at ahead of university. Examples might include:
 - Particular environments for Geography
 - Particular periods in History
 - In Economics, Portfolio Management or Natural Resource Economics
 - New investigations and projects in Art and Design.
- Essay competitions - similar to [Newnham](#) / [Peterhouse](#) competitions.
- Learning or improving a language
 - Using Duo Lingo
 - Rosetta stone is also free for students for the next three months.
- Learn how to code (<https://www.theodinproject.com/>)
- Course in Project Management - see [here](#).

Advice from university tutors

Biological Sciences (UCL)

For students who wish to pursue research in Biological Sciences I would recommend the following. If the student has not done A-level Mathematics, they should swat up on Statistics (and similarly even students who did A-level Biology, if they did not do any Statistics, they should). The most useful subject for a student wishing to do Biological Sciences is mathematics. It is unquestionably the biggest gap in knowledge our home students have when they come to university to study fields in the biological sciences. Today's scientists are analysing huge data sets and they need to know how to work out what the data says. Students who come to UCL essentially do one statistics module a term.

For students who did do A-level Mathematics and Statistics, they should get some experience of programming. We use specific software for analysing our data. Probably the most widely used is a programme called 'R'. It is free and every comprehensive. Again, I do not know how much experience secondary students have of programming these days, but it is again a noticeable gap in knowledge our students have. There are many tutorials which can be followed online, for example on youtube.

Politics & History (LSE)

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Undergraduate>

Students can then choose their course interest. Once they have clicked through to the course choices they can click through again to details about the individual courses. This includes details of preliminary reading.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Undergraduate/Degree-programmes-2021/BSc-Politics>

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Undergraduate/Degree-programmes-2021/BSc-Politics-and-History>

Economics (Aston)

I genuinely think that the best thing students can do is to read and work on applying maths to economics using a book such as this:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Economics-Geoff-Renshaw/dp/0198704372/ref=dp_ob_title_bk

They will get so much out of it and it will make their degree much much easier. They will have to study this stuff in the first year so they might as well make a start.

I would also suggest they read the regular blogs by Gregg Mankiw and Simon Wren-Lewis (Mainly Macro). These are easy to find with a Google search. Reading the Economist and FT would also be good and anything by Paul Krugman.

I think the book "The Worldly Philosophers" would also be great for them.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Worldly-Philosophers-Lives-Economic-Thinkers/dp/068486214X>

Mathematics (Warwick)

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/math/admissions/ug/read_list2/

"How to think like a mathematician" by Kevin Houston

"How to study for a mathematics degree" by Lara Alcock

Japanese and Korean Studies (SOAS)

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley et al. (2009): East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Napier, Susan J (2006): Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation. New York: Palgrave.

Koo, J.H. and Andrew C. Nahm (2000): An Introduction to Korean Culture. Seoul: Hollym International.

Engaging with universities

You will find a lot of lectures etc on the faculty websites of different unis if you start searching, for example, this set of pre-university lectures from the Economics Department at Warwick:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/about/london/study/pre-university/tasters/tasterlectureseries>

[Weekly Taster lectures with Prof. Abhinay Muthoo - Warwick](#)

Weekly taster lectures with Abhinay Muthoo, Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick In these strange and unprecedented times of the Coronavirus pandemic and with all of our schools closed down, we will be offering free weekly taster lectures during May-June designed for students who will be applying (or have applied) to university and who wish to enhance their school curriculum.

warwick.ac.uk

Many London universities are also running webinar tasters.

<https://london.ac.uk/taster-course-search>

[Taster Course Search | University of London](#)

Birkbeck, University of London History, Classics and Archaeology Taster Session - BK19438
The online event includes a welcome, course overview and research and taster teaching exercise, giving you the chance to experience life as a student here.

london.ac.uk

You can also search for online & webinar events via the unitasterday website

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx>

And don't forget Unibuddy!

<https://www.ucas.com/chat-to-students>