

Guidance Bulletin 71, 26th August 2019

This bulletin is produced every two weeks during term time and sent by e-mail to parents of students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. It can be found too at <https://www.nationsvoice.co> for access by students. Guidance concerns higher education. In Year 11 it involves choosing appropriate subjects for use within the IB diploma and IB career-related programmes. In Year 13 it focuses on completing university application forms. Individual meetings are arranged as a matter of course for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Other students, particularly those in Year 10, sometimes like to book individual meetings to help plan their academic future. Attached to the door of Room 424 there is a booking sheet for students to arrange additional meetings to the mandatory ones. Assemblies involving whole year groups are also held to outline progression and opportunities. Coupled with regular visits by admissions staff from universities around the world and informal sessions with undergraduate students, the guidance afforded is rich, varied and strong. Of those leaving in June 2019, 58 per cent applied to higher education in at least two countries, 89 per cent achieved their first choice of institution, 46 per cent attending UK universities will be studying in the Russell Group and 67 per cent going to Canada will be at medical/doctoral universities. The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge together gave three offers (out of eleven candidates) and the Ivy League gave one offer (out of six candidates).

Year 13: Some key dates until 15-Jan-20 This list cannot claim to be comprehensive. Students are strongly advised to check their own deadlines carefully. **01-Aug-19** Booking starts for Law National Admissions Test (www.lnat.ac.uk) for some law degrees in UK / **01-Sept-19** LNAT begins at the test centre in Lausanne / **06-Sept-19** Deadline for registering for SAT on 05-Oct-19 / **18-Sept-19** Deadline for UCAT (www.ucat.ac.uk) registration for most medical schools in UK / **05-Oct-19** SAT at LGB / **15-Oct-19** Deadline for applications in the UK through UCAS for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry / **19-Oct-19** Deadline for COPA supplement for Cambridge / **20-Oct-19** Last LNAT date for applicants to Oxford / **22-Oct-19** Deadline for SAQ supplement for Cambridge / **30-Oct-19** Entry tests for Oxford, Cambridge and Medicine (BMAT) held at Campus des Nations / **01-Nov-19** Deadline for applications to US colleges and universities through Early Action and Early Decision and recommended deadline for applications to University of Toronto / **08-Nov-19** Deadline for registering for SAT on 07-Dec-19 / **05-Nov-19** Applications start through CAO (www.cao.ie) for Irish universities / **30-Nov-19** Deadline for applications to the University of California / **01-Dec-19** Start of interviews at Oxford and Cambridge / **07-Dec-19** SAT at LGB / **01-Jan-20** Deadline for most US colleges and universities through Regular Decision / **15-Jan-20** Deadline for all other applications in the UK through UCAS and deadline for applications to Psychology at Maastricht University.

Year 13: US Personal Essays While detailed advice is offered at Nations on the writing of personal essays for US university applications, anyone wishing to receive further support may like to consider the services of Prompt. Founded in 2014 by three MIT graduates, Prompt connects students virtually with personal essay writing experts. For more details go to <https://www.prompt.com/>.

Years 12 and 13: University visits University of London (GB): Goldsmiths, School of Oriental and African Studies, City, Royal Holloway and Queen Mary at 10:50 on 09-Sept-19 in Room 423/Salle Rousseau ■ University of British Columbia (CAN) at 11:00 on 16-Sept-19 ■ Bentley University (MA-USA) at 11:00 on 17-Sept-19 ■ Emory University (GA-USA), University of Chicago (IL-USA) and Johns Hopkins University (MD-USA) at 09:00 on 19-Sept-19 ■ University of Bristol (GB) at 10:50 on 30-Sept-19 ■ Mount Holyoke College (MA-USA), Scripps College (CA-USA) and University of Richmond (VA-USA) at 11:00 on 26-Sept-19 ■ New York University (NY-USA) at 09:00 and University of Toronto (ON-CAN) at 11:00 on 01-Oct-19 ■ Savannah College of Art and Design (GA-USA) at 11:00 on 02-Oct-19 ■ Lynn University (FL-USA), Salve Regina University (RI-USA) and University of California – Santa Barbara (CA-USA) at 11:00 on 04-Oct-19 ■ Syracuse University (NY-USA), Washington University (MO-USA) and Suffolk University (MA-USA) on 09-Oct-19 at 11:00 ■ Carnegie Mellon University (PA-USA) at 11:00 on 16-Oct-19. All university visits take place in Room 424 unless otherwise indicated. Parents are welcome to attend these sessions, run either by admissions staff or, if marked with an asterisk, by an undergraduate student. These visits, and any necessary revisions to the above schedule, are generally posted at <https://my.ecolint.ch/school-nations->

[secondary/academic-life/guidance/university-visits](#). They are also announced in homerooms, displayed on the television monitors around the school and advertised on the door of Room 424.

Years 12 and 13: Notes from a visit to Norwich University of the Arts (GB) on 11-Jul-19 Norwich University of the Arts is divided between two faculties: (1) Arts and Media and (2) Architecture and Design. It runs a superb annual degree show and applications have increased by seven per cent. One hundred and seventy five years old, it is the oldest art institution in the UK outside of London. With just over two thousand students, the community feel and individual support are outstanding. Confident about its future, the university is constructing a new building for Acting, the degree programme starting in 2020. Norwich is one of the safest, more beautiful and artistic cities in the UK. It is under two hours by train from London, the service running from Liverpool Street every thirty minutes. People are, by and large, unaware of creativity, equating it with drawing. Yet 'Without creatives you would be standing naked and alone in a field'. Animation, Games Art, VFX (Visual Effects) and Games Development are in fact STEM subjects with Art at their heart. The range of jobs in creative fields is huge. Art engages transferable skills: resilience, attention to detail, response to feedback, adherence to deadlines and interpretation of a brief. To enter a degree in Art the portfolio is key. This furnishes admissions staff with detailed information. Acting, however, requires an audition. The portfolio is accompanied by an interview. If the UCAS application is submitted early, this can be arranged in December, but otherwise it is conducted in January or February. For those who live too far away, Skype can be used. There are three areas that are explored in the portfolio: (1) making skills, (2) development of ideas and (3) influences from artists, designers or filmmakers. Admissions staff want to know how these areas have changed the work of the applicant. As for quantity, twenty to thirty pieces of work completed both inside and outside the classroom during Years 12 and 13 are recommended. These should be relevant to the course to which application is being made and framed by a neutral (black, white or grey) background. For clarity there should be no more than one or two images per page. Repetition is to be avoided. Rather the narrative can be given added interest through its range. Labelling ought to be subtle, neat and secondary to the pictures. The portfolio needs to speak to the pictures, not the labelling. Essentially the portfolio is about an artistic story with a strong beginning and end. For size A2 and A3 are ideal. If the original pieces are being photographed for the portfolio, then the quality of the photographs is essential. It is worth bearing in mind that plastic covers to the pages of a portfolio can act as an awkward barrier for viewers. Students should, in their portfolio, show off by highlighting their unique responses and preparedness to take risks. Sketchbooks can show influences and progression. They act as a rehearsal for the finished product, but do not necessarily communicate all the skills required. Brought into the interview, however, they may serve as an aide-memoire. The sample for Film should be no longer than five minutes. The interview is a two-way process. Some typical questions include: Who or what inspires your work? What would you want to improve upon? What do you want to achieve at university? What are your goals after university? Which part of your practice are you most proud of? In addition to the portfolio, 27 points in the DP (24 points for courses with Year 0) or in the CP PP and 4 in two IB subjects are required. Attending two practical workshops, one in textile design and the other in fashion communication, highlighted the impressive supportive, interactive and collaborative nature of the teaching and learning. A useful website to explore durable fashion, in particular focusing on its emotional aspect, is <https://designforlongevity.com/articles/emotional-durability>. For more details about Norwich University of the Arts go to www.nua.ac.uk.

Years 12 and 13: Law Some interesting books for exploring Law as a possible degree subject include: Nicholas McBride *Letters to a Law Student* (Longman 2010), Gary Slapper *How the Law Works* (Routledge 2011), Helena Kennedy *Eve Was Framed* (Vintage 1993) and Catherine Barnard *What About Law?* (Hart 2007). Please go to <http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/law.html> for further suggestions on Law degrees in the UK.

Years 11 and 12: PSAT This test can be sat on 19-Oct-19 at La Grande Boissière. Details about how to register will be provided shortly in the Guidance Bulletin. For students holding US citizenship, PSAT provides access to competition in the National Merit Award.

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