BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS

Valuing Everyone, Achieving Excellence

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Welcome to the November 2022 HPA Newsletter

HPA Update

Firstly I'd like to introduce myself to new parents. As HPA Co-ordinator I work to help our higher prior attainers excel at school through regular morning meetings and super-curricular activities.

This term has been very busy for Year 13 with the Early Entry deadline in October. This year we have 16 students who have applied to either Medicine, veterinary science, Oxford or Cambridge. Y12s have just started their Early Entry journey by looking at wider reading and applying for super-curricular activities at universities and outside providers as well as debating current affairs.

Y8, 10 and 11 have been practicing debating skills, while Y9 have been preparing for the Bebras Competition. In addition there was also a trip for Y11 to Oxford University. Meanwhile Y7 have been settling in to their new school and will have their first meetings next half term.

Mrs Purdon

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What is HPA

HPA stands for Higher Prior Achievers and as HPA Co-ordinator I work to help these students excel at school through regular morning meetings and super-curricular activities.

We use data from primary school as well as the start of Y7 to inform us of who would be in the HPA focus group at KS3 and KS4 (top 10% at entry in KS3) and then at KS5 the focus is on those students who wish to pursue Early Entry. These students will typically have an average GCSE grade of 7 or higher. Early Entry is for all students who apply for veterinary, medicine or dentistry as well as those that would like to read any subject at the University of Cambridge or University of Oxford.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.
cpurdon@brookvalegroby.com

Early Entry: Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry

Oxford and Cambridge University open applications earlier and the applications deadline is 15th October.
Courses often have admissions tests that are specific to the course or general to the discipline.

Medical, veterinary and dentistry students also have to apply early and medics and dentists are required to sit a UCAT or BMAT admissions test.

We have a student led group called Medhedz which is for anyone in KS4 and KS5 interested in a career in Health care. This group of like minded students get together once a week at lunchtime. During this session they discuss medical related current affairs, wider reading as well as practice interview questions.

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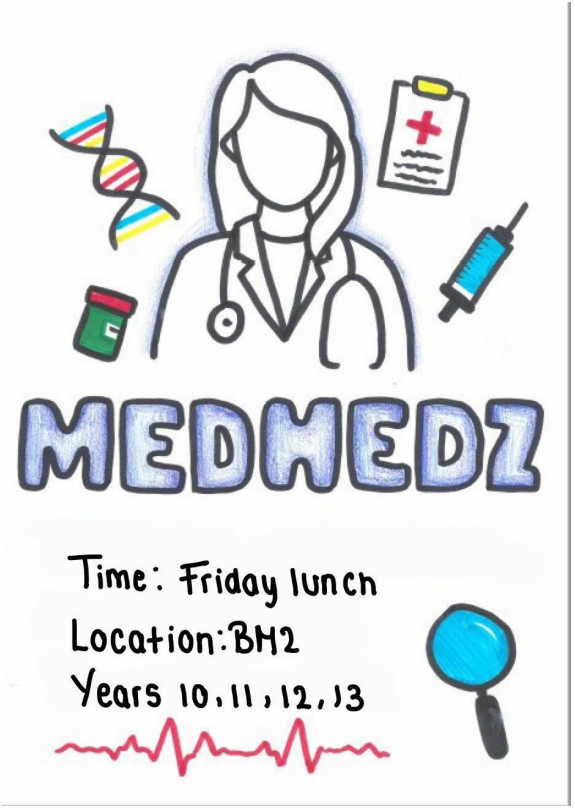
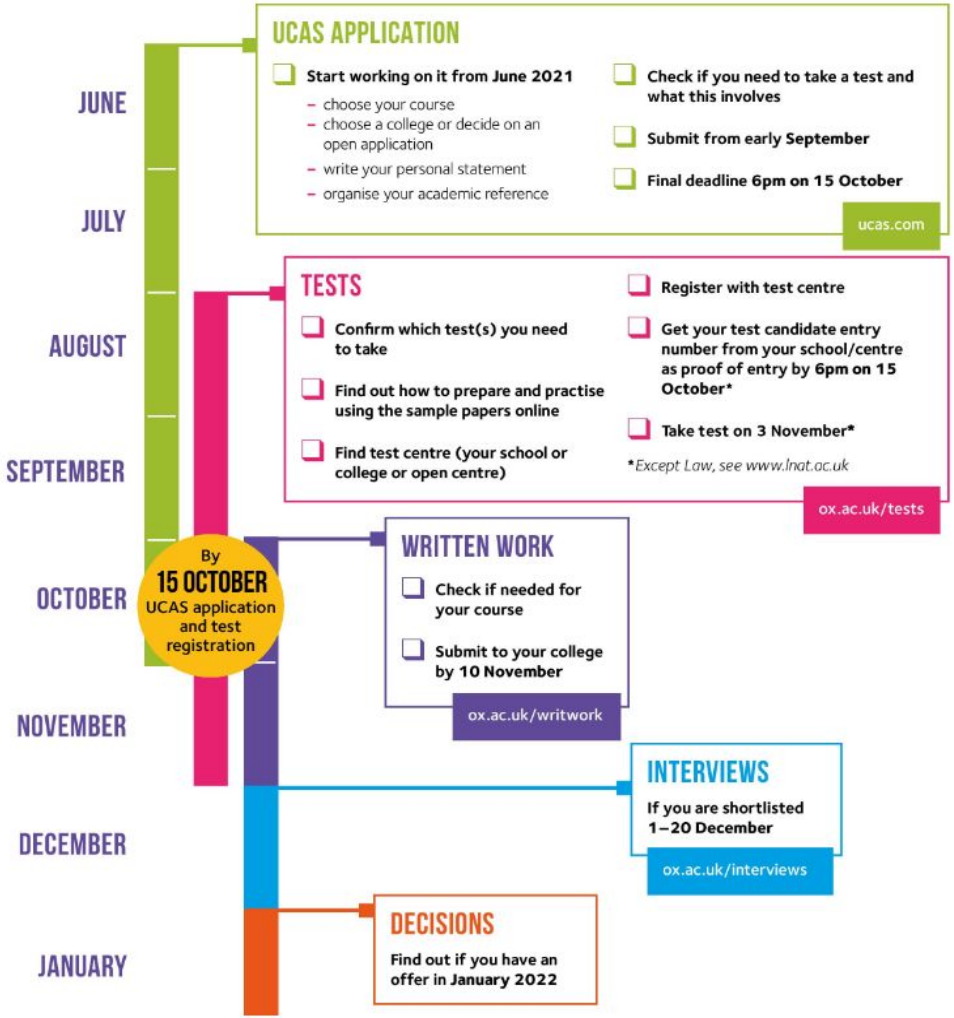
Medhedz

Our student led club for aspiring medical students will be running again from December 9th (after Y13 mocks). All KS4 and 5 students interested in a medical career are welcome to attend. In recent sessions they have been discussing medical ethics as well as medical interview questions.



Typical application timeline for Oxford University.



Progress of the Y13 cohort

This year we have 16 students who have applied for Early Entry to Oxford, Cambridge and for veterinary medicine as well as medicine. The first half term focused on finalising their personal statements, applying to UCAS and preparing for their admissions tests but more recently the focus in the morning sessions has been on interview preparation. All Oxbridge candidates have had a mock panel interview with some of our trustees and our medical and veterinary applicants will have their MMI mock interviews on 8th December.

Congratulations to Lorelei Cowling, Jacob Hines- Den and Emily Adkin who have already received invitations to interview. In addition several students have received offers from the other universities they have applied to.

New Year 12 cohort

Our Y12 students who are aiming to apply for Early Entry have been focusing on super-curricular activities and wider reading in the first half of this term in support of their upcoming applications.

For ideas on wider reading, look to university reading lists. Here is an example from the University of Cambridge.

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/super-curricular_suggestions.pdf

Some current super-curricular activities our Y12 cohort have been applying for:

Sutton Trust Pathways

Two-year courses that are mostly virtual but with some face-to-face sessions, our nearest being Nottingham. They offer programmes for those interested in Banking and Finance, Law, Engineering, Consulting and Medicine.

Medic Mentor

Medic Mentor hosts a variety of courses and events throughout the year for Medics, dentists and Vets.

Upcoming events include:

GET INTO MEDICINE UCAS CONFERENCES

Saturday 3rd December from 10am - 3pm.

Students can register their place here:
https://airtable.com/shr66li3bqG3ZpkPM

DENTAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Four month programme following the journey of a patient from from diagnosis, to treatment and follow up provided by qualified and practicing dentists here in the UK.

https://medicmentor.co.uk/dental-live-virtual-work-experience/

VETERINARY WORK EXPERIENCE

Six month programme following the journey of a patient and their owners from from diagnosis, to treatment and follow up provided by qualified and practicing vets here in the UK.

https://medicmentor.co.uk/veterinary-virtual-live-work-experience/

Cambridge University Virtual tour.

Oxford Vs Cambridge. Here's a handy little guide

Ever wondered what it's like to study at Oxford University? This blog is written by 2 Oxford students and gives an insight into the life of an Oxford University student.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxbridge applications: five things you might not know

A full guide to applying for Oxbridge.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Making an application to Oxbridge application.

University of Oxford trip - Y11

On the 8th November we took a group of thirteen Y11 HPA students to St Edmund Hall at the University of Oxford.

They had the opportunity to tour the college, speak to current students, sample college life in the canteen and explore why applying to the University of Oxford might be interest to them.

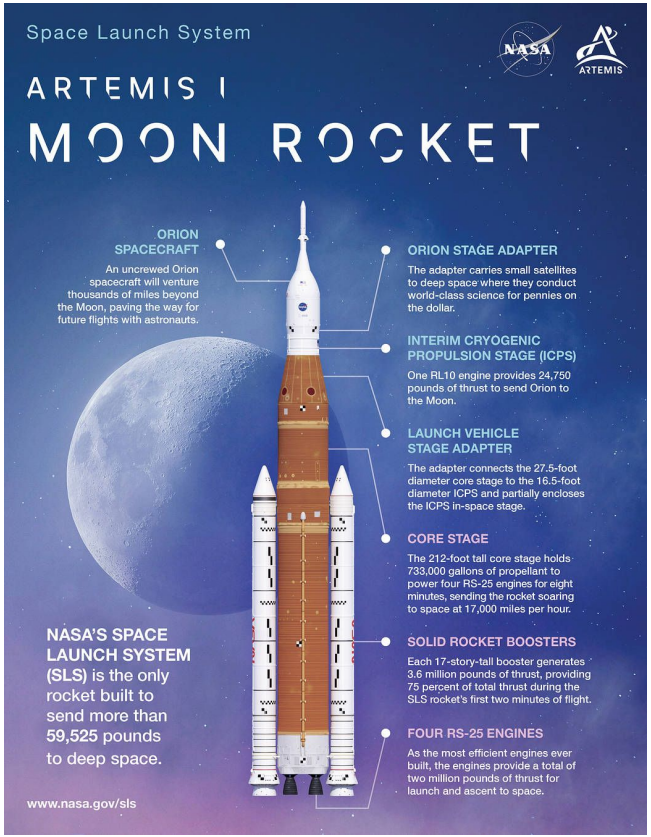
It was a very positive experience, confirming some students' ambitions to apply to Oxbridge as well as inspiring many students to strive to achieve for the highest grades at GCSE and beyond.

September/ October morning sessions

Last half term fortnightly morning sessions with Y8, 10 and 11 have focused on NASA's Artemis rocket launch and the long term aim of manned missions to Mars. The students have been researching about the new NASA programme and its aims as well as discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the programme so that ideas can then be formed to hold a debate.

These sessions have given the students an opportunity to:

- Practice giving a concise summary
- Deconstruct text and draw conclusions
- Talk fluently using evidence and examples to demonstrate understanding
- Prioritise different factors, ideas and justify reasons
- Ask probing questions
- Make reasoned and clear judgements
- Distinguish between what is relevant and what is peripheral



Y9 morning sessions

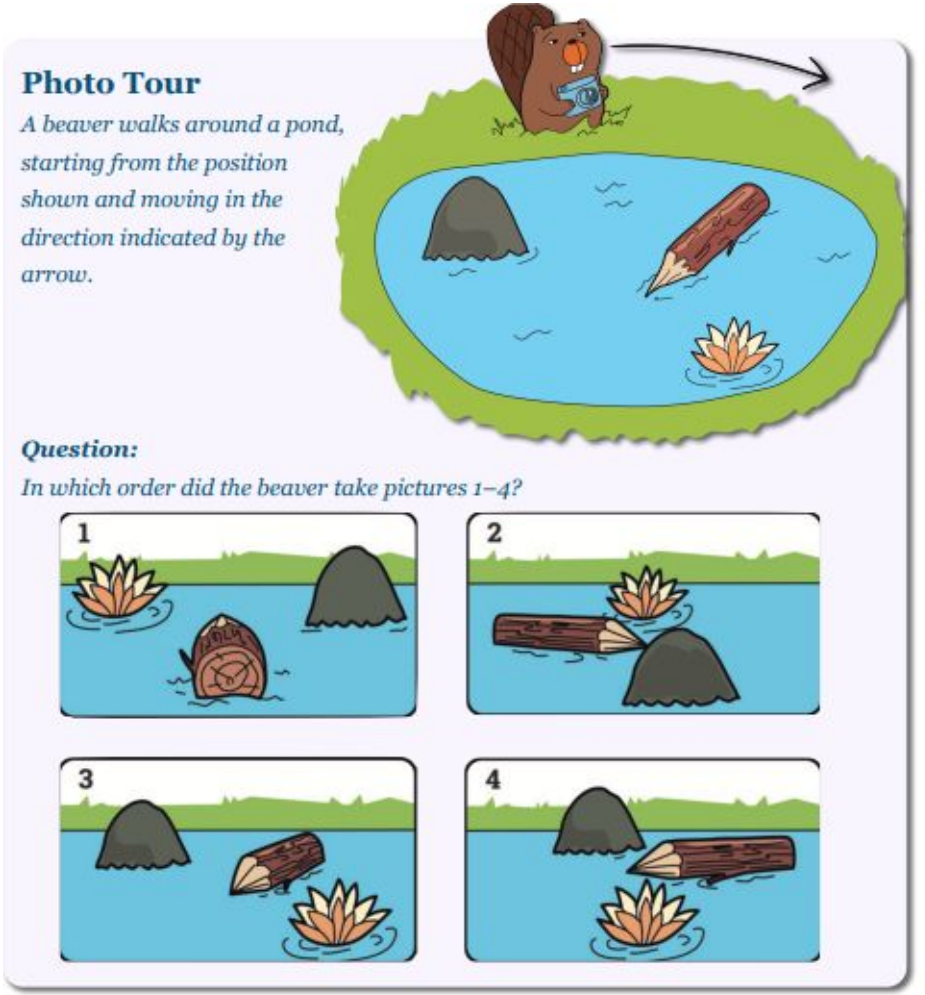
Year 9 have been preparing for the Bebras competition, run by the University of Oxford.

It introduces the idea of computational thinking to students and the competition runs in over 50 countries with the aim to get students excited about computing through answering questions on computational and logical thinking.

The first round was held at the start of November with 15 of our students entering the competition.

Our students achieved much higher than students in Leicestershire and the country on average with an incredible five students awarded gold certificates for placing in the top 10% nationally. They are now invited to the next round which is the Oxford University Computing Challenge in January. Huge congratulations to them.

Could you answer this question?
(Answer at the end of the newsletter)



November/ December morning sessions

This half term the focus has been on careers.

Y8 have been taking part in the Step into the NHS careers competition where they have been exploring the over 350 roles within the organisation. The quiz has shown them some careers which might be of interest to them which they are now exploring in greater detail in order to be able to produce an advert for the job role.

Here is a guide to the many roles. https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/careers

Y10 have been using UniFrog to explore different careers that they are interested in as well as discussing and exploring super-curricular activities to support their academic interests.

Y11 have been focusing on mock exams and Y9 continuing with the Bebras competition.

HPA News by Faculty

MFL

ELI MFL magazines.

The MFL Faculty are please to announce that we have purchased a subscription to French, German and Spanish online magazines for all our KS4 students to study in lessons and at home. The ELI magazines offer an array of information and numerous news items about current events, which students do not find in their usual course books.

HPA students will have their interest sparked with this engaging material and it will allow them to be actively involved in their language learning independently.

Art and Design
Technology Enrichment

ADT

Why not joint the new ADT Enrichment Google Classroom - there are many different art and design projects/tasks for all levels. Why not join and see for yourself! As always, your ADT teachers would love to see what you create - show off your creations to us and be proud.

Join with class code:

2eaekxn

Section for Parents

Parents and Guardians Newsletter

Loughborough University

Sign up and share with other Parents and Guardians!!

The Parent and Guardian newsletter aims to share important information on events and updates, as well as useful information about the university and our alumni that Parents and Guardians might like to hear about!

The Newsletter also provides an opportunity to give us feedback and suggest ways in which we could improve the support they receive, in the key stages of student development.

To register for this newsletter please go to the link below:

https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00noqrlxzl00i0gk3jk545

Ways to support students at home

There are simple, yet effective ways to support at home:

- Discussion of current affairs - at dinner time/ when watching the news take the opportunity to discuss news articles and their opinion on the news item. Does the conversation naturally lead onto another topic that can be explored in greater depth? This type of discussion is something that will support the student when they get to their university/ job interviews and the ability to back up their ideas and explore them in detail are typical skills that well established universities look for in their candidates.
- Encouraging them to talk about their interests and passions.
- If they have an interest they want to pursue maybe trying a MOOC. Millions of people around the world use MOOCs to learn for a variety of reasons, including: career development, changing careers, college preparations, supplemental learning, lifelong learning, corporate eLearning & training, and more. https://www.mooc.org/
- Encouraging them to explore beyond the classroom. There are several online sources including TED talks as well as magazines that support school/ career choices but yet go beyond what is required by the curriculum. This thirst for knowledge and the ability to discuss it is critical for securing a place with more well established universities. Here are some more suggestions:

www.myheplus.co.uk Run by the University of Cambridge

https://oxplore.org/ run by the University of Oxford

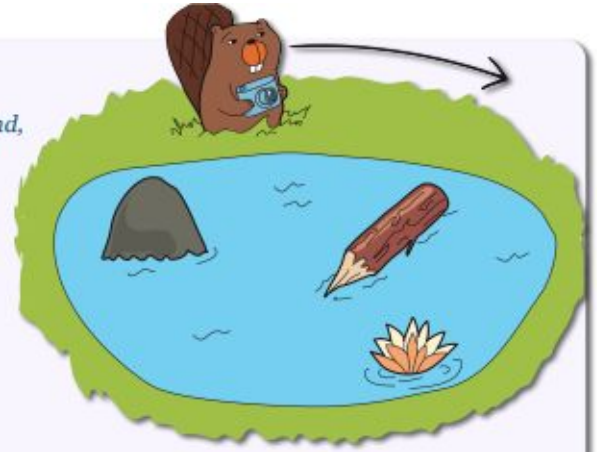
http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/episode-4-midlands Podcasts about studying the classics

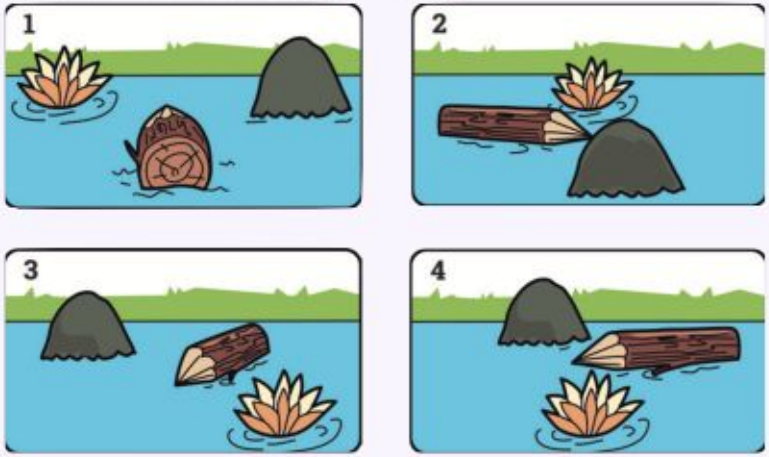
https://www.bmj.com/ for aspiring medics

The photos were taken in the order 1, 4, 3, 2

Photo Tour

A beaver walks around a pond, starting from the position shown and moving in the direction indicated by the arrow.



Question:

In which order did the beaver take pictures 1–4?