

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr A Celano, BSc (Hons), MEd



Windhill  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts  
CM23 2NQ

Tel: 01279 654901  
Fax: 01279 653889  
E-mail: [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net)  
Website: [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is in Year 12 that the seeds of a strong university application are sown, and this letter is to give you some ideas of how to support and encourage your son or daughter to develop their super-curricular involvement so that they are in a strong position this time next year.

It is important that they begin investigating university courses early, so that their course choice is well-informed. Scientists might consider less common options such as Materials, Earth Sciences or Geophysics, whereas others may be interested in Liberal Arts, Human Social and Political Sciences, History of Art, Land Economy or PPE. There are so many more options than at school, and it takes time to find out about these.

For those interested in Maths, Sciences or Engineering, the Smallpeice and Headstart residential courses are excellent. Headstart courses are very oversubscribed and applications for next summer are already open so I would strongly encourage using half term in which to make a strong application.

Oxbridge websites have guidance as to how best to prepare for undergraduate study of each subject, with lists of books, websites and podcasts that may be of interest. Encourage your sons and daughters to watch relevant TV programmes, attend exhibitions, masterclasses and plays, as well as going on taster courses and work experience. Entering academic competitions is about the challenge of taking part rather than the winning. Many of the top universities run such competitions and these will nurture their interest- or tell them that the subject is not for them.

Please find some web- links below which I hope will be a useful starting point. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [infomail@stmarys.net](mailto:infomail@stmarys.net) if I can be of any help.

- [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events) for all Cambridge University 6<sup>th</sup> form events
- [www.etrust.org.uk/headstart/coures](http://www.etrust.org.uk/headstart/coures) for Headstart Science and Engineering Year 12 courses
- [www.debatechamber.com](http://www.debatechamber.com) for summer courses in Law, History, International Relations, Economics etc
- [www.towerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.towerpoetry.org.uk) : this Poetry competition for 16-18 year olds has recently opened.
- [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk) has a regular supply of writing competitions you can enter

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Wilkin  
Assistant Headteacher