



BROMSGROVE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THAILAND

SIXTH FORM

HANDBOOK

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Content

The Sixth Form Experience

When a student moves into the Sixth Form phase of the school, the expectations upon them change. The courses they study are more rigorous and demanding, they need to manage their time effectively and approach their studies in a mature and organised manner. This 'step up' is not always easy, but in a caring and nurturing environment like Bromsgrove we are confident that each and every student can achieve their full potential and move on to suitable Higher Education courses.

It is our hope that each student who completes their Sixth Form education at Bromsgrove will leave with happy memories, deep subject knowledge, strong grades and the self-confidence needed for be successful in the future. This is achieved through strong academic and pastoral support as well an emphasis on the 'whole' student. We offer a broad extra curricular programme, that has been designed to allow the senior students in the school to develop their leadership skills. The Bromsgrove Learner Attributes remain an important part of the Sixth Form culture and ethos.

Sixth Form students are granted a number of privileges which include; a Sixth Form Common Room, the opportunity to wear business attire rather than a uniform, and study periods which allow them to manage their own time and learning. In addition there are a number of leadership roles which our senior students can apply for. These positions of responsibility afford the senior students the chance to communicate directly with the school management to lead improvements and innovations.

Sixth Form Entry

As the expectations upon the students in the Sixth Form are far greater, there is a minimum entry requirement. This is in place as it would not be in the best interest of the individual student to embark on the next level of study without the necessary academic building blocks. However we are committed to supporting every student to reach their educational goals, and so we look to create individualised pathways for all our students.

For entry into the Sixth Form we require a minimum of five IGCSE passes at grade C or above. To begin an AS subject a student needs a pass of at least a B grade, but for some subjects an A grade is preferred, please see the subject specific information to clarify. The entry requirements for the Diploma programme are more specific, and we request that individuals interested in the programme liaise with the school for a bespoke offer.

Each student's case will be considered on its merits and advice will be given to individuals to ensure that their best interests are well served. Wherever possible we will tailor options to individual needs but ultimately we will not allow students to begin courses they are not able to cope with. Our aim is for every student to be successful.

The Sixth Form Curriculum

Students can take a maximum of four subjects in Year 12, the selection can be AS Levels, Diploma subjects or a combination. In addition all students take PE and BEAM lessons so that they can continue to develop healthy lifestyles and build an appreciation for their roles as Global Citizens.

Students also have study periods within the week (the number will vary depending on their personal timetables). During this time students are expected to work independently. They have the option of working in the library, or in the Common Room. This choice is one of the privileges bestowed on the senior student, however we carefully monitor how they use their time, and offer advice and support to those who find this difficult.

Subjects Offered

A-Level

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Politics
- Theatre Studies

Bromsgrove Diploma Subjects

- Business
- Digital Media Production
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

Art

What does the study of Art involve?

A Level Art is a project based qualification. At AS Level, students complete a coursework project (20%) and an exam project (30%). At A Level, students complete a single coursework project (30%) and a personal study (20%) which is a written project, including some practical work, of up to 3500 words. The study of Art involves experimenting, engaging and mastering a range of 2D, 3D, photography and printing media, also researching and analysing the work of artists.

What makes a successful student of Art?

Successful Art students should be creative, passionate, extremely self motivated and have a good grasp on the 'Formal Elements' of Art which are generally developed during iGCSE. They should be willing to experiment and master a range of 2D, 3D, photography and printing media as well as a range of other techniques. A Level Art students should show an active interest in the local art scene. There will be trips and workshops for them to take part in during school time, but it is an expectation that they should also visit galleries and museums in their own time to help develop their own ideas. They must be able to research, analyse and critically appraise the work of others, showing evidence of awareness of other cultural influences in their work. Art students should be risk takers who are able to work independently with imagination and inventiveness.

We strongly suggest that students who wish to take up A-Level Art have completed the GCSE course. It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade at GCSE in order to succeed at A-Level.

Biology

What does the study of Biology involve?

The study of Biology involves looking at many aspects of cellular and anatomical animal Biology along with natural processes seen in autotrophic organisms. Students will channel their skills and learn to draw conclusions from practical investigations and explain their observations. The study of Biology at A Level will teach students to be independent across a series of topics and build their confidence delivering their findings to other group members. The range of Biology terminology studied will enable any pathway linked to Life Sciences to be followed at Higher Education.

What makes a successful student of Biology?

A good biologist would be someone who enjoys visualizing and solving problems in the living world. Investigative students who are independent thinkers and are both curious

and insightful will be successful. A keen interest in both human biology and plant biology is essential, as is the ability to voice pros and cons of any ethical consideration. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate their practice is a key feature to ensuring positive results.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE Biology and Chemistry, or BB in Coordinated Science in order to succeed at A-Level.

Chemistry

What does the study of Chemistry involve?

Practical skills are essential in the study of Chemistry. In Year 12, practical work is carried out for most topics, leading to an examination of the skills developed at the end of the AS year. A wide range of topics are studied at AS and A2 level. In Year 12, topics include organic Chemistry, periodicity, atomic structure, rates of reaction and energetics. These topics are then built upon and studied in more depth in Year 13.

What makes a successful student of Chemistry?

A Chemistry student should enjoy the practical aspects of science, working with laboratory apparatus and being able to explain processes from the theoretical side. The role of a chemist requires someone who enjoys visualising and solving problems. They tend to analyse situations before making decisions. Investigative people are independent thinkers that are both curious and insightful. Understanding and learning the rules and laws that govern the physical world are key to developing as a chemist. Students that can use their knowledge to explain the world around them do well in the course.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE Chemistry and Biology, or BB in Coordinated Science in order to succeed at A-Level.

Chinese

What does the study of Chinese involve?

The study of Chinese is not simple learning of the language, it involves the study of the culture, and traditions of China too. At the heart of Chinese civilisation is its rich heritage of novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and, more recently, film. The topics focus on knowledge and understanding of the culture of China while we explore the literature for analysis.

Students of Chinese will gain an understanding of how to use the language in a variety of situations. Through studying Chinese, students can expect to achieve greater fluency, accuracy and confidence in the language. They will also learn how to translate material between English and Chinese.

What makes a successful student of Chinese?

To be able to be a successful A Level Chinese student, students should have an insight into the culture and contemporary society of the different countries where the language is spoken. The skills developed within this subject can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills. More importantly, they should aim to be a lifelong learner who keeps seeking out new knowledge.

It is essential that students who wish to study Chinese at A-Level have previously studied Chinese at GCSE level, and preferably First Language.

Computer Science

What does the study of Computer Science involve?

Both the AS and the A Level are split into two papers, the first being theoretical computing principles and the second based on programming. Theoretical computing principles include how logic gates work, how a processor functions and computer security. Programming includes python and assembly. Lessons are split between discussion and problem solving for theory work and programming “lab” sessions.

What makes a successful student of Computer Science?

No prior knowledge of programming or GCSE Computer Science is needed, but an interest in the subject and a tenacious approach to problem solving is an excellent quality to possess for this subject. The course is a strong foundation for university level study of any computing subject.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE Maths in order to succeed at A-Level.

Economics

What does the study of Economics involve?

Whether you want to one day start your own business, work for a major international company or a government, become a teacher or a doctor, or even run a charity, the study of economics will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, critical thinking and skills you will need to succeed. The media often describes complicated economic problems such as inflation, unemployment, balance of trade deficits, anti-competitive behaviour, changes in exchange rates, recessions, speculative bubbles in stock market prices and supply shortages. It is sometimes difficult to understand these and what impact they could have on our daily lives without an understanding of economics.

What makes a successful student of Economics?

Students who study economics are good at problem solving because they learn to identify problems, to suggest alternative solutions, to determine what information is relevant,

and to weigh up different costs and benefits in decision making.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE English and Maths in order to succeed at A-Level.

English Literature

What does the study of English Literature involve?

The study of English Literature is a lot more than “reading books”. Although there is coverage of a number of exciting texts in the subject, English Literature will complement many other subjects offered at Bromsgrove through the development of analysis, inferential and creative skills, as well as extended written practice in preparation for university applications and further study. Indeed, top universities in the UK stress the success of applicants who have a range of subjects at A Level, especially essay-based subjects complementing more Science and Mathematics-based subjects.

In English Literature you will learn about historical, social and psychological contexts; develop a deeper sense of empathy; access a number of critical readings of texts before developing your own critical analysis; and engage with a range of authors, characters and literary text-types. Texts and genres taught at the moment in English Literature are Dystopian Fiction in Science and Society; Contemporary and Victorian poetry; Literature from Other Cultures; 20th century Drama and Shakespeare.

What makes a successful student of English Literature?

A successful student of English Literature should be passionate and self-motivated to read outside of lessons. They should place value on the communication of meaning and inference through language and recognise the importance of English Literature and Language when accessing other subjects. They should be able to make links between social, historical and religious contexts and the texts they read and should be able to research independently. They should be opinionated and be able to develop their own critical evaluation of texts and author’s message. They should therefore be keen to discuss and debate interpretations by scholars, others in the class and themselves.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE English in order to succeed at A-Level.

Geography

What does the study of Geography involve?

Geography is inherently a multidisciplinary subject, covering a wide variety of sciences. Geography is unique in that it is a link between the social sciences and the hard sciences. As well as subject knowledge, A Level Geography teaches students a wide range of skills which both universities and employers look for, from data collection, analysis and

evaluation to decision making and debating local, national and global issues. Students will be able to interpret and read maps, photographs and written text and be aware of different peoples' perspectives and views on a wide range of international issues. The course covers a range of Physical and Human Geography topics in Year 12 including; rivers, rocks and weathering, weather, population change, migration and settlement dynamics. In Year 13 there are a variety of advanced options including environmental management and global interdependence.

What makes a successful student of Geography?

Geography students need to have a genuine curiosity about the world and the current issues facing the planet and its people. A successful geographer is able to make links between the physical and human world. They will enjoy discussing the issues and be able to contribute their own ideas to the debate. Careers using Geography and geographical skills would include accountancy, cartography, engineering, law, town and government planning, conservation, architecture, geology, geophysics, foreign correspondence, volcanology, oceanography, teaching and many more. Ideally to undertake AS Level Geography, students should have already studied the subject at IGCSE level to a grade B or above.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE Geography in order to succeed at A-Level.

History

What does the study of History involve?

By taking History at A-level, you will develop the sophisticated critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation skills that modern Universities and employers are looking for. Over the two years of your study, you will develop deeper thinking skills that will support your broader development and enhance your abilities in other A-level subjects.

The course covers a wide range of possible topics, covering events like the growth of British imperialism, the Holocaust in World War II through to the impact of the Cold War on modern society, and you will have some control over what we explore. By diving together into the topics, we will develop a deep understanding of the motivations and events that shaped the world we live in today.

By investigating the last 200 years of international history, you will develop a mature and insightful style of writing all while extending your understanding of the world around you. A good grasp of modern history is essential to become a true global citizen and the capabilities you develop will provide a firm foundation for your future career.

What makes a successful student of History?

To be a successful Historian, you will have a keen interest in the people and events that

have moulded our modern world. You will enjoy reading, have a genuine curiosity about the causes of change and the tenacity to root out the truth from multiple conflicting sources of information.

You will be able to build strong arguments and will enjoy debating why things happened as they did; both in your written work and through class debate. You will want to develop effective research skills and have the ability to effectively apply that research in your work.

Because the study of problems in the past is important to understanding the issues of the present, the study of history opens you up to a very broad range of careers and is particularly useful for students keen to explore a path involving Business, Law, Politics, Marketing, Media, Teaching or Research.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE History in order to succeed at A-Level.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

What does the study of Mathematics involve?

Both the Mathematics and Further Mathematics AS and A2 courses are made up of modular units, including pure, applied, statistics and mechanics. The units have been designed to develop a student's understanding and increase their breadth of Mathematical expertise. This would include understanding of mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment, developing abilities to reason logically, constructing mathematical proofs, extending students range of mathematical skills and techniques to use them in unstructured problems, helping the students to develop an understanding of coherence and progression in Mathematics and of how different areas of Mathematics can be connected together to solve problems and scenarios in 'real life' situations.

What makes a successful student of Mathematics?

Good Mathematicians should have an adventurous spirit, be able to focus on detail, have a natural tendency towards acquiring language and communicating well with others, as well as be Mathematically curious to readily investigate ideas that previously they had not even considered, to be humble and most importantly, have a strong work ethic.

It is essential that students gain the minimum of an A grade in GCSE Maths in order to succeed at A-Level. In addition students wishing to begin AS Maths will need to pass an induction test at the start of term 1.

Students wishing to begin AS Further Maths will need to have completed GCSE Further Maths or Additional Maths and gained a minimum grade C.

Music

What does the study of Music involve?

Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, while reflecting on how music is used to express personal and collective identities. The Edexcel A Level qualification in Music is a linear qualification and 100% externally assessed. The course consists of one listening and appraising paper, and two non-examined assessments in performance and composition.

What makes a successful student of Music?

Music students should be creative, persistent, dedicated, patient and, most importantly, passionate about the music that they listen to, compose and perform. An A Level student will need to have a solid understanding of the fundamentals of music, often developed at iGCSE level. These include music theory, sight reading and performance skills. Successful musicians will complete regular practice, listen to a variety of musical genres and read widely, making connections between the music of today, and of the past, as they listen, appraise and perform.

We strongly suggest that students who wish to take up A-Level Music have completed the GCSE course. It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade at GCSE in order to succeed at A-Level.

Physics

What does the study of Physics involve?

The study of Physics involves looking at many aspects of how things interact in the world. Students will channel their skills and learn to draw conclusions from practical investigations. The study of Physics at A Level will teach students to be independent across a series of topics and build their confidence delivering their findings to other group members. Major topics in Physics will explore the way that forces, fields, matter and energy interact.

What makes a successful student of Physics?

A good physicist is skilled in the application of logical concepts to deal with higher order levels of real world problems, applying the rules of the physical world in order to develop an understanding of the outcomes of given situations, within the construct of specific variables. Students need to be keen investigators who are independent thinkers, and be both curious and insightful. A keen interest in using mathematics to predict processes in the real world is essential, as is the ability to voice advantages and disadvantages of any ethical consideration. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate their practice is a key feature to ensuring positive results.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE Physics or BB in Coordinated Science, and Maths, in order to succeed at A-Level.

Politics

What does the study of Politics involve?

The study of Politics requires students to appreciate and understand the systems of governance used in the UK and globally. Students will be introduced to political philosophy and ideologies, giving them the scope to analyse current affairs and compare major political events of the past with more recent developments internationally.

What makes a successful student of Politics?

Politics students need to have an interest in the world around them, and be willing to read the news and current affairs on a regular basis. They will be called on to draw comparisons and use evidence to enhance their ideas and arguments. Politics will support students to develop their written and verbal communication skills, and so confidence in the English Language would be beneficial.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE History or English in order to succeed at A-Level.

Psychology

What does the study of Psychology involve?

Psychology is the study of the mind and human behaviour using scientific methods to both analyse and explain our actions. Psychology students will need to have an interest in human behaviour, motivations, influences and interactions. Through the study of real world studies, core theories, and the different approaches to psychology, students will develop a rounded understanding of the core theories in the different branches of psychology. Being able to discuss and examine key issues and debates in psychology is a critical skill which will benefit you in any field you choose to study.

What makes a successful student of Psychology?

Psychology requires a reasonable level of English language and communication skills as the terminology used throughout the course can be challenging. The ability to critically evaluate the research and studies conducted by scientists is a key core skill. Students should also be able to form balanced arguments and draw upon evidence to support their ideas. Psychological studies require a rigorous scientific approach and students will need to be able to design their own studies as well as apply the theories they learn about.

It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade in GCSE English in order to succeed at A-Level.

Spanish

What does the study of Spanish involve?

A-level Spanish helps students develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

What makes a successful student of Spanish?

In order to be successful at A-level, students must be independent and engage with Spanish outside of the classroom. They must seek out written and aural input of different styles and from a variety of sources. They must not be afraid of making mistakes and take every opportunity to practise and produce Spanish by speaking and writing in different registers. Finally, and most importantly, they should enjoy learning, discovering and having fun with this dynamic, fascinating and essential modern language.

It is essential that students who wish to study Spanish at A-Level have previously studied Spanish at GCSE level.

Theatre Studies

What does the study of Theatre Studies involve?

Theatre Studies has two examinations: one practical and one written. Both are assessed in Year 13 as this is a linear course. For the practical element, students perform a monologue and a group piece from a published play. Students also devise an original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus from a play text. All aspects of the practical examination are influenced by a specific Theatre Practitioner, with students applying their theory to the practical work. For the written examination, students study two texts: one contemporary and one classical. They are required to write about their vision for the design, performance and direction in the exam. Students also watch a range of live theatre throughout the course and analyse this in the examination.

What makes a successful student of Theatre Studies?

A successful student of Theatre Studies is one who is passionate about all practical and theoretical aspects of Drama and Theatre. Theatre students need to have the confidence to perform onstage, both on their own and as part of a group. A successful student will also have an analytical and creative mind to ensure that they can achieve success in the written paper. The theory side of this course is essay based so students need to have the confidence to express their ideas in written form.

We strongly suggest that students who wish to take up A-Level Music have completed the GCSE Drama course. It is recommended that students gain the minimum of a B grade at GCSE in order to succeed at A-Level.

Bromsgrove Diploma Subjects

Business

What does the study of Business involve?

Diploma students have the opportunity to prepare for their next step of university study or going into employment because they are able to carry out research effectively, write reports with bibliographies, present confidently and appreciate the fundamentals of running a business in today's global economy. Topics covered include: The Business Environment, Teamwork, Resources, Marketing, Communication and Starting a Small Business. The assessment methods range from coursework to presentations and role play.

What makes a successful student of Business?

To be successful on a Diploma course, students need to be able to meet deadlines comfortably, communicate effectively and demonstrate a team player attitude. They must be able to work independently and be genuinely inquisitive about the business world.

It is strongly suggested that students wishing to be on this course have the minimum of a C grade in GCSE English.

Creative Digital Media Production

What does the study of Creative Digital Media involve?

Creative Digital Media involves directly working with real life clients from a whole range of industries and backgrounds, you can perfect your skills in filmmaking, photography, editing, music production, sound recording, lighting, scripting and storyboarding. Students will learn how to analyse moving and still images and gain a new understanding of mainstream and world cinema.

What makes a successful student of Creative Digital Media?

Creative Digital Media students need to be inquisitive, dedicated and ultimately creative when tackling a problem or producing a near-professional piece of work. They need to research and plan to a high level and consider all aspects of logistics when planning to complete a task. They need to employ excellent communication skills between third parties (the client, production team and themselves) and be willing to learn new skills and technologies.

Sport

What does the study of Sport involve?

The Sport Diploma course involves examining all aspects of the world of sport. The theoretical aspects of the course range from analysing the anatomy and physiology of the human body and how it is affected by individual lifestyle choices, to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individuals following health monitoring and fitness tests. The practical areas of the course give students a little more freedom to select sports and activities where they excel with the end goal being a detailed performance analysis of themselves, their peers and elite performers.

What makes a successful student of Sport?

To study Sport, you must have a genuine interest in Sport and PE. Whilst a strong physical sporting ability will be beneficial for some aspects of the course, more importantly, you must show commitment and a genuine interest in keeping up-to-date with the ever changing world of modern day sport. You must be able to keep to deadlines for all work, especially your assignments, which begin after one month of study on the course. You must be well organised and remember to bring your PE kit for practical lessons, as well as demonstrating the necessary communication and leadership skills that are required in a number of group assignments. Perhaps most importantly, you must be independent; most of the assignments you will complete in the Sport Diploma will be done independently, so you must be able to demonstrate that you are resourceful in order to complete tasks, whether that is by researching specific topics, referring back to your own notes in order to complete tasks, or seeking advice if you are unsure.

Travel and Tourism

What does the study of Travel and Tourism involve?

Travel and Tourism students prepare effectively for their next step to either university study or going into employment. They are able to carry out research effectively, write reports with bibliographies, present confidently and appreciate the significant impact the travel and tourism industry has on a country's economy. Topics covered include: investigating the sector, The UK as a destination, customer service, long-haul destinations, business and preparing for employment. The assessment is coursework, presentation, role play, and small test based.

What makes a successful student of Travel and Tourism?

To be successful on the Travel and Tourism course, students need to be able to meet deadlines comfortably, communicate effectively and demonstrate a positive attitude as a team player. They must be able to work independently and be genuinely interested in the travel and tourism industry.

Making a Successful Transition into the Sixth Form

The academic programmes we offer at Bromsgrove require hard work and dedication. The knowledge and skills gained at IGCSE level are stepping stones to success in the Sixth Form, but most students find that their workload increases substantially.

The staff are on hand to support the students through the transition process, but success is dependent on their ability to become more independent and adjust their working patterns appropriately.

Here are some key skills that will help students to reach their goals.

- Note taking
- Wider reading
- Time management
- Essay writing
- Organisation
- Well developed revision techniques

Higher Education Advice and Support

What does Higher Education Guidance look like at BIST?

Higher Education Guidance at BIST is delivered through a mixture of whole year group, tutor group and individual sessions with the aim of helping students to find the most suitable next educational step for each student personally. A wide array of universities visit us on our campus to talk to students about what they have to offer and we as a school also have direct contact with institutions through fairs such as CIS and OCSC International Expo. Through these measures we expose students to the many exciting options available in the world of international education.

Once the choices are made and the time comes to write the applications, the students are supported through what can be a confusing and intimidating process. Since over half of BIST graduates go on to UK universities, the primary focus of Careers Education is in preparing for the UCAS application, however all of the work that is done towards this is easily adaptable to university admissions systems across the globe.

How will my son or daughter apply to university?

This depends on where they wish to study. In the UK, for instance, students have to apply to their university through the UCAS website. Students will choose their institution and their subjects and fill out an application which includes their information, a personal statement, their AS grades and then the school submits a reference and their predicted A Level grades. On receiving this application an institution may give a student a 'conditional offer,' that is reliant on the student achieving the predicted grade.

There are agencies that write help write personal statements, is this beneficial for my son/daughter's university application?

Agencies that write personal statements may seem like a good idea to give your son or daughter the best chance at receiving an offer from a university, however they are not advisable. This is because universities put the applications through a rigorous checking process which is able to identify immediately if a statement has not come from a student and they will subsequently reject that application.

It is better for your child's future to get them to write their own.

Where can I find more information about universities and the subjects they have to offer?

Here are some useful website that can help you what different universities have to offer:

UCAS search tool: <http://searchucas.com/>

For study in the USA: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges>

For study in Australia: <http://www.australianuniversities.com.au/compare-universities.html>

For study in Europe: <http://www.studyineurope.eu/>

World University Rankings: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/world-ranking#!page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank_label/sort_order/asc/cols/rank_only

What should my son or daughter consider when making choices?

The key is to be informed: the more research your son or daughter does, the more able they will be to make a decision that best suits them. In brief, here are some key considerations:

- Cost
- Location of university
- Accommodation options
- VISA requirements.
- World Ranking
- What the student wishes to do in the future.

What if my son or daughter wishes to apply to university in Canada or the USA?

America and Canada are both really popular places for students to study.

To study in either of these countries your son or daughter needs to complete a different application system. Whilst many US universities accept applications through the Commonapp centralised admissions system, others only accept individual applications. There is no centralised system in Canada, and each institution needs a separate application. Students wanting to study in these countries will need to consult the individual university's website to find out their application procedures, and the cost implications of each application.

It is also worth noting that some American universities require students to take a SATS exam. If your son or daughter is thinking of applying to the USA it is beneficial for them to start this process in Year 12, or as early as possible.

Is higher education expensive?

Sadly, higher education abroad can be expensive. The UK and the US are by far the most expensive; however, there are alternatives: universities in the Netherlands, for instance, are much more cost effective and they provide great education and support for students.

The key therefore, when making this decision, is to ensure that your son or daughter has researched all the possibilities.

Can you get a scholarship to university?

Yes, some universities do offer scholarships to exceptional students and you can apply to many of these online. The process quite often requires excellent AS and A Level results, as well as a detailed student profile that considers a range of characteristics. As well as additional application forms the process will often require an interview to check for a student's eligibility. Scholarship applications can be difficult to get though, so it is not advisable to rely upon them.

It should also be noted that it is very unusual for international students to be offered financial assistance for study in the UK.

What are predicted grades and how are they arrived at?

Here at Bromsgrove we want your son or daughter to achieve their absolute best, therefore, the predicted grade is a realistic reflection of a student's work throughout Year 12, their AS results and their work for the first term of Year 13. It is the most accurate picture that we can send to the prospective universities.

In understanding predicted grades, it is important to note that universities keep a rigorous check on the grades that schools give students, to see if they are consistent and accurate. If a school is seen to be inflating predicting grades this could have a negative impact on a student's application. Furthermore, if a school were to push predicted grades beyond a student's capability, then this could also lead to rejection when the expectations of a conditional offer are not met by the student.

What if my son or daughter does not have the predicted grades to be accepted into the university of their choice?

It is crucial to remember here that UK universities only offer conditional offers, this means that it depends on the final grades that a student gets at A Level. Therefore, if students do not have the predicted grades to meet the entry requirements, this certainly does not mean that they cannot aim high, but they do have to make a more informed choice about which institution they are able to get into.

Students have five choices of institution in their UCAS application and it could be that one of these can slightly exceed their predicted grades and it still could be that the university offers your son or daughter a conditional place. However, their choices should be a range of optimistic to realistic to avoid disappointment.

What if my son/daughter wishes to go Cambridge or Oxford?

We would wholeheartedly encourage your son or daughter to apply. Oxford and Cambridge occupy some of the top university rankings in the world and both offer fantastic opportunities for their students, however they are immensely competitive. Both universities have rigid GCSE and A Level grade requirements, because they can choose to be selective.

Is the application process for Cambridge or Oxford different from other universities?

Yes. Firstly, the application deadline is on the 15th October, this is much earlier than other universities on UCAS. Students who have the necessary predicted grades need to start their application process as soon as possible on the UCAS website. Secondly, for some courses, students may need to take an entrance exam or send in written work as part of their application. There will also be an interview stage which we can provide practice and guidance for your son or daughter.

NOTE:

WWW.BROMSGROVE.AC.TH