



LONDON ACADEMY  
OF EXCELLENCE  
TOTTENHAM

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

ISSUE 11



## Latest News

### Oxbridge Offers for LAE Tottenham Students

We're delighted to announce that another 10 students have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities for the next academic year, beginning September 2021. The latest Oxbridge offers have been made across a wide range of academic subjects, including Law, Computer Science, English, Music, Politics and History and Human, Social and Political Science. Jan Balon, Headteacher, LAET, said: "At such a challenging time for us all, we're delighted that so many LAET students continue to receive offers from elite universities. They are fantastic role models for all young people in Tottenham."

Donna-Maria Cullen, Executive Director, Tottenham Hotspur, said: "A huge congratulations from everyone at the Club to all LAET students, who continue to achieve incredible outcomes in the face of such challenging circumstances, doing themselves and the area of Tottenham proud. Our credit also goes to the school's hard-working staff who continue to work tirelessly to provide students with the necessary support at this time."

Adam Pettitt, Head, Highgate School, said: "This fantastic news adds to the success of LAET's students in gaining fabulous offers from leading universities across the country. I am proud of them and of their teachers for all the hard work which they have invested - this is a welcome and deserved reward amidst so much uncertainty for these aspirational young people."

These students will be joining the 12 LAET alumni already studying at Oxford and Cambridge and we look forward to this number growing over the years to come.

# University Applications

LAE Tottenham students have demonstrated impressive resilience in their approach to university applications this year, impressively overcoming all the obstacles that the pandemic has continued to put in their way.

We have sent off a record 222 university applications and 31 students have already received all of their offers. We are proud that 75% of our Year 13 students have already received offers from Russell Group universities, in stark contrast to the 1% of students from this area who achieved such offers prior to the school opening.

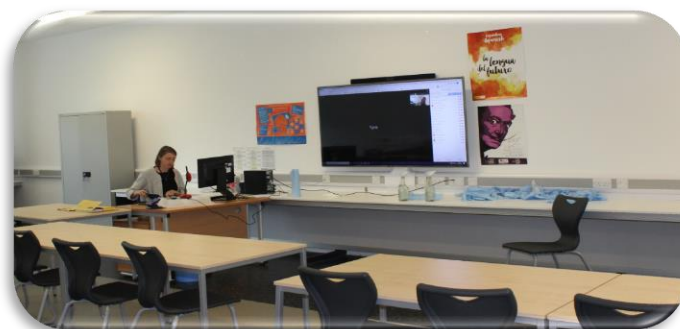
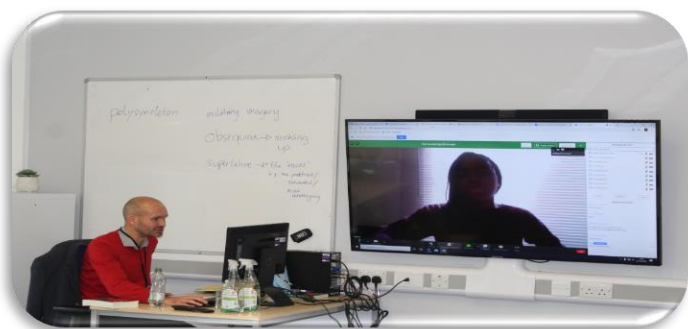
This success is a consequence of incredible efforts from both students and staff and builds on the preparations made for university applications last summer. Working with their academic referees and teachers, both in person and remotely, students have made some of their strongest applications to date. Their personal statements reflect the wealth of extension opportunities their teachers have continued to offer in spite of restrictions to learning and students reflected thoughtfully on the value of their co-curricular experiences to undergraduate study.

We have adjusted our support to prepare students for remote interviews. Preparation for Medics' Multiple Mini Interviews' via Zoom was a particular triumph! Mr Maunder co-ordinated healthcare sessions for over 40 students, recruiting staff from LAET, partner schools and even LAET alumni currently studying medicine to ensure that students were fully prepared for the rigour of these interviews. Four students have already received offers for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine so far with many decisions outstanding.

As evidenced by the recent success, students applying to Oxford and Cambridge have also been well prepared. Working with partner schools, LAET arranged two practice remote interviews for each student applying to Oxbridge. Each department also offered guidance and practice for subject admissions tests as well as extension classes. The school ensured that students had access to an appropriate space in school for their remote interviews, during the holidays if required.

A small number of our students are pursuing alternative routes including art foundation courses, advanced apprenticeship and study abroad. Our recently expanded careers team are providing these students with bespoke guidance and preparation.

During a remote assembly on making firm and insurance UCAS decisions last week, students enjoyed sharing their offers and celebrating each other's successes. We now look forward to supporting students to achieve top grades and meeting these offers as well as ensuring that all students are ready to be successful on the next stage of their academic journey, particularly in a year of such disruption to learning and assessment.



# Speakers and Events

## Paymentsense & Texel

Students at LAE Tottenham have been privileged to work closely with many prestigious companies as part of their high-quality careers programme.

This term has seen our careers programme in full swing, with various talks and sessions taking place, particularly with our Year 12 students. Two partnerships we are proud to highlight this month include Paymentsense & Texel.

15 of our most promising Year 12 students took part in a communication workshop run by the paymentsense team, where they all had a day off timetable to develop this aspect of their employability skills. Students thoroughly enjoyed the session and look forward to using their newly perfected presentation skills in the near future. Paymentsense will be delivering a series of exciting workshops for our Year 12 students, including a talk by Jan Farrons and George Karibian, founders and Directors of Paymentsense.

We are also delighted to announce a partnership with the Texel Foundation which has resulted in a group of 10 Year 12 students being selected as our first cohort of 'Texel Scholars'. Our scholars have been taking part in a series of personalised workshops, improving their employability skills and preparing professional CVs. Texel are also working with our wider cohort and have been putting on exclusive live interview talks with employees across their business; a perfect opportunity for our students to understand the varying nature of jobs in one organisation. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work with these two organisations and look forward to seeing the positive impact on our students.

## Community Project

The local community remains close to our heart here at LAE Tottenham and some of our partners have become very creative over the lockdown period. Leonie Eisenberg, Co-ordinator of the 'Generation IT' exchange programme has been working very hard to enable 20 of our Year 12 students to deliver a virtual IT skills programme to local residents. The programme is now in full swing, with our students using 1 hour of their time each week to volunteer and support local residents with logging onto zoom and using online services; an invaluable skill at this time!



# Remote Learning Experiences

## How are you coping with remote learning?

I am coping well with online school. In the beginning, I was struggling to transition from the Christmas break we had, as well as adjusting my sleeping pattern. However, I've been able to adapt and get back on my feet.

## What challenges have you faced so far and how did you overcome these challenges?

Remote learning has been mentally and physically draining. This is because it feels like school is back to back. I can sit at my desk for over 8 hours straight and sometimes I'd forget to take a break.

I've tried to rectify this by having water breaks, toilet breaks as well as taking a walk at least 2 days per week to have a change of scenery. I'll even walk around my house for about 5 minutes just to get a break. I've also incorporated background music in my free periods and lunchtime.

## How have you been supported by your teachers at LAE Tottenham and how has this helped?

My teachers always respond to my emails and for some independent lessons, they stay on Zoom to answer any questions we might have. I've felt very heard and supported during this entire period of online learning and I know it's not just me going through this.

I am grateful to the school for their ongoing support.

**Baaba, from 'De Montfort' Tutor Group**

The online learning experience itself has been interesting to say the least, as it comes with many positives and negatives. The biggest challenge I've faced undoubtedly is the lack of motivation to accomplish tasks at home. I am sure this is a collective attitude by this point where it is hard not being in a physical space.

Not having much social interaction or exercise can disorientate many people as being present physically in a school environment gave people a chance to socialise as well as move about rather than being confined to a desk for the entire day.

However, teachers at LAE Tottenham have responded very effectively to the transition to online learning. They are trying their best to maintain a "normal school routine" by putting our work on a live Google document, running extra sessions before and after school, as well as ensuring that we are actively engaged in class.

Like many things at the moment, our academic future is very uncertain and the best thing we can do is to not be distracted by the uncertainty and instead maintain our focus on the end goal. This can be achieved by being actively engaged during our lessons as well as having a good timetable where the workload is balanced out with some downtime and relaxation as they are vital to a healthy mind and body.

**Yixuan, from 'Exeter' Tutor Group**

# Twitter Highlights

You Retweeted  
**Tottenham Hotspur** @SpursOfficial · 14h  
 10 current students at @LAEtottenham have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities for the next academic year, beginning September 2021 🎉  
 More

#THFC #COYS



Oxbridge calling for Tottenham students  
 @tottenhamhotspur.com

21 43 797

You Retweeted  
**Alleyn's School** #alwaysalleyns #alwaysconnected @Alleyn... · Jan 24  
 Great to see so many examples of partnership work. More about Alleyn's projects including Saturday Maths, partnerships with local primaries, @LaeTottenham, @SSLP\_Southwark, sharing facilities and other outreach, here: [alleyns.org.uk/community](https://alleyns.org.uk/community) #alwaysalleyns #alwaysconnected



Jane Lunnon and 9 others  
 You Retweeted  
**Haringey and Barnet Citizens** @HaringeyCitize1 · Jan 22  
 We recognise the impact of the pandemic on #digitalinclusion and our local alliance is focussing on this as a campaign - more to come! @CitizensUK @Nlondoncitizens @CEChavurah @highgate1565 @thewillowN17 @SPAHademy @HTTottenham @LaeTottenham @mhmethodist

# Looking Ahead

Date	Year Group	Details
Friday 05 February	Prospective students	Application deadline for September 2021 entry
Thursday 11 February  6-8pm	Year 13	Virtual parents evening via Zoom
Monday 15 - Friday 19 February	All students	Half term
Thursday 25 February  5-7:30pm	Year 12	Higher Education Fair