



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
Cambridge



Dukes
EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT PROVISION & UCAS GUIDE

WE ARE PART OF THE DUKES FAMILY



For many years, our college has proudly supported students in their journey to higher education, guiding both UK and international applicants towards universities in the UK and abroad. We offer quality, bespoke, and personalised support from day one, whether students are studying A-Levels or a Foundation Year.

Our provision is designed not only to help students succeed in their applications but also to build essential skills through our high-quality CAIGE (Careers, Advice, Information, Guidance, and Enrichment) programme. Within this brochure, you will find details of the services, providers, and activities we offer to raise awareness of higher education opportunities, alongside practical advice on how to make applications stand out.

As holders of the national Careers Quality Award, and through strong partnerships with specialist organisations such as Dukes Plus, we are proud to deliver the very best careers and university guidance within Dukes Education.

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@standrewscollegecambridge



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OUR OFFER



As part of our comprehensive provision, we offer a wide range of opportunities to help every student prepare for university and future careers. Our in-house support will ensure students are always on track with their application, from registrations to guidance with no need to seek help from external agents.

From application support to enrichment activities, our provision is designed to build confidence, skills, and ambition.

- One-to-one progression meetings (Individual Support Plan)
- Specialised support with Dukes Plus:
including The Medic Portal and The Law Portal
- Access to UNIFROG
- Work experience masterclasses with INVESTIN
- Assessment centre workshops and personal statement training
- Additional exams preparation (UCAT, ESAT, LNAT, TMUA, SAT, etc.)
- Cambridge University lectures
- Cambridge PhD programme with UniHive education
- University visits, open days and talks
- University fairs in-house with UK and international universities
- Roundtable events with market leaders and professionals
- EAP Programme*

All of the above services are included in your school fees. Our support extends beyond school term time, so if you ever need our help after you leave school, we will always be available. (See “Clearing” page 14)

UCAS SUPPORT

- What is UCAS: a step by step approach
- UCAS Timeline 2026 entry
- The Application Process

• What is UCAS?

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK. Not only do they process more than two million applications for full-time undergraduate courses every year, but they help you to find the right course for you.

To make things run as smoothly as possible they provide everything you need online: from making your application through to tracking your offers. You can search for courses and follow links to individual university and college websites, read information about finance, order a UCAS card and much more besides. (www.ucas.com)

• UCAS Application Deadlines 2026 entry

There are two main deadlines for UK universities: the following deadlines are valid for 2026 entry (September 2026 start of university).

15th October 2025

University of Cambridge
University of Oxford
Medicine and Dentistry courses

14th January 2026

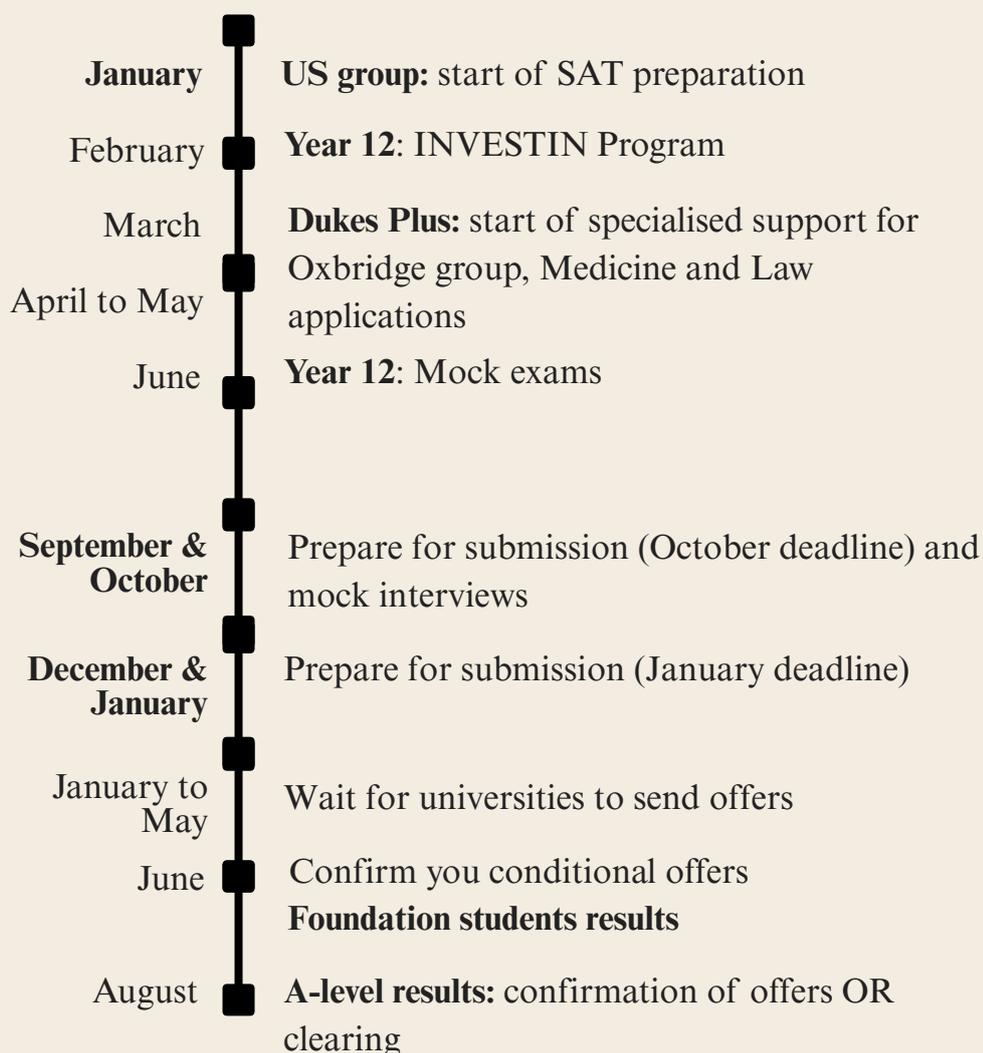
All other universities
and courses

UCAS SUPPORT

Although there are several deadlines throughout the year, starting early gives you a valuable head start and helps ensure you're fully prepared. All our A Level students begin their UCAS preparation in Year 12, working steadily over two years. Foundation students start as soon as they arrive in September and follow an intensive six-month preparation programme.

Year 12 - Start of guidance and collecting evidence for the application such as: work- experience, extra (or super) curricular activities and additional exam preparation - setting up UCAS profile and UNIFROG research tool, attending open days, university visits and fairs.

Summer Holidays: this is the time to reflect on the personal statement, write the first draft, and do some work experience or attend subject-specific summer schools (especially if you want to impress).



Whether you are an A-level student or a Foundation student, we will provide you with the best predicted grades and reference letter. We will also make sure you choose your 5 options wisely, in a way that they reflect your academic attitude, skillset and passion.

UCAS SUPPORT

3. The Application Process

A successful UCAS application is best achieved when the student, school and agent/parents are all actively involved.

At the start of each application term, we will meet the students in person to guide them through the process of registration. Their application will be linked to our college with a **buzzword** which changes every year. Linking the students application to us, allow us to write their references, predicted grades and receive updates on their application. We can also discuss the status of their application on their behalf, should the students have any issues logging in.

To submit your application, UCAS charges a fee of £28.50 and you can put up to five choices. Please note: if you fall under the October deadline application deadline, you can still make your other 4 choices up until January!



Step 7 – Starting University or College

Step 6 – Confirmation of placement, or Clearing

Step 5 – Results

Step 4 – Offers: check progress using Track at UCAS.com

Step 3 – Applying online through UCAS.com

Step 2 – Choosing courses: deciding what and where

Step 1 – Planning, research, visits



UCAS SUPPORT: CHECKLIST

All students can expect to receive:

Year group meetings:

Introduction and Registrations (UCAS/ UNIFROG)

Personal Statement workshop and check-in

1 to 1 meetings:

Initial orientation (guidance)

Check-in for UCAS shortlisting/Personal Statement Draft or feedback/Additional guidance

Optional additional meetings:

International Applications

or Competitive Applications analysis

Dukes Plus Consultancy

Graduation / Leaving Check-In:

tell us about your successful placement!

All students will meet with our approachable University Advisor. We keep track of all applications, registrations and consultancy plans in one place and we share reports and the students' academic career with parents or carers, teachers and the pastoral team.

We provide the best support and care to all students with impartial, realistic and professional advice.

THE (NEW) PERSONAL STATEMENT

An undergraduate personal statement is a chance to get noticed for the unique talents and experiences you have. It's an important part of the application process as it's an opportunity to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.

Admissions Tutors will be reading a lot of personal statements so it's important to grab their attention right from the start. It can only be 4,000 characters and it is divided in three boxes with a minimum of 350 characters each. See below the three main questions and some points of reflection to get you started. We offer one-to-one writing support in draft reading and final version revision to ensure your piece of writing is engaging, relevant, and effective. At St. Andrew's, we work with experts, Cambridge PhD students, and many other professionals to help guide you in writing your personal statement.

Question 1

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- Your motivations for studying this course(s)
- Your knowledge of this subject area and interests
- Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you

Question 2

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area
- What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate
- Any relevant educational achievements

Question 3

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Work experience, employment, or volunteering
- Personal life experiences or responsibilities and hobbies or any extracurricular or outreach activities
- Achievements outside of school or college

THE (NEW) PERSONAL STATEMENT

The style and focus of your statement can vary significantly depending on the subject you're applying for.

A personal statement for a creative course such as Art or Drama may include more personal reflection, creative influences, and practical experience. Applications to ARTS include the creation of a portfolio, on which you will work throughout the year with your teacher.

A STEM subject-based personal statement, should demonstrate analytical thinking, academic curiosity, and problem-solving skills.

If you're applying to Cambridge University it's essential to go beyond the standard expectations: Cambridge places a strong emphasis on super-curricular activities—these are experiences that extend your subject knowledge beyond the classroom, such as reading academic articles, attending lectures, or taking part in subject-specific competitions. While extra-curriculars still have value, academic engagement is absolutely key.

And if you're applying internationally—for example, to the United States—bear in mind that universities there often require multiple essays instead of a single personal statement. These essays tend to be more reflective and personal, focusing on your values, background, and life experiences, not just your academic interests. Understanding the expectations of each system is vital to writing a strong and appropriate application.

TOP TIPS!



Start early! - Research is key! Make a record of all your achievements, competitions, activities, interesting read, and so on.



Ask for help!- Advisors, teachers, tutors, peers: we are all here to help! We give you access to Unifrog, UCAS and the web to explore options and generate ideas.



Be original and positive! - The personal statement is all about you, always demonstrate your learning outcome and how this applies to your future studies/career aspirations.

DUKES PLUS PROVISION



8-week SAT course (online)

In-house SAT/ACT classes, tailored specifically to US applicant cohort. The benefits to running an in-house course include having smaller classes, flexibility to schedule sessions based on our school's timetable.

All courses start with the administration of a diagnostic test to understand each student's own benchmark before they improve their scores. This is followed by 2 hours per week over the course of a term, with homework to be completed between lessons and additional practice testing.

The course also includes a printed copy of our "Book of Knowledge" propriety book, written by our experienced SAT/ACT teachers based on the most recent updates to the test structure and question patterns.

Aspiring to Oxbridge Presentation

This session provides a comprehensive overview of the application process for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Covering key elements such as course selection, personal statements, admissions tests, and interviews, this presentation is designed to guide students and families through the unique requirements and expectations of these world-renowned institutions.

Four-Session Interview Preparation Course

These are four 30-minute one-to-one mock interview sessions designed to prepare students for the rigorous Oxbridge interview process. Each student is matched with an interviewer who has attended Oxbridge and holds expertise in their specific field of interest, ensuring a highly tailored and realistic interview experience. Sessions are held once a week for four weeks, scheduled at a regular time that works with the student's availability.

LawSoc

Powered by a unique collaboration between The Lawyer Portal, Common Purpose, The University of Law, and leading law firms, TLP LawSoc consists of 8 interactive modules designed to launch the students' law career. They're all housed in a responsive Learning Management System, so students can learn at home or on the go!

MedSoc

TMP MedSoc provides students with access to 15 online modules, released throughout the year. These can be completed individually, in the student's own time – but include interactive elements that bring learning to life.

DUKES PLUS PROVISION

UCAT Test Preparation

Performance in the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) has become one of the most important factors to secure a medical school interview. Our 1-day UCAT courses are trusted by top schools worldwide and are packed with doctor-created strategies to help your students unlock better scores. Students who join the UCAT courses will receive complimentary access to the extensive UCAT question bank, as well as exclusive post-workshop webinars.

MMI Circuits

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) are used by 28 Medical Schools and mastering them is crucial to turn interviews into offers. Our MMI Prep stations have been carefully designed by doctors to represent those used by Medical Schools around the country. Students will experience a total of 20 stations: they will first tackle 10 scenarios themselves, just like a real interview day. Then, they will amplify their learning by observing their partner who faces 10 new scenarios. Students will receive comprehensive feedback from examiners as they go around the circuit.

Admission Test Day

This day is designed to help students develop the skills needed to succeed in their admissions tests, which are a critical component of the application process not only for Oxbridge but also for other leading universities. These tests assess essential skills and knowledge in subjects ranging from critical thinking to subject-specific expertise, making them vital for gaining entry into top institutions. Students will also have the opportunity to sit a specially designed Oxbridge Applications Mock Paper, which will be marked for them. This mock test will give students a real sense of the challenges they'll face and allow them to refine their test-taking strategies.

Admissions Tests Covered:

UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) Medical schools, including Oxford and Cambridge

TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admissions) Cambridge, Imperial College London, and LSE

LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test) Law schools, including Oxford and Cambridge

ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test) Cambridge and Imperial College London

Other exam include: TSA, MAT, PAT, HAA, HAT, CAT.



UNIHITE - CAMBRIDGE PHD PROGRAMME



www.unihive.education

UniHive Education collaborates closely with world-leading academics, researchers, scientists and experts to provide top-quality study programmes in research and academic learning.

The St. Andrew's "Student Development Programme" has been set up in collaboration with UniHive to provide a set of academic development training for our students who aim to apply to Cambridge, Oxford, and other key UK and overseas universities.

The key components include:

- Academic Research Skills Training
- Cambridge Professors Session (university-style lectures)

And it aims to offer students the opportunities, resources, and guidance to enhance the ability to showcase their academic potential.

Subjects offered

Medicine

Mathematics

Computer
Science

Social Sciences

Activities involve: lectures, academic writing workshop, literature review, research design, methodology, discussion, presentation, feedback.

Students who intend to take an EPQ are also supported by the PhD team with academic writing guidance and reviews.



UniHive also offers Summer Programmes and our students are entitled to a discount on the summer school when you join the Academic Programmes. Please ask us for more information if you are interested in a Summer School: this is a very good way to add to your personal statement and develop academic and soft skills.

“Supporting students to find the best next step for them”

The universal destinations platform.

The UNIFROG platform is a membership-based website that helps students compare every university course, every apprenticeship, and further education course and then apply successfully.

At the start of the academic year at St. Andrew's, each student will be given a log-in and a password to join the platform.

Students use the tools to research, compare, and complete tasks such as personality quizzes, writing a draft of their personal statement, joining online virtual work experiences, and attending courses (MOOC). The platform helps and supports our students to record skills and activities they achieved to keep track of their transferable skills. The platform also offers insights on career expectations, personal statement writing guidance, and a subject library to help you decide if a course is the right choice for you.



RESULTS DAY

Foundation
Students

19th June

A-Level
Students

13th August

After receiving your results, your *conditional* offer will be either confirmed and therefore changed to “*unconditional firm*” or, sadly, declined if you have not met the conditions of the offer, which include your academic scores **and** the language requirements (*on most occasions*).

Certificates and school transcripts

We will provide all the certificates and school transcripts, including reports and references if needed. Some universities want the school to send these documents via the official referee (Head or Nominated Person) and some will ask the students to provide these.

Foundation Students:

Will need to submit their documentation directly to the university admission portal or by email.

Foundation students will receive:

1. The Official NCFE Certificate of Completion
2. St. Andrew's transcript of studies with the grade achieved (in %) over the year
3. St. Andrew's Certificate of Completion

A-level Students:

Your results will automatically appear in your UCAS. If you have not met the condition of the offer, you will be released into clearing.

Official certificates from the exam boards (AQA, EDEXCEL, etc) will be released in November. You will be notified by email and you can either pick up in person or they will be sent to your postal address.

CLEARING

Clearing has two key roles. First, it's how UK universities fill any remaining course spots. Second—and more excitingly—it's a golden opportunity for students to submit a late application, either through UCAS or directly to universities.

Although Clearing officially opens in July, the real action kicks off after A-level results day. That's when students who didn't quite meet their offers—or those who've outperformed expectations—can jump in and apply for alternative courses. It's your chance to pivot, refocus, and still land a spot at university.

That's why we always recommend having a Plan B. You never quite know how exams will go—you might hit your predicted grades and head off to your first-choice uni, or you might need to explore other options. Either way, having a shortlist of backup courses or universities can give you the edge when it counts. The quicker you can call and apply, the better your chances of securing a place!

At St. Andrew's, we're here to support you through it all. Our staff will be available at school during this crucial period to help with any paperwork, provide guidance, and help you figure out the best course or university for your future. Don't panic—let's plan and stay ready together!

TOP TIPS!



Be ready! - Do your research in advance: have a shortlist of courses and universities you're genuinely interested in before results day. That way, you're ready to act fast.



Stay in touch!- Advisors will be available to help from 8AM in the morning, to guide you through your choices. Have your phone and email active so we can talk to you!



Be flexible! you might find an amazing course or options you hadn't considered before!

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS



We're thrilled to support you with international university applications too—whether you're aiming for the United States, Australia, or Europe, we're here to help. Through our direct contacts and wider support network, we can guide you through every step of the process. It's important to remember that deadlines and application procedures vary significantly between countries. For example, in the US, most students apply via the Common App, with deadlines for Early Decision typically around 1 November and Regular Decision by 1 January. Some universities also offer rolling admissions. In Australia, there are two main intakes: February (the primary intake) and July (mid-year), with deadlines usually falling between October–November for February entry, and April–May for the July intake.

We're also able to provide and send any additional school documentation that may be required—such as transcripts, predicted grades, or references—ensuring your application is complete and professionally presented. Wherever you're applying, you can count on us to help you stay organised, meet key deadlines, and put your best foot forward.

In the past few years, our students have successfully applied to America, Australia, Europe and Asia.

Language Requirements

Whether you are applying to the UK or internationally, as an international student, you will need to provide a proof of your English Language Proficiency Level, *aka* CEFR.

At St. Andrew's College you can access the EAP Programme which offers additional language support, or speak to our friendly team if you need help to book an exam.

**(If you have GCSE English Language, you may be exempt from the above)*

Don't forget that if you can speak another language (your native or additional), it is always a good idea to explore the possibility of taking a language exam (e.g. A-Level Chinese)!

SUCCESS STORIES

Foundation Students

Keren!

Foundation Humanities with Psychology and Sociology

University of Edinburgh, Psychology

Keren found in St Andrew's a supportive environment where her goals were not only encouraged but made achievable. With close academic mentoring Keren has now progressed to study Psychology at the University of Edinburgh — one of the UK's most respected and competitive universities.

Abishag!

Foundation AI and Computer Science

University of Edinburgh, Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering

Abishag received many competitive offers through UCAS, thanks in large part to her captivating personal statement. She wasn't afraid to be honest about past setbacks, sharing how she learned and grew from them. Her passion and genuine interests shone throughout her application, proving that hard work and commitment truly pay off. Abishag's story is a powerful reminder that resilience and authenticity can open the door to a successful university placement.

A - Level Students

Bill

A Levels: A*A*A*B

University of Manchester, Physics with Theoretical Physics

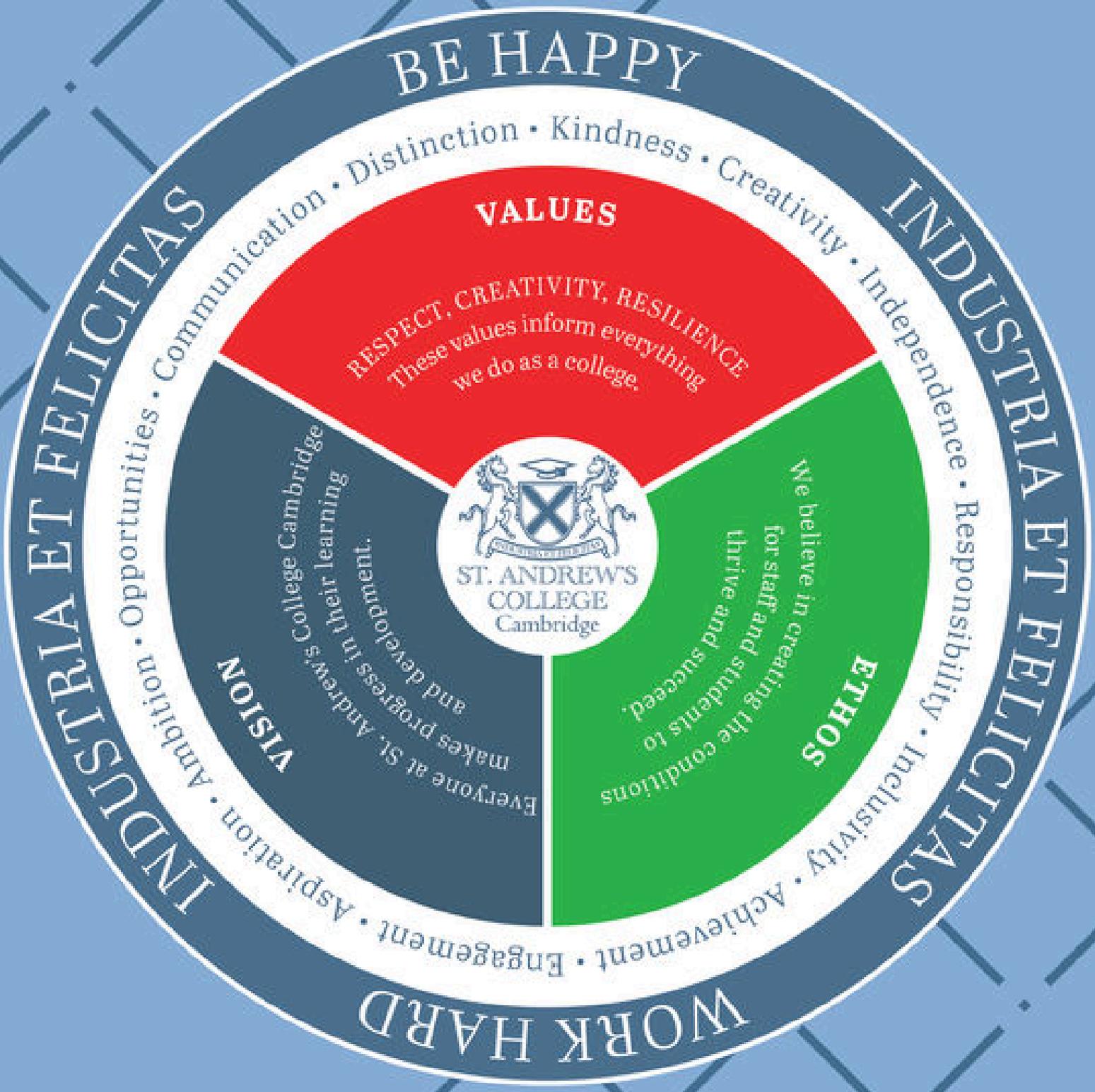
"We are incredibly proud of Bill for securing a place at the University of Manchester to study Theoretical Physics with Professor Brian Cox, one of the most prestigious courses in the country. This highly competitive program, even more selective than Cambridge, is a true testament to his exceptional talent and dedication."

Wonwoo

A Levels: A*AB

UCL, Pharmacy

*Wonwoo achieved excellent A-level results with A*AB and secured a place to study Pharmacy at UCL. His dedication and hard work have paid off, paving the way for an exciting future in healthcare. Wonwoo's success is proof that commitment and focus open doors to top universities!*





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Cambridge

