

Introducing yourself – A personal profile

Personal profile Jack Devoy (18)

I am currently a student at Hamsworth School, Birmingham, studying English literature, economics, and history. I am a diligent and conscientious student, and have attained Grade As in all my subjects in recent exams. I also try to give my utmost to other aspects of school life. I am a School Prefect and have acted as a guide at numerous school open evenings.

Literature has always played an important role in my life. I feel lucky to have been brought up in a family with a passion for books. I enjoy reading books from a wide range of genres, from Shakespearean comedies such as *The Taming of the Shrew*, to historical investigations such as Douglas A. Blackmon's *Slavery by Another Name*. I particularly enjoy combining my interest in history with my love of literature and so have read many historical books – a particular favourite being E.H. Gombrich's *A Little History of the World*. I often have strong views on any text I read and this helps me when I come to analyse them for my studies.

In addition to my love of reading, I really enjoy drama and acting. This year, in my role as Prefect, I ran the inter-house drama competition, where I directed younger students in a short comedy play, *Melons at the Parsonage*. I look forward to getting involved in any drama groups at university.

Outside of school, I have a strong interest in film and theatre. I have seen numerous interesting plays, including *The 39 Steps* and *War Horse*, and I follow the blog of respected film critic Mark Kermode, which has given me an insight into the film industry. I would really like to combine my interest in film and theatre with my study of English.



Alongside my studies, I feel I could contribute a great deal to university life generally. I am a keen sportsman and I have represented my school in football, cricket, basketball, and athletics. Playing in numerous sports teams has taught me the importance of good teamwork and strong leadership. I would love to continue playing a variety of sports at university.

Looking ahead, I would really like to go into a career in the media, either in television and film, or journalism. As I have mentioned, I tend to have a strong view on most texts I read, so could envisage myself becoming a literary or film critic. I know that a degree in English literature would be the springboard to success in these fields.