

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

**About two thirds of your statement should be taken up with reasons for your choice of course and your aptitude for this.** There are guidance booklets about writing personal statements in the Learning Centre, Sixth Form resources area and Connexions, plus guidance on the school website and other websites, BUT all personal statements are now screened electronically for plagiarism (copying of model statements or parts of them) so please make sure your statement is your own.

### **State your reasons for your choice of course:**

Why you enjoy the subject - what particular aspects you enjoy - looking forward to studying it in greater depth - work experience confirmed interest - look forward to putting theory into practice - possess skills required for the course - post degree aim e.g. particular career in mind and why

I have chosen a .....degree because it will enable me to study (*state areas which interest you and you know which will be covered in the course*) in more depth. In addition to my lessons, extra reading (*state titles/authors*) has confirmed my interest in studying ..... . With my practical experience in (*state work experience etc*) and my academic achievements (*particular results, modules, topics you have done well in*) I believe I am well suited to a degree in ..... Investigate the different course profiles and the qualities they are looking for – hopefully your match these.

### **Any relevant skills you have gained through work experience:**

Listening - speaking - working independently - computer literacy - team work - managing others - meeting deadlines - diplomacy - problem solving - using initiative. My work experience (or suitable part time or voluntary work) in ..... was an enjoyable and challenging experience, enabled me to be involved in a wide range of areas such as ..... which developed my skills in ..... and gave me a better understanding of ..... . I believe this would be helpful to me for a degree course in ..... because .....

**Remember by now you should have filled at least half the space you are going to**

**State the experiences you have gained within school:** Write out your (more recent) experiences and responsibilities.

Drama - music - sports - voluntary work - help lessons - responsibilities in house - organising charities etc - sixth form committee etc. Where relevant emphasise what skills you have acquired and your level of commitment.

Possible skills independence - empathy - self expression - responsible - communication - efficiency - confidence - trustworthy - diplomacy - self motivation - team work - sensitivity - helpful - public speaking - being organised - solving problems - approachable.

Playing a musical instrument ..... at grade ....., (*being in the school hockey team/speaking as part of the school debating team etc*) has been extremely rewarding and also developed my skills of ....., which I believe will be helpful on my chosen degree course. I would look forward to continuing these activities at university. Taking responsibility for (*you could mention help lessons here*) has benefited me by ..... and I enjoyed being able to .....

**Identify and outline the key activities or experiences which you have gained in a non educational environment:**

Hobbies - holidays - reading (be specific) - music - using computers/Internet - part time work

For sports you are interested in playing in - provide details about the level of your involvement - e.g. County player - captain and how this has helped you.

I particularly enjoy ..... and it has given me the opportunity to (skills developed, become more independent, accepted the challenge of, broadened my interest). My part time job as ..... has provided an opportunity to .....

**Choose one or two areas to link your degree course to general university life:**

e.g. how work experience, a holiday, conference attended, skills acquired - out of school activity - career aspiration - personal reason have confirmed that this is the degree course you want to do. It is because of my experience with ... that I believe I will make a successful student on ....I am looking forward to building on my existing experiences of studying .... and the chance to further my knowledge in.....

- Do not just stick to these sentences - adapt and personalise them.
- Show that you will benefit from university; its range of activities. - You are there primarily to study but they want to see you as rounded person with something to contribute to the university.
- Show yourself to be an interesting personality - but you are only 18 - do not try to make out that you have done everything, been everywhere and have every quality fully developed.
- Don't lie or tell half truths or something that applied years ago but not now - an Interview will catch you out!!

You will need to explain in your Personal Statement brief details of any Gap Year proposals and the benefits that you hope to get out of your Gap Year.