

# OSCAR HYMAS

## BST Alumnus 2020

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Having joined BST in Year 2, Oscar Hymas graduated from BST in 2020 and is currently studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Royal Holloway, University of London. He recalls his time at BST passionately with many fond memories ranging from the camaraderie in the common room, grabbing lunch with his fellow students, class debates, school trips and lectures which sparked his specific academic interests. He recalls that the History Bowls in which his teachers encouraged him to participate fueled his love for History, the Model United Nations trip in Year 12 drove



his interests in Politics, and the unique opportunities to interview journalists from the Financial Times and The Guardian heightened his passion for Economics. Oscar also feels that his A level choices of Economics, History and Mathematics gave him the optimal preparation for his academic studies in university.

Most importantly, he says that BST enabled him to discover and then feed his love for Economics. He was initially drawn to Economics due to his sense that it would bring 'good job prospects' and because it 'sounded interesting' however, Mr Groake's energy and teaching style greatly inspired him to take on this subject at university. To study Economics at university, A level Mathematics is required and this initially discouraged Oscar however, because of his determination, he swapped his initial choice of A level from Geography. He feels that this was 'one of the most difficult choices [he's] ever made...but I made the right decision for myself in the end.' His hard work in A level Mathematics made studying Economics 'a lot easier.'

Oscar recalls his love for the subject may have been rooted from his childhood curiosity as he remembers watching the news when he was younger and being intrigued by lines like 'the Central bank dropped the interest by 3%' but couldn't understand exactly what that meant. However he states: 'when you start to learn about it more, it feels like you are cracking the code of life.' He specifically enjoyed studying Behavioral Economics as he began noticing it unfold all around him. Some examples include tactics used by supermarkets as they 'regularly reshuffle goods to make customers walk around the supermarket' or 'place more expensive stuff in the center aisle of the supermarket because they want customers to see it.'

Overall he enjoys noticing things around him in real life and therefore Economics helps him to see the world differently and understand it better. It also makes him conscious of his own financial choices as he now asks himself questions such as 'how much money am I getting and how much will it be eaten by inflation year on year?' or simpler questions such as 'where should I be putting my money?'

To the current students of BST, Oscar thinks that 'A levels, with the depth of study they involve are a good preparation for university, but don't be afraid to take a subject even if you don't think you can get an A\*.' He reflects that although A level Mathematics was a challenge, 'taking it still helped me more than taking any other subject'. Oscar concludes that 'sometimes the skills you learn along the way are more important than the grades you get in the end.' Ultimately, Oscar is flourishing at The University of London and enjoying all the opportunities that Royal Holloway offers.

*Article written by BST Year 13 student,  
Emma Stuart-Box (October 2021)*

