

# SEAN PEEDLE

## BST Alumnus 2017

Currently in his fourth year of studying Materials Science (specialisation within Natural Sciences degree) at Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam College, Sean Peedle's accomplishments lie beyond just the academic realm - he has also won three Cuppers trophies and two league titles as part of the Fitzwilliam Football Club.

"I always enjoyed Physics and Maths at BST and so it seemed like a natural progression to apply for Physics / Natural Sciences," explains Sean. "At Cambridge, the Natural Sciences course starts off rather broadly (I had Physics, Chemistry, Materials Science and Maths lectures in my first year) and you specialise by the third year. I was fairly certain I'd specialise in Physics initially (that's what I'd applied for in my other UCAS choices) but I ended up really enjoying Materials Science and how it was taught. It was also more interesting for me that Materials Science was closely related to a wide range of real-world devices (semiconductors for solar cells, polymers for drug delivery)."

For his final year project, Sean has worked alongside a research group from the University of Luxembourg to study the electro-optical properties of copper indium gallium sulfide (Cu(In,Ga)S<sub>2</sub>) solar cells, co-authoring a scientific paper with them in the process. He expects that the paper will be published in a scientific journal in the near future.

"My contribution is very small in the grand scheme of things but I think it's pretty cool that I was part of it," Sean comments. Having had this experience working with photovoltaics, he hopes to be able to develop more sustainable methods of generating electricity in the renewable energy sector in the future.

According to Sean, one of the most useful aspects of university education has been the opportunity to work under regular supervision by professors who are at the top of their disciplines - "I'd submit solutions to a lecture course's problem sheet and then be able to discuss them in a group of three (the lecturer and another of my classmates). Supervised work is always an added stress but it keeps you engaged with the content."

The period of time leading up to the iGCSE and A-level examinations can often be a stressful and confusing one for students here at BST. Sean provided a few words of advice to those who might be feeling overwhelmed: "Just do the best you can so that you have no regrets. As long as you know you've tried your best, I'm sure you'll be able to enjoy your time wherever you end up afterwards."

Article written by BST Year 11 student, Aaron Foo (April 2021)

