



### ***Week 4 focus – Writing Personal Statements***

Welcome to the weekly progression update. Here you will be able to find ideas and resources to get you started with your research. You should be spending 1 hour a week thinking about your progression plan. Any questions, please email me [isaacr@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:isaacr@smrt.bristol.sch.uk). If you haven't done so already, please follow redcliffeprogession on Instagram for more updates throughout the week.

#### **What is a personal statement?**

A **personal statement** supports your application to study at a university. It's a chance for you to articulate why you'd like to study a particular course or subject, and what skills and experience you possess that show your passion for your chosen field.

We discussed the key information for personal statements in **assembly week 2** so please go back to this to remind yourself of the basics.

#### **How do I start writing my personal statement?**

Starting is the hardest bit!

The UCAS website has a great [personal statement writing tool](#) which allows you to fill information in boxes using prompt questions and then create a PDF from this – a great place to start!

#### **How do I start when I don't know what course I want to do?**

The personal statement writing tool above gives you lots of prompts which means you can still get started even if you are unsure of the subject or course you want to do.

Lots of your statement will talk about your skills and achievements which will be relevant to a large range of courses. Once you decide, you can go back and re-draft to make it more specific.

#### **Can I see some example personal statements?**

Sure – we have lots of great examples on our [SMRT progression site](#). Check out the personal statement tab which has more info and examples from our very own students.

**TOP TIP** – Make sure you use the examples carefully and don't be tempted to copy bits. UCAS will scan every personal statement for plagiarism.

#### **What do I do if I get stuck?**

If you have written a few paragraphs and you're not sure what to do next, e-mail your tutor with your first draft. They will be able to give you some feedback in order to re-draft version 2. We expect you will have 10+ redrafts of this over the next few months with feedback from your tutor, family, subject teacher, friends etc!

**TOP TIP** – Please only email your personal statement draft to one person at a time! You do not want several teachers taking their time to give you feedback on the same version. Wait for feedback, improve and then send your new draft to someone else.

Good luck ☺