

# even AIM HIGHER

‘Through studying Advanced Highers, I became better at expressing myself’

Chris Murray



Having achieved six Highers in his fifth year at Shawlands Academy in Glasgow, Chris Murray was keen to study English, German and French in greater depth. He had found these subjects to be not only the most interesting but also the most challenging. He believed that by taking them at Advanced Higher level he would have more intellectual contact with teachers and become more independent in his studies.

Taking Advanced Higher lived up to his expectations. Chris was rewarded with three passes, all at ‘A’ grade. When asked what skills and knowledge he had developed, Chris replied: ‘Independent learning. I also became better at expressing myself and dealing with things that I initially found to be complicated or difficult.’ The structure of the courses was also to his liking. The internally assessed units enabled him to build up his knowledge gradually in preparation for the final, externally assessed examination.

MORE...

STUDENT:  
**Chris Murray**

ADVANCED HIGHERS:  
**English, German  
and French**

HOME TOWN:  
**Glasgow**

UNIVERSITY:  
**Oxford**

DEGREE:  
**French & German**

Chris had originally thought about studying History at university. However, he had really taken to languages at school and decided to continue with them. He was also determined not to lose the considerable knowledge he had gained doing his Advanced Highers. He applied to Oxford University and was offered a conditional place. This was secured following his success in achieving the three 'A' passes.

Oxford University welcomes applicants with Scottish qualifications. In general, the university is looking for a level of performance around grades AAAAB at Higher, usually supplemented by two or more Advanced Highers, likely to be set at AA for two subjects and AAB for three subjects.

His degree course at Exeter College, Oxford, provides him with exactly what he was looking for — languages and literature. 'The course builds on my language skills and offers a creative element through literature' he says. He is delighted to be pursuing something that, although challenging, really interests him. 'I will not only have the ability to speak two languages but I'm also learning to read critically' he adds.

Chris is considering taking a post-graduate qualification, perhaps leading to a career in the public sector. He is happy to encourage others to apply to university, including Oxford, saying: 'It's a great opportunity to study something in-depth that really interests you.'