



## Past pupil profile

# Sam Barrick

### Years at Read:

2011-2018 (Year 7 – Upper Sixth)

Head Boy 2017-2018

### Subjects taken at A-level:

English, Maths and Physics

### *Pathway since leaving Read:*

Since leaving Read, I have been at Hull University studying Politics. At the end of my first year I was moved from the standard BA Politics course to a more specialised and prestigious course called British Politics and Legislative Studies that includes a year working in the House of Parliament.

To gain accession onto this I had to do an interview and I'm certain that the mock interviews and one to one practice we got for writing personal statement related documents was invaluable in allowing me to move onto the course.

### *Memories of Read Sixth Form:*

Staying at Read for Sixth Form was a privilege that I will always remain grateful for. I was able to do so and it had a number of long-term benefits for my education and future prospects.

Had I been at a state Sixth Form college, I wouldn't have had nearly as many opportunities to improve my CV, interpersonal skills, which prove invaluable in interviews or have such strong focus on my studies, given the small class sizes.

Additionally, the excellent teacher to pupil ratio, meaning teachers know pupils so well that teaching can be tailored to every pupil's respective needs is an invaluable aspect of Sixth Form at Read as you

have the ability to attain higher grades given the increased focus and assistance you will receive.

The academic benefits are by no means the only pull of Sixth Form at Read. At state Sixth Form colleges, the setup is rigid and you are left to fend for yourself. You are given classes to attend and left to write your own University application, with very little guidance and barely told about other options other than going to University.

At Read, a plethora of people came into school to tell us about UCAS applications as well as other opportunities including apprenticeships, diplomas and studying abroad.

Sixth Form staff take the time to carefully analyse, and help improve, applications to University or apprenticeship schemes. This gives every pupil at Read a head start on all other applicants. In addition, there is what is included in these applications. Read gives you opportunity to add a multitude of 'stand out' items on your CV or UCAS Personal Statement.

Personally, I was able to go to India on a World Challenge expedition. In nearly 2 years at University, I have found just one other student who had a similar opportunity.

Read also has a special bond with its pupils, the staff genuinely care about how they do both during and after school. Consequently, they will go above and beyond what is normally expected of them to make you do the best you can. Whether that be by marking practice essays you email during the Easter holidays or by speaking to people they know in corporations to help arrange work placements. This sort of care and attention isn't widespread and something to be cherished about Read.