



## **College students receive conditional offers from Cambridge University**

Two Havering Sixth Form College students have received conditional offers for places at Cambridge University.

Hamesh Khatkar and Lee Nissim were both successful in the rigorous selection and interview process for one of the most famous universities in the world.

Hamesh, a former Hall Mead School pupil who lives in Orsett, will be reading Law at Downing College in September if he meets the offer conditions. He said he was extremely pleased to have received the offer and will be working hard to achieve the grades he needs to ensure he does not lose his place.

He said: "Anybody who thinks they have a good chance of applying really should go for it as I genuinely wasn't expecting an offer when I first applied - I'm hardly the stereotypical applicant, having a particular interest in hip hop music and my main hobby being Go Karting!"

He said the College had given him some great support. "Nikki Phelps in careers really has provided significant help and support throughout my whole application procedure and Paul Nutter has been a great help with my personal statement," he added.

"I would say to anybody thinking of applying to either Oxford or Cambridge to listen to the advice given by Nikki, and to give their all in regards to their application as it really isn't something you can do half-heartedly. The best piece of advice I can give is to be yourself at the interview and make sure you can live up to your personal statement."

Since studying at College, Hamesh has achieved five AS Levels with good grades. He received As in Law and History, a B in Government and Politics and Cs in English Literature and Critical Thinking. Now he is predicted to achieve A\*s at A Level in Law and History, and an A in Government and Politics.

In the future he hopes to progress into post graduate education.

Former Gaynes School pupil Lee, who lives in Hornchurch, has received an offer to read Engineering at Kings College, Cambridge. He also advises other students to have a go at applying as there is nothing to lose.

He said: "The interview wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I was given practice interviews and questions by my subject teachers and these mocks were a lot more complex than the real thing. The exams are not meant to be finished within the time limit, so it's easy to feel that you've not done well enough, but everyone's sitting the same exam, so it's all relative.

“The staff in the Careers Centre at College were always willing to look over my application and I had about 12 attempts at my personal statement before Paul Nutter was happy with it. It’s definitely worth applying if you’re thinking about it.”

Lee, who achieved grade As in Maths 1, Maths 2, Further Maths, Electronics and Physics at AS Level and a grade B in Critical Thinking, is now studying hard for his A Levels, where he is predicted to achieve A\*s in Maths, Further Maths and Physics and a grade B in General Studies.

Since 2006, the College has had nine successful Oxbridge applicants. They are: Perez Kabagambe (Engineering, Cambridge); Sean Moss (Maths, Cambridge); Thomas Anstey (Law, Oxford); Aftab Khan (Medicine, Oxford); Philip Aherne (English, Oxford); Kye Etherton (Comp Science, Oxford); Christopher Morris (Law, Cambridge); Amanda Wynne (Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge) and Jennifer Webber (Law, Cambridge).