



Enniskillen Royal Grammar School – CEIAG BULLETIN

Week Beginning Monday 15th December 2025

UNIQ 2026 – Oxford’s Flagship Access Programme Opens Today!

[UNIQ](#), the University of Oxford’s flagship undergraduate access programme, will be back for 2026 with applications opening Monday 15th December. UNIQ is the University of Oxford’s access programme for UK state school students in their first year of further education. They prioritise places for students with good grades from backgrounds that are underrepresented at Oxford and other universities. Every year more students from diverse backgrounds get offered places at Oxford with help from UNIQ. **UNIQ is completely FREE, and offers over a thousand UK state school students in year 13:**

- An exclusive chance to join us at one of our regional events
- A five-day/four-night summer academic residential in Oxford, giving a taster of college and academic life
- Sustained support for those considering applying to Oxford in 2026
- An opportunity to explore subjects that interest them and to experience studying in a university setting
- A chance to get to know current Oxford students and academics and find out if Oxford can help them shape their future
- Extensive and expert support with the Oxford admissions process
- An opportunity to make new friends from across the country

Each year more than a quarter of UNIQ participants who go on to apply to Oxford get offered a place. This is significantly higher than the University’s average offer rate of about one fifth of all applicants. Programme feedback since 2010 clearly shows that UNIQ has an extremely positive effect on participants and their futures, whether they go on to study at Oxford or not.

Applications for UNIQ 2026 open Monday 15th December and close midday on Tuesday 13th January. All applications are made online through a short form which is quick and easy to complete. They accept participants based on their academic attainment alongside their socioeconomic background and educational opportunities. Oxford is strongly committed to diversity and equality and the UNIQ programme plays an important part in diversifying our student body. They are very keen to encourage more students from Northern Ireland to apply to UNIQ - so sign up to their [UNIQ newsletter](#) for more information and reminders when applications open. In the meantime, please visit the [UNIQ website](#) for further details including application criteria, and don’t hesitate to contact them at uniq@admin.ox.ac.uk should you have any questions.

Access NI Programme – Applications Now Open for Year 14 Students

Access NI Programme may be particularly relevant for your Year 14 students who are studying a mix of qualifications, such as A-Levels alongside BTEC (or similar combinations).

About the Access NI Programme

- **Starts:** February
- **Duration:** 10 weeks
- **Schedule:** Two evenings per week
- **Delivery:** Mainly online, expect registration which is on the campus in Letterkenny (very accessible for students)
- **Cost:** Free of charge
- **Award:** 30-credit standalone qualification

The programme is designed specifically for students with mixed qualifications who cannot currently combine A-Level and BTEC scoring through the CAO system. Completing Access NI provides an alternative pathway into ATU.

Progression to ATU

- The majority of ATU programmes accept students who have completed Access NI.
- Exceptions include some high-demand, high-point programmes (e.g. Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine with Surgery, Physiotherapy, etc.).
- Students still apply through CAO as normal, but Access NI allows them to receive their offer in July instead of August.

Applications

Applications are now open and can be submitted online here.

Common Application Questions (for your students)

1. “What do I select under ‘highest level of qualifications’?”

The form does not list Northern Ireland-specific qualifications. Students should simply **tick “Other”** in this section.

2. “I don’t have a PPS number – what should I do?”

If a student does not have a PPS number, they can **leave this section blank**.

3. “What do I upload under ‘Proof of Eligibility’?”

Students should upload a **short personal statement** outlining:

- the qualifications they have already completed, and
- what they are currently studying (e.g. which A-Levels and BTECs).

This is simply to confirm that they are studying a mix of qualifications, which is the entry requirement for Access NI.

Engineering Virtual Work Experience – Applications Now Open

Secondary school students are invited to take part in this online work experience. The STEPS Programme, Engineers Ireland together with Springpod have created this bespoke experience for secondary school students. Students can register anytime from 15th September 2025 to 18th January 2026 and complete the virtual work experience in their own time. This is entirely free and open to ALL students aged 13 and over on the island of Ireland. This online work experience will focus on various disciplines of engineering and features interviews with Irish engineers who speak about their careers and how they got interested in engineering. The experience will give an overview of engineering and then focus on mechanical, chemical, electrical and civil engineering disciplines.

<https://www.engineersireland.ie/Schools/Engineering-Your-Future/Engineering-Your-Future-Virtual-Work-Experience>

MSAT Ulster Preparation Course – 14th and 21st Feb 2026 - at Methodist College Belfast



MASTERING THE MSAT

- 1. Critical Reasoning**
- 2. Quantitative Reasoning**
- 3. Interpersonal Understanding**
- 4. Complementary booklet;**
- 5. Includes worked examples and answers**

Saturday 14 & 21 February 2026

09:00-3:30

Methodist College Belfast

28 February 2026 online

Phone: 07800535108 / 07517356095

Courses held at Methodist College,
1 Malone Road, BT9 6BY

www.successtutoringni.com

SWC Catering/Hospitality Buddy Day Erne Campus

South West College offers pupils the opportunity to undertake a 'Buddy Day' experience within their catering department. Pupils have the chance to work for a full or half day alongside existing Professional Chef students, to experience an industrial kitchen environment, cook a meal and learn more about career paths in the catering industry.

Genuinely interested pupils can contact:-

Stephen McFarland - Stephen.McFarland@swc.ac.uk to arrange an agreed date in the Enniskillen (Erne) Campus.

Buddy Day



at South West College

Experience a Day in the Life of a Chef!

Calling all secondary school pupils!
Step into our professional kitchens
and discover what it's like to be
a chef for a day.



Experience our kitchens
for a day



Cook in a real working
kitchen environment



Learn from our expert
chefs and catering
students



Try out exciting new
skills and dishes



Explore college life and
hospitality courses



Location;
South West College–
Enniskillen Campus



Spaces are limited – book your Buddy Day today!

Stephen McFarland | stephen.mcrarland@swc.ac.uk

South West College Open Day - Save the Date



ATU Open Evenings January 2026



ATU will host a number of Open Evenings in the Galway City, Sligo and Letterkenny campuses in January 2026.

Check out the dates below:

- 21st January - Donegal Open Evening (Letterkenny Campus)
- 22nd January - Galway (Open Evening (Galway City, Dublin Road Campus)
- 27th January - Sligo and St Angelas Open Evening (Sligo Campus)

Register here: atu.ie/opendays

