

Writing a Personal Statement

Student notes

Points to remember:

- Listing personal information needs words/phrases like: Also, as well, In addition... to give some **variety to sentence openings**
- If you are selling yourself, you need to use **positive** words, E.g. “*I am a keen member of the dance club*” rather than just “*I am in the dance club*”. What other examples can you find?
- Instead of using simple words like ‘did’ or ‘got’ to describe activities or qualifications, what better sounding words can you choose? E.g. ‘*achieve*’, ‘*gained*’
- Are there any changes you would make to the example below? E.g. to stop repetition of hope/hopefully? Colloquial language?
- Capital letters. Apart from starting each sentence, what else does the writer use capital letters for? E.g. *The Kingswinford School*

Example Personal Statements

Example 1

I am a student in Year 11 at Penair School. As well as having good communication skills, I am responsible, well-organised and outgoing. I’m applying to take A Levels in Music, Maths and English Literature, as these have always been my strongest subjects and those that I enjoy most.

I hope to do well in these and my six other GCSEs. While at Penair I have also gained a number of music grades – up to grade seven for violin and grade five for piano. In addition, I have obtained a basic food hygiene certificate and a Red Cross babysitting qualification. I have taken part in many extra-curricular activities. As a violinist, I have been awarded school colours for music and I am part of the school orchestra, choir accompanists, and the violin quartet. I am also a keen member of the school’s dance and athletics club. I have enjoyed being involved in a number of charity events – including organising a successful swimming marathon in aid of the British Heart Foundation. In the last three years I’ve held positions too as a senior prefect, school council representative and house sports captain.

Outside of school, apart from hockey and swimming, music again takes up most of my leisure time. I currently play violin in the Cornwall Youth Orchestra and the Truro Youth Orchestra, as well as playing the guitar – for relaxation only! For work experience I really enjoyed the two weeks I spent as a classroom assistant in a primary school in central Liverpool, and hope to return there this summer. At present I have a part time shop job that has given me excellent experience of team working and dealing with people of all ages.

Hopefully, after taking my A Levels at Truro College, I can go on to university to study Music at degree level and to complete a teaching qualification.