

Monthly Motivation: Lucy Thomas (class of 2019)



Due to the pandemic Lucy may not currently have the University social experience you imagine, however as EUBC Coxes Captain Lucy has got involved in Zoom exercise classes and even a virtual Christmas dinner!

What have you done since leaving Putney?

After leaving Putney I have gone to study History at Exeter University and I'm currently mid-way through my second year.

How did you find the University application process, and do you have any advice for those looking to apply for University?

I think all those that have had the fun experience of going through UCAS will know it can feel a bit tedious at times but persevere and make use of all the staff in the sixth form as the assistance they offer really does help.

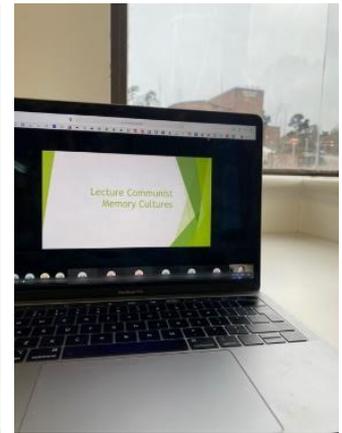
For those looking to go to university I would have two pieces of advice. First really make sure you're applying to a subject you're passionate about not one you think makes you look good- writing a personal statement about a subject you enjoy is far easier! Secondly as cliché as it sounds you will end up in the right place in the end. When I first listed my universities, Exeter was my fourth choice however since making a last-minute decision to put it as my firm choice, I haven't looked back.

How has the pandemic impacted your University experience?

Sadly, like so many other university students my first year was cut short and I moved back to London in March where I did my first-year exams online. Since then, I've had my university experience move to online learning for my second year which has been a wholly different experience. My social life has also seen a drastic change with far more walks and coffees with friends than I would've foreseen my university experience involving.

What highs and lows have you experienced whilst studying remotely, and what advice would you have for those in a similar position?

Studying remotely was a real change last year and something I'm still now, 10 months in, getting used to. Having only 3 contact hours a week, one of the most important and challenging things I've found is getting myself into a routine. Creating a nice work environment and breaking my day up with exercise, chatting to friends and a LOT of coffee breaks has really helped. It is definitely more difficult to keep myself motivated working remotely without the interaction of other students and my professors. Luckily the sixth form experience of extended periods of free study have really aided me in the independent learning that remote studying involves and the passion for history my sixth form teachers instilled in me means I am currently still really enjoying my time studying the subject.



Have you been involved in any virtual clubs or social activities at University?

Having loved my time rowing at Putney I jumped straight back into it here at Exeter before the rowing season, like all else, was unfortunately put on hold. Moving into my second academic year I ran for EUBC Coxes Captain and won, which without the confidence the incredible rowing team at Putney instilled at me I never would've felt able to do. Helping to run the boat club and train both new and experienced coxes during the uncertainty of the pandemic has, it's safe to say, been challenging and involved a lot of Zoom exercise classes and even a Virtual Christmas Dinner. However, it's been an invaluable life experience and helped me share some of the knowledge I learned over my 7 years with PHSBC and I can't wait to get back out racing some of my ex crew mates again.



Do you have any idea what you'd like to do after University?

Currently I plan to go on and undertake a Graduate Diploma in Law and become a solicitor as my work experience at Putney and role as PIE prefect allowed me to meet a number of high achieving women in that field and I've been incredibly drawn to the career since. However, due to the everchanging nature of the world currently I'm learning one of the most valuable assets Putney teaches its girls is flexibility and the ability to adapt and overcome difficult situations which I'm sure entering the workforce post pandemic will be.