

## 6. TRENDS IN UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

*Pupils from HMC schools are very strongly represented, and increasingly so, at the UK's leading universities.*

*They play an important role in keeping certain key subjects alive in universities and in stimulating social mobility.*

*A small but growing number apply to universities beyond the UK.*

### Access to universities

- **9%** of full-time students aged 17 in England are in independent schools. Yet by the mid-2000s **40%** of students at the UK's **ten leading universities** (*Times University Guide*) came from **independent schools** and **one quarter** came from **HMC schools**.
- Over the decade to 2011/2012 the proportion of entrants from independent schools to **Russell Group universities** has increased.
- In each of the last three years the likelihood of an HMC applicant receiving a **university offer** has increased.
- The **number of offers** per HMC applicant has also **risen** each year (to 3.7).
- **Three quarters of HMC applications** to a Russell Group university **result in an offer**.
- **92%** of HMC pupils proceed to **higher education**.

## 6. TRENDS IN UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

### Keeping subjects alive

- Pupils from independent schools are **more likely** than other students to study one of the government's **Strategically Important and Vulnerable (SIV)** subjects at university.
- From **9%** of the age group at 17, independent school pupils supply the UK's top 30 universities (*Times University Guide*) with **25% or more** of entrants to 13 SIV subjects:

	% independent school entrants		% independent school entrants
Middle Eastern Studies	50%	Astronomy/Earth Science	29%
Economics	42%	Minerals/Materials Technology	28%
Spanish	41%	French	28%
Russian	40%	German	26%
Italian	38%	Mech. Engineering	26%
Japanese	37%	Civil Engineering	25%
Engineering	36%		

### Social mobility

- In 2010 **one third** of full, means-tested bursaries given to Oxford University undergraduates were to **entrants from independent schools**.
- **10,000 university entrants** each year from less privileged backgrounds could contribute to official '**widening participation**' statistics but are not counted due to having attended an independent school.

### Applying to overseas universities

- Two thirds of UK HMC schools in the UK have pupils who **go abroad for university**. This is a growing trend.
- In 2012, **3% of HMC school leavers** followed this route.