



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING
23 Queensway
Gibraltar

Minister for Education & Training, The Hon C G Beltran

PRESS RELEASE

No: 52/2011

Date: 22nd February 2011

Speech by Minister Clive Beltran on the occasion of “Gibraltar for Excellence” Presentations by the Universities of Oxford, Imperial College London and York at the John Mackintosh Hall

A very good morning to you all and welcome to this series of presentations that the Department of Education and Training in close collaboration with the Kusuma Trust and the Universities in attendance have once again put together for the benefit of our students.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend a particularly warm welcome on behalf of the Government and myself personally to the representatives of the three distinguished Universities who have so graciously agreed to be with us here in Gibraltar for the benefit of our students principally, but also our teachers who will no doubt also draw useful information and insights particularly from the presentations on university applications and admissions procedures. Gibraltar for Excellence as part of the wider Careers Fair, is a joint Government of Gibraltar and Kusuma Trust initiative that I hope the schools and the College will take full advantage of.

It is not often that you find three top class Universities together in the same room offering advice and guidance to a group of 6th Formers. In this sense the students present today are privileged and all of us are fortunate to be able to hear at first hand the type of information and advice that can make the difference when it comes to securing a place in a top university. The Universities represented here this morning have also very kindly agreed to set up stall and sell their wares more personally and directly to you this afternoon at the Careers Fair. Furthermore they will also be holding Workshops at Bayside School tomorrow. I am delighted and truly grateful for the huge contribution that the Universities are thus making to the process of Personal, Social and Careers education that starts for our students in the Middle Schools continues in the Secondary Schools and College and culminates in the Careers Fair.

The number of Gibraltarians who go up to the Universities who are with us here today is small. This is not surprising from a statistical point of view when you consider that our entire student population aged 4 to 18 years is around 5,000 with some 400 being sixth formers. But be this as it may, I believe that examination passes apart, there are two factors appertaining to the application process that our students need to work on. Firstly, students need to have a clear, demystified understanding of what you the University expect of the applicant as a student and as a person. Secondly, the student needs to be absolutely clear about what he/she really wants to study and where, including in the case of universities that have a collegiate system, the reasons for having chosen a particular College. All of this, of course, is easier said than done but therein lies the importance that we attach to your presence in Gibraltar. I am sure that today's and tomorrow's events will serve in some measure to clear up any misconceptions that may exist and to open the way for more of our students to go up to your universities in the future.

Once again I wish to thank the Kusuma Trust for their collaboration in this initiative. I am also grateful to the teachers in the schools and the college as well as Angela and Darren for their contribution in organising the various events that make up a Careers Fair that is growing not only in size, but more importantly in the part that it plays in the vocational and careers orientation service available to students in Gibraltar.

Our guests from Oxford, Imperial College and York will always be welcome in Gibraltar and I hope that your stay in this old, yet forward-looking and dynamic Rock of ours will prove to be a worthwhile and enjoyable one.

C G Beltran
Minister for Education and Training

Tuesday 22nd February 2011