

## Elevator Pitch

I am a GCSE Student, competitive programmer and motorsport enthusiast. Predicted grade 9s/As across all STEM subjects, I am a passionate and organised students. Achieving 42nd in the world in the Oxford Uni Coding Challenge U16s, and 56th in the world in the Perse Team Challenge, I am a competent and skilled programmer, with 6 years of experience. With racing in my veins, I love motorsport; I follow Formula 1, WEC, GT World Challenge EU and British GT. My aim is to be a Race Engineer in a large motorsport series in the next 10 years.

I look to take every opportunity I can, and develop myself into an industry-ready talent, so that I can perform at my best and help my team succeed.

## About Me

Hi! I am James, aged 15 and from Tamworth, England. I am a GCSE Student at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

## Skills

### Computer Science

Python

HTML/CSS/JS

PHP

C#

C++

BASH and Linux

R

Competent understanding of programming concepts, such as OOP and Asynchronous Programming.

### Maths and Science

A strong GCSE-Level understanding of Mathematics and Science.

Experience with AutoCAD and CFD, and working to a precise level of engineering accuracy.

### Professional/General

Expertise with Microsoft Office, Figma and Blender.

Able to communicate professional and effectively. Success in interview situations.

Hard-working, organised and enthusiastic.

## Accomplishments

Date	Accomplishment
November 2022	Predicted GCSE results – 9/As across Maths, Additional Maths, Economics, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, 8s in English Language and 7s in Spanish and English Literature.
September 2022—Jan 23	Competing in the F1 In Schools Competition. This involves raising funding, designing a miniature car to formula 1 and presenting your team to a panel of judges. This is something I had to leave early for personal reasons, but I will be doing this again in 2024.
November 2019, 20, 21, 22	Competed in the Bebras UK challenge, scoring a distinction all four times, and coming in the top 10% in the Senior category (Y10-11) in the 2022 competition. This involved solving multiple different types of computer science problems, all involving logical thinking and complex algorithms, for example the idea of recursion.
December and January 2021/22, 2022/23	Competed in the Oxford University Coding Challenge and scored a 2 distinctions in round 1 and a merit in round 2, and one 42 <sup>nd</sup> place world finish. This involved complex Python code such as list comprehension and object oriented programming.
January and March 2021, 2022, 2023	Competed in round 1 and 2 of the Perse Programming Challenge, scoring 3 distinctions in round 1, and going on to score top 25% , 58 <sup>th</sup> and 56 <sup>th</sup> in the country in round 2. Perse involves applying certain algorithmic ideas to seemingly simple problems, and generating simple solutions. For example palindromic strings, advanced string manipulation and mathematical skills like Pythagoras.
January 2020, 21	Competed in the British Informatics Olympiad, which involves applying complex algorithms and data structures, like two-dimensional arrays or maps
March – May 2022	Involved in the STAAR (Summer Time Advanced Aerospace Residency) team for my school, where I designed a CAD model of a VTOL drone, which could effectively transport over 10000kg of cargo and land vertically, in what would usually be considered unsafe areas.
March 2020, 21, 22	Competed in the UKMT Junior and Intermediate maths challenges, scoring 4 distinctions and 2 merits. This involved applying simple maths ideas in complex and not easily appearing ways to generate a solution.

## Professional Experience

One of my main aims is to develop a wealth of professional experience, as this is something I find to be very much lacking for students of my age.

### Work Experience at Blueberry Consultants

From the 26<sup>th</sup> June—7<sup>th</sup> July 2023, I will undertake a work experience programme at Blueberry Consultants, a software firm in Birmingham, England. This will involve writing business-used code, designing and implementing procedures for use with new and innovative products, and working professionally with the employees of the firm to achieve common goals. My aim for this programme is to gain industry-style experience, improve my professionalism whilst developing my programming skills.

Whilst looking for work experience, I will also offered placements from firms such as:

- Mercedes Formula 1 Team
- Borwell Software Development
- Concentric AB Group
- CPiO

### Maintaining Professional Relationships with F1 in Schools Sponsors

Whilst working on the F1 In Schools project, I had to work closely with our sponsors: 3SK, to develop our relationship and secure funding for the project. This involved weekly emails to the firm, to update them on our progress, and using Smart-Sheet to track our project progress.

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## References

“James is an able, confident, mature, organised and responsible member of the form. He is always willing to help and support during form time, and is able to work well with others, and also use his initiative when required and working independently. James will be able to contribute in a positive manner while at the same time developing and learning new skills with you and your team.”

Ms. Patel, Form Tutor, Chemistry Teacher

“I have known James for the past four years in my capacity as his Form Tutor and then Head of Year. James is a pleasant young man who is extremely conscientious. He is well organised, efficient and always the first to offer assistance when it is required. I believe James would be an asset to your organisation”

Ms. Grant, Form Tutor, Head of Year

“James is a creative, enthusiastic and active learner. He digests challenging concepts with ease and is always willing to take on new experiences. His curiosity and ambition aid well to his academic pursuits and I believe they would translate excellently if he were given the opportunity to undergo work experiences at your place of work. His confidence and friendly persona allow him to integrate immediately into a team dynamic and the maturity he has displayed in the past gives me no doubt he would also thrive in a position requiring responsibility and independent thinking. I truly believe he would be a great addition to any team and fun to work around.”

Ewan Williams, Ex-Vesey Student and Cambridge Natural Science Student, Fellow Vesey Maths Society Member

**James Ashwood**

2023

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