

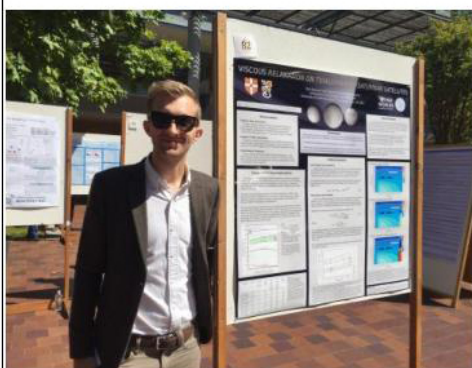
## ALUMNI

*Dan Spencer is another one of our former students who has been in on several occasions to talk to students about university applications. Here he updates us on his career so far.*

I am a student about to enter my fourth year at Cambridge University, which feels a long way from graduating from Castle Sixth Form in 2013 where I studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

Arriving at Cambridge to study Natural Sciences I assumed I'd specialise in Physics, but as for many people in their first year of university, my interests wandered. I now find myself specialised in earth sciences having enjoyed studying it so much in my first year. I am extremely proud to have achieved a First Class last year, ranking third in my year, placing me in a great position going forward.

I was fortunate enough to spend this summer working with professors of planetary science at the University of California Santa Cruz where I was analysing the icy moons of Saturn. I shall be presenting my work at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in San Francisco in December. This summer has been a defining one for me as I now feel certain that I want to undertake a PhD in planetary science.



In my other activities at Cambridge, I have been elected president of the Sedgwick Club, the oldest student run geological society in the world, founded in 1880. The club boasts alumni such as Sir David Attenborough and many high profile geologists and palaeontologists. It's a true honour to lead a club with such a rich history.

This coming year I shall finish off the work which I was doing in California, preparing it for presentation in San Francisco and possibly writing it up into a research paper. I will also be sending off applications to PhD programs both in the UK and the United States, together with the small matter of completing my degree.